

iii) *Restructuring of the Institutions* - All institutions, especially the army, should be subject to civilian control.

a) The Police - should be de-centralised and should be controlled by the local authority and not the centre as it is now.

b) The Army - A new National Army should be put in place with Regional Commands. These commands should ensure that the membership of the troops under their control consists of a substantial number of indigenes.

This recommendation is borne out of the fact that the present Nigerian Army is generally perceived as a Northern Army consistently and persistently pushing a northern agenda. Breaking the army into regional commands will make the planning of coups and other nefarious activities difficult to sustain.

iii) *Establishment of Independent Commissions* with wide powers to investigate and prosecute cases should be set up. Efforts should also be made to ensure that their funding couldn't be manipulated to strangle them. These should include:

a) Inspector General of Government (Ombudsman): He would have powers to investigate any complaints or lapses in any government department. Senior government functionaries will declare their assets, which will be accessible to the public on demand.

b) National Human Rights Commission will take complaints from the public. It may also take up cases at its own initiative.

c) Anti-Corruption Commission will deal with any cases of corruption brought to its notice or at its own initiative

d) Electoral Commission - The membership of the Commission should reflect a balance of interest in the political parties, civil society actors and geographical spread.

To encourage civil society participation in governance, confidence has to be restored. At the moment, people believe that unless the system changes and power is devolved and people can take responsibilities for their lives depending on their culture and vision, the experiment called Nigeria may not be a worthwhile exercise.

We urge our friends to encourage and support those who work for a negotiated Constitution in Nigeria and not one that is imposed, manipulated or engineered. We also hope efforts will be made to do what they can to nudge those who are afraid of negotiations to see reason. It is not reasonable to expect a people to exchange external colonialism with internal colonialism. A popular Constitution arrived at by an all-inclusive process involving all sections of the polity after the