

# RESTRUCTURING NIGERIA FOR NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT: POPULAR MUSIC AS VERITABLE TOOL

*Goodness Ifeoma Nwonyeh*  
Department of Music,  
Federal College of Education, Eha Amufu,  
Enugu State.

And

*Blessing Uzoamaka Onyeke*  
Department of Music,  
Federal College of Education, Eha-Amufu,  
Enugu State.

## Abstract

*There has been clamor for restructuring Nigeria by different groups/sets even before the country's independence in 1960. Demand for restructuring at any time is always an indicator to structural imbalances in governance. Today, when we look at Nigeria from whatever angle we see frightful aspects of dichotomy, religiosity, marginalization, nepotism, ethnic cleansing, etc. Evil and corrupt practices are on the increase and they have become negotiable and institutionalized in our nation. These have resulted in turbulent and violence in recent years leading to agitation for restructuring Nigeria by many groups and organizations and separation of Nigeria by other groups. The security of lives and properties of the citizens are no longer guaranteed and the country's economy is dwindling so much that foreign investors are no longer interested to invest in Nigeria. All these invidious and expanding underdevelopment the nation is going through is due to poor leadership. The way out of this mess is by employing popular music. This is because popular music texts document happenings in the society, criticize the ills of the society particularly the ruling class. Culture, social and political education are also contained in texts of some popular music which makes its role in restructuring Nigeria outstanding. The paper therefore examines meaning of restructuring and popular music. It further investigates the*

*reasons for demand for restructuring Nigeria and the roles of popular music in restructuring Nigeria. Recommendations were proffered and conclusion drawn that for peace to reign in Nigeria, the issues of structural imbalances should be properly addressed national consciousness and unity of the nation not minding our differences should be jealously guarded. We should also eschew dichotomy, nepotism, religion and ethnicity in Nigeria polity.*

Nigeria is a colonial heritage of Africa; on the shores of the Gulf of Guinea which includes the Bights of Benin and Bonny along the Atlantic coast (Enebe, 2004:298). To buttress this, Ikejiani (2007) states that Nigeria lies on West Coast of Africa and bounded in the south by the shores of the Atlantic Ocean including the Gulf of the Guinea; in the north by Republics of Chad and Niger; in the west by the republic of Benin and in the east by the Republic of Cameroon.

According to Ojiako (1981) between 1851 and 1861, there was war in the Lagos Kingdom instigated by the British imperialist interest. However, in 1861 British government took control of Lagos as their possession and established a Crown Colony type of Government through 1884/1885 at the Berlin conference. Enebe (2004) asserts that the various ethnic groups that inhabit Nigeria were divided into two geographical regions, namely- the North and South. However, the two regions were influenced, in the North by the Arab who came with Islamic religion and culture; while the South had contact with Europe who brought Christian religion and Western Cultural values to the area. The northern traders who had already been influenced by Islamic religion and cultures spread same as they moved and traded from place to place.

It was through the trade that large parts of the Sudan came under the move influencing substantial parts of the north. The Arabic culture influenced culminated eventually in the establishment of the Sokoto caliphate – that is, a theocratic state where the leader was not only the political but also the religious head. Due to these influences, Islamic and Koranic schools were established in various parts of the north. The principal actor of this movement was Othman Dan Fodio whose activities have great and destructive social, political and religious implications for Nigeria.

Meanwhile, the contact of the south with Europe which brought about Christian religion, western cultural values to the area also had education as an integral part of its influence. This brought about the establishment of schools by the Europe. The missionary bodies used the schools established as avenues for their evangelization as well as education.

Nigeria became a nation in 1900 when Britain proclaimed the northern and southern protectorates of Nigeria. They were administered separately with administrative headquarters in Kaduna and Lagos respectively. However, the administrations were independent of each other until 1914 (Ikejiani, 2007:123).

In view of this Olusanya (1984) states that in 1914, the two protectorates – south and north were amalgamated into colony and protectorates for administrative purpose and Lord Lugard then became the first governor general of Nigeria. In spite of the amalgamation, the protectorates were ruled separately until 1947 when Richard's constitution was introduced. Sir Author Richard was appointed governor general of Nigeria in 1943. The Richard constitution divided Nigeria into three regional councils – the East, west and North regions. It introduced the principle of Northern dominance by allocating the North fifty percent representation in the central legislature.

This therefore became the pattern of Nigeria constitutional development. It gave rise to agitations and call for restructuring by the minority groups. The Nigeria nationalists received the constitution with hostility and made demand for restructuring. In 1948, John Macpherson succeeded Sir Richard as the governor general of Nigeria. On assumption of office, he was confronted with agitations by the minority group concerning the fifty percent representation in the central legislature allocated to the Northern region by Richard's constitution which enabled the Northern region to dominate the national government. Macpherson promised to review the constitution. In 1954 Macpherson released another constitution after due considerations and general conference held. The constitution provided the basis of the constitution of independent Nigeria (Okonjo, 1974). According to Sagay (2001) Nigeria was made a federal set-up by the 1954 constitution. In this federal set-up, formerly totally independent kingdoms, empires, nations and autonomous communities were forcefully brought together as one. This arrangement was not accepted by some groups that it stirred up another agitation. The people revolted against this constitution and subjected it to series of crises which led to its natural death.

Nigeria at independence in 1960 inherited the British parliamentary system of government which also collapsed. The collapse was due to the fact that the region set-up their various headquarters, and the leaders of the centre. This struggle for leadership in the centre led to problems of succession in the regions; that is, the East, West and the North.

The military intervened in an unsuccessful coup but took over and handed power to Maj. Gen Aguironsi who saw Nigeria's problem as national unity. He decreed a unification of Nigeria. The North who has been afraid of united Nigeria revolted against this decree and killed so many Igbos, destroyed their properties, and seized the central government. One of the regions like the West resisted but the military led by Gowon joined force in the struggle. These struggles and resistance led to civil war from 1967 to 1970 and the military took over the government under the leadership of General Yakubu Gowon in 1967. In view of this, Ojukwu (1989) states that:

The pattern of the Nigerian polity has always been an imposition. Nigerians have never truly exercised their sovereign right in deciding what pattern they desired; the amalgamation was the brain-child of Lord-Lugard; the federation, with a weak centre was the brain-child of Sir Author Richards and later Lord

Milverton; the federation with a strong center was the imposition of the military (p. 30).

The agitations and calls for restructuring and separation by different groups in this country cannot cease because the imposed polity does not favour all the geopolitical zones. Until Nigerians come together and unanimously decide on the pattern they desired, the problems will still persist. During the military regime under the leadership of General Yakubu Gowon, corruption was on the increase. According to Ojiako (1983) under the military, especially that of General Gowon's administration, corruption became more widespread and more flagrant than had ever occurred under the civilian government. The government was corrupt to the marrow that they did not even hide it from public gaze. Indiscipline was legitimized during this regime that Nigerians no longer respect the rule of law. General Gowon promised to fight this ugly monster but he could not because his government was corrupt. Instead of fighting corruption, he suppressed those who made attempts to expose these evil and corrupt practices. Acebe (1983) summarized corruption in Nigeria by saying that Nigerians are corrupt because the system under which they live today makes corruption easy and profitable; they will cease to be corrupt when corruption is made difficult and inconvenient (P. 38).

In a bid to fight these evil and corrupt practices, structural imbalances, continuous rampage, etc retarding the unity and growth of development of the nation, some past leaders like Gowon, Murtala, Obasanjo, Babangida, Jonathan constituted constitutional conference respectively. In each effort except that of Goodluck Jonathan, states were created but instead of the states creation to reduce the crises and tension, it aggravated the situation. All these hinder the growth of development of the nation. However, all the attempts to solve the nation's problems proved abortive because, the inherited system of government is not working and also the structural imbalances in the various governance of the past, and present leaders especially the marked inequality in area, Local Government, States and constituent regions, carefully brought in by Author Richard's constitution. From the discussion so far, it is obvious that agitations and call for restructuring are not new in Nigeria.

### **Meaning of Restructuring**

Restructuring means changing the organization of something to be better. According to Hornby (1998) restructuring means organizing something in a new way. It means bringing about a drastic or fundamental internal change that alters the relationship between different components or elements of an organization or system (business dictionary 2018). Wikipedia (2018) see restructuring as corporate management term for the act of reorganizing the legal ownership, operational or other structures of a company for the purpose of making it more profitable or better organized for its present needs. According to Nwakanma (2018) restructuring must mean broad changes in the character of citizenship rights on the structure of Nigeria, military, police

system, the Judicial system, civil service, and the dismantling of pyramidal power which invests authority in extremis to individuals rather than institutions.

Restructuring, from the above definitions brings about positive change to any organization or system. Restructuring Nigeria therefore, if well understood, accepted and properly implemented is intended to bring about a better Nigeria.

### **Concept of Popular Music**

Popular music simply means music that is common in the society. Okafor (2005) states that popular music is music with broad, immediate and implicitly transient appeal. It is a genre of music encompassing several styles that is readily comprehensible to a large proportion of the population; its appreciation requires little or no knowledge of musical theory or technique (Iddor, 2002:24). Popular music is therefore a genre of music that is common among the general public and generally accepted by the people.

### **Reasons for Restructuring Nigeria**

Nigeria is a federation which means a union of states in which individual states keep control of many internal matters, but in which foreign affairs, defense, etc are the responsibility of the central government. According to Gauri (2010) a federation is always characterized by the following among others; division of power, written constitution, rigid constitution, supremacy of the constitution, dual citizenship, equality of all federating states etc. In view of this, Udentia (1994) states that a federal set-up or federation aims at reconciling unity and power with the maintenance of individual and sectorial rights. Thus, certain powers are given to the federal Government but with each state or constituent unit preserving its own independence by reserving to it certain well- defined powers.

From the above explanations of federation or federal set up, it is obvious that Nigeria is not practicing true federalism. The system of government is there by principle and not by practice. In the Nigeria federal system of government, the federal government monopolises and controls virtually everything in the states and leaving little or nothing for the states to control. The states don't have powers over their own internal affairs or independence to take decision on issues concerning them such as security, natural resources found in their states, education, electricity, etc. This does not include some preferred states that have the prerogative to control the natural mineral resources found in their states without the interference of the federal government as against the 1999 constitution section 44(3). In the Nigerian federation, there are marked inequalities between the federating states or units. This is because the basic structure was harmful in that a most certain imbalance was inbuilt deliberately in the structure by Author Richard's constitution. Ever since that action by Author Richard, all subsequent structures have been based on the harmful imbalance. The persistence of this imbalance whenever perceived by those not favoured by the imbalance, there is certain provocation and threat to peace.

**Structural Imbalance in Geopolitical Zones, States and Local, Government**

The federal republic of Nigeria provision of a constitution is for the purpose and welfare of all persons in the country on the principles of freedom, equality and justice, and also consolidating unity of the people. It is very unfortunate that in reality, there are marked inequality and injustice in the creation of States, Local Governments and Geopolitical Zones. This is shown in the table below.

**Table.1. States, Number of Local Governments and Geopolitical Zones**

S/N	STATES	NUMBER OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT.	GEOPOLITICAL ZONE
1	Abia	17	South East
2	Anambra	21	
3	Ebonyi	13	
4	Enugu	17	
5	Imo	27	South South
6	Akwa Ibom	31	
7	Bayelsa	9	
8	Cross-River	18	
9	Delta	25	
10	Edo	19	
11	Rivers	23	South West
12	Ekiti	16	
13	Lagos	20	
14	Ogun	19	
15	Ondo	18	
16	Osun	30	
17	Oyo	34	
18	Adamawa	22	North East
19	Bauchi	20	
20	Borno	27	
21	Gombe	11	North Central
22	Taraba	16	
23	Yobe	17	
24	Benue	22	
25	Kogi	20	North Central
26	Kwara	16	
27	Nasarawa	13	
28	Niger	24	North Central
29	Plateau	17	

30	Jigawa	27	
31	Kaduna	23	
32	Kano	44	
33	Katsina	34	North West
34	Sokoto	22	
35	Zamfara	14	
36	Kebbi	22	
37	Federal Capital Territory	6 (Area Councils)	

**Source:** The 36 states in Nigeria and their Local Government Area  
Constative.<https://constative.com>

### Summary

1. North East = 113  
North Central = 112  
North West = 186  
Total – 411  
Northern Zone = 411
  2. South East = 95
  3. South South = 125
  4. South West = 137
  5. Federal Capital Territory = 6
- Grand Total = 774

This arrangement enables the Northern geopolitical zones to dominate the central government and always dictate the actions and policies to be pursued in Nigeria. From the above list, we discover that the North East, North Central, North West and Federal Capital territory have twenty (20) states and four hundred and sixteen (416) local governments, more than half of the states and Local Government Area we have in Nigeria. This has shown that there is still the Northern dominance of the government and they therefore continue to dominate the government at the federal level.

### Corruption and Inequality in the National Common Entrance Exam Cut-off Marks (using 2017/2018 as example)

The 1999 Nigerian constitution as amended subsection (1) of section (18) states that government shall direct its policy towards ensuring that there are equal and adequate educational opportunities at all levels. Also, in subsection (5) of section 15, it states that the state shall abolish all corrupt practices and abuse of power. In Nigeria rule of law is not upheld, through corruption unqualified people gained admission into educational institutions and procured qualifying certificates through the same means. In Nigeria, equal and adequate educational opportunities are given to only the preferred citizens and not to all. The table below will confirm the above statement.

**Table 2: 2017/2018 National Common Entrance Exam (NCEE) Cut-off Mark of each State in the Federation**

S/N	STATE	CUT-OFF MARK		
		MALE	FEMALE	
1	Abia	65	65	✓
2	Adamawa	40	40	*
3	Akwa-Ibom	63	63	✓
4	Anambra	66	66	*
5	Bauchi	18	18	
6	Benue	60	60	
7	Cross River's	54	54	
8	Borno	33	33	*
9	Delta	65	65	
10	Edo	63	63	
11	Enugu	65	65	✓
12	Imo	66	66	✓
13	Jigawa	37	37	*
14	Kaduna	52	52	
15	Kano	34	34	*
16	Katsina	37	37	*
17	Kebbi	35	35	*
18	Kogi	61	61	
19	Kwara	62	62	
20	Lagos	65	65	
21	Niger	49	49	*
22	Ogun	65	65	
23	Ondo	64	64	
24	Osun	64	64	
25	Oyo	63	63	



***Restructuring Nigeria for National Development: Popular Music as Veritable Tool***

---

26	Plateau	52	52	
27	Rivers	62	62	
28	Sokoto	15	7	*
29	Taraba	19	19	*
30	Yobe	20	20	*
31	F.C.T. Abuja	57	57	
32	Bayelsa	51	51	
33	Ebonyi	60	60	✓
34	Ekiti	62	62	
35	Gombe	37	37	*
36	Nassarawa	42	42	*
37	Zamfara	14	12	*

**Source:** NCEE 2017/2018 Entrance Exam cut-off marks for all 36 States of Nigeria.

<https://www.pinterest.com/pin290834088/422399457/>

The above table clearly shows that there is inequality in virtually everything that concerns the citizen of this nation even common entrance cut-off marks. From the cut-off marks, we can see that those with lower marks are from the North, but the irony of it all is that, they will be the first to be given admission into the unity schools and also be the people to run the government tomorrow which they have been doing since independence. These people will occupy sensitive positions in this nation such as Chief Executives, Court of Appeal Justices; Accountant General of the federation, Judges, Central bank heads etc. Is the above not a clear justification of the need for restructuring Nigeria?

**Northern Dominance of Government at Federal Level**

The glaring lopsided appointments and dominance of the educationally disadvantaged North in Government at the federal level stir people who are disenfranchised, marginalized and discriminated against to anger and to demand for restructuring and/or total separation of Nigeria. This is because the constitution says a thing and we do another. According to the 1999 constitution section 14 subsection 1, the federal Republic of Nigeria shall be a state based on the principles of democracy and social justice. Also subsection 3 of the same section states that the composition of

the Government of the Federation or any of its agencies and the conduct of its affairs shall be carried out in such a manner as to reflect the federal character of Nigeria and the need to promote national unity, and also to command national loyalty, thereby ensuring that there shall be no predominance of persons from a few states or from a few ethnic or other sectional groups in that Government or in any of its agencies. The tables below will convince you all that really there is Northern dominance in all the federal appointments.

**Table 3: Members of Federal Executive Council**

S/N	NAME	POSTS	STATE OF ORIGIN
1	President Muhammadu Buhari	Petroleum Resources	Katsina
2	Rotimi Amaechi	Transport	Rivers
3	Chris Ngige	Labour and Employment	Anambra
4	Kayode Fayemi	Solid Minerals	Ekiti
5	Babatunde Fashola	Power Works and Housing	Lagos
6	Abdulrahim Dambazau	Interior	Kano
7	Aisha Alhassan	Women Affairs	Taraba
8	Ogbonnaya Onu	Science and Technology	Ebonyi
9	Kemi Adeosun	Finance	Ogun
10	Abubakar Malami	Justice	Kebbi
11	Hadi Sirika	State for Aviation	Katsina
12	Suleman Adamu	Water Resource	Jigawa
13	Solomon Dalong	Youths and Sports	Plateau
14	Ibe Kachukwu	State for Petroleum	Delta
15	Osagie Ehanire	State for Health	Edo
16	Audu Ogbeh	Agriculture	Benue
17	Udo Udo Udoma	Budget and National Planning	Akwa Ibom
18	Lai Mohammed	Information	Kwara
19	Amina Mohammed	Environment	Gombe
20	Ibrahim Usman Jibril	State, Environment	Nasarawa
21	Anthony Onwuka	State for Education	Imo
22	Muhammadu Bello	FCT	Bauchi
23	Okechuwu Enelamah	Industry Trade and Investment	Abia
24	Aisha Abubakar	State for Trade Industry & Investment	Sokoto
25	Khadija Bukar Abba	State for Foreign Affairs	Yobe
26	Geoffrey Onyeama	Foreign Affairs	Enugu
27	Claudis Daramola	State, Niger Delta	Ondo
28	Monsur Dan Ali	Defense	Zamfara
29	James Ocholi	State for Labour	Kogi

***Restructuring Nigeria for National Development: Popular Music as Veritable Tool***

30	Zainab Ahmed	State for Budget	Kaduna
31	Mustapha Shehuri	State for Power	Borno
32	Heineken Lokpobiri	State for Agriculture	Bayelsa
33	Isaac Adewole Folorunsho	Health	Osun
34	Usani Usani Uguru	Niger Delta	Cross River
35	Abubakar Buari Bawa	State for Solid Minerals	Niger
36	Adebayo Shittu	Communications	Oyo

**Source:** [www.nigeriaembassyusa.org/index.php?](http://www.nigeriaembassyusa.org/index.php?) Federal Executive council

**Summary**

1. North Generally = 19
2. South East = 5
3. South South = 6
4. South West = 6

Total = 36

The summary of the list in table 3 above of members of the executive council shows that out of the thirty six (36) members, nineteen (19) come from the North, while seventeen (17) others were from the South East, South South and South West. What a lopsided appointment and Northern dominance, occupying vital positions in the federal level.

**Table 4: Twenty Seven Appointed Court of Appeal Justices**

S/N	NAME	STATE OF ORIGIN
1	P.A Mahmoud	Benue
2	F. Ojo	Kwara
3	I.G. Abundaga	Nasarawa
4	M.B. Idris	Niger
5	A.M. Talba	Adamawa
6	Kadi M.M. Alkah	Adamawa
7	A.I. Adenyangtso	Taraba
8	A.S. Umar	Kebbi
9	O.Z. Senchi	Kebbi
10	A.M. Lamido	Sokoto
11	B.B. Aliyu	Zamfara
12	Ebowei Tobi	Delta
13	G.O. K Olawole	Osun
14	O. Itodo	Benue
15	M.A. Abdul Gafar	Kwara
16	D.D. Adeck	Nasarawa
17	D.G. Goji	Adamawa

18	Kadi U.B. Umar	Adamawa
19	Y.A. Basir	Taraba
20	Z.B. Abubakar	Kebbi
21	I.M. Sani	Kaduna
22	D.G. Mann	Plateau
23	F.L. Adamu	Kano
24	I.B Ahmed	Katsina
25	M.Y. Uftsha'u	Zamfara
26	P.O. Affen	Bayelsa
27	O.A. Ipaye	Osun

**Source:** Nigeria 27 newly appointed court of Appeal Justice  
<https://www.pinterest.com/pin/632333603904572965/> March, 2018.

### Summary

1. The North = 23
2. South South = 2
3. South West = 2
4. South East = 0

Total = 27

The above summary of Nigeria 27 Appointed Court of Appeal Justice shows that the North is still dominance with twenty three (23), South-Two (2), South West- Two (2), and the South East Nothing (0). The educationally disadvantaged North now has the best citizens to be appointed as the court of Appeal Justice. Does this mean that the South East does not have qualified citizens to be appointed as the court of Appeal Justice or that they are not Nigerians? And we say that we are one Nigeria. A nation that donot obey the rule of law or the constitution. In Nigeria, the constitution is said to be provided for the purpose of promoting the good government and welfare of all persons in our country on the principles of freedom, equality and justice, and for the purpose of consolidating the unity of our people.

We are seeing equality and justice, good government and welfare of all persons in the country. *Haba!* How can you beat a child and tell him not to cry? The different groups clamoring for division of Nigeria and restructuring respectively, especially the IPOB are justified by this list and others to come.

**Table 5: List of Chief Justices of Nigeria from 1958-2018**

S/N	CHIEF JUSTICE	TERM
1	Sir. Adetokunbo Ademola	1958-1972
2	Taslim Olawale Elias	1972-1975
3	Darnley Arthur Alexander	1975-1979
4	Atanda Fatai Williams	1979-1983

*Restructuring Nigeria for National Development: Popular Music as Veritable Tool*

5	George Sodeinde Sowemimo	1983-1985
6	Ayo Gabriel Irikefe	1985-1987
7	Mohammed Bello	1987-1995
8	Muhammed Lawal Uwais	1995-2006
9	Salihu Modidibo Alfabelgore	2006-2007
10	Idris Legbo Kutigi	2007-2009
11	Aloysuis Iyorgyer Katsina Alu	2009-2011
12	Daluru Musdapher	2011-2012
13	Aloma Mariam Mukhtar	2012-2014
14	Mahmud Mohammed	2014-2016
15	Walter Samuel Nkanu Onuoghen	2017-2018

**Source:** [en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/chief\\_justice\\_of\\_Nigeria](http://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/chief_justice_of_Nigeria)  
Chief justice of Nigeria

**Summary**

North = 9

South West = 3

South South = 3

South East = 0

**Total = 15**

The above summary shows that the North has the greater number of nine (9) South West and South South registered their presence with three each (3) while the South East has none.

Does it mean that from 1958 to 2018 there is no South Easterner who is qualified to be chief justice of Nigeria or what?

**Table 6: The Chief Executive of Nigeria since Independence**

S/N	NAME	STATE OF ORIGIN	YEAR
1	Prime Minister Abubakar Tafawa Balewa	Bauchi	1960-1963
2	President Nnamdi Azikiwe	Anambra	1963-1966
3	Major General Johnson Aguiyi-Ironsi	Abia	1966
4	General Yakubu Gowon	Plateau	1966-1975
5	General Murtala Mohammed	Kano	1975-1976
6	Major General Olusegum Obasanjo	Ogun	1976-1979
7	President Shehu Shagari	Sokoto	1979-1983
8	Major General Muhammadu Buhari	Katsina	1983-1985
9	General Ibrahim B. Babangida	Niger	1985-1993
10	President Ernest Shonekan	Ogun	1993
11	General Sani Abacha	Kano	1993-1998

12	General Abdulsalani Abubakar	Niger	1998-1999
13	President Olusegun Obasanjo	Ogun	1999-2007
14	President Musa yar' Adua	Katsina	2007-2010
15	President Goodluck E. Jonathan	Bayelsa	2010-2015
16	President Muhammadu Buhari	Katsina	2015-date

**Source:** Updated on: April 25,2017 By Justin Findlay  
www.worldatlas.com  
presidents and military leaders of Nigeria since Independence.

**Summary**

North = 10  
South = 3  
South South = 1  
South East = 2  
Total = 16

From the above list,we discovered that out of the sixteen (16) chief Executives eight (8) were military, and eight (8) were civilians. Furthermore, the North still have dominance over other geopolitical zones by recording ten (10)leaders of four (4) military and four (4) civilian leaders, followed by the South West with (3), South East two (2) and South South one (1). In this nation, some people were born to rule while others are spectators.

The most marginalized and disenfranchised geopolitical zone in the federal appointment, leadership of this nation, employment opportunities, recipient of economic development, equality of rights, obligations and opportunities before the law, states and Local Government creation, etc, is the South East Zone. Furthermore, to show the amount of discrimination, segregation and hatred against the Igbos of South East, the North and South West (precisely Lagos state) threatened them to leave their sates for no just cause.

History has it that the Igbo of South East illuminate wherever they want in search of greener pastures. According to the 1999 constitution section 24 (C,D), the Igbos of South East respect the dignity of other citizens and the rights and legitimate interests of others and live in unity and harmony and in the spirit of common brotherhood. They also make positive and useful contribution to the advancement, progress and well-being of the community where they reside. How then has the people of South East who are peaceful become nuisance to the community they reside.

The people that were pursuing the Igbos out of their states might not have seen or read the 1999 constitution section 41 (1) which states that every citizen of Nigeria is entitled to move freely throughout Nigeria and to reside in any part thereof, and no citizen of Nigeria shall be expelled from Nigeria or refused entry thereto or exit therefrom. Also in section 15 (1)it states that the motto of the Federal Republic of

Nigeria shall be unity, faith, peace and progress. In subsection (2) of the same section it states that accordingly, national integration shall be actively encouraged, whilst discrimination on the grounds of place of origin, sex, religion, status, ethnic linguistic association or ties shall be prohibited.

From the discussion so far, you will discover that the people of South East have been badly marginalized, disenfranchised and discriminated against and that is why they are demanding for outright separation from Nigeria.

### **Popular Music as Veritable Tool for Restructuring Nigerian for National Development**

In Nigeria, the economy, security, dichotomy, nepotism and corruption have been worst in relative terms and places. The nation is plagued with more youth unemployment, more ethnic killings, kidnappings, nationwide, more poverty and widespread corruption in every small corner. These evil and corrupt practices which have eaten deep into Nigerians have adversely affected the image of Nigeria, and its citizens such that peoples of other nations no longer regard Nigerians as honest and trustworthy people. Due to corruption, the authenticity of certificates obtained from our schools and colleges are questioned.

The Nigerian economy as earlier mentioned is dwindling so much, the security of lives and properties of the citizens are no longer guarded, foreign investors no longer have faith in Nigeria's economy, they also feel that their lives and properties are no longer secured. This led to mass exodus of these people and the closure of their companies and industries. Some Nigeria industrialists are not left out in this mass exodus. They too are closing up and relocating to other countries due to adverse and indiscriminate value-added tax (VAT) charges by Nigerian Government and insecurity in the nation. All these hinder the rate of development in any nation.

National development is only possible under sustained peace and stability, both of which are products of the mind and the will. National development cannot be separated from education. Education therefore is the training of the mind, will and body for the proper control of selfish motives. This education does not mean how to read or write. The differences in outlook and behavior noticed among any nation is dependent majorly on the national education each of which emphasized certain core values that gave rise to national consciousnesses and identity. It is very unfortunate that Nigeria seems not to have national character. It is this type of education that makes it possible for human beings to live in society, to associate meaningfully with other human beings. People live together and interact not because of their ability to read and write and calculate, but because of the acceptance of certain moral values which were inculcated in them through music.

Popular is a type music that is widely admired. According to Idolor (2002) the essence of popular music is that it should be readily comprehensible to a large proportion of the populace. The popular music is of different genres. These include.

Highlife, Fuji, Afrobeat, Apala, Sakara, Hiphop, Disco, Raggae, Calypo, Rap music, Rumba, Gospel music, Juju, Makosa, Blues, Jazz, Rock, Soul music, Country music, Country music, Rock-and-Roll etc.

The popular musicians generally explore different languages in their music, and it is possible to say that there is virtually no topic, no matter how common it may be that popular music has not and cannot touch. According to Okafor (2005) popular music is a veritable tool for social comments. The composers of popular music use it to portray the governmental and life style of its hierarchy as profligate, insensitive to the suffering of the masses, as self-serving coterie determined to destroy incriminatory evidence and turn a blind eye to corruption as long as the perpetrators belong to the elite, ruling class, a particular zone, etc. Recently in Nigeria, pension director mismanaged contributors money and nothing tangible was done to him, Snake swallowed Nigeria money, money disappeared from the bag of an officer of WAEC and nothing was done, but when an ordinary person steals five thousand naira only, he is charged for prosecution in view of this Soyinka in one of his popular songs states.

You tief one Kobo, dey put you for prison

You tief ten million, na patriotism

Dem go give you chieftancy and national honour

You tief even bigger, dey say na rumour

Monkey dey work, baboon dey chop sweet pounded yam.

(Soyinka, 1983)

The song clearly depicts what is going on now in Nigeria where members of the ruling class party were involved in evil and corrupt practices, and nothing was done to them. Again if a corrupt politician leaves his party and joins the ruling party, his corrupt practices will automatically be forgiven and he becomes innocent of the crimes he committed.

Pop musicians criticize the evil and corrupt practices of the society, especially those in government through the texts of their music. Some of the popular musicians serve as watch dogs of the society that bark at any wrong doings in governance such as marginalization, discrimination, nepotism, disenfranchisement noticed in states and local government creation, corruption, federal appointments, national Entrance cut-off marks to unity schools, Economic development of states, social justice and equality of status and opportunity, etc. the following popular music dealt on these issues and equally made some recommendations on the realization of a better Nigeria and governance that will eventually bring national development.

V.I.P (Vagabonds in Power) by fela Anikulapo kuti Fela portrays this normally very important person (V.I.P) who are the product of the universities, as the bane of Africa's economic woes and problems of poverty.

According to fela, these people are the head of state, minister, permanent secretary, Judges, bank managers, Directors, chief Justices, etc.

1. Vagabonds in power (V.I.P)



Man get power, him take an cheat person  
Man get power, him take an talk nonsense  
Man get power, him take an steal money  
Dem no know hungry people  
Dem no know jobless people  
Dem no homeless people  
Dem no know suffer people

Dem go dey ride best car  
Dem go dey chop best food  
Dem go live best house  
Dem go dey wake for road

You go dey comot for roadfor dem  
Dem go dey steal money  
He be wrong man  
Na vagabond in power  
I say he be wrong man  
Na vagabond in power  
(Fela Arikulapo kuti, 1979).

#### **Unlimited Liability Company**

Chairman wetin you dey find for home?  
We still thing you still dey overseas  
Ah, I forget its getting near de time  
For a meeting of all the shareholders

Chairman, you sabi waka-o  
We look for you from Tokyo to New York  
In Bulgaria, they say you just comot  
Your executive get pas us for Argentina

Chairman, dis meeting go hot-o  
Your Directors don chop all we money  
While you dey shake hands with kings and presidents  
Your business partners don shake the reary loose

Each time they sneese, millions of naira go scatter  
When they snore, the bank itself go shake  
Mobilization fee is the order of the day  
The contractor collect, take we money and run away

My eye see wonder de other ka  
When your directors meet for society wedding  
Private jet and helicopter na de fashion  
Mercedes na dash for their favorite singers

Forty aero planes, all private, Hy in the guests  
Each Director and wife spray at least twenty thousand  
When money finish at midnight they open bank  
For brand new naira to continue the lovely spray

Eh, but chairman, thing dey worry me  
Dis naira, e still be naira so?  
De thing one naira fit buy yesterday  
Twenty naira no fit buy am today, etc.

Se mi jeje, se mi jeje (Treat me gently “or” Be patient with me”)  
Me too I want garri  
Share-de-garri, share-de-garri  
Share-garri, share-garri, share-gari etc.  
(Wole sonyinka, 1983)

2. The unlimited liability company is a satire on the ruling party, the National party of Nigeria (NPN) during president Shehu Shagari regime. According to Okafor (2005) Soyinka portrays the governmental and life style of its hierarchy as profligate, insensitive coterie determined to destroy incriminatory evidence and turn a blind eye to corrupt as long as the perpetrator belongs to the elite, aristocratic, and ruling class, as it is obtained in Nigeria today.

3. In the midst of Kidnapping, nationwide evil and corrupted practices, dichotomy, killings, division and disunity in Nigeria, Prince Morocco Maduka’s song entitled Obi Nwanne calls for brotherhood and peace.

Umunnam n’umunnam my brothers and Sisters  
Ndi Obodoanyi Nigeria people of our country Nigeria  
Kedu ihe bu Nsogbu? what is the problem.  
Ajuju anyi na-aju the question we ask  
Obu gini bu Nsogbu ayi what is our problem  
Ebe anyi na aflight war against where we fight war against  
Indiscipline na corruption indiscipline and corruption  
Ona buzi gini bu nsogbu what then is the problem  
Kayi, choaba obi nwanne let’s seek brotherhood  
(Prince Morocco Maduka, 1984)

4. The Ras Kimnon's under pressure  
Released in the late 1980s has this to say about the hardship and inflation ravaging the country now even when we are blessed with so many resources.  
Under pressure we wail-----under pressure  
Under pressure black people-----under pressure  
Under pressure Nigeria-----under pressure  
Under pressure African-----under

No food fe we belly  
No money inna we pocket  
No bed fe lay we head  
The people them a suffer  
Inna gheto  
Inna city  
Every way  
Na me go  
Ma see them  
Some a crying  
Some a dying  
some a weeping  
Some a wailing  
Every way  
Na me go

Sonny Okosun's song entitled "Which Way Nigeria" release in 1984  
Captures what the state of the nation is now. He equally proffers some ways out,  
Chorus: Which Way Nigeria?  
Which Way Nigeria?  
Which Way to go?  
I love my father land  
I want to know  
Which way Nigeria  
Is heading to.

1. Many years after independence  
We still find it hard to start  
How long shall we be patient  
Before we reach the Promised Land?  
Tell me, let's save Nigeria  
So Nigeria won't die.  
2. Inefficiency and indiscipline

Nearly ran the country down  
Corruption here, there and everywhere  
Inflation soaring high, Why?  
Let's save Nigeria, so Nigeria wont die.  
3. We made mistakes during the oil boom  
Not knowing that was our doom  
Some people now have everything  
While many have, nothing why?  
Let's save Nigeria, so Nigeria wont die.  
4. A hungry man is an angry man  
Because he has many months of feed  
Let's join our heads to farm the land  
So we can have enough food to eat  
Let's save Nigeria so Nigeria wont die  
Our ambition to be millionaires  
Is ruining the country now  
We all want to be millionaires  
And to build castles on the moon  
Let's save Nigeria so Nigeria wont die.  
5. Remember that a single step  
Is the beginning of a million miles  
Let's start right now to rebuild ourselves  
So as to make the country smile  
Let's save Nigeria so Nigeria wont die  
6. Heaven and Earth will pass away  
It is written in the Book of God  
The good people will surely find their ways  
And the meek will inherit the world  
Let's save Nigeria so Nigeria wont die  
(Sonny Okosun, 1984)

The song by Sonny Okosun begins with questions on the direction Nigeria is heading to since independence. He enumerates some of the things that are hindering development in Nigeria such as in efficiency of the leaders in governance, indiscipline, corruption, greed, ambitions of power, ambitions to be millionaires, hunger, poverty, inflation, etc. He appeals to Nigerians, that is, the leaders and the led to have change of attitudes. Okosun equally pleads with Nigerians to come together and build Nigeria so that Nigeria will not die.

Popular music is therefore the veritable tool in restructuring Nigeria for national development. This is because the texts as we have seen help in enlightening, educating, instilling morals, discipline, right attitudes in the citizenry. The popular music texts

help also in promoting ideologies which help in fluency the socio-political opinions of the people. Popular music texts through regular comments and criticisms on the general conduct and behaviours of the citizens of Nigeria, serve as weapons for socio-political change. Popular music is most accepted because it is common among the general public it is music that is liked by many people. Popular music is so unique because the language used cut across almost all the tribes in Nigeria which made it very easy for the people to understand the meanings of the texts.

Popular music can be disseminated to the public through so many means, such as by electronic media, disk and video recordings, live performance, etc.

### **Conclusion**

Restructuring Nigeria is called for when only the Northern zones are experiencing good the governance and welfare meant for all the zones, when the people from the South East zone cannot reside and move freely in the North and Lagos state, while the 1999 constitution section 41 (1) states that every citizen of Nigeria, is entitled to move freely throughout Nigeria and reside in any part thereof and no citizen of Nigeria shall be expelled from Nigeria or refused entry thereto or exit therefrom. When there are injustices on cases concerning people from the South East, when things that are meant for all the geopolitical zones and not equitably distributed. When there are marked inequality in Local Government and states creation, constitution of geopolitical zones, federal government appointments, chief executives of Nigeria since independence, inequality in the admission of Nigeria children into Federal Government Colleges based on quota system instead of merit. When evil and corrupt practices are part of governance, when much power is concentrated on the central government, etc.

This paper concludes that for Nigeria to achieve greater development, she should try and build national consciousness and forsake the fear of unity. Nigerians should learn to accommodate each other not minding our ethnic and religious differences knowing fully well that our unity does not mean uniformity. However, the case for imbalance, injustice and equity, general indiscipline, corruption, tribalism and favouritism should not be taken for granted.

### **Recommendations**

The following recommendations are considered necessary for proper restructuring of Nigeria for national development.

1. Nigeria should be divided into five regions which will include:
  - a. Eastern region
  - b. Niger Delta region
  - c. Middle Belt Region
  - d. Odudua Region
  - e. Northern Region and A Central Government

2. The 1999 Nigerian constitution should be reviewed and amended to favour all the regions. The constitution should be truly the people's constitution.
3. There should be decentralization of:
  - a. **Security** – The regions should have their own police and civil defense for efficiency whose conducts must be guided by the Nigeria constitution. The choice is because they are in the best position to handle security issues in their immediate environment.
  - b. **Education** – The regions should be responsible, for providing quality education for their people, paying of staff and teachers salaries and building schools when the need arises.
  - c. **Electricity** – The regions should generate power to be used by them without federal government interference for the efficiency of its management.
4. **Equality in power between the Regional Government-** Creating equality in power between the regional governments is necessary because it will give room for healthy competition among the regions, which in turn will bring much development to the nation. This arrangement will not allow for dominance by any region.
5. **Supremacy of the constitution** – The constitution should be followed religiously. According to the 1999 Nigerian constitution section 1 (1) the constitution is supreme and its provisions shall have binding force on all authorities and person throughout the federal Republic of Nigeria.
6. There should be enlightenment and educative campaigns of the Nigeria populace through popular music on the reasons for the quest for restructuring Nigeria and its benefits to the nation that is, if the restructuring is properly done, it will position Nigeria for real and greater development.
7. Popular music should be included in the primary and secondary schools curricula as a compulsory subject.
8. There should be real separation of religion and ethnicity in Nigeria constitution, and polity in the restructuring of Nigeria.

#### **References**

- Achebe, C. (1983). *The Troble with Nigeria*. Enugu: Fourth Dimension publishers
- Enebe, G. (1994). Nigeria history and culture in pre-colonial, colonial and contemporary times. In R.C. Okafor, L.N. Emeka and E. Akumah (eds.), *Nigeria peoples and culture and social science for higher education*, (pp. 323-343). Enugu: Government press.
- F.R.N. (2011). *Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria as amended*.

***Restructuring Nigeria for National Development: Popular Music as Veritable Tool***

---

- Findlay, J. (2017). President and Military Leaders of Nigeria since independence Retrieved from [www.worldatlas.com](http://www.worldatlas.com)
- Gauri, D.J. (2010). 9 Essential features of a federalism-explained, Retrieved from [www.preservearticles.com](http://www.preservearticles.com)
- Hornby, A.S. (1998). Restructuring. Oxford *advanced English, special price Edition*. New York; Oxford University Press.
- Idolor, E. (2002). *Music in Africa: Faction and illusions*. Ibadan; Stirling-Horden Publishers (Nig) Ltd.
- Ikejiani, O. (2007). *Okechukwu kejiani the unrepented Nationalist my journey through life*. English: Snap Press Ltd.
- Nwakanma, O. (2018). What is Restructuring? Retrieved from [www.vanguardngr.com](http://www.vanguardngr.com)
- Ojiako, J. (1981). *Nigriayesterday, today and?* Onitsha: Edu.Publishers.
- Ojiako, J. (1983). *1<sup>st</sup> Four years of Nigeria executive presidency success or failure*. Daily Times of Nig. Ltd.
- Ojukwu, E.O. (1989). *Because I am involved*, Ibadan; Spectrum Books Ltd.
- Okafor, R.C. (2005). *Music in Nigerian Society*. Enugu: New Generation Books.
- Okonjo, L.M. (1974). *British administration in Nigeria, 1900-1950, A Nigeria view*. New York: Nok Publishers.
- Olusanya, G.O. (1984). Constitutional development in Nigeria, 1861-1960 in Obara, 1. (Ed) Groundwok Ibadan; Heineman Educational Books (Nig) Ltd.
- Sagay, I.E. (2001). Federalism, the constitution and resource control. A speech delivered at sensitixational programme organized by Ibori Vanguard at the lagoon restaurant, Lagos.
- Udnuta, J.O.E. (1994). Evolution of Nigeria as a political unit. In R.C. Okafor, L.N. Emeka and E. Akumah (Eds). *Nigeria peoples and culture and social science for higher education*, (pp.344-359). Enugu Government Press.
- Wikipedia. (2018). Federalism, Retrieved from <https://en.m.wikipedia.org>

- (2018). Definition> Restructuring. Retrieved from [https:// www.business dictionary.com](https://www.businessdictionary.com)
- (2018).List of chief Justices of Nigeria from 19958-2018. Retrieved from en.m.wikipedia.org
- 2017/2018, Entrance Exam cut-off marks for all 36 states of Nigeria. Retrieved from <https://www.pinterest.com/pin/290834088422399457>
- (2018). Members of federal executive council Retrieved from [www.nigeriaembassyusa.org/index.php](http://www.nigeriaembassyusa.org/index.php)--federal executive.
- (2018). Nigeria 27 newly appointed court of appeal Justice, Retrieved from <https://www.pinterest.com/pin/632333603904572965>
- (2018). The 36 states in Nigeria and their local government areas. Retrieved from <https://constative.com>

### **Discography**

- Anikulapo-kuti, Femi (1979), *V.I.P (Vagabouds, in power)*. Fela Anikulapo-Kuti and Africa 70. Jofabbro, KELPOOL.
- Okosuns, Sonny(1984) *Which way Nigeria?* ENI Records HMV(N) 036.
- Soyinka, Wole (1983). *Unlimited Liability Company and Etike Revo Wetin?*Featuring Tunji Oyekena and His Benders EWURO Productions, EWPOOL.