



FEDERATED ILLOGICALITIES

Leke Alder
Principal, Alder Consulting

THE PLATFORM

Covenant Christian Centre,
Iganmu, Lagos State.

Tuesday, May 1st, 2018

© Leke Alder 2018



Federated Illogicalities

If you're a Nigerian there are three emotions you'll be familiar with:

1. The first emotion is a sense of frustration. It comes from a feeling of impotence, that feeling you're talking to a brick wall when it comes to government; like Abuja has a glass dome over it preventing government from hearing you though seeing you. You can't hear them either, don't understand what they're doing though you see a lot of movement. It's kind of like a mute relationship.
2. The second emotion is anger. There's harassment at every juncture of life, like someone is chasing you all over life, giving you no respite. If a Nigerian tells you he's being chased in his dreams he's probably dealing with different avatars - his landlord, Road Safety Corp, the local government, Police, his indigent family members... etc.
3. The third emotion is depression. It comes from the feeling of living in a dark concrete tomb from which you can't get out. You can't even get a visa travel out. And the only alternative route seem to pass through Libya!

As potent as these emotions are however, we cannot, must not allow them to immobilise us and render us comatose as a generation. There's something incongruous about youth giving up on life. Youth is supposed to be hungry for life. If we give up on our country we give up on our patrimony and destiny.



You see, contrary to the impression being created Nigeria's problems are not insurmountable. The reason many of our problems keep reoccurring like a recalcitrant and stubborn demon is largely because we fail to apply management science to our affairs. This apart from political will to do what is right and the capacity of leadership.

Take the gridlock at Apapa port. It's a simple supply chain management problem. In fact it's a logistics problem. It shouldn't be occurring. If you send a thousand trailers to evacuate products from a narrow strip of real estate you're going to end up with what is called a bottleneck. That's what Apapa became, a bottleneck. If you've ever slugged a bottle of Coke you know what a bottleneck is. (I'm trying to demystify stuff). As you upturn the bottle into your mouth, the mass of liquid rushes towards the neck of the bottle. The narrowness of the neck of the bottle slows down the rate of evacuation of the liquid into your throat. That's bottleneck. We simply created a bottleneck. Dubai has a busier port than ours and they don't have traffic congestion.

There's also the fact our facility has also been overtaken by the growth of the economy. If we don't plan and project we will always suffer the consequences.

Nigeria suffers from a critical malaise called "illogicalities." It afflicts every aspect of our national and personal life, from government to faith, to social services, to registration of companies... The nation runs on incongruence. In this lecture I'm going to highlight three examples.

Illogicality 1: Conceptual Illogicality



This is our root illogicality, it's what's created so much distortion in our polity.

What is our conceptual illogicality? It is the fact we pride ourselves in being a federation, refer to ourselves as the federal republic yet we run a unitary administrative structure. There's systemic misalignment.

Illogicality 2: Demographic Illogicality

There are 61.3million Nigerians between the ages of 19 and 35. That's 33% of our population. Yet they're under-represented in government. The irony is we want fresh ideas. But how can we expect fresh ideas from men who can't even understand the functionality of a smart phone? Of course they'll be suspicious of technology. They're not technological natives. They don't even understand modern economics!

Illogicality 3: Religious Illogicality

This illogicality boils down to a simple question: Why do Nigerians always seek divine intervention for what commonsense can solve?

Let's take a closer look at these illogicalities, let's start with the illogicality of our unitary system of administration.

Nigeria is a federation. But we don't administrate as a federation, we function in the homogenous logic of a non-federation; though everyone agrees the best model for a multi-ethnic, multi-tribal



agglutination of ancient tribes, kingdoms and histories is a federalist system.

Unfortunately the word “federation” has been so politicised it evokes hegemonic passion. In many instances it’s been topically reduced to state police and resource control.

Our unitary system of administration is why we have a one size fits all approach to policy. Consider our energy policy. (And this is without prejudice to the work of the honourable Minister of Power).

Based on geography and matched to geography there are five energy resources Nigeria should turn to. In the North we have a lot of sunlight with temperatures averaging 36°. It therefore makes sense to have a solar power energy policy for the North.

In Lagos we have the Atlantic Ocean. Our natural energy resource for that region ought to be hydro power as well as wind. China has a wind turbine capacity of 114,763 Megawatts (biggest wind power sector – 31% of the global total) America has 65,879 Megawatts, Germany has 39,165 Megawatts. (Source: Allianz)

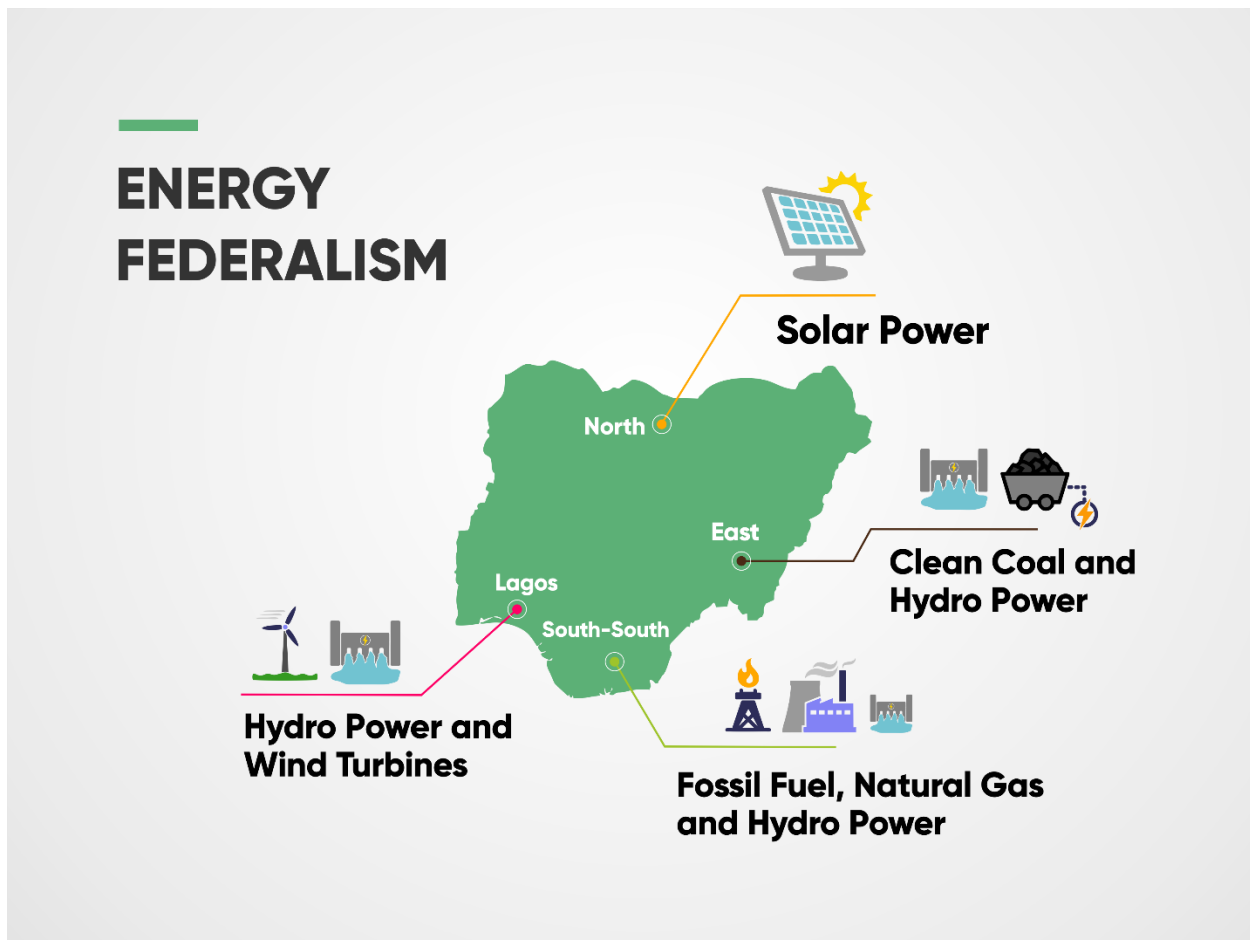
In the East we have coal and River Niger. Our natural energy recourse for that region ought to be clean coal and hydro power.

In the South South (the “South South is a quaint Nigerian expression by the way; there’s nothing called “South South” in Geography)... we have crude oil, natural gas as well as proximity to the Atlantic. The natural energy recourse ought to be fossil fuel, natural gas and hydro power.

Now, I know we have a renewable energy policy and government is looking for investors in that field but what I’m talking about is not supplementary source of energy. I’m talking about energy

Unalder

federalism, the leverage of geographical nativity to create a diversified energy infrastructure.

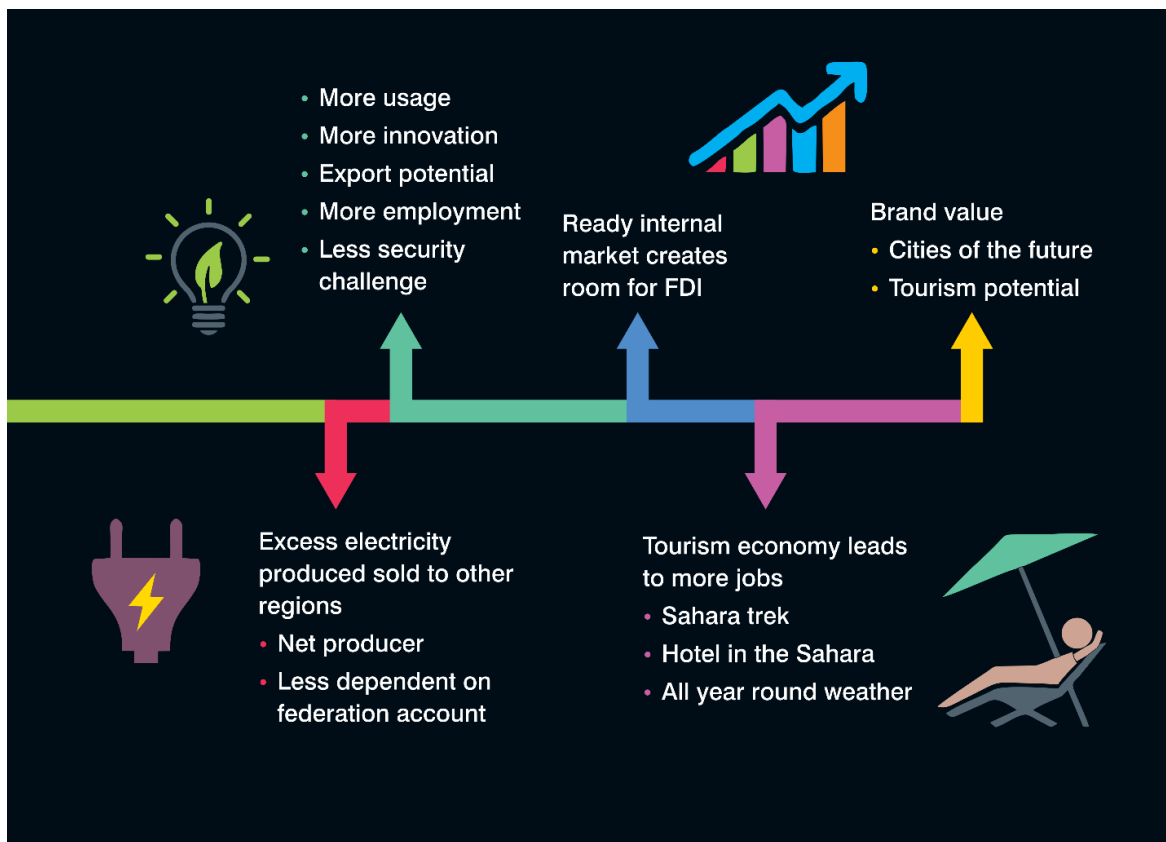
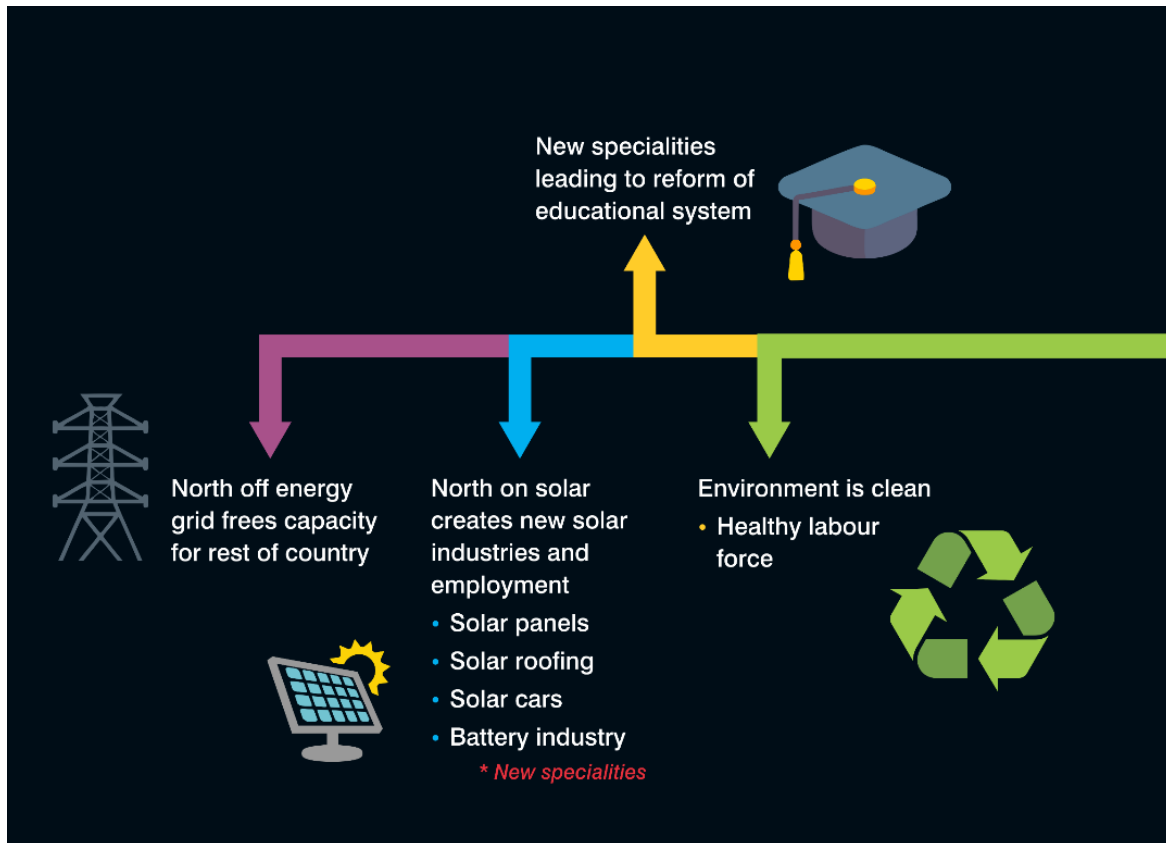


What are the implications? Let's take the North for example. There are serious developmental challenges in the North that are exacerbating our security as a nation.

If the North establishes industrial scale trans-state solar farm she'll free herself completely from the "national grid." That releases a huge capacity for the rest of the country... As it is there's not enough energy being generated to go round.

The implications of the North being on solar power are unimaginable. Let me show you:

Unalder



Unalder

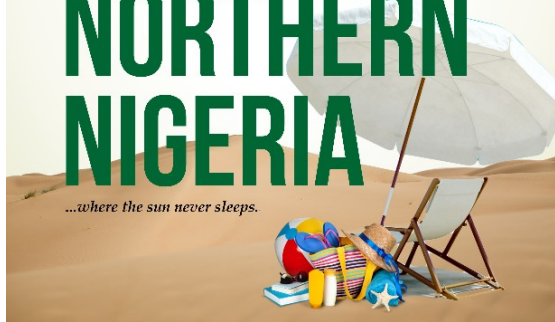
TANNING IS FREE

...but the kunu is not

Visit

NORTHERN NIGERIA

...where the sun never sleeps.



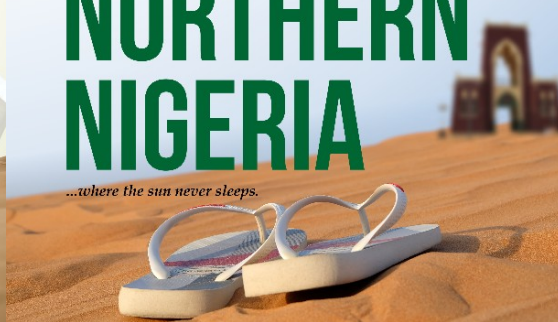
EVERYDAY IS SUMMER

...for winter, go to Europe

Visit

NORTHERN NIGERIA

...where the sun never sleeps.



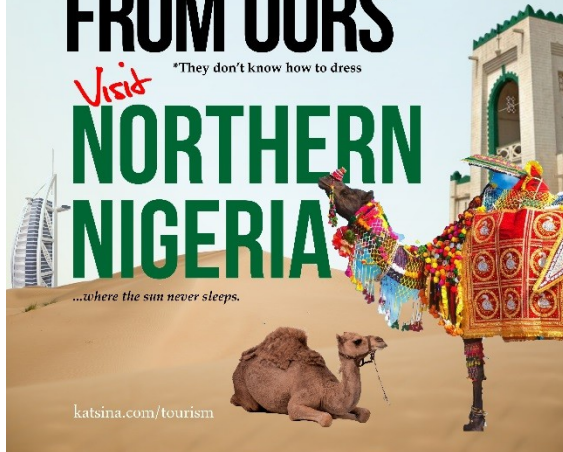
THE CAMELS IN DUBAI HAVE A THING TO LEARN FROM OURS

Visit

*They don't know how to dress

NORTHERN NIGERIA

...where the sun never sleeps.



katsina.com/tourism

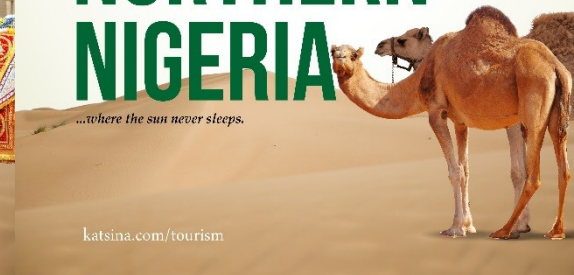
NIGERIAN CAMELS

...running on bio fuel since 1847
(Tesla has nothing on us!)

Visit

NORTHERN NIGERIA

...where the sun never sleeps.



katsina.com/tourism

Of course, you'll expect an ample dose of scepticism when ideas like this are floated. You will hear a chorus of "attempt at marginalisation," shouts of "impossibility". Isn't solar power in technological infancy some would ask. And yet Puerto Rico is functioning right now on Tesla batteries as emergency power after being ravaged by hurricanes. Why can't states be solar-powered? Apple Park is powered entirely on renewable energy. Why can't industries in the North be solar powered? If we make up our mind that's our policy direction then that's our policy direction. We ought to think of possibilities.

What we have is patently inefficient, and it's absolutely illogical is to pump gallons of crude 345km to the North for refinement and distribution. That's a high maintenance system that is very prone to risk. It doesn't make sense! And I should know. I served on the Board of Nigeria Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (NEITI).

Now let's look at Illogicality 2: The underrepresentation of youths in government and the search for fresh ideas.

Whatever we're doing now is certainly not working. We need fresh ideas. The milli-metrisation of incremental gradualism cannot serve us. We're practically dancing on the spot, chasing our shadows. That's because we're running on expired vision.

When you study Nigeria you're forced to come to an agreement with the verity of the saying, old men shall dream dreams of yesteryears, young men shall see visions. Vision is the purview of youths not of old men.

Unalder

The first set of people that created a vision for Nigeria were youths. Apart from NnamdiAzikiwe and ShehuShagari our earliest heads of state were in their 30s and 40s.

	Name	Age	Duration
1	Sir TafewaBalewa	48	6 years
2	NnamdiAzikwe	59	3 years
3	Johnson Aguiyi-Ironsi	42	194 days
4	Yakubu Gowon	31	8 years
5	Murtala Mohammed	37	199 days
6	OlusegunObasanjo	40	3 years
7	ShehuShagari	54	4 years
8	MuhammaduBuhari	41	1 year, 239 days
9	Ibrahim Babangida	43	8 years
			Mean age: 43

Then the median age became 55 as we started recycling. And it slid from there.

	Name	Age	Duration
1	Ernest Shonekan	57	83 days
2	SaniAbacha	50	4 years
3	AbdulsalamiAbubakar	56	1 year
4	Umaru Musa Yar'adua	56	3years
5	Goodluck Jonathan	53	5years
			Mean age: 55



Vision has to be reviewed periodically. Once a vision is achieved or overtaken by events it must be discarded and a fresh one crafted. The vision we're running was crafted under a set of circumstances that no longer exist. Things have changed, the world has moved on from the 1960s. It's time for a fresh vision, it's time for a new set of youths to craft a vision for Nigeria.

Even our constitution envisages 30somethings and forty-something year olds will be running the country. It's why it specifies that age bracket, but we choose to read things from an obtuse angle, and so what should have been a qualifier of youth became a disqualifier of youth. Look at the result:

31% of Governors are in their 60s.

Governor	State	Age
AbiolaAjimobi	Oyo	69
AbdullahiGanduje	Kano	69
AminuMasari	Katsina	68
UmaruTanko Al-Makura	Nasarawa	65
Darius Ishaku	Taraba	64
OluwarotimiAkeredolu	Ondo	62
Ibrahim Geidam	Yobe	62
Mohammed AbdullahiAbubakar	Bauchi	62
RaufAregbesola	Osun	61
Willie Obiano	Anambra	61
IbikunleAmosun	Ogun	60

Amador

61% of Governors are in their 50s.

Governor	State	Age
Godwin Obaseki	Edo	59
IfeanyiOkowa	Delta	59
Nasir El-Rufai	Kaduna	58
AyodeleFayose	Ekiti	58
Samuel Ortom	Benue	57
AbubakarBagudu	Kebbi	57
Ibrahim Dankwambo	Gombe	56
RochasOkorocha	Imo	56
Mohammed BadaruAbubakar	Jigawa	56
Simon Lalong	Plateau	55
AkinwunmiAmbode	Lagos	55
BindoJibrilla	Adamawa	55
Abdulfatah Ahmed	Kwara	55
Dave Umahi	Ebonyi	54
IfeanyiUgwuanyi	Enugu	54
Okezielkpeazu	Abia	54
AminuTambuwal	Sokoto	52
Seriake Dickson	Bayelsa	52
Udom Emmanuel	Akwalbom	52
KashimShettima	Borno	52
NyesomWike	Rivers	52
Abubakar Bello	Niger	52

Only three Governors in their 40s

Governor	State	Age
AbdulazizYari	Zamfara	49
Ben Ayade	Cross River	49
Yahaya Bello	Kogi	43



This is not the spirit of the Nigerian Constitution.

We need fresh ideas. Let me throw out one fresh idea we need.

If the mobile telephony density of Nigeria is about 150M. Why are we not voting by mobile phone? It will ensure wider participation in our democracy. Why are we running an archaic and inefficient system of voting?

Of course you're going to hear opposition to such an idea. They'll tell you the system can be hacked, that it's prone to manipulation, that we can't trust technology.

But the system we're running is routinely rigged and often hijacked by hoodlums. The figures are easily manipulated by corrupt collating officers, and the correction of the injustice created can take years to redress at the election tribunal. It's even skewed the election timetable in Ekiti, Osun, Edo, Anambra and Ondo states. So why do we insist on running that kind of system? Why not something modern?

If Nigerians can do credit transfers on their phone, pay tuition, shop online, order food with phone, why can't they vote by phone?

All we need do is create code to prevent multiple voting and manipulation. And that can be done through verification system.

We don't even need to reinvent the wheel. Apple phones use iris technology for verification to unlock phones. Why can't that technology be adapted for our election? We can link the system to BVN numbers or any other verification layer we want to add. Why do we need to queue for hours to vote when it can be done in 2 minutes via mobile phone? If we can vote Big Brother Nigeria electronically why can't we vote by phone. Big Brother Nigeria



processed over 170 million votes cumulatively, 30 million votes in the finale.

And why can't we have real time collation of votes like we do with Twitter polls? Why can't we have electronic billboards at "polling centres" such that everyone can see the results in real time? Why not?! What could be more transparent and ensure true representative democracy?

But computers can go haywire you say. True. But you forget your plane is piloted by a computer. How do you think it's possible for the pilot to come and play in the cabin? Your train is driven by a computer. The human drivers are just there for your psychological comfort. Your shuttle from terminal to terminal is fully automated. Just three weeks ago there was a driverless car in Lagos.

If you can trust your life to a computer to fly you 33,000 miles above sea level at 740 – 930 km per hour why can't we have electronic voting?

Dubai is erecting a building that is generating power as each floor rotates on the axis. They're talking about operating drone taxis powered by battery technology, thinking robo-cops... Qatar is putting finishing touches on modalities for Hyperloop transport system...

The third illogicality is the illogicality of unthinking religiosity.

Nigerians are very religious. We have a very rich vocabulary of religious philosophy: "Divine intervention", "Will of God", "Power must change hands", "Levels will change"... I don't mind the lexical creativity. The only thing is that our unthinking, uncritical, unexamined religion is suffocating us. Angels are not going to



solve our electricity problem, neither will Cherubims run for Senate. Things we should be demanding of our rulers we're demanding of God.

What many don't realise is that 99.99% of our prayer points are a result of policy failure.

We pray for money to buy jeeps because our roads are bad. They damage the underside of salon cars.

We pray for money to send our children to private schools abroad because our public schools are broken.

We pray to God for security every night because our policing system is poor.

We pray for divine health because of gaps in our health policy.

The list goes on.

If we take care of our governance, sort out our policy, 99% of our prayer points will disappear. Then God can focus on more important stuff concerning this country – how for example this land of vibrant and intelligent humans with an abundance of energy and capacities can better contribute their lot to solving global challenges. Instead we're the global challenge. We're the giant in stupor, the ever potentiated but unrealised nation. It's time for God to stop receiving incessant requests for money to buy generator from Nigeria. Perhaps if God stops supplying us jeeps we will fix our roads.

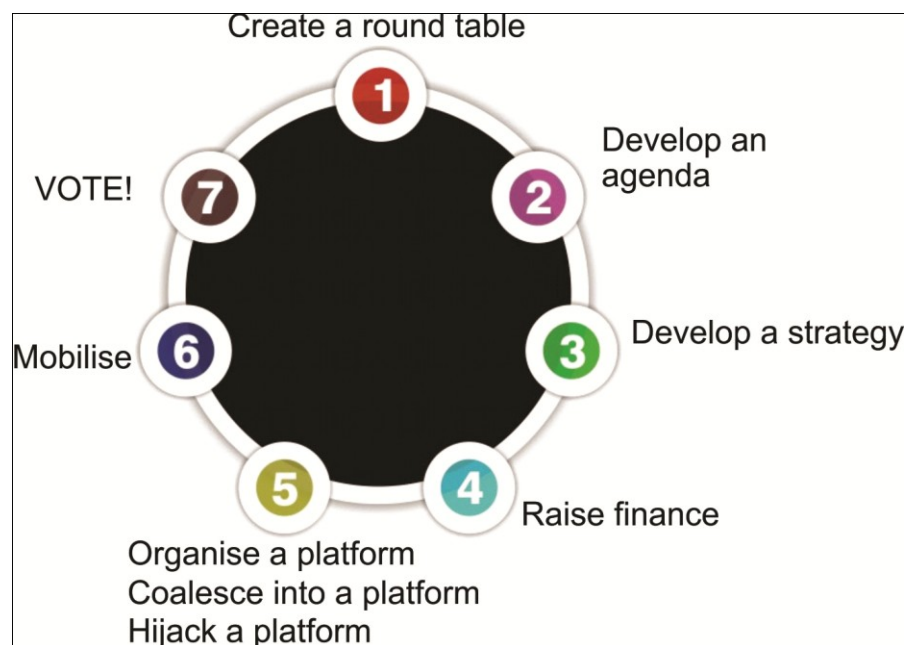
We **MUST** participate in politics if we want to change things in our nation.

Unalder

To quote the words of Bertolt Brecht:

“The worst illiterate is the political illiterate. He hears nothing, sees nothing, and takes no part in political life. He doesn’t seem to know that the cost of living, the price of beans, of flour, of rent, of medicines, all depend on political decisions. He even prides himself on his political ignorance, sticks out his chest and says he hates politics. He doesn’t know, the imbecile, that from his political non-participation comes the prostitute, the abandoned child, the robber and worst of all, corrupt officials, the lackeys of exploitative multinational corporations.”

This is what the youths must do:



I want to thank you for listening.

May God bless the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

Thank you and God bless!