



(R-L) National Chair, Mr. Chukwudi Adiukwu; Lagos State Chair, Mr. Seni Doregos; Mr. Seni Makanjuola; National Policy and Strategy Secretary, Mr. Wale Irokosu during the presentation of the award for State Chapter of the Month (Lagos State) for January, February, March and April 2018.

Youth Party Activities

1. Certificate of recognition was presented to Mr. Obinna Ogah, Enugu State Chair as Member of the Month for recruiting the highest number of members in January 2018.
2. Youth Party member, Mr. Seni Makanjuola was presented a certificate of recognition as Member of the Month for recruiting the highest number of members in February, March and April 2018.
3. The State Chapter of the Month was presented to the Lagos State chair. Lagos State recorded the highest number of members in the month of January, February, March and April 2018.



(L-R) Youth Party Volunteers: Mr. Babajide Balogun, Ms. Funmi Hundeyin, Mr. Johnson Dawood, Mr. Ceejay Okwor at a Youth Party awareness event at Isefun Road, Bada-Ayobo, Alimosho Local Government Area, Lagos State.



National Chair, Mr. Chukwudi Adiukwu (right) and Enugu State Chair, Mr. Obinna Ogah (left) during the presentation of the award for Member of the Month for January 2018.



National Chair, Mr. Chukwudi Adiukwu (right) and Mr. Seni Makanjuola (left) during the presentation of the Award for Member of the Month for February, March and April 2018.



National Chair, Mr. Chukwudi Adiukwu (right) and Lagos State Chair, Mr. Seni Doregos (left) during the presentation of the award for State Chapter of the Month (Lagos State) for January, February, March and April 2018.



SWEET TALES OF HOPE

By Sada Malumfashi

Hope is the thing with feathers
That perches in the soul
And sings the tune without the words
And never stops at all
~ **Emily Dickinson**

Growing up as a young school pupil at the end of the military era, just before the demise of General Sani Abacha, I never imagined what democracy meant, or would be. To grow up and be a soldier was the dream for my peers then, for our naive minds considered it the pinnacle of living. Then the General passed away, and all one could hear when the elders converged in any gathering were whispers, of the new type of government that would be ushered in - the return of civilian rule. Whenever a group formed outside the mosque after prayers, I could see the spark in their eyes as they chattered; hope oozed out of every mouth, as everyone chatted in excited conversations. It was as if they were all waiting for a heavenly opening into a world anew.

The return of civilian rule came with aplomb, just before the turn of the century. Growing up in the dusty slums of Tudun Wada, Kaduna, I saw the return of civilian rule from the front porch of our house with the cautious voice of my mother warning me not to stray too close to the political rallies. The return of the civilians was characterised almost always by a convoy of

men in open top vehicles and richly traditional attires, waving their hands, with hundreds of young men in their retinue, dust rising from the potholed streets, slogans tossed around. I remember grabbing two posters flying around of a politician and placing them on the front door of the house. I did not understand my father's fury though when he tore the posters into shreds warning me to never try such an act in his house. I never did understand his apprehension about the coming of the civilians; everybody celebrated it.

The people welcomed Election Day 1999 with much eagerness and anticipation. Many people trooped out to vote; mostly women with children tied to their back joining the long queues, others who became tired sat and breastfed their young infants on stones that served as stools at the polling booth. After it all, President Olusegun Obasanjo was announced as the man to lead the country - the campaigns stopped, posters were stripped off electric poles by the rainy seasons and life returned to the way it was before. The hope I saw in the eyes of the people, though, was slowly drifting away.

The new century began and the enthusiasm seen in the eyes of the populace just a couple

of years before was now extinguished. You could see the grimace of wrinkles setting in. The talk in every congregation now was of the scarcity of petroleum products, skyrocketing prices of foodstuff and commodities, and the increase in transport fares. Those eyes that once hoped were now frantically afraid; they were searching for something new - searching for hope.

The years ahead passed like a blur as I made the transition to losing my young fiery political passion, still hurting from dashed hopes. I did not have that keen interest in politics, and maybe I was not alone, the populace too it seemed had been dealt a technical knockout, as the exuberance and eagerness, the fiery fire in their eyes of previous years was lost.

As the Yar'Adua years trickled by, things were not getting worse but neither were they getting better. The people were not at ease. They clearly needed a strong hand, a President to direct them, to lead them to a glorious hope. It was not meant to be though, as Yar'Adua departed the scene. I was not particularly fond of the man, but the way we lost him hurt. He was a President we never really knew.

After the 2011 election, the North erupted. Deadly clashes and violence by angry youths - directed towards the established elite - exploded. Houses were burnt, properties destroyed and prominent politicians of the ruling party had to run for cover. Angry, volatile, uneducated, neglected, unemployed, the youth pounced on their very own elites. The political, ethnic and religious lines were laid bare, with attacks and counter-attacks marring every glimmer of hope for peace.

I fumed, whilst a curfew was enforced, about the killings, betrayals, loss of trust and, most of all, the breach of hope repeatedly. Normalcy was returned, and the fire returned to the eyes

of the populace, but this time not of hope and enthusiasm but anger and derangement. The cracks of 2011 refused to heal, and the scars were all glaringly evident. I was apolitical for a while, finding no hopeful solace. A latent insurgency was allowed to escalate, leading to the loss of lives while I sat at home for more than half a year as schools were shut down completely as a result of crippling strikes. The country was on the verge of being grounded due to rampant corruption that rocked the nation as the government denied its self-evident failures. The conscience of the whole nation was battered, and when evidence leaked of enormous corruption in the petroleum sector as the Government prepared for another fuel hike, hell was let loose. The country was brought to its knees at the beginning of 2012. The populace had found their strength to fight the elite few at the top who robbed the nation blind at the expense of the many at the bottom. There was a new fire in their eyes and that set the ball rolling.

The rot at the centre of the ruling government kindled a spur of the moment opposition. The government had its head in the clouds while the mega opposition party came into life - the populace once again found something to latch on to. There was every indication that the mega party might not last, however the populace showed they were willing to back it.

As Muhammadu Buhari emerged as the nominee of the mega party and days to the election ticked on, the popularity of Buhari increased - Buharism swept the whole nation while the ruling party lost its stride. The General beat all the hurdles - a six-week postponement, media mudslinging campaigns - and emerged the winner.

The elections were done and dusted but normalcy did not returned, as state structures

remained dilapidated and the economy wobbling. Out of the ashes, a phoenix is rising - the Youth Party - a new springing flower of hope. We are a new generation, a new-breed aiming to use politics for reason and reform. We are patriots who do not want to be guilty of the failure to act.

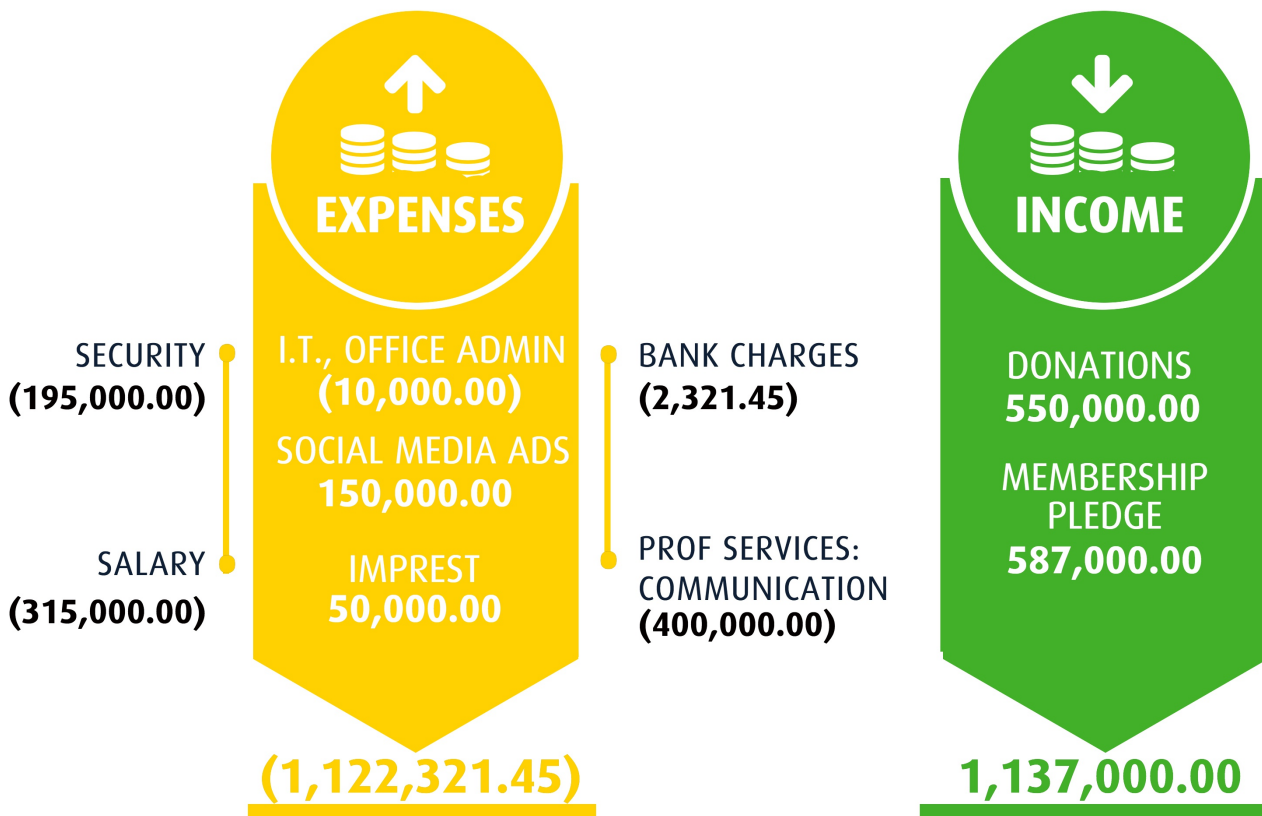
There was a time when this country quashed my political sprit; when I shed tears that dripped onto the newspapers that bore heart-crushing headlines. Today that gush of adrenaline is back; that hope is springing anew. This land shall be placed in its rightful track, to

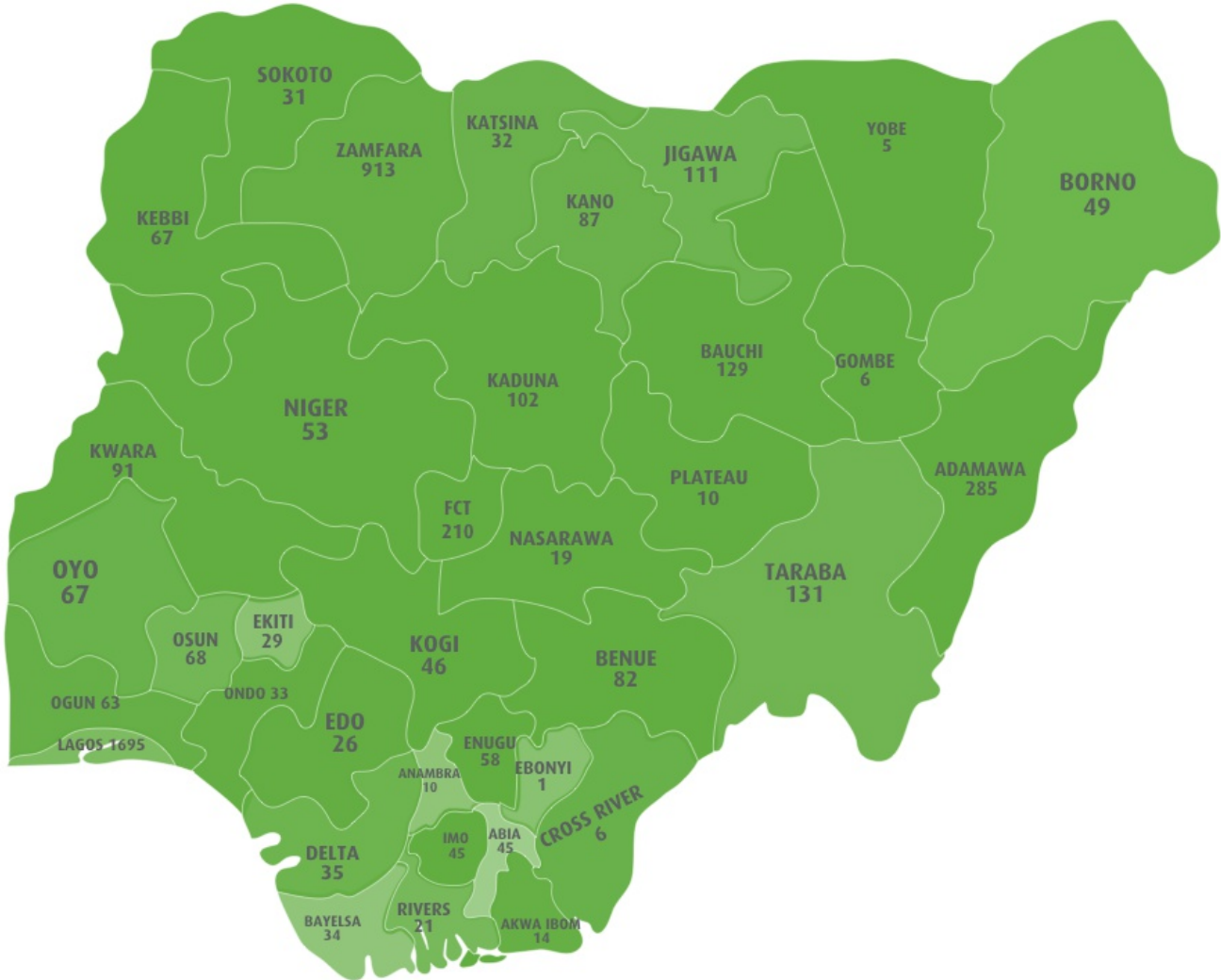
live its potential, to be great for itself and its teeming populace.

Youth Party is that hope we had all nurtured and is now about to manifest in its glorious form. We shall continue to hope; it is the notion of hope that will sustain us. We will march together with the Youth Party, for a genuine people's President, with glorious hope.

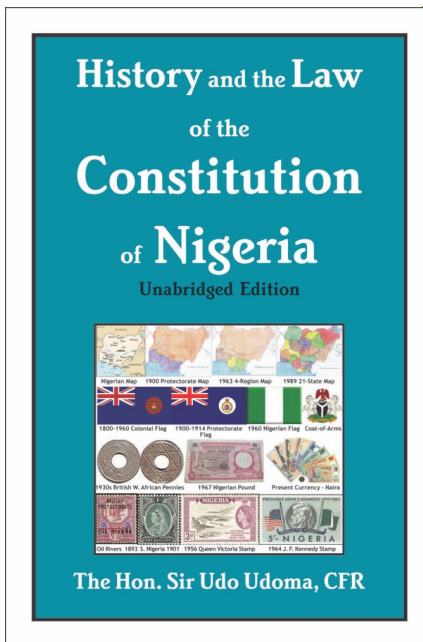
Yesterday is history, tomorrow is a mystery, today is a gift of God, which is why we call it the present.

Financials for April 13 - May 18, 2018





Total number of members as at May 18, 2018: 4,710



History and the Law of the Constitution of Nigeria

by Sir Udo Udoma

Review by Olasumbo Ajibade

BOOK REVIEW

History and the Law of the Constitution of Nigeria, written by Sir Udo Udoma, a former Justice of the Supreme Court of Nigeria, and published in 1994, traces the history of Nigeria from the beginning of European arrival into Nigeria to the early nationalistic politics prior to independence. More importantly, it discussed the various constitutional developments that took place in pre-colonial and post-colonial Nigeria.

In the book, the author explored the evolutionary history of the Nigerian constitution's development, as well as the circumstances that led to the drafting of all the constitutions of Nigeria. Sir Udoma highlighted the major effects of each constitution's reforms on the country. He opined that the Richard's Constitution's introduction of regionalism without adequate consultation with the people was the beginning of Nigeria's divisive politics. This, according to the author, marked the end of the country's hopes for unity, as it encouraged disunity.

A section of the book provides firsthand knowledge of post-independence politics in Nigeria, the civil war and the various military

regimes in Nigeria and their effect on constitutionalism in Nigeria. On June 1, 1977, the Federal Military Government established the Constituent Assembly under the Chairmanship of the author with full powers to deliberate on the draft constitution. This informed Sir Udoma's personal experiences working on the 1979 constitution. He further explained how the then Supreme Military Council made several amendments to the draft constitution produced by the Constituent Assembly. There were instances where clauses that would have provided for the adoption of true federalism in Nigeria were expunged.

To conclude, the book suggests that the 1999 constitution be abrogated and a new pan-Nigeria constitution enacted. Accordingly, the making of a new Nigerian constitution must be all inclusive and its constituent assembly elected by the people of Nigeria, while her agencies and institutions should be set up to debate every aspect of the nation's political, economic, social and religious wellbeing in order to produce the agenda that will form the basis of a constitution.