

**USMANU DANFODIYO UNIVERSITY, SOKOTO  
(POSTGRADUATE SCHOOL)**

**A HISTORY OF THE NATIONAL IDENTITY PROJECT IN NIGERIA,  
1979-2018**

**A Dissertation Submitted to the Postgraduate School  
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**BY**

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## **DEDICATION**

This research is dedicated to my deceased parents Alhaji Balarabe and Hajiya Saadatu Attahiru Bungudu. May their soul rest in perfect peace, Ameen.



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## **ABSTRACT**

The study examine the history of National identity project, challenges and prospects over the years, the National Identity Project was part of government efforts in building a central database and a secured platform of providing means of identification for Nigeria citizens. The project was commissioned in September, 1979 by General Olusegun Obasanjo, with the aim of building a united, peaceful and prosperous Nigeria .The development of this project has been retarded by various challenges including lack of political will, corruption and absence of comprehensive documentation of the project over the years, this has created a great vacuum to the areas of academic research and enlightenment campaign. The research adopted multidisciplinary approach using oral, published and unpublished sources among others, the contribution of various stakeholders and role expected from the Nigeria citizens toward the success of the project were discussed. Furthermore, the research has provided the basic information on the operational procedures and has looked into areas of improvement expected to be addressed by the government, private sector and general public in order to achieve the goals of the National Identity Project in Nigeria.

## CHAPTER ONE

### BACKGROUND OF THE STUDY

#### 1.1 Introduction

Nigeria was before the arrival of British a nation of independent kingdoms, empires and states.<sup>1</sup> These formed the roots of some of the ethnic groups in Nigeria today.<sup>2</sup> The early states include the old Oyo empire in the South West, the Benin Kingdom in the South-South, the Sokoto caliphate in the Northwest and Kanem Borno Empire in the Northeast among others.<sup>3</sup> During the era of the transatlantic slave trade, the Portuguese had a great influence in the South-South and South-West<sup>4</sup>. After the abolition of slave trade there was an expansion of trade in agricultural produce from Africa to Europe.<sup>5</sup> The French and British competition on the new market in the African regions later undermine the Dutch influence<sup>6</sup>. At the Berlin conference in 1885, the European powers attempted to resolve their conflict of interest in Africa. At the conference, the British claims to a sphere of influence in the Niger Basin were acknowledged and for effective British occupation, two British Protectorates were created; the British Protectorate of Northern Nigeria and the British Colony and Protectorate of Southern Nigeria. In May, 1906, the Lagos colony and the protectorates of Southern Nigeria were merged into a single administrative unit. Finally on 1<sup>st</sup> January, 1914, the protectorates of

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<sup>1</sup> T. Falola. *"The History of Nigeria"*, Wesport, Greenwood Press, 1979 Pp. 4-6.

<sup>2</sup> Ibid.

<sup>3</sup> Ibid.

<sup>4</sup> A. Mahdi *"The Kanem Borno Empire"* In J. ISawa Elaigwo and E. Erim [eds), *Foundation of Nigeria Federalism*, Abuja 1996, P55.

<sup>5</sup> Ibid

<sup>6</sup> J..F..A. Ajayi and Michael Crowder. (eds)' 'History of West Africa'' London. Longman, 1985, Pp. 87-90

Northern and Southern Nigeria were amalgamated to form the Nigerian Nation, and Sir, Frederick Lord Lugard was appointed as the First Governor General<sup>7</sup>.

Early in the 1950s Richard constitution established a federal system of government creating three regions namely; Northern, Southern and Western regions respectively.<sup>8</sup>Nigeria was granted political independence on 1<sup>st</sup> October 1960 as a federation of Northern, Southern and Western regions. The constitution also provided for a parliamentary form of government with each of the three regions retaining a substantial measure of self government<sup>9</sup>.

Nigeria as a union of ethnic nationalities as has earlier been mentioned was under established kingdoms.<sup>10</sup>The peoples and communities of this nation like many other communities in the various African nation states were not parties to the defining of the territories and relationships which they were forced to sustain at independence, they inherited boundaries drawn for administrative or political convenience of the colonial administration.<sup>11</sup>Nigeria has over 300 ethnic groups that share little or no cultural values, the local or ethnic identity has surpassed the national identity. There is always conflict of superiority between local identity and national identity, in order to promote and preserved culture of national identity certain fundamental issues have to be addressed objectively and with fairness. These includes issues of majority/minority ethnic groups, national reconciliation, devolution of power within the

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<sup>7</sup> Horton R.. “*Stateless Society in the History of West Africa* in J.F.A Ajayi and M. Crowder, *History of West Africa*”[edts) London, Longman, 1985, Pp. 128

<sup>8</sup> Ibid.

<sup>9</sup> Ibid.

<sup>10</sup>Ojerinde, O. “*Secondary Education for Sustainable National Integration and Development in Nigeria*”, key note address presented at the fourth National Conference for Research on schooling organized by Adeyemi College of Education Ondo 25<sup>th</sup> – 29<sup>th</sup> September, 2000.

<sup>11</sup>Deutsch, K. *Politics and Government* (2<sup>nd</sup> edition) New York, Houghton Mifflin company, 1974. P.136

three tiers of government, abolishing of discriminatory revenue sharing formula and introduction of national re-orientation.<sup>12</sup>

Nigeria's national identity crisis otherwise referred to as the national question in the Nigeria context, it is the problem of becoming national in an ethnically and religiously divided state.<sup>13</sup> National question is an ongoing debate fuelled by societal dynamics acting as constant reminders that at inception the people that make up the country were not consulted and did not extend any mandate for the creation of an entity called Nigeria, hence the national question in the Nigeria context is about creating Nationhood and development since every ethnic group continues to struggle for a definition of the place within the Nigerian public space.<sup>14</sup>

The several ethnic groups in Nigeria who believed that they had existed as nations, empires and kingdoms and are more determined to define themselves in term of their ethnic and religious identity than any other identity. While ethnic and religious identity was more influential, with globalization process, the need for national identity has become very popular in the country. The historical legacies of colonial rule in Nigeria have created some challenges for national integration and nation building. While large British empires like India and Sudan had single administration system for imposition of colonial rule, Nigeria had two Protectorates, one for the North one for the South. The current manifestation of this historical legacy is the dichotomy between indigenes and settlers which has become a source of domestic tension and have undermined Nigeria effort at creating common nationhood.<sup>15</sup>

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<sup>12</sup>Shomoye A. 'National Building National Identity Accessed [www.thebreakingtime.com](http://www.thebreakingtime.com) March 22, 2016

<sup>13</sup>Eley G. and Sunny R.G. *Becoming National* Oxford University Press, 1996.p.10

<sup>14</sup>Abutudu M.' Federalism political Restructuring and the lingering national question' in Adejumobi S. (ed) *Governance and politics in post military Nigeria*, New York Palgrave Macmillan 2010 Pp. 23-60

<sup>15</sup> I. Gambari. "The Challenges of National-Building. The Case of Nigeria" First Anniversary Lecture of Mustapha Akanbi Foundation. *European Journal of Social Science* Vol.12 No.3 2008

Since independence Nigeria had a lot of challenges in an attempt to reconcile the various interest groups and cultures. Several programmes have been designed and implemented by the government with the hope of enhancing national integration and identity among Nigerians, such programmes includes the National Youth Service Corps (NYSC) the Nigerian Festivals of Art and Culture, the establishment of Unity colleges and the Re-branding Nigeria project among others. The National Identity Project starting from 1979 to 2018 is one such effort towards integrating and developing the Nigerian Nation. The Nigeria's quest of constructing a national identity among its citizen have been effectively hampered by the strong division amongst the people that occupy it, as well as series of ethnic and religious wrangling for most part of its history.

## **1.2 Statement of the Problem**

National Identity is critical to economic and socio political being of any nation. It enable a nation obtain adequate statistics for national planning and equitable distribution of income. Any nation that cannot boast of knowing her citizens is devoid of peace, economic stability and would not be able to provide adequate security for its citizens. The surge in crime in Nigeria and the violence activities of criminals, demand for more attention to be paid to identifying people living in the nation's territory. The business community and government services depend on the implementation of identity project to provide effective service delivery. Hence, it has becomes a necessity to pay attention to knowing people living in Nigeria as lack of proper identity management is gradually leading to national tragedy<sup>16</sup>.

Nigeria has a long history of National identity project beginning from 1979, national identity inculcate the spirit of national consciousness , pride and love for ones nation, in spite of the

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<sup>16</sup> NIMC News, *Quarterly Publication of National Identity Management Commission* Vol. 6 December, 2014

importance of National identity towards promotion of peace and security, the history of National identity project has not been given adequate attention by scholars. This has created a large vacuum of information that should guide future policies and project in the identity sector. This ugly development has led to poor or lack of basic knowledge of the very foundation as well as the prospects of the project from its inception, and has been responsible for the bottlenecks to the realization of the goals of the national identity project in Nigeria. What existed are mainly documents, on the subject matter which are mostly separate speeches, opinions and interviews scattered all over. Thus the need for an effort to harmonize the scattered data into comprehensive research material to be used for further research in the academia and by policy makers cannot be overemphasized. This constitutes the major problem of this research work.

### **1.3 Aim and Objectives of the Research**

The aim of this research is to critically study the History and Challenges of National Identity project from its inception in 1979 to 2018. However the aim could be realized through the following objectives,

- a) to examine the origin of National Identity project in Nigeria, its success and challenges.
- b) to discuss prospects of the project to national security and nation building.
- c) to filled the vacuum created by the absence of comprehensive literature on National Identity Project in Nigeria.
- d) to identify areas that requires intervention from the public and private sector organization.
- e) to create an awareness on the importance of National Identity Project.

#### **1.4 Significance of the Research**

National Identity Project is very useful component of national development. The implementation of national identity project will promote socio-economic and political development in Nigeria. It is the belief of this work that a proper knowledge of this important programme could educate Nigerians on the need for the country to have national identity management project and to encourage citizens to fully participate in its implementation<sup>17</sup>.The Nigerian governments at all levels have tried to introduce various socio-economic programmes such as Better Life Programme for Rural Women, National Poverty Eradication Programme (NAPEP), among others. However, these projects were designed for particular class of citizens and had failed to reach them due to lack of authentic identity and database. The significance of this work therefore is to educate Nigerians and the respective national identity project stakeholders on the need for effective collaboration toward the success of national identity programme. The research will further elaborate on the prospects of the identity project and will in addition create awareness on the need for all Nigerian citizens to embrace this project and other similar development projects that will touch the lives of the citizenry, and further make the research become a reference point for future research in the academia.

#### **1.5 Scope of the Research**

The research had been designed to examined the historical background of the national identity project and its contribution to nation building, exposing the challenges affecting the development of national identity sector from inception of the project in 1979 to the recent statement by government through National Identity Management Commission (NIMC)

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<sup>17</sup> Ibid

successful enrollment of over thirty million Nigerians as at December, 2018. Furthermore, the government has declared mandatory use of National Identification Number (NIN) as a requirement for certain public transaction including issuance of international passport, visa and opening of bank account among others in December, 2018. Although the research is a national topic, the research intend to make use of the four N-Western states of Nigeria that comprised Katsina, Kebbi, Sokoto and Zamfara States as its case study, due to the limited time for the research work, economic recession and security challenges. The four states will serve as a sample for the entire Nigeria nation.

## **1.6 Sources and Methodology**

### **Primary Sources**

The research adopted multi disciplinary approach to accomplish it tasks, stakeholders who has significant and reliable information on the National Identity project were interviewed,. Official documents in the custody of National Identity Management Commission and National Archives Kaduna, Waziri Junaidu History and Culture Bureau Sokoto were also consulted respectively, such documents included reports, speeches and memorandum dealing with the research topic. The research conducted interview with the officials of the National Identity Management Commission, selected civil Servant, Law Enforcement Agents, Bankers, Pensioners, Traditional Rulers, and Politicians among others. In few cases the individual consulted declined to make comment on the topic for personal and official reasons. Furthermore, the study narrowed the study population by using sampling techniques since it's very difficult to interview all individual involved in the case study.



## **Secondary Sources**

The research conducted thorough review of the secondary sources including Published and Unpublished works such as seminar papers, articles, journals, textbooks and magazines. The research was mindful of the strength and weaknesses of such documents arising from the human factor in order to avoid biased information.

## **Electronic Sources**

In pursuing this research, the relevant and reliable Websites were used to source for accurate and valid data.

### **1.7 Conceptual Clarifications**

Identity refers to the characteristics, feeling or belief that distinguish people from others, a sense of national, cultural, personal, group identity, the stage or feeling or being very similar to and able to understand, to recognize and be able to say who or what they are<sup>18</sup> Identity refers to the set of attributes and beliefs shared by people who belong to the same nation. Identity is defined as what identified someone, it is the name or essential character that identifies someone, it is the name or essential character that identifies somebody. Identity consist of what makes you unique as an individual and different from others. National Identity Project is government programme of identifying citizens and legal resident using identification citizens and legal resident using identification document and credentials <sup>19</sup>. Identity management system refers to an information system or a set of technologies that can be use for enterprise or cross network identity management, identify management system are concerned with the creation, the administration and the deployment of identifiers credential

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<sup>18</sup> A.S. Hornby; *Oxford Advanced Learners Dictionary* (eds) Oxford, Oxford University, 2006, Pp. 739 - 740

<sup>19</sup>Giddens A., *Modernity and self identity* Cambridge polity. Press. 1991. P. 10

and attribute, the purpose of identity management system is identification, authentication and authorization. National Identity Management System can be instrumental in hastening the pace of progress in Nigeria, the programme can help in improving national security, planning and in the delivery of safety net service to the poor, advance financial inclusion and strengthen electoral voting system in Nigeria <sup>20</sup>.

## **1.8 Review of Related Literature**

National identity is multidimensional, for this reason scholars has defined and explained the concept by emphasizing its different perspective, National Identity according to Smith involves some sense of political community, history, territory, citizenship, common values and traditions, and a set of common understanding and aspiration, sentiments and ideas that bind the population together in their homeland<sup>21</sup>. Smith identified five fundamental attributes of national identity to include Historic territory or homeland, Common myth and historical memories, common mass public culture, Common legal rights, duties for all members, and Common economy with territorial mobility for members. National identity is applied to citizen of a nation state. There are other cases however, where national identity is shared among population belonging to a nation without a state of their own. Guvenc define national identity as a kind of socialization manner processing that takes part in individual within any certain community or it is a feeling of the state of belonging to any group by means of acculturation. It is the “WE” feeling which is shared by all individuals living within the certain geographical frontiers<sup>22</sup>. Bradshaw stated that the nation is often referred to as a cultural community whose members share a set of tangible traits or objective characteristics

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<sup>20</sup> Ibid. P.12

<sup>21</sup> Smith A. D. *National Identity*. London, Penguin 1986 P. 16

<sup>22</sup> Ibid. P. 18

such as language, religion and customs. The retention of this objective characteristic is not a necessary condition for the maintenance of national Identity and the existence of community whose members share a common language. In this religion is not sufficient condition in and of itself for the emergence of a National Identity. Furthermore the loss of one native language or religion has often not led to the demise of one's national Identity.

Medhi's describes National identity project as essentially human records, and recording human numbers using statistical approach is not a new phenomenon, as it is the same method used for collection, analyzing and interpretation of numerical data relating to a certain area of investigation as well as for drawing valid conclusions<sup>23</sup>.

Mathew's work mentioned accuracy of Nigeria population data as central and fundamental to its development plans, in the areas of equitable distribution of resources, effective national planning, employment among others, if Nigeria does not know the proportion and the total number of its citizens, its planning process is likely to be haphazard .Mathew suggests the use of biometric technology for population census and identification which will help Nigerian government to identify its people and have records of its citizens for political and economic development<sup>24</sup>. Williams criticized Nigeria's population census which has become politicized by the political elite, when they learned the degree to which recorded number determined the proportion of government amenities distributed to them and their political and economic weight within their society which had led to manipulation of population census data<sup>25</sup>.

Okafor in his study opined on the conduct and provisional figure of the 2006 population census which summarizes Nigeria's population to about 140 million, of which 51.2% are male

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<sup>23</sup> J. Medhi. *Statistical Method: An introductory Text*. New Delhi, India New Age International, 1992 Pp.4

<sup>24</sup> M.P. Mathew. *Nigeria Current issues and Historical Background*. New York, Noval Publishers, 2002 P. 159

<sup>25</sup> M. Williams. *Citizenship Education and Life Long Learning*. New York, Nova Publishers, 2003 P.10

and 48.8% are female and further explain how this figure has been challenged with controversies<sup>26</sup>. In the same vein Mimiko study describes every past census conducted in Nigeria as a victim of intense elites contest for power and resources. Census conducted in the context of extant hotly dispute will not be able to accomplished its state objectives. Mimiko explained further that the inability of government to have trustworthy citizens data has become one of the bane of progress and development in the country. According to his study Reliable identification data will go a long way to end election malpractices, flushing out ghost workers from government payroll, track criminals, avoid multiple identities and other fraud and corruption among others<sup>27</sup>.

Onwuke in his work on comparative analysis between population growth and development in Nigeria uses regression techniques from 1980 to 2003, Observed that population size is relevant to the impact of demographic change on government social obligation to its people<sup>28</sup>. Similarly Ottong and Ering's work examine the effect of population on socio economic development of a society which characterized high population rate. The study found that increase in population had effect on the socio economic well being of the people<sup>29</sup>. Gurr work explains that people feel deprived when there is discrepancy between good conditions of life and the condition imposed upon them by their leaders, those group who felt deprived have tendency of rise against government leading to conflict within the country<sup>30</sup>. A biometric technology is proposed for conducting population census and identification scheme, because

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<sup>26</sup> R. Okafor. "An Appraisal of the Conduct of Provisional Result of the Nigeria Population and housing census 2006" Enugu, Smasa, 2007. Pp. 2199 - 2205

<sup>27</sup> Mimiko I. "Census in Nigeria: The Politics and the Imperative of Depolarization. *Journal of African and Asian Studies* Vol. 5 2006. P. 122

<sup>28</sup> E.C. Owunke "Another look at the impact of Nigeria's Growing Population on the Country Development" *Journal of African Population Studies* Vol. 21 2006 Pp. 1-18

<sup>29</sup> J.G. Ottong. "Population Situation in Cross River State" *Educational Research and Policy Studies* Vol. 1 2010, Pp. 36-42

<sup>30</sup> T.R. Gurr. *Why Men Rebel*. New Jersey, Princeton Press, 1970, Pp.24

of the believed that every human being has unique physiological and behavioural characteristics which cannot be forged. Biometric technology is a science of measuring and compiling distinguishing physical characteristics of the people, it uses distinctive anatomical or physiological characteristics such as finger print and facial recognition.<sup>31</sup>

Similarly, the technology can be use to collect details of each citizen's physiological traits and other information. The collected information can then be stored in a centralized database. The information in the centralized database can be used by government to issue national identity number and national identity card. The information in the database will help the government in determining the actual population figure for better political, economic and social planning.<sup>32</sup>In a related work Ajele examined the controversy surrounding the 2006 population census, in relation to the past censuses. Despite series of population census and identification schemes carried out over the years. He opined that the question of how to implement the population census and the real population of Nigeria still remains unanswered because of the inaccuracy of data, hence the need for the adoption of biometric system as well as used of centralized database for storing these data. Although biometric system is not new technology in other parts of the world. Ajele further opined that the technology will give Nigeria government a statistical knowledge of its population data which is of critical reference to ensure equity and distribution of governmental resources. It will also serve as precursor for effective planning, development and service delivery to its citizens<sup>33</sup>.

Furthermore, Ajele pointed out the elementary principle for planning and development in any nation is for the government to have access to a reliable and detailed demographic data of the

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<sup>31</sup> A.J. Bertino. *Forensic Science Fundamental and Investigation*, Stanford, Cengage, 2008 Pp. 132-145

<sup>32</sup> Ibid

<sup>33</sup> B.J. Ajele. "Falsification of population census data in heterogeneous Nigeria state". *Journal of Political Science and International relation*, Vol. 3 2009 Pp. 311-319

nation. The linkage between citizens data and nation's development is inseparable, citizen data are critically important in achieving equitable political and economic representation of citizens at various level of government. It can as well set priorities for future development and progress within a nation. Ajele on same study submitted that every nation needs to have an accurate statistical knowledge of its population for it to have an orderly plan for development and growth of the country. Government and Corporate organizations use citizen data to assess the progress and consequences of administrative project. Citizen data provides key information such as the growth stability and declination of an area. The knowledge of citizens data can have a great influence on the management decision, it can also be related to economic decline or growth as well as growth or decline in various component of a nation. Citizen's data influences government policies on how much money should be spent on social amenities such as schools, Health care, Roads, Water among others. It equally helps governmental plans, because planning without accurate figure will result in marginalization and political or economic deprivation of certain set of people within the society<sup>34</sup>.

Lyon argument on the evolution of identity document has address the short coming of the previous literature on the prospect of national identity management system. Lyon affirmed that the use of identity credential was necessary for planning and security. Lyon further explained that today government are taking bolder and more sophisticated steps in technology to ensure effective planning and crime control by adopting the digital identity management system, such as NIMS. The work of these scholars has played a major role to the adoption of modern biometric technology in collecting accurate and reliable citizen data. Their literature has provided direction on the benefits of collecting accurate data in relation to country socio-economic plan, their contribution has also exposed the weakness of the previous strategies in

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<sup>34</sup> Ibid

the past population and identity project in Nigeria, and in addition provided area of improvement. Thus the need to incorporate their various contribution into this research cannot be under estimated.<sup>35</sup>.

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<sup>35</sup> Lyon, D. Identifying citizen ID Card as Surveillance British Journal of Sociology Polity 2001 P. 30

## **CHAPTER TWO**

### **NIGERIA: GEOGRAPHICAL AND SOCIO HISTORICAL SETTING**

#### **2.1 Introduction**

This chapter examine the background of Nigeria nation, its people and environment, as an attempt to study the various ethnic group, culture and tradition to provide a background on how colonial legacies brought the various tribes together, how political development in Nigeria impacted on unity and common identity among various ethnic groups. Nigeria with an estimated population of over 300 million people is the most populous black nation in Africa, the country has varied culture and history dating back to the period of ancient kingdoms, empires, caliphate and coastal city states. Since independence Nigeria has experienced three republics, five military coups, civil war and series of ethnic and religious crisis which has hindered the unity and development of the country and posed serious challenges to the foundation of common national identity. The historical development of Nigerian nation, its people and their various cultures has been central to the concept of National identity in Nigeria.

#### **2.2 Geographical Location**

Nigeria lies between latitude 4<sup>0</sup>N and 14<sup>0</sup>N, it is bounded in the North by the Sahara desert in the South by the Gulf of guinea: an arm of the Atlantic Ocean<sup>36</sup>. It shared boundaries with Benin Republic in the West, Cameroon in the North and South and Chad and Niger Republic in the North East and North West respectively (see Appendix IIa)<sup>37</sup>. Nigeria covers a land area of about 356, 700 square miles, the land area consisted of several extensive plateau surfaces

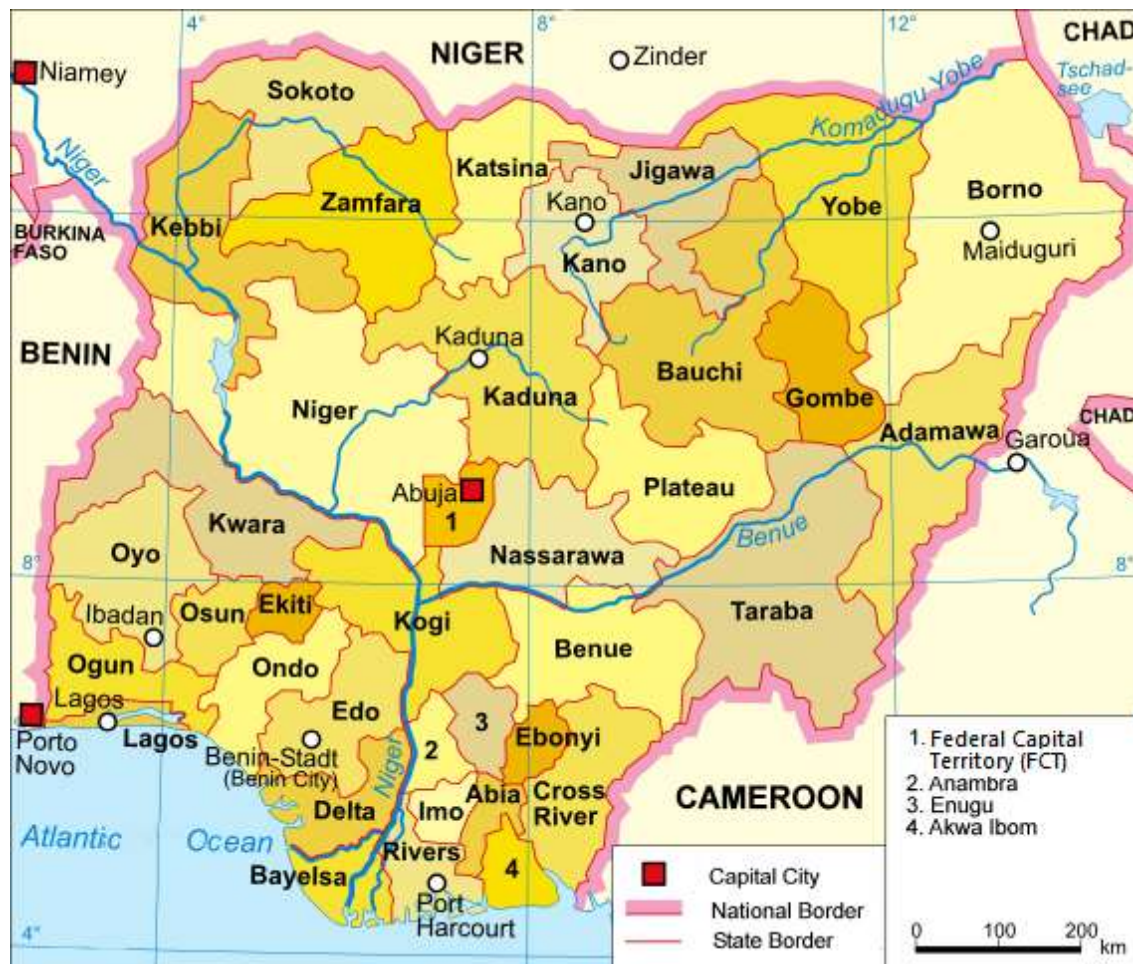
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<sup>36</sup>Obaro Ikimi [ed], *Groundwork of Nigeria History* Ibadan Hebn Publishers 1980 P7.

<sup>37</sup> Rueben K. Odo: *Geographical Regions of Nigeria* London Heineman. 1970 P.24



including the Jos and the Udi Plateaus, the Niger-Delta covered with few soft rocks common in the Niger-Benue through the Lake Chad basin.



**Map 1:** Nigeria Boundaries

**Source:** Peter P.E. Urhobo People of Niger Delta *Journal of Urhobo Historical Society*. Buffalo, Lagos, 2006

While the underlying rocks in the Northwest are old and extremely hard<sup>38</sup>. The River Niger after which the country is named and the Benue-River has large tributary at Mala River that raised outside the country's boarder to the Lokoja confluence and to the Gulf of Guinea,

<sup>38</sup> Ibid

through a large network of Creeks and distributaries which formed the Niger-Delta, the surrounding short rivers flown directly into the Ocean from south of the Niger-Benue Basin as well from the Plateau, this rivers includes Sokoto, Kaduna, Gongola (Adamawa) rivers all drained into the Lake Chad.<sup>39</sup> The Nigerian nation has at present thirty six states (36) and a Federal Capital Territory under which exist about seven hundred and seventy four (774) Local Government Areas. The Nineteen states are located in Northern part of the Nigeria with the remaining seventeen states located in the Southern parts of Nigeria.<sup>40</sup>

### **2.3 Climate and Vegetation**

Nigeria's climate condition is influenced by two wind systems which includes rain-bearing South-West monsoon blowing from the Ocean and the dry dusty North-East trades or Harmattan coming from the Sahara desert. The two different season; raining and dry season varies from North to the South, the rainy season usually last for nine months (from March to November) in the Southern part of Nigeria and lasts for only five months (May to September) in the far Northern part of the country.<sup>41</sup> The distribution of rainfall is the most important factor influencing the various vegetation in Nigeria. The East to the West arrangement of main vegetation belt is clearly a reflection of the variation in the rainfall distribution across Nigeria. The distribution of rainfall decreases from the South to the North. The mangrove swamps and high rainforest which occur in the South give way northward to less dense forest and more open savannah vegetation.<sup>42</sup>

The increasing demand for farmland for agriculture have resulted to extensive cultivation leading to soil erosion and impoverishment, sheet erosion by wind and running water is

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<sup>39</sup> Ibid P. 25

<sup>40</sup> Douglas A. Philip "*Nigeria Philadelphia* Chelsea house Publishers, 2004 P.10

<sup>41</sup> Reuben K. Odo *Geographical Region...* P.25

<sup>42</sup> Ibid

widespread particularly in the drier part of Nigeria. The environmental degradations in the Niger-Delta area are the result of the activities of oil exploration and production in Nigeria.<sup>43</sup>Nigeria's food production as highlighted earlier are influenced by the different pattern of rainfall distribution across Nigeria. Major agricultural produce includes Cocoa, palm oil, Rubber are among other crops harvested in the Southern part of Nigeria, the central part of Nigeria where the Guinea savannah predominate is often referred to as the food basket of Nigeria, the area produced most of the tuber crops such as yam, cassava, potatoes and also maize found in the country.<sup>44</sup>Nigeria is endowed with abundant mineral resources, iron ore deposits are widespread in the areas of the country more particularly in areas such as Anambra, Kogi, Benue and Edo states, oil minerals in Bayelsa, Rivers, Delta and Cross river states, limestone in Sokoto, Benue, Ondo and Ogun states among others. The climatic factor is significant not only in relation to its effect on the character of the vegetation but also played a dominant role to the life style including the pattern of economic activities of the various people of Nigeria.<sup>45</sup>

## **2.4 Nigerian People**

Nigeria is the most populous country in Africa with an estimated population of about one hundred and eighty million people as at 2006 across more than three hundred ethnic groups, most of whom have distinct customs, tradition and languages, though the various groups had been interacting with each other through trade and other relationship long ago, it was the colonial rule that finally brought the various ethnic groups inhabiting Nigeria under one

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<sup>43</sup> Ibid

<sup>44</sup> Ibid

<sup>45</sup> Obaro Ikimi Ground work...P.7

government.<sup>46</sup>The major ethnic groups in Nigeria are Hausa, Yoruba and Igbo representing about seventy one percent (71%) of the Nigeria total population. The minority and other smaller ethnic groups represent the remaining twenty nine percent (29%) of the total population of Nigerians. The Hausa and Fulani ethnic group are predominant in the Northern part of Nigeria. They practice agriculture, commerce and small scale industry. The Fulani became assimilated with the Hausas through intermarriages and acculturation, however there were other Fulani who continued to depend on their livestock and have retained their own language and cultural economy. Majority of the Hausa and Fulani ethnic groups are Muslim identified in each of the North-Western, North-Eastern and North Central parts of Nigeria.<sup>47</sup>

The Yoruba ethnic group dominates South-West part of Nigeria, the Yoruba incorporate seven sub-groups: The Egba, Ekiti, Ife, Ijebu, Ogun, Ondo and Oyo each identified with particular paramount chief and city. Majority are traders and farmers that lived in town and cities of pre-colonial origin, they practiced Christianity and have a large proportion of Muslim faithful, Yoruba ethnic group are from the town and cities of Lagos, Oyo, Ondo, Ogun, Osun and Ekiti States.<sup>48</sup>The Igbo ethnic group are located in the South eastern part of Nigeria in the present Abia, Anambra, Enugu, Imo and Ebonyi States of Nigeria, they engaged in trading and small scale industry and majority are Christian. Other minor ethnic groups such as Nupe, Ijaw, Ibibio, Efik, Tiv, Birom, Calabar among other several minor ethnic groups are mostly found in the South, East, West, North and Central parts of Nigerian nation.<sup>49</sup>The diverse ethnic groups each with a different cultural background in Nigeria has led to the issues of national unity. Nigerians only thought of themselves as equal citizens when meeting with other

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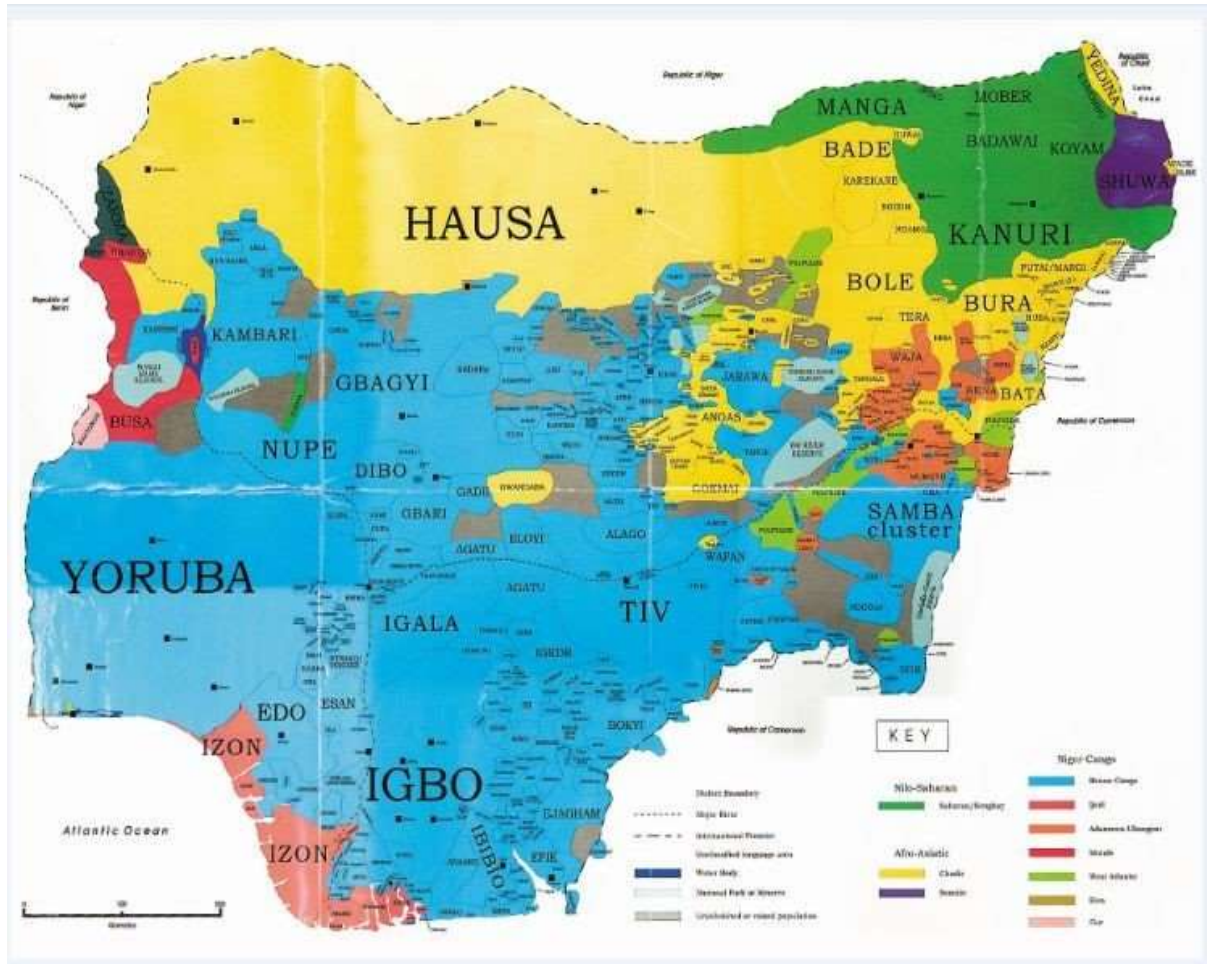
<sup>46</sup> A. Gordon: *Nigeria's Diverse people* California Santa Barbara 2003 P.233

<sup>47</sup> A. Gordon: *Ethnic Diversity within nation* California Santa Barbara 2006 P. 33

<sup>48</sup> Ibid P.244

<sup>49</sup> A. Gordon: *Nigeria's Diverse .... P.234*

nationals abroad, but when at home they usually sees themselves as Northerners, Southerners, Hausa or Yoruba, Igbo or Tiv, Egba or Ijebu. Despite the Nigeria's amalgamation of 1914 and independence as one country in 1960 respectively, the two regions were administered as if they were two and three separate entities. The merger of the different entities to formed a single country was necessitated by economic expediency.<sup>50</sup>



**Map 2:** Major Ethnic Group in Nigeria

**Source:** Peter P.E. Urhobo People of Niger Delta *Journal of Urhobo Historical Society*. Buffalo, Lagos, 2006

<sup>50</sup> A. Gordon: *Ethnic diversity...* P.35

## 2.5 Historical Development of Nigerian Nation

By the end of the Eighteen century, the area that was to become Nigeria was far from a unified country, since the culture and orientation of Northern and Southern parts were entirely different. However in the early nineteen century two significant development brought a change in virtually all of the areas that is presently Nigeria<sup>51</sup> Between 1804 and 1808, Usmanu Danfodiyo established Sokoto caliphate through the Sokoto Jihad which brought about thirty emirates under its jurisdiction, in 1807.<sup>52</sup> The British abolition of the trans-atlantic slave trade has led to increasing British intervention in the affairs of the people of Niger Basin and Niger Delta areas and subsequent colonization of Nigeria. The British colonialism later created Nigeria joining diverse people and regions in an artificial entity with little sense of Nigerian nationality.<sup>53</sup> After the annexation of Lagos by the British in 1861, legislative and executive council was constituted in 1862. Lagos and other British territories in the Gold Coast, Sierra Leone and Gambia were commission in the 19<sup>th</sup> of February 1866, under the control of Governor General based in Sierra Leone, with each having separate legislative councils.<sup>54</sup> In 1874 the Gold Coast and Lagos were formed into separate colonies.<sup>55</sup> In 1906 the Protectorate of Southern Nigeria and the Colony of Lagos were amalgamated and named the colony and Protectorate of Southern Nigeria. By 1914, the Colony and Protectorate of Southern Nigeria was merged with the Protectorate of Northern Nigeria and Sir Lord Lugard became the first Governor General of Nigeria.<sup>56</sup>

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<sup>51</sup> T. Falola: *Culture and custom in Nigeria* Westport United State Greenwood Press 2001 P.8-18

<sup>52</sup> Ibid P.19

<sup>53</sup> Ibid

<sup>54</sup> Obaro Ikimi P. 8

<sup>55</sup> Ibid P. 12

<sup>56</sup> Ibid

On assuming office as governor in 1919, Sir Hugh Clifford was pressured by West African Congress led by Casely Hayford to provide a constitution for West Africa. This prompts the making of the Clifford Constitution in 1922, which significantly embodied in it the principle of election that stimulates the formation of political organizations.<sup>57</sup> Similarly In 1944 Governor Arthur Richard drafted a new constitutional proposal which according to him was designed to promote the unity of Nigeria, the new constitution was criticized for not allowing the minority groups to express their views in the proposal, however the new constitution which became operational in 1947 gave Nigeria nationalist the opportunity to continue their opposition to it.<sup>58</sup> The Macpherson constitution of 1951 was worked out as a followed-up to the all Nigeria Constitutional Conference in 1950, which failed to satisfy the interest of political leaders. Even though it was adopted after a wide consultation with various group of Nigerian society, the constitution came under attacked from the nationalist for not adequately protecting the interest of some ethnic groups in Nigeria.<sup>59</sup> On the realization that three regions of Nigeria could not exist as one, a new constitution was worked out for the country in 1954 which established a federal system of government with three different regions each enjoying certain degree of autonomy. The Constitutional Conference held in London and Lagos in 1956 gave birth to the Lyttleton Constitution, the constitution introduced a federal structure comprising North, East, West parts of Nigeria and Southern Cameroon with the Federal Capital Territory in Lagos. The Eastern and Western regions became self governing in 1957 while the North became self governing in 1959. Southern Cameroon through a referendum opted out of Nigeria, and each region adopted a regional political framework for the country.<sup>60</sup>

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<sup>57</sup> J.B Webster: *The revolutionary years of West Africa since 1800* eds London Longman 1980 P.298-301

<sup>58</sup> Ibid.

<sup>59</sup> M. Meredith: *The State of Africa: A History of fifty Years of Independence*, New York Public Affairs Publishers 2005 Pp. 195-198

<sup>60</sup> Ibid



On 1<sup>st</sup> October, 1960 Nigeria became independent, however, the Queen of England remained the head of State through representation by Dr Nnamdi Azikwe who was the Governor General, while Sir Abubakar Tafawa Balewa as the Prime Minister.<sup>61</sup>



**Map 3:** Three Regions of Nigeria

**Source:** Peter P.E. Urhobo People of Niger Delta *Journal of Urhobo Historical Society*. Buffalo, Lagos, 2006

With the passage of Republican constitution into law by the Federal house of representative on September 19, 1963 and its effect on 1<sup>st</sup> October, 1963, the Queen of England ceased to be the president, Nigeria became a republic, the president was then chosen by a secret ballot of members of two houses of the National Assembly, the Senate and the House of

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<sup>61</sup>Ibid, P.3



Representatives.<sup>62</sup>The 1963 constitution faced criticism from the elites, among the criticisms was the election of President by the National Assembly members only, since members of the National Assembly were just few people against the Nigerian eligible voters.<sup>63</sup>

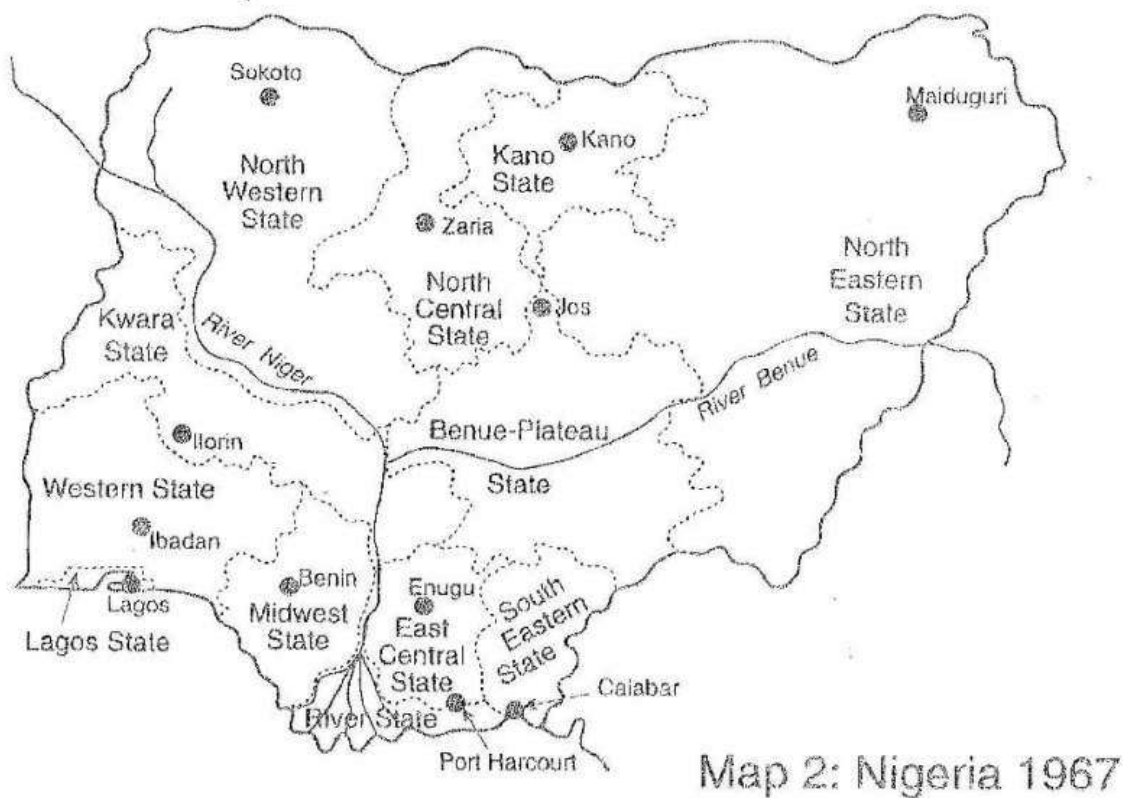
Due to series of political crises in the country, on the 1<sup>st</sup> January, 1966; there was first Nigeria's military coup which marked the beginning of military interventions in Nigeria politics. The military made reference to controversies surrounding the 1963 census result and its effect on the representation of the various regions in government. General Aguiyi Ironsi became Head of State and further suspended the 1960 constitution, promulgated Decree No 34 which abrogated the country Federal structure in exchange for a Unitary one, which gave absolute power to the central government with total control on Army, Police, Judiciary among others. General Gowon became Head of State through a counter coup on 1<sup>st</sup> August 1966, and formally reversed Ironsi's abrogation of the federal principles by creating the new states structure that comprised of North-Western state, North-Eastern state, Kano state, North Central state, Benue-Plateau State, Kwara state, Western state, Lagos state, Mid-Western state, Rivers and South-Eastern State, East Central State, East Central State to replace the four regions.<sup>64</sup>

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<sup>62</sup> J. D. Jorre: *The Nigerian Civil war* London Stoughton Publishers 1972 P. 29-67

<sup>63</sup> Meredith: *The State of Africa...* P.19

<sup>64</sup> J. D. Jorre: *The Nigerian Civil war...* P.6



**Map 4:** Twelve States of Nigeria

*Source:* Peter P.E. Urhobo People of Niger Delta *Journal of Urhobo Historical Society*. Buffalo, Lagos, 2006

After thirty months of civil war between the secessionist dominated eastern part of Nigeria and the federal government of Nigeria/ The secessionist surrendered and Nigeria once became a united country. The federal government introduced programmes for reconciliation and rehabilitation of war torn part of the country.<sup>65</sup> Gowon government was overthrown following his trip to the Organization of Africa Unity (OAU) summit in Kampala Uganda, and General Murtala Mohammed became the next Head of State on July 30, 1975. Murtala's administration further created seven additional states of Bauchi, Benue, Borno, Imo, Niger,

<sup>65</sup> Meredith: The State ... P. 10

Ondo and Ogun states bringing the total number of states in Nigeria to nineteen states in 1976.<sup>66</sup>

An abortive military coup led to the assassination of General Murtala on the 13 of February 1976 and emergence of General Olusegun Obasanjo as Head of State. Obasanjo completed with Murtala's plan of returning the Nigerian nation to democratically elected government by facilitating the adoption of 1979 constitution and subsequent handing over the mantle of leadership to the democratically elected government of Alhaji Shehu Shagari on 1<sup>st</sup> October, 1979. The Shagari's administration made efforts towards further reconciliation and unification of the country. Pardoning the exiled Biafra secessionist leader Chief Odumegwu Ojukwu. Shagari government was overthrown amid serious economic crisis and widespread allegation of corruption and indiscipline by military, the government of General Muhammadu Buhari that succeeded Shagari launched drastic economic policies toward salvaging the country.<sup>67</sup>In August 1985 Buhari was overthrown through a palace coup, General Ibrahim Babangida became the new Military President approved the creation of two additional states of Akwa Ibom and katsina states, Babangida took another step to create nine additional states of Abia, Enugu, Delta, Jigawa, Kebbi, Osun, Kogi, Taraba and Yobe on 27<sup>th</sup> August, 1991, bringing the total number of states in Nigeria to thirty states, and proceeded with the relocation of the Federal Government seat of power from Lagos to Abuja on 12 December, 1991.<sup>68</sup>

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<sup>66</sup>Ibid, P. 7

<sup>67</sup> T. Falola and J.O. Ihonvbere: *The rise and fall of Nigeria's Second Republic 1979 – 83* London Zed Books 1985

<sup>68</sup> Ibid, P. 9



**Map 5:** Twenty One States of Nigeria

*Source:* Peter P.E. Urhobo People of Niger Delta *Journal of Urhobo Historical Society*. Buffalo, Lagos, 2006

Following pressure from within and outside Nigeria by people agitating for the return of civilian rule in Nigeria, the government of General Babangida was forced to stepped aside amid ethnic crisis following the cancellation of June, 12 1993 General election which claimed Chief Abiola as winner and further formed an Interim National Government of Chief Ernest Shonekan in August 1993, General Abacha overthrown the transitional government of Chief

Earnest Shonekan and appointed himself as head of state on the 17<sup>th</sup> November 1993.<sup>69</sup> In 1996 Abacha created six additional states of Abia, Bayelsa, Ebonyi, Enugu, Nasarawa, Yobe and Zamfara, bringing the total number of states to thirty six states in Nigeria.<sup>70</sup>



**Map 6:** Thirty Six States of Nigeria

*Source:* Peter P.E. Urhobo People of Niger Delta *Journal of Urhobo Historical Society*. Buffalo, Lagos, 2006

<sup>69</sup> Meredith: The State ... P10

<sup>70</sup>Ibid, P. 10

General Abdulsalam Abubakar was sworn in as Head of State following the death of Abacha on the 9<sup>th</sup> June, 1998. Abdulsalam returned the country to a democratically elected government of Chief Olusegun Obasanjo on 29<sup>th</sup> May, 1999 formally adopted the 1999 constitution. Obasanjo was succeeded by Alhaji Umaru Musa Yar'adua following 2007 General election, following the demise of President Musa Yar'Adua, Vice President Goodluck Jonathan was sworn in as successor to the late President Yar'Adua, President Muhammadu Buhari emerged as the President of the Country following his victory in 2015 general election and was sworn as the incumbent President of Nigeria on 29<sup>th</sup> May, 2015.<sup>71</sup>

The ethnic groups of Nigeria today are infact nationalities, some of which boast of higher population than a number of modern nation states in Africa and elsewhere, the nationalities which we have to deal with in Nigeria of today did not exist in their present size or form till the Colonial period of our history. It was the transformation of the separate and autonomous socio-political entities in Nigeria geographical area into component parts of a single colonial state known as Nigeria that led to the rise of the nationalities in the shape and size in which we know them today.<sup>72</sup>

The rise of these nationalities necessarily involved a certain degree of fusion of hitherto separate interest, the Yoruba, Tiv, hausa, Igbo, Ijo, Bini Etik, Ibibio, Isoko, Angas, Birom, Urhobo, Itsekiri and all other nationalities began to identify themselves as such first in the context of Nigeria multi-Nationalities state as they were forced by changing circumstance of history to act politically in defence of their interest vis-à-vis the interest of competing group.<sup>73</sup>

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<sup>71</sup> Ibid P. 11

<sup>72</sup> J.F.A. Ajayi "The problem of National Integration in Nigeria: A Historical Perspective 11<sup>th</sup> NISER Distinguished Lecture Series delivered on 11 December, 1984.

<sup>73</sup> Y.B Usman The transformation of political communities, studies in the history of Sokoto Caliphate, Zaria, 1979 P. 34

From four regions at the time of the January 1966 Coup Nigeria became a federation of four states in 1976 to thirty states in 1991 and thirty six states in 1995. Statism has also raised the issue of what it means to be a Nigeria citizen, the indigene/non-indigene dichotomy in our nation is to say the least alienating. Nigerian citizens seem to be linked to the place of birth of one's parent not of one's place of birth not alone one's place of residence. The creation of states did not necessarily produce greater national unity indeed, on balance it can be argued that the politics of each state, based as it was on the same pattern as national politics created greater disunity.<sup>74</sup>

Nigeria under series of constitutional development is often characterized as a nation threatened by various political problems and ethnic divisions in which major political issues are vigorously contested along the line of complex ethnic religious divisions. The consequence of the series of constitutional issues and ethnic division was at the highest point the civil war in the 1960s, the agitation for the republic of Biafra in the East, agitation for resource control in the South-South and issue of indigene and settler crisis has threatened the existing of Nigeria as a united country. Before the transformation of Nigeria as a single entity from the diverse ethnic groups, empires and kingdoms, the colonial masters who midwived the birth of Nigeria as a nation did not consult the various region for the formal amalgamation of the two regions into one country, thus the creation of regions and states in colonial and post colonial era without careful consideration of the differences in culture, tradition and languages has posed serious challenges to the Nigeria's unity and common identity. The various ethnic groups in pre modern Nigeria had in their various times adopted their differences in language, culture, customs and traditions as an instrument of identifying members of their community,

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<sup>74</sup> Onyeoziri Fred E.C. The National Question Regionalism, Statism, Federal Character" Paper Political Bureau 1986, P.21

language, dress and tribal marks were means of identification, with the national integration of the various ethnic groups by the Nigerian leaders, the need for common source of national identity is desirable for nation building. This idea gave birth to launching of national identity project in 1979.<sup>75</sup>

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<sup>75</sup> I. Gambari. "The Challenge of nation... P.3



## **CHAPTER THREE**

### **THE FRAMEWORK OF NATIONAL IDENTITY POLICIES 1979 - 2007**

#### **3.1 Introduction**

This chapter examine the foundation of national identity project, its development and challenges from 1979 to 2007.

#### **3.2 Background of the Identity Scheme in Nigeria**

The first attempt to Identity Scheme in Nigeria was 1967, under the regime of General Yakubu Gowon, the scheme was designed toward identifying the Igbos who refuses to heed to call of returning to the East during Nigeria's Civil War, however, the idea was abandoned and no serious implementation decision was made. The military government of General Olusegun Obasanjo recognized the need to conduct mass registration exercise of Nigerian citizens of 18 years and above and took a step towards actualizing the idea by promulgating Decree No. 51 of 1979 which passes the National Civic Registration Act of 1979.<sup>76</sup>

#### **3.3 Establishment of the Department of National civic Registration**

##### **1. National Identity Project 1979**

- i. Established of the Department of National Civic Registration there is hereby established civic registration body (in this Act referred to as "the Department") which shall be responsible in accordance with the following provisions of this Act for civic registration of all citizens of Nigeria of or above the age of eighteen years.

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<sup>76</sup> Daily Trust 13<sup>th</sup> October, 2000

- ii. The Department shall consist of Director of National Civic registration and such number of other staff as may be required to assist the Director in the execution of his duties under this Act.
- iii. The Director and the other members of staff of the Department shall be members of the public service of the federation within the meaning of the constitution of the Federal republic of Nigeria.

## **2. Appointment of Chief Registrar and Other Staff.**

- i. There shall be for the purpose of the Act be a Chief Registrar, registrars and sub other grades of registrars as the Chief registrar may consider necessary for the enforcement of the provision of this Act.
- ii. The Chief registrar referred to in subsections (1) of this section shall be a Director of National Civic Registration Department and the registrar shall be appointed by the Minister from among persons employed by the local government council in the area where such person is to serve as the case may be.
- iii. Any act or thing required by this Act to be done by, to or before the Chief Registrar may be done by, to or before any officer of the department, authorized generally or specially in that behalf, in writing by the Chief registrar.

## **3. Function of the department**

The Department National Civic Registrar shall be charged with the duty of

- i. Registering all Nigerians who at the commencement of this Act have attained or who thereafter attained the age of eighteen years.

- ii. Issuing to every person registered under paragraph (a) of this section a National Identity Card as specified in form ID 1 of the second schedule to this Act.
- iii. Collating all information returned by the registrars in pursuance of their duties under this Act and reproducing such information as may be required, from time to time, under the provision of the Act and
- iv. Advising the Minister on all matters relating to the Minister's function under this Act.

#### **4. Registers**

- i. Register shall cause to be kept and maintained as specified in form of ID 5 of the second schedule to the Act, a register of all persons in Nigeria to whom this Act applies, in which shall be recorded in so far as they can be ascertain, such particular as are specified in the said schedule and such other particular as the Minister may be regulations prescribe.
- ii. The Chief registrar shall cause to be kept and maintained a separate register of all person who change their names and there shall be record in such register, such particulars as the Chief registrar may deem fit.
- iii. When any registered person changes his name or names, he shall forthwith inform the registrar of such change and shall at the same time comply with the procedure specified in paragraph 2 of the first schedule of this Act.
- iv. Upon compliance with the procedure referred to in the last foregoing subsection, the Chief registrar shall cancel the National Identity card issued to him by the registrar and cause the registered person to be issued with a new National Identity Card (bearing the same number as the National Card surrendered by him). Upon payment of the appropriate fee and the Chief registrar shall alter the register accordingly.

**5. Alteration of registration**

- i. No person may insert, delete or cause to be after any particular in the register shall forthwith make the insertion deletion or alteration and shall notify the Chief registrar in writing when such insertion, deletion or alteration has been completed.

**6. Custody of registers**

- i. The Chief registrar and every Registrar shall secure the safety of all register maintained under this Act which are in his custody and when not in use, the registrar shall be kept in such a way as the Chief registrar may direct.
- ii. The registers and microfilmed copies of application forms forwarded to the Chief registrar under this Act shall be kept at the Department's head office in such order and manner as the Chief registrar may direct.

**7. Registration and Registration Areas**

- i. Every person who attend before a registrar for the purpose of obtaining a National Identity Card shall comply with the procedure specified in paragraph 1 of the first schedule of this Act.
- ii. The Chief registrar shall allot to each registration area such serial number to be inserted on each National Identity card issued under that registration area as he may think fit.
- iii. Every National Identity card issued under this Act shall be signed by both the applicant and the registrar at the time of registration.

- iv. Subject to the provision of subsection (30 and (4) of section 4 of this Act, no registered person may use or adopt a surname or giving names other than the surname or giving names appears on his National Identity Card.
- v. Each local government area in Nigeria is hereby declared to be a registration area, but the Minister may by notice published in the federal gazette or in such other manner as he may consider best suited, to bring the contents thereof to the notice of the persons affected thereby, after amend any area of Nigeria hereby declared to be a registration area and required all persons to whom this Act applied and who are within such registration area, to attend before a registrar at such place and between such dates as may be specified in such notice to be registered.
- vi. Every person as and when required so to do shall attend the registrar and shall register himself by providing the particular specified in subsection (1) of his fingerprint to be taken for the purpose of registration under this Act.
- vii. The Minister, the Chief registrar, a Registrar, a Police Officer or a member of the Armed Forces may require any person to whom identity card has been issued under this Act to produce such card and it shall be the duty of that person to produce such card if he has it on his person or within a specified period after he is required to do so.

## **8. Issuance of National Identity Card**

Upon registration of a person under this Act, the registrar shall upon the payment of a fee issue to such person a National Identity Card as in form ID 1 as specified in the second schedule to this Act...

The department of National Civil Registration was established under this Act and was granted the authority to register and issue simple identity card to Nigerian from 18years of age and above. The project was abandoned when General Obasanjo left office.<sup>77</sup>

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<sup>77</sup> National Civic Registration Act 1979

## **CHAPTER FOUR**

### **ASSESSING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF NATIONAL IDENTITY PROJECTS**

#### **4.1 Introduction**

This chapter will provide an assessment of the National Identity Project from its inception. The National Civic Registration Act was signed into law by General Obasanjo in September, 1979 to among others registrar and provide National Identity Card to all Nigerians of eighteen years and above based on biographic data.<sup>78</sup>

#### **4.2 National Identity Project 1979**

The National civic registration Act became operational on the 1<sup>st</sup> of September, 1979 barely a year to the official transition from military to the democratically elected government of Alhaji Shehu Shagari. The sum of 10million Naira was budgeted by the General Olusegun Obasanjo administration for the conduct of the National Identity Project, however by the 1<sup>st</sup> October, 1979 handing over date, only Obasanjo and some of his cabinet members have received their National Identity Cards, the budget allocated was merely spent in providing physical structure and some equipment. At the inception of Shagari's administration the sum of 50million Naira was budgeted for the National Identity Project in 1980 fiscal year.

The contract earlier awarded to the Avant Incorporation, a United States based firm by General Obasanjo administration was revoked by the Shagari's government. However a portion of the contract was re-awarded to the Avant Incorporation of United States. While

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<sup>78</sup> A. Oyenuga, ID Card History and Problem weekly Trust Kaduna 13<sup>th</sup> October, 2003

another portion was awarded to Afro Continental owned by Nesim Goan an Arab Jew, for the supply of National Identity infrastructures across the country within eighteen months period.<sup>79</sup>

With the expiration of the specific time frame of the contract in which Goan was expected to complete the contract, Goan sublet the contract to the Sagem, a French technology company. When Shagari's Government was toppled through a military coup d'état on the 31<sup>st</sup> December, 1983 The succeeding Buhari's military government did not show commitment to the national identity project up to period the government was ousted out through a palace coup by General Ibrahim Babangida in 1985.<sup>80</sup>In 1986, Babangida's administration revisited the project by awarding a new contract to Afro-continental firm, the contractor was given a specified time period of nine months within which to construct the computer centers across the country, and also to installed all necessary equipment in all the computer centers at the cost of 70 million Naira. Despite the long period of Babangida's administration and substantial amount disbursed to the project no single national identity card was provided, however the budget amount was spent on the provision of physical structures alone.<sup>81</sup> Shonekan's transitional government was short lived to make any significant impact on the national identity card project as the government was toppled by General Sani Abacha. The national identity project did not received any significant attention from the inception of Abacha's government to the period when General Abdussalam Abubakar was appointed as head of state following the death of Abacha in June, 1998. The Abacha's administration was very much occupied with the internal crisis and clamp down on person criticizing the government and the government policies became unpopular to the international communities,

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<sup>79</sup> Ibid

<sup>80</sup> Ibid

<sup>81</sup> Muhammad Haruna, Pensioner 62 yrs, Sokoto



however Abdulsalam awarded another national identity contract to an indigenous firm Charms consortium limited, for production of 52 million National identity cards within four years, Charms could not deliver the 52 million cards before final transition of power to democratically elected government of Chief Olusegun Obasanjo on 29<sup>th</sup> May, 1999. The Obasanjo government on assumption revoked the remaining contract in the year 2000<sup>83</sup>

#### **4.3 The National Identity Project 2003**

In the year 2000, the Department of National Civic Registration revived the programme for creating and issuing the National Identity Card in collaboration with a private sector service provider and pursue the mandate of deploying necessary information technology infrastructure to register resident, use biometric approach to confirmed identity of each registered person and issue 60 million national identity card using personalization equipment. The project focused on issuing identity card based on bar code technology to citizen and to separate database of male and female group among others.<sup>84</sup> The exercise began with the bid for expression of interest and request for the submission of tenders to the federal government, the earlier contract between charms consortium and Abdulsalami's administration was revoked by Obasanjo. Despite the failure of *Sagem* (a French based firm) to meet the necessary requirement for the award of the contract, Obasanjo awarded a new contract to the company to produce sixty million National identity cards for Nigerians. Moreover Obasanjo was alleged to have ignored a security report from the Nigerian intelligence Agency on the implication in accepting French company that was very close to French intelligence Agency to handle such vital information to be gathered from the project<sup>[3]</sup> Among the firms that

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<sup>83</sup> Ibid

<sup>84</sup> Nicholas Ibekere, 'National ID Card Project' Premium Times 27<sup>th</sup> May, 2015

participated in the bidding process were Charms, *Sagem* and Nigerian Security Printing and Minting Company, a Nigerian based security printing company.<sup>85</sup>

The 2003 National identity registration exercise commenced on the 16<sup>th</sup> of February, 2003, the general exercise involved more than 240,000 officials deployed to about 60,000 registration centers across Nigeria. The exercise was slated to last for two weeks only in all the designated registration areas, but following complaints from the members of the public, made the programme to be extended to four weeks. During the exercise some Nigerians complained at the long hours spent before being registered, some equally complain that the exercise was cumbersome and time consuming. Beside the serious allegation that some adhoc staff had resorted to extorting desperate applicants to facilitate their registrations<sup>87</sup>.

With the expiration of the four weeks mass registration exercise, there were outcries among some Nigerians complaining about their failure to participate in the exercise and further call for extension, in response to the calls the agency embarked on another round of mop-up exercise targeting Ministries Agencies and Companies to cover those who due to the nature of their work could not participate in the general exercise. Poor mass mobilization and public enlightenment on the benefit of National Identity Project has contributed in no small measure to the decline in the mass registration exercise particularly in the rural areas. The adhoc personnel recruited for the project were not adequately trained.<sup>88</sup> Other challenges encountered during the general exercise were the constant failure of the biometric machines to capture the biometric of some of the applicant. About 52 million Nigerians were registered for the project, but only 35 million cards were produce the balance was not produce due to

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<sup>85</sup> Muhammad Sani, Pensioner 62years Gusau 22<sup>nd</sup> November, 2017

<sup>86</sup> Ibid.

<sup>87</sup> Musa Usman Bello, Civil Servant 48Years Gusau 3<sup>rd</sup> February, 2018

<sup>88</sup> Mobolaji Aluko, Vote and ID Registration, Nigeria History of Socio-Economic and Political issue 15<sup>th</sup> May, 2003

sdemographic and biometric issues. The card distribution exercise was in some instances faulty, when some cards were taken to locations different from where the owners registered or reside, this seriously hampered the distribution exercise with left about five million cards at the vault of the Identity agency as at 2007.<sup>89</sup> The figure of 52 million capture data was declared by the Minister of Internal Affairs Dr. Muhammad Shata, the figure shows North-west taking the lead in the general exercise with a total figure of 13,184,004 registered persons, out of the declared total figure Katsina, Kebbi, Sokoto and Zamfara states received the following number.

**Table 1:** 2003 Registration Figures in Four North-Western States of Nigeria.

<b>STATE</b>	<b>REGISTERED NUMBER</b>
Katsina	2,222,092
Kebbi	915,218
Sokoto	1,295,425
Zamfara	1,263,824
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>5,696 559</b>

Source: Guardian Newspaper 15<sup>th</sup> May, 2005

The figure was very low when compared to the Nigeria estimated population of over 120 million people based on 1991 census declared by Nigeria's identity agency<sup>91</sup> The National identity project conducted in 2003 consumed more than 7.4 billion but ended without providing significant result to the government and Nigerian citizens. The incompetent

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<sup>89</sup> Ibid

<sup>90</sup> Ibid

<sup>91</sup> Clifford Ndujihe, North maintains led in population *Guardian Newspaper 15<sup>th</sup> May, 2003*

contractors and deficient agreement signed by the government, lack of political will and corruption were identified as some of the factors responsible for failure. About \$214.million fraud was discovered involving the contracting firm *Sagem*, former Ministers of Internal Affairs, Chief Sunday Afolabi, Dr. Muhammad Shata , Minister for labour Alhaji Hussaini Akwanga, Permanent Secretary Ministry for Internal Affairs Mrs. Turi Akesh and National Secretary of People Democratic Party P.D.P. Chief Nwodo among others.<sup>92</sup>

The Federal Government conducting the distribution of National identity card, still retained *Sagem* as project partner despite the company alleged involvement in the 214 million dollars fraud, Registration of physically challenged persons especially lepers became a challenge when the machines failed to capture their biometrics. Similarly, not all registered Nigerians turned out to collect their National Identity Card, some resident could not produce their registration slips that should be presented as an evidence of registration to the official, which cause serious delay in the collection of the cards at the collection centres. The project which commenced in 1979 has successive administration allocating yearly funds to the project and doing nothing about it. The inability of government to deliver on this responsibilities to the people has created apathy and cause the initiative from government to suffer lack of trust and confidence from people.<sup>93</sup> Despite the obstacles enumerated earlier, in this study, the National Identity Project in 2003 has delivered about thirty million cards to Nigerians, the cards played a vital role in identification of Nigerian citizens for financial transaction, travel, issuance of passport among others. The identity document has to a certain extent help in controlling the

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<sup>92</sup> Opcit A. Oyenuga ID Card History and Problem

<sup>93</sup> Ibid

movement of illegal migrant into the country. The government deliberated on the outcome of the project and a committee for the review of the project was set up in 2005.<sup>94</sup>

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<sup>94</sup> Bello Magaji, Pensioner 65years Katsina, 6<sup>th</sup> November, 2017

## CHAPTER FIVE

### THE NATIONAL IDENTITY MANAGEMENT SYSTEM (NIMS) PROJECT

#### 5.1 Introduction

This chapter examines background of the National Identity Management System, with extensive discussion on the purpose, legal framework, mandate and operational procedures of NIMS among others. The origin of biometric system of identification was also highlighted with reference to some countries conducting similar project with Nigeria.

The practice of identifying an individual based on recordable physical traits such as finger prints goes back to the nineteenth century. Sir, William James Herschel, magistrate of a district in India asked a local businessman to add his handprints to a contract to make it harder to repudiate. In the years that followed others explore the use of fingerprints in identifying individuals particularly criminals. The largest biometrics identity system ever implemented is the Aadhaar in India which currently stores the personally identifiable information of over one billion individuals in a centralized database, since 2009 the Aadhaar has become the identity anchor for Indian citizens across a variety of services especially government services. Similarly United States issued identity systems run on similar logic, the United States relies on social security number and other identifiers that are not primarily designed for identity<sup>95</sup>.

Valuable time and resources has been expended in Nigeria in the past with the view of providing effective identity platform for the country Failure of previous identity projects in providing the accurate and reliable National identity data has been of great concerned to the government, the global trend toward identity management and centralized National identity database and the growing needs for specific database and identity verification by several

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<sup>95</sup> Milfred H. *The Origin of Finger Printing*. London, 1916 P. 10

public and private institution, with the accurate biometrics and demographics of every citizens populated into the central identity database. The experiences of some countries such as United States of America, India in improving their internal security and different sectors of their economy has proven such project worthy of emulation by Nigeria.<sup>96</sup>

## **5.2 Objective of NIMS Project**

The issue of identity management of individual, organization and other institution remains a core function of government. Issues involved in creating, using, changing and ending an identity cut across technical, legal, procedural and policy dimension. This has even been made more complex and demanding with the advent of the information, age and the capabilities for manipulation and stealing of information thus raising issues of security, privacy and fair information practices, government also seek better means of service delivery interoperability across government and private sectors system in enforcement of law and order.<sup>97</sup>

Government has identified the need to integrate the various identity schemes into one effective and functional National Identity Management System to complement its programme of social and economic reforms. The overall policy objective is the promotion of a sustained development of National Identity Management System with a unique national identification scheme. Accordingly, Governments' policy objectives would remain focused on the need for identified system of technologies, business practices, law and policies that would ensure the attainment. Reduction in the cost of government through integration and interoperability of government<sup>98</sup> database silos in various agencies and departments, Enhancement of the quality of government service delivery through providing a unique national identification system and

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<sup>96</sup> NIMC news quarterly publication of National Identity Management commission vol. 1 No.8 June, 2015

<sup>97</sup> National Policy and Institutional Framework for an Identity Management System in Nigeria, Abuja, 2007 P.4

<sup>98</sup> Ibid

a multi-purpose smart card with chip technology that incorporates government application and payment system, safe guard public order and facilitate the enforcement of law and order, preserve and improve upon individual privacy among others.<sup>99</sup>

### **5.3 National Identity Management System (NIMS) Policy Framework**

A presidential committee on the harmonization of identification schemes in Nigeria was inaugurated by the President Olusegun Obasanjo in 2005. This committee was chaired by Nasir El-Rufai the then Minister of Federal Capital Territory Abuja, the committee was mandated to review previous and existing identity Card projects and recommend ways of integrating them into a single multi-application card. The committee findings and recommendation is expected to compliment the effort of the committee on consumer credits earlier set up by the government to look at ways of establishing consumer credit, this committee had in its deliberations identified absence of a unified and verifiable identity database as a negating factor to the development of consumer credit system in Nigeria.

At the moments the personal data of Nigerian are in bits and pieces from the national passport office to the drivers license and voter registration among others. The new cards to be issued would have facilities that could be verifiable as it is a smart card with computer chip that would be readable when slotted into any acceptable card device or reader<sup>101</sup>. It has been observed that some Nigerians have three or four international passports with different names yet they claimed they are the same person. The responsibility of NIMS is to provide an infrastructure that enables within reasonable time, response to the request on the identity of an individual. The system would enable security agencies to easily track down people with finger

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<sup>99</sup> Ibid

<sup>100</sup> Ibid

<sup>101</sup> Omoh Gabriel, National Identity Management System the way forward *Vanguard Newspaper* 21<sup>st</sup> November, 2011



prints that could be easily matched when crimes are committed. In addition the nation would be in position to identify all its citizens. Access to credits that drives western economies is absent in Nigeria partly as a result of the inability of the bank to make informed decision of the true identity of Nigerians<sup>102</sup>.

The committee for the review of national identity project was inaugurated on the 6<sup>th</sup> September, 2005 and members were constituted into three sub-committees of Technical, Legal and Implementation sub-committees to thoroughly address the committee terms of reference. The terms of reference for the committee were to take an inventory of all ongoing and completed identification initiative in both public and private sectors. Obtain and submit brief on all ongoing identity project card initiatives, review identity card schemes in various parts of the globe and to Submit proposals for the harmonization of all identity cards initiatives. Furthermore the committee was to make a proposal for a verifiable National identity card for Nigeria including technical and infrastructure management of the scheme, and to review security, privacy and all civil liberty issues related to the initiatives and propose implementation programme and timeline to government.<sup>103</sup>

On inauguration, the technical sub-committee was given the task of reviewing ongoing identity cards initiatives in the public and private sectors both within and outside the country, and to make the proposal for a single verifiable identity card for all Nigeria with focus on appropriate technologies infrastructures and security requirement. The legal sub-committee was mandated to review legal privacy and civil liberties issues related to the initiatives. The implementation sub-committee was responsible for addressing operational, financial and other managerial issues. The main committee was informed by the Minister of Internal Affairs

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<sup>102</sup> Ibid

<sup>103</sup> Final report of the committee on Harmonization of National Identity Card March, 2006.p.13

Ambassador Magaji Muhammad that at the planning stages of national identity project in 2000, the government intention was to come up with a multi-application card which led to the setting up of a committee with membership from Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC), the National Population Commission (NPC) and the Federal Ministry of Internal Affairs to workout plan for the implementation of National identity card programme in the year 2000<sup>104</sup>.

Furthermore the Minister noted that the system currently manage by the Department of National Civic Registration[D.N.C.R.] could be upgraded to meet new requirement such as collaboration with other government agencies, and upgrading to a smart card status by inserting a chip on the current card. The organization handling the then National identity project *Sagem* was said to be experienced in smart card technologies and is implementing similar project in the United Arab Emirate. The technical subcommittee agreed that as a global trend emphasis should be on digital identity management rather than card issuance, the technical sub-committee is expected to provide a holistic approach on the development of an acceptance solution to the project.<sup>105</sup>In order to achieve the goal of providing loans to individuals, the project must be able to uniquely authenticate the identity of all individuals. The NIMS project must have confidence of financial institution as well as the confidence of individuals whose personal information must be protected at all times. Hence the proposed system is expected to be more than an identity card issuing agency and basic information should be recorded on a secure central database, this database information shall be linked to the users biometrics, the security and integrity of the system is expected to depend more on the database and its use of biometrics technology than on the card itself, it shall also provide a

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<sup>104</sup> NIMC Act ... P.27

<sup>105</sup> A. Oyenuga ID Card history... P.20

verification service which provides a secure and convenient way to prove ones identity. Raising concerned on a number of privacy issues raised it was decided that the database must be secure Information on cards shall be secure and tough criminal penalties is to be passed to anyone found abusing the system, limits shall be provided on the number of those can access information on cards/database. The solution is expected to comprise of a three tier system namely Superstructure, Legacy systems as an existing identity card issuing agencies and Card acceptance device CAD for verification renewal and other transactional purposes.<sup>106</sup>

The concept of super structure is to guaranty the uniqueness of an individual's identity. The database from which General Multipurpose Card GMPC is issued shall be secured, distinct and independent of all existing databases, it expected by definition be connected to existing databases in a secure mode, it therefore allow that a new super structure or upgrading of an existing agency must be undertaking to house this G.M.P.C. database, the GMPC database shall however not interfere with the statutory functions, processes and procedures of the existing legacy system.<sup>107</sup>The super structure is to house its own independent automated fingerprint identification system A.F.I.S. subsystem with provision to process fingerprint impressions from all the existing system. It shall provide key management of Security Access Management subsystem S.A.M. and a messaging subsystem to control and monitor digital traffic. Needless to say, the G.M.P.C. database server shall provide sufficient storage capacity to hold the estimated number of electronic files which control bio-data, biometrics, photographs and other information relating to individual. The super structure is expected to be connected to the existing systems by a secure network which can be a close Wide Area Network W.A.N. or Virtual Private Network (V.P.N. There shall be connectivity between the

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<sup>106</sup> Ibid P. 13

<sup>107</sup> Final report... P. 13

super structure and the Cards Acceptance Devices C.A.D. through dial up with Global System Mobile G .S.M. communication, Radio Frequency R.F. or V.P.N. It is also expected that the G.M.P.C. would have a unique numbering system to link individual ID card to all existing system.<sup>108</sup>

The technical sub-committee took an inventory of the existing identity card projects in Nigeria and reviewed their status. The committee reviewed 2 projects, and databases ranging from ten thousand (10,000) to fifty eight million (58,000,000) many of them have biometric parameters, and most of the cards issued are 2D Bar code while very few are chip based. In reviewing identity card projects worldwide it was observed that most of the countries have or are in the process of migrating to chip cards which have more than one application including biometrics fingerprint data.<sup>109</sup>

The global trend therefore, is a gradual move towards the implementation of multipurpose card technology which allows for the use of a chip smartcard in which different public and private sectors application activities can be loaded into one card. The essential key to G.M.P.C. is the linkage to a secure database in which biometric verifications has been done on each person therein, apart from the strong identification characteristics which is common across the many application on the G.M.P.C. The technology allows for example the same card to be seen and used by Road Safety Agencies as driver's license: by the banks as a secure and genuine identity card among others. The technology allows only the relevant agency to have access to the application and data of the G.M.P.C. relevant to its statutory

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<sup>108</sup> Ibid P. 22

<sup>109</sup> NIMC Act A publication of National Identity Management Commission Abuja 2007 P. 20

responsibilities, it forbids one agency from having access to others data, the fundamental principle of G.M.P.C. are identification authentication.<sup>110</sup>

In summary G.M.P.C. technology has a framework which allows for the integration of many applications into one multipurpose card. The technical sub-committee emphasized the need for a chip based card that has sufficient memory for various applications. The card is expected to have a long life span (at least 10 years) and be made of composite materials of poly chloride (PVC) and Poly Carbonate (PC) plastics, the surface printing should be supported by the card materials. A very important property of the proposed card is resistant to harsh environmental conditions. The card could with stand up to 70<sup>0</sup> C temperature for 30 minutes without card being damage or loss in functionality.<sup>111</sup>

The technical sub-committee proposed a chip based technology for the purpose of unifying all identity cards in the country; the chip shall include memory, an operating system and a processor. The chip's production must comply with required standards for integrating circuit cards with contacts. The chip shall also support dynamic load/delete capability, the microchip must be secure. The super structure is the back bone (back office) and the central hub of the G.M.P.C. system, and some of the names suggested for the super structure are National Digital infrastructure and National Identity Management Commission, the super structure is expected to have direct communication channels with most of the component that make up the G.M.P.C. systems and to carryout validation of the data.<sup>112</sup>

The central hub will have its own independent Automatic finger prints information system, A.F.I.S. which can provide fingerprint impression for other existing system, other functions of

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<sup>110</sup> Ibid P. 27

<sup>111</sup> Ibid P.29

<sup>112</sup> Final Report of the committee on harmonization of National Identity P.30

the super structure including access control of the whole G.M.P.C, project setting standards (interface, business rules) and controlling work flow. It will also control issuance and post issuance card application. The super structure will also be in charge of enrolment, card Generation and production, management of service centers S.C. The service centers shall serve the front office functions of the super structure, the SC will have its own compliments of equipment and the SC's server will be linked to the super structure to carry the Enrolment of fresh applicant for National identification number and G.M.P.C. Issuance, Upload of various application Payment associated with the G.M.P.C .Re-issue of lost G.M.P.C cards and Other e-government applications.<sup>113</sup>

The legacy systems are all the existing database hosted by the relevant Government agencies responsible for capturing of individual details i.e. bio-data, biometrics photographs and other details specific to the agencies statutory responsibilities. They will in turn communicate with the super structure for the approval to issue the relevant application to the G.M.P.C. The legacy system will interact with super structure for inquiries and to update functions in respect of G.M.P.C. holders. A worldwide review of G.M.P.C. projects shows the following applications have been successfully implemented. National identity, Immigration borders control, Driver's license, Medical, Social benefits, Electoral system, Health application, Tax administration, e-government and financial service, Travel card insurance among others. A further review of the applications shows possible integration into the proposed G.M.P.C. with Voters card, National ID card, Driver license Banking verification, Health insurance, Pensions scheme, Tax, e-purse, Land title, University student cards among others.<sup>114</sup>

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<sup>113</sup> Ibid ... Final Report of the Committee P.33

<sup>114</sup> NIMC Act... P.28 2007

The implementation sub-committee suggested the establishment of new agency to house the new National database and also to decide whether or not to transform one of the existing agencies into the new agency, this new agency will therefore become the backbone of this initiative and its functions will includes Establishment of a new National database that will uniquely and unambiguously identify individuals by utilizing fingerprint biometrics verification technology. The database should be divided into Citizens Non-citizen data. The establishment of new agency/commission will require a new legislation/bill which has already been drafted by the committee, equally important is the amendment of the existing decrease/laws/Acts/establishing existing agencies barring them from issuing identity cards.<sup>115</sup>

The new agency is to be autonomous self-accounting and should report directly to the presidency. It is suggested that the governing board shall be the apex management body of the new agency for maximum efficiency and independent, it is recommended that the following agencies should have representation in the governing board. The independent National Electoral Commission, The National Health Insurance Scheme, The Federal Road Safety Commission, The Federal inland Revenue Service, The National Pension Commission, The Nigeria Police Force ,The Nigeria Immigration Service, The Office of the National Security Adviser, The National Population Commission, The Central Bank of Nigeria among others.<sup>116</sup>

The NIMC Act was signed into law on 25<sup>th</sup> May, 2007 which mandated the establishment of a National Identity Database (NIDB) and the National Identity Management Commission (NIMC) the commission has the responsibilities of maintenance of the National database, the

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<sup>115</sup> NIMC Act... p. 15

<sup>116</sup> Final Report of the Committee on Harmonization... P.33

registration of individuals and issuance of National identification number, General Multipurpose Identity cards and other related matters.<sup>117</sup>

The functions of the commission includes Creating ,maintain and oversee the operation of the National identity database, harmonization and integration of existing identification databases in government agencies and integrating them into the National identity database, as well carryout the registration of citizens of Nigeria into National Identity Database as well the registration of non-citizens who are lawfully resident in Nigeria in addition to the Issuance of a General Multipurpose Identity card to any person registered.<sup>118</sup>

Other functions include Collation of information by the commission in pursuance of its functions under NIMC Act and reproducing such information as may be required from time to time after Assigning unique National Identification Number (NIN) to any person registered. The agency is to Ensured the preservation, protection, sanctity and security (including cyber security) of any information or data collected, obtained, maintained or stores in respect of the National Identity Database. And to further Establish and maintain secure communication links with any existing relevant identity related databases or agency. It also has the responsibility to maintained and secured communication links with end users in any public or private organization agency or body including the use of Card Acceptance Devices and government service centers.<sup>119</sup>

The Commission Collaborate with relevant bodies and agencies in setting of standards and technical specification for telecommunication links between organization and for the devices utilized for such communications established or maintained .Respond to verification enquiries

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<sup>117</sup> NIMC News, *A quarterly publication National Identity Management Commission* Vol. 12, May, 2015

<sup>118</sup> NIMC News, *A quarterly publication National Identity Management Commission* Vol. 13, June, 2015

<sup>119</sup> NIMC News, *A quarterly publication National Identity Management Commission* Vol. 15, August, 2015



regarding of identification of individual and Performed such other duties which in the opinion of the commission are necessary or expedient for the discharge of the function under NIMC Act. The agency is also has the right to Enter into any form of agreement with any private or public sector based organization for the development or establishment of the identity management solution or for the realization of any of its function. The agency is to conduct research and monitor development in the identity management sector.<sup>120</sup>

The commission shall have the power to request for any information on data form from any person on matters relating to its function, Fix the terms and conditions of service including remuneration of the employees of the organization. The commission has power to established and operate administrative and monitoring offices in the states, Local Government Areas and to monitor any matter that may affect the functions of the commission and perform such other things which by the Act or any other enactment are required or permitted to be done by the commission.<sup>121</sup>

NIMS is authorized to capture the data of any person who is a citizen of Nigeria. any person whether or not he is a citizen of Nigeria, who is lawfully and permanently resident in Nigeria and any non-citizen of Nigeria who is lawfully resident in Nigeria for a period of two years or more. The commission shall cancel a multipurpose identity card if it appears to it that the card was issued in reliance on inaccurate or incomplete information. That the card has been lost stolen damaged tempered with or destroyed.<sup>122</sup>

The NIMS Act describes that no person or body cooperate organization shall have access to the data or information contained in the database with respect to a registered individual entry

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<sup>120</sup> NIMC News Quarterly Publication of National Identity Management commission Vol.15 August, 2015

<sup>121</sup> NIMC Act...P.18

<sup>122</sup> Ibid P.8

except with the authorization of the commission and only if there is an application for the provision of the information to that person is made by, or with the authority of that individual or that individual otherwise consents to the provision of that information of that person. The commission may without a registered individuals consent provide another person with information recorded in the individuals entry in the database, if the provision of the information is authorized by relevant body. It is an offence for any person who without lawful authorization access data or information contained in the database or refuses to provide relevant data or information to the commission or in giving any information for the purpose of this act, knowingly or recklessly makes a wrong statement or provides false information to the commission.<sup>123</sup>

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<sup>123</sup> NIMC News, A quarterly publication National Identity Management Commission Vol. 12, December, 2015

## **CHAPTER SIX**

### **THE PROSPECT OF NATIONAL IDENTITY MANAGEMENT SYSTEM (NIMS)**

#### **PROJECT**

##### **6.1 Introduction**

This chapter discusses the prospect and challenges of NIMS and further elaborates on operational procedures of NIMS project. An overview of the Nigeria socio-political history since independence in 1960 shows that among the many issues that have created great anxiety and brought the country to the brink of collapse has been the attempt at obtaining accurate data of the country's population. The 1962-63 and 1973 census were greeted with some degree of suspicion and controversies leading to their cancellation.<sup>124</sup> Similarly the several attempts at having accurate and reliable national identity database were challenging. The shortcomings of past National identity projects necessitated the implementation of the National Identity Management System project (NIMS). The project is designed to address the challenges and deficiency of the previous attempt by the Nigerian Government at establishing an accurate and reliable National identity Database to promote national planning and security of the Nigerian Nation, and to participate in the global trend of Identity Management System.<sup>125</sup> The project commenced its pilot scheme in 2012, and commence massive enrolment in 2013.<sup>126</sup>

##### **6.2 Prospect of NIMS Project**

The National Identity Projects and other similar exercise in Nigeria has primary task of issuing of identity cards to citizen, the NIMS project on the other hand has as its priority, the issuance of NIN and accurate record of citizen and legal resident in NIDB. The NIMS is

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<sup>124</sup>Njoku J. E.; *The Challenges of Nigerian Census and the way forward for future census*. Jokemine Host 2006

<sup>125</sup>NIMC News *Quarterly publication, National Identity Commission* Vol. 1 Dec. 2014

<sup>126</sup> Ibid

therefore paradigm shift away from focusing on card issuance to identity management, the process has also been expended to make it possible for all government agencies to hook up with NIMS to optimize available government resources.<sup>127</sup> The successful implementation of NIMS project will benefit the public and private sector in areas of convenient and simplified process for enrolment into National Identity database, issuance of NIN and National I.D. card. NIMS will further protect individuals from identity theft and fraud through providing a simple, reliable, sustainable and universally accepted means of confirming individual identity, that will make life easier to the citizens by providing convenient means of confirming individual identity in Nigeria and beyond.<sup>128</sup>

The project will assist the Nigeria political process by facilitating the work of the electoral body, and in tackling the problems of multiple and duplicate identities. The government and stakeholders will benefit from accurate and reliable data for effective planning, reduction in the cost of governance through integration of silo government databases, enhancement of the security system and enforcement of law and order. The government effort of service delivery will improve through integration and streamlining the government database and services, and further facilitate common identity needs of the government and the private sector. Effective decision requires accurate and comprehensive data. NIMS preserved individual identity and privacy through enhancement of the security of identity information, reduce risk of credit and debit card fraud through linking identity and payment application.<sup>129</sup> Nigerians dream to be among the developed countries of the world can only be achieved when we have a programme of comprehensive National Identity system that is reliable and accurate. Many countries have developed through the implementation of similar project, Nigeria therefore should not be an

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<sup>127</sup> NIMC News Vol.1 December, 2014

<sup>128</sup> Ibid

<sup>129</sup> Muhammad Bello Kanoma, Civil Servant 55 years

exception. The process of capturing applicants of 16 years and above is simple and convenient, applicant are expected to visit the enrolment centers with any of this supporting documents; Old National ID Card, Driver's license, Voter's Card, International Passport, Certificate of Origin attestation letter from a prominent ruler in the community and Birth Certificate among others. In addition applicant under 16 years are expected to bring their parent or guardian NIN number to be linked to their data after captured.<sup>130</sup>

An applicant is expect to be verified to ascertain if he or she has not been enrolled using NIMS verification portal before proceeding to fill an enrolment form, application form will be vetted to crosscheck the information filled against the supporting document provided, to check errors and omissions, applicant who cannot read and write may be assisted by individual in form filling. The applicant has an option of presenting pre-enrolment form to be uploaded in the NIMS software and further completed with biometric capture. Before sending data to the central database, applicant will be asked to crosscheck his or her information for errors or omission using applicant monitor.<sup>131</sup> If the applicant is satisfied with the data collected, the biometric of the applicant will be capture subsequently and sent to the national database.

A transaction number known as transaction ID will be issued to the applicant as an evidence of the successful transaction (see Appendix III). The applicant will be requested to come back in 2-7 working days for his or her NIN. The NIN is to be issued once to the applicant after processing, (see Appendix IV). NIN is eleven digits unique number that is permanent and not transferable to any other person even after owner's death, NIN is mandatory for every Nigeria citizens. The National Identity Card will be issued subsequently to the applicants, the card is primarily a National Identity card with 13 different applications on the card, 5 applet are

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<sup>130</sup> Aminu Usman, Civil Servant, 49 years, Katsina

<sup>131</sup> Abdulnasir Maradun, Civil Servant 52years, Gusau

activated using point of sale (POS) machine at the collection center, the card has a computer chip and is renewable on request by the owner when the card expires within five years, the renewal attract five thousand naira to cover the re-production cost, the five applets that are currently activated and functional includes; Electronic Identity Card applets, Travel, Biometric, Automated teller Machine, among others (see Appendix V & VI).

### **6.3 Challenges of NIMS Project**

The challenge of national identity project could not be distance from the antics of colonialism which through the imposition of indirect rule brought discrete and smaller tribes under the leadership of the major tribes. The merger of major and minor ethnic groups in the Northern and Southern Nigeria amalgamation by British colonial administration in 1914 has created some challenge in the country's efforts of creating common identity. More so, Nigeria has serious challenges of ethnicity, insecurity which posed threats to social stability and national identity. The manifestation of ethnic identity in place of national identity is articulated in all aspect of democratic practices in Nigeria beginning from elections to appointments and location of development projects where some ethnic group are placed on the advantages against others<sup>132</sup>. Inadequate Budgetary provision has been identified as a major issue in the conduct and implementation of the NIMS project, as a capital intensive project, NIMS required huge financial support from the government, yet the capital budgets of the project even when approved has not been fully accessed from the government over the years and the little resources allocated to project was alleged to be mismanaged.<sup>133</sup>

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<sup>132</sup> Mustapha R., Ethnicity and Democratization process in Nigeria" in Jubrin Ibrahim (Edited) *Expanding democratic space in Nigeria*. Dakar Codesria 1997 P.17

<sup>133</sup> NIMC News A quarterly publication of National Identity Management Vol.1 Dec. 2015

**Table 2: Capital Budget of NIMS Project from 2008 - 2018**

<b>YEAR</b>	<b>BUDGET</b>	<b>CAIPTAL RELEASE</b>
2008	3,244,232,001	
2009	3,125,654,146	1,755,850,39
2010	5,188,285,300	1,731,937,312
2011	5,391,822,672	5,485,383,64
2012	11,779,617,797	7,179,420,840
2013	12,334,450,000	7,009,304,428
2014	3,000,000,00	2,997,798,091
2015	1,000,000,00	7,692,380,91
2016	1,000,008,01	929,000,000
2017	3,500,001,00	360 400,000
2018	500,001,00	2,835,000,00

Sources: 2018 NIMC report, 15<sup>th</sup> April 2019

Negative public impression created by the failure of the previous identity project has become a challenge. History has shown how the previous project consumed a very large sum of tax payers' money from the inception of the project in 1979 to 2003 that ended without providing accurate and reliable national identity data to Nigerians. The failure of previous attempt has negative effects on the implementation of the ongoing NIMS Projects in Nigeria the prospect of NIMS project has been over shadowed by the abnormalities of the previous project. The 2003 National identity project did not only fail in capturing the identity of Nigerians but also

remain as one of the serious scandals involving top government officials. The resources allocated to the project were diverted by corrupt government officials over the years.<sup>134</sup>

The successful implementation of the NIMS project is designed to be workout in collaboration with private sector. In this regard the public and the private sector have not done enough to effectively collaborate to ensure the success of the NIMS project, due to the absence of the synergy and lack of commitments among the public and private sector<sup>135</sup>. NIMS Project as an IT driven project solely depend on the information and communication infrastructure, inadequate of ICT infrastructure is another crucial challenges to the implementation of the NIMS Project, the project is designed to cover every Nigerian and legal resident, but this attempt is being delayed by the inadequate and lack of these ICT infrastructure in the country, some local government centers were not equipped with the required infrastructure and where they are available, are not sufficient to meet the demand of teaming population.<sup>136</sup>

Enrolment equipments need to be powered by electricity supply, the epileptic supply and frequent interruption of electricity supply in the country is crippling the smooth conduct of NIMS activities. The registration centers had resorted to the use of generators as an alternative to electricity supply from national grid, adequate power supply is an important element to be considered for the successful implementation of the NIMS. The current situation of power supply in the country is not supportive to the success of the project and the cost of using generators is not sustainable due to poor budgetary allocation to the commission. Absence of political will from the government in the implementation and adoption of NIMS projects, have been identified as part of the challenges, the Government on its parts has not shown

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<sup>134</sup> The National Identity Card Scheme; *The economist* Vol. 3 No 9 October, 2014 P9

<sup>135</sup> Muhammad Haruna, 62 years, Retiree Sokoto

<sup>136</sup> Alh. Abubakar, Traditional Ruler 60years Sokoto 10/10/2017



serious commitment to the development of this project. This is clearly evident from the inadequate annual budgetary allocation to the project over the years.<sup>137</sup>

The security of the citizens data is of great benefit to both public and private organization who ventured into it, However some individuals might not be willing to participate or surrender their data if they felt the security of their data will be breached, privacy principles must be respected and accepted by those entrusted to handle the projects.<sup>138</sup> Some citizen therefore may be reluctant to submit their information when the security and privacy of the database is not guaranteed, public trust and integrity of the project is crucial to the implementation and acceptance of the NIMS Project.

Lack of public awareness and sensitization has also been identified among the challenges information and communication gap among the various segment of the Nigeria society is affecting the success of the project, public perception of the project, as an instrument of determining political and economic status of a particular ethnic group or status of a particular religion had been source of concern. NIMS is primarily designed to capture the data of Nigerian citizens and legal resident, due to the proximity of Sokoto, Kebbi, Zamfara and Katsina States to the neighbouring Niger and Benin Republics, there were reported cases of illegal migrant from these countries disguising to register into the National Identity Database thereby compromising the integrity of the national database.<sup>139</sup>

NIMS is to be implemented in partnership with State and Local Governments, Private and Corporate Organizations, Traditional and Religious Institutions, among others to primarily assist in sensitizing the general public on the benefits of the project and to collaborate in every

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<sup>137</sup> Muhammed Umar; Civil Servant 55 years Sokoto 11/12/2017

<sup>138</sup> Sunday John; Lawyer 49 11/12/2017

<sup>139</sup> NIMC News *A quarterly publication of National Identity Management* Vol.2 April, 2016

possible way to ensure all Nigeria citizens are enrolled into central database. The level of collaboration is not encouraging as some local government councils are not committed to the collaboration. The private sector seemed unprepared for the partnership model it signed up on earlier with the government, this has negatively affected the registration process, production and the issuance of national identity Card. More to the challenges is the improper individual address provided by the individual during registration causing delay to official of the agency to dispatch the card as at when due.<sup>140</sup> The current insecurity situation most especially in Zamfara Katsina Kebbi and Sokoto states where bandits and kidnappers are terrorizing the resident of affected localities has made this areas inaccessible and insecure for the commissioning of the registration exercise, the success of the project could only be guaranteed in the atmosphere of peace and conducive environment, which permit people to move freely without fear and intimidation from any form of attack.<sup>141</sup>

Gender and Cultural issues is another serious challenges, out of the current total enrollment, only 30% are women with men representing the remaining 70% majority, the gender imbalance is attributed to the local tradition where family head restrict their wives from participating in the registration and similar exercise to avoid mixing with the male counterpart.<sup>142</sup> Basic knowledge on how to properly filled the registration form before onward transition to the enrolment system is central to the success of the project, the application process is slowed down by the inability of some of the applicant to properly filled their application form and therefore have to depend on the few elites and some official who are willing to assist in filling the application forms on their behalf, this compromise the privacy of

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<sup>140</sup> Sani Muhammad, Traditional Ruler 62 years Sokoto 9/10/2017

<sup>141</sup> Shehu Hannafi; Civil Servant 46 years Sokoto 10/11/2017

<sup>142</sup> Ibrahim Bello; Civil Servant 38 years Sokoto 07/10/2017

the information provided.<sup>143</sup> Absence of required manpower to handle the project posed a serious challenge, the project requires well trained skilled workers who can adequately handle various information and technology services. the present economic predicament and poor budgetary allocation to the agency does not permit massive recruitment of the skilled workers, or retention of the high skilled ones who can properly handle the enrollment activities in the various centers, the current available workforce needs to be adequately motivated considering the hazardous nature in the working environment and the personnel remuneration does not commiserate with the nature of the work performed by the workers of the organization. Citizen in rural areas have to trek hundred kilometers from their homes to participate in the exercise since the only center in each local government area cannot take care of the demand of the applicants.<sup>144</sup>

Lack of enforcement from the government, the NIN is designed to be presented by individual before he or she can access certain services from public and private sector, if this is enforced strictly, the public would be compelled to enroll and this would go a long way in populating the National Identity database.<sup>145</sup> Despite various challenges facing NIMS, the government has established enrolment and registration centers across all the state capitals of the federation, this is in addition to creation of over four hundred offices in the local government areas of the federation beside construction of the central identity database located in Abuja.<sup>146</sup> The mass exercise has succeeded in enrolling over thirty million Nigerians as at December, 2018. The breakdown of the total figure shows Katsina, Kebbi, Sokoto and Zamfara States with the following figure

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<sup>143</sup> Labaran Sani, Civil Servant 35 years Sokoto 11/10/2017

<sup>144</sup> NIMC *News Quarterly Publication* Vol. 3 December, 2017

<sup>145</sup> Ibid

<sup>146</sup> Ibid

**Table 3: Enrollment Figures in Four North-Western States of Nigeria**

State	Enrollment Figure
Katsina	415,572
Kebbi	494,394
Sokoto	541,780
Zamfara	481,575

Sources: NIMC 2018 REPORT 15<sup>th</sup> APRIL, 2019

The figures for the above respective states are low, when compared with the total enrolment figure of over thirty million people nationwide and this is attributed to some of the challenges highlighted earlier in the study.<sup>147</sup> Some the constraints mentioned earlier has also impacted on issuance National Identity Card nationwide, over one million cards has been produced and distributed as at December, 2018 with about 300,000 in the vault awaiting collection, the following shows the distribution and collection of card in the following case study areas.<sup>148</sup>

**Table 4: Card Distribution Figures in Four North-Western States of Nigeria**

State	Card received	Card Collected
Katsina	15,064	19,345
Kebbi	24,300	12,802
Sokoto	25,460	15,881
Zamfara	16,023	9,472

Sources: NIMC report 2018 15<sup>th</sup> April, 2019

The slow pace of card production is attributed to some of the challenges and issues raised in the study while poor collection of the card has been the outcome of communication gap. The

<sup>147</sup> Muhammad Kabir; Civil Servant 41 years, Kaduna 20/12/2017

<sup>148</sup> Muhammad Umar, Traditional Ruler 66years, Sokoto 13/11/2017

card has a payment application to be utilized by the owner in partnership with some financial institution, the card upon activation can be used for financial transaction, more than 500 people had confirmed the used of the card for financial transaction, as a means of identification and a travel document including movement into the neighbouring countries of Niger, Benin and Togo Republic respectively. The outcry for the rights of Nigerians in the Diaspora to participate in the exercise has been addressed by the agency with the recent commissioning of enrolment exercise of Nigerians in Diaspora particularly in United Kingdom, United States, Germany, South Africa, United Arab Emirate among others. The commission is planning to conduct mass registration exercise through deployment of mobile enrollment system to all nooks and corners of the country in collaboration with other public and private sector organization to be sponsored by international development partners (ecosystem). To control the issue of migrant registration, Nigeria Immigration Service has deployed its personnel to conduct screening of applicant before registration.<sup>149</sup>

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<sup>149</sup> Ibid

## CHAPTER SEVEN

### CONCLUSION

#### 7.1 Conclusion

Nigeria has over the years tried to perfect the National Identity Project without success, the national identity project went through hurdles and challenges since its inception, the limited success recorded under the defunct national identity card programme necessitated the introduction of National Identity Management System, to replace national identity card project which opened another chapter in the history of the national identity project in Nigeria.<sup>150</sup>

The National identity project in Nigeria is forty years in existence, the project was designed to address the weaknesses of the previous attempt by the government to have adequate and reliable data for national planning, the successive Nigeria governments has in various time embarked on the implementation of the project but each was undermine by the negative attitude of government officials, the project has exposed how various Nigerian governments attitudes condoned corruption in the country, and how this culture prevented the government from laying foundation to having accurate statistical data for national planning, the national headcount of 1963,1973,1991,and 2006 had not address the issue of accurate population figure. Similarly the National identity projects from 1979 to 2003 failed woefully after wasting large amount of taxpayers' money. Since no country will developed without accurate and reliable citizens data. Coupled with the government plan to participate in the current global trend in identity management for security and economic development, prompted the

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<sup>150</sup> NIMC News Letter: *A quarterly new publication of National Identity Management Commission* Vol. Dec., 2014

government to embrace the NIMS project. This is paradigm shift from the national identity card issuance in the previous exercise, NIMS projects undertake the management of bio-data of every Nigerian and legal resident from birth to death, it is simple and billed to co-ordinate all the personal data of every Nigerian and legal resident in such a way that in one card, every data about the individual will be obtained, the identity card issued is smart card with a computer chip that stored information and such information can be readable when slotted into any acceptable card device or reader.<sup>151</sup>

NIMS is designed to benefit the government and the law enforcement organization because the common denominator is who you are, some citizens has more than one international passport with different names, the responsibility of the NIMS is to provide infrastructure that enables you within shortest period of request to provide valid and reliable in respect to the identity of the person in transaction with public or private sector, the new system therefore is not focused on card issuance but on identity management.<sup>152</sup> The new system would enable the security agencies to easily track down criminals through biometric that could be easily cross matched when crimes are committed and to re-position and improve Nigerian image.<sup>153</sup>

Access to credit facilities that drive economy is absent as a result of the inability of banks to make informed decision on the true identity of Nigeria, for a bank to lend money the financial institution needs to confirm the actual identity of the client, for credit economy to work in Nigeria, banks need to know the true identity of their customers.<sup>154</sup>

The NIMS Scheme help in identifying illegal immigrant in the country, the system ascertain the identity of citizens, and simply detect foreigners impersonating Nigerians.

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<sup>151</sup> National Identity Jinx Breakers *Political Economist* Vol. 3 No 9 October, 2014

<sup>152</sup> Kabir Danbaba, Businessman 46 years Sokoto 9/10/2017

<sup>153</sup> Muhktar Balle: Legal Practitioners, 47 years 19/04/2017

<sup>154</sup> Musa Usman Bello 48 Years Civil Servant 03/02/2018

The NIMS also undertake the harmonization and integration of the silo existing identity database of the various government agencies such as Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) Federal Road Safety Commission (FRSC) Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) among others. Over one million Bank Verification Number (BVN) records have been harmonized with the central database and NIN have been issued to the respective BVN holders. When the integration of various silo database with the National Identity database is completed it will save the government a large amount of resource since the NIMS Database can provide all the bio data needed for identification, verification by the public and private sector organization.<sup>155</sup>

The project has made it possible for Nigerians to register into the NIDB conveniently the project is lifelong and open to all citizens from Mondays to Fridays. It has provided an opportunity to all classes of citizen to register at their own convenient. The significance of this project to nation building cannot be over emphasized, history has shows how other countries like India, United State of America have benefited from similar project and Nigeria cannot be an exception in the global trend to provide digital identity that will promote national planning, economic and security development in the country.<sup>156</sup> This project in being threaten by the numerous challenges highlighted earlier. These challenges therefore, require robust and holistic approach to mitigate the negative effect of the challenges affecting the project.

Much need to be done in the area of funding of the project, as a sign of government committed to the success of the exercise, the project is capital intensive and therefore required adequate budgetary allocation from the government, the effort by the government to boost electricity supply should be intensified, the alternative solar powered energy telecoms

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<sup>155</sup> Chris John; Legal Practitioner 58 years Kaduna 12/12/2017

<sup>156</sup> Michael Audu, Civil Servant 51years Abuja 9/11/2017



network, should be extended to reach rural areas where there is absence of national grid. Enforcement of the regulations on the use of NIN for transaction must be taken seriously by the government, and Massive sensitization campaign must be carried to enlighten the citizen on the benefit of the project and the dangers inherent in not participating in the exercise, the image of the project can be restored through effective awareness and communication skills.

The public private partnership PPP model should be revisited and ensure the trust and confidence of all parties is build to complement the effort of the government, the integrity of the data and the privacy of individual information must be respected. Despite commissioning of enrolment centers in the state capitals and in some local government areas, there is need for additional centers in each ward to cover the entire population of the country. The security agents need to block the entry of illegal immigrant who disguise as Nigerians in order to get registered.<sup>157</sup>Nigeria's security challenges is attributed to its inability to identify its citizen, the situation has led to high level of insecurity in the country with different trend and dimension from one geographical zone to the other, ranging from serious faceless activities of terrorist group called Boko Haram in the North West, rampant armed robbery and kidnapping in the South-South, East and West, with the implementation of central database where all persons are registered, identified and verified this menace could be controlled.<sup>158</sup>

The implementation of the NIMS project will reduce wastage of public resources since all stakeholders can reliably depend on one single version of truth the central database. As long as Nigerian population is growing without classified data storage and retrieval mechanism about people who reside in Nigeria, the possibility of incessant increase in criminality and

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<sup>157</sup> Johnson R. O. et, al: Creation of central Database in Nigeria challenges and prospect *information and management Journal* Vol. 3 No. 12 2013

<sup>158</sup> Ibid

corruption will continue. NIMS Project will provide a civilized way of keeping digitalized record about the people. Data has been regarded as an important ingredient for development, there can be no development without data. Data is trust, it must therefore have basis and kept in an organized manner. It is very sensitive and critical to nation physical development and security.<sup>159</sup>NIMS project has primary objective of solving problems in the areas of security, economy. NIMS provide digital solution to insecurity and that should be seen as critical national issue that attracts collective responsibility going by the experience of best global practice such as in the United State of America, United Kingdom, China, India, South Africa, among others, these nations has recorded tremendous proving achievement from the creation of central database, including control of corruption and sanity of governance, security surveillance, knowledge and data driven society, social security and welfare, immigrants control, personal integrity and electoral value, cashless banking and had reduces the cost of running government among others.

The implementation of NIMS will greatly assist in statistical planning and realistic budget, for instance central database is capable of presenting residents in statistical group, class such as stating the number of infant, adolescents, working class and old age in the country.<sup>160</sup>The National Identity Project and other similar project should be strengthen by the government through creating enabling environment for such project to succeed. The project can only succeed when the government provide necessary funding and effective policies and monitoring. Stakeholders such as traditional institutions religious leader and organized private sector should collaborate with government to ensure the realization of the goals to be achieved in the project.

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<sup>159</sup> NIMC *News Quarterly Publication* Vol. 3 December, 2017

<sup>160</sup> Ibid NIMC *Quarterly Publication* Vol.3....

The anti-corruption agencies should be encourage by the government through providing them with all the necessary support to function effectively, this will address the issue of massive corruption that has affected the development of the identity sector since its inception in 1979. Public awareness campaign should be expanded to cover all the segment of the Nigeria society. Nigeria has for long time recognize the importance of national identity scheme in the promotion of national integration, reconciliation, planning and economic development, to achieve this, the government conducted various identity schemes that failed to meet the target objective, moreover, the policy makers, scholar has not accorded any priority to the documentation of these schemes over the years. The research work is one of the various effort to fill this gap and to also serve as an avenue of communication to the policy makers on the various challenges facing the project and in addition create public awareness on the prospect of national identity management system.

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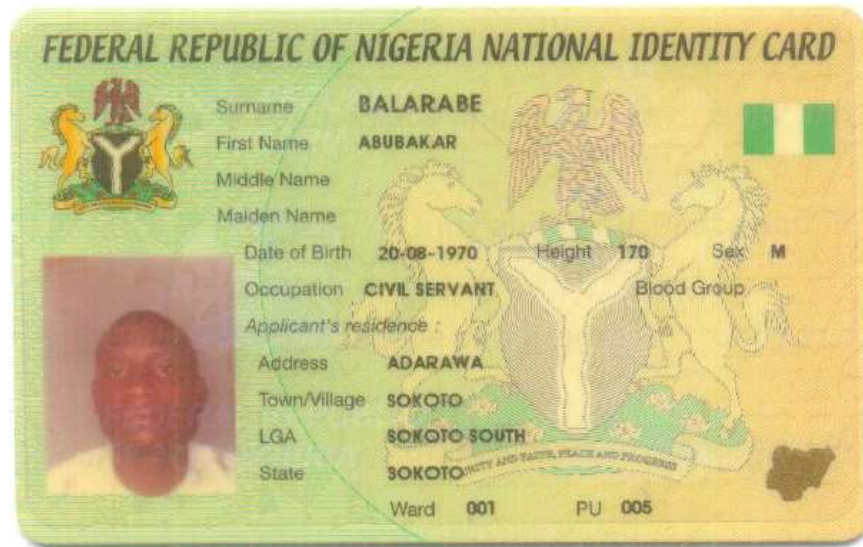
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## Appendix I

### National Identity Card 2003 (Front view)



## Appendix II




### National Identity Card 2003 (Back view)

<i>Particulars of Next of Kin :</i>		<i>Applicant's Origin :</i>		
Surname	<b>SAIDU</b>	Place	<b>SOKOTO</b>	
First Name	<b>BALARABE</b>	State	<b>SOKOTO</b>	
Middle Name	<b>DANGOGGO</b>			
Address	<b>ADARAWA</b>			
Date of ID Card Issue		<b>18-04-2005</b>		
Place		<b>ABUJA (FCT)</b>		
State	LGA	RC	Seq Number	ID Form Number
<b>SO</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>005</b>	<b>00547383301</b>	<b>0419585662</b>
Personal Number		<b>SO053600481</b>		










## Appendix III

### Enrolment of Transaction Slip

 <b>National Identity Management System</b> 			
<b>Federal Republic of Nigeria</b> <b>(Enrollment Transaction Slip)</b>			
Tracking ID:	S7Y0NYFKF0007TU	Surname:	ABUBAKAR
Registration Centre:	SOSO-SEAMFIX	First Name:	BALARABE
Registration Date:	20/05/2014	Middlename:	
Enroller's ID:	BUDA.LABARAN	Gender:	Male
			
Note: The transaction slip does not confer the right to the <i>National Identification Number</i> nor <i>Card</i> (for any enquiries please contact):			
 <a href="mailto:helpdesk@nimc.gov.ng">helpdesk@nimc.gov.ng</a>	 <a href="http://www.nimc.gov.ng">www.nimc.gov.ng</a>	 07040144482, 07040144483, 07040144454	 <b>National Identity Management Commission</b> <small>11, Sokoto Crescent, Off Oshodi Street, Zone 5, Lagos, Abuja-Nigeria</small>

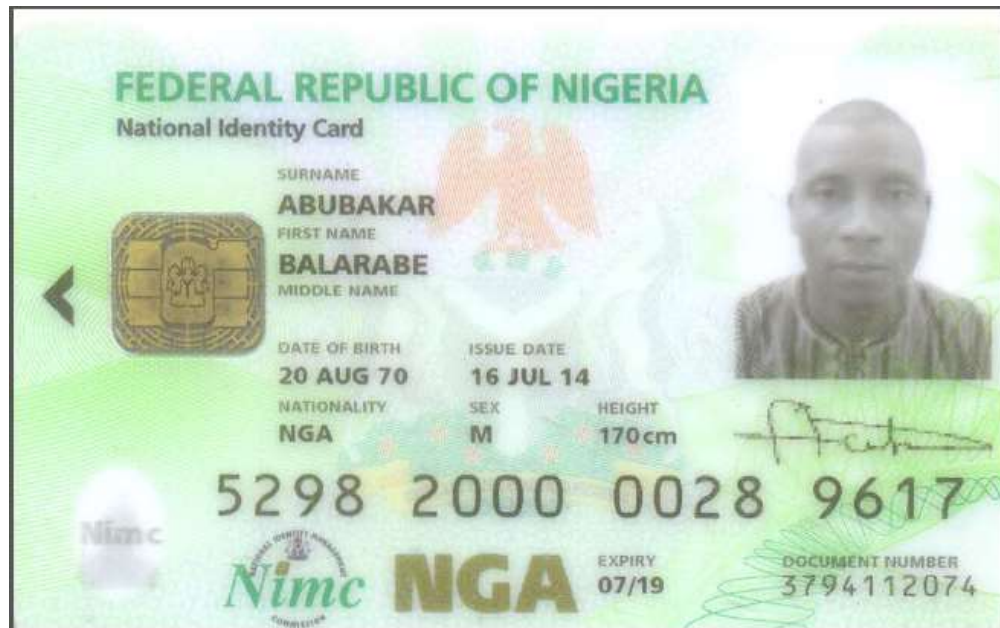
## Appendix IV

### National Identification Number Slip

 <b>National Identity Management System</b> Federal Republic of Nigeria National Identification Number Slip (NINS) 			
Tracking ID: S7Y0NYFKF0007TU	Surname: ABUBAKAR	Address: PLOT 10 GUIWA LAYOUT OPP HALIRU, RIJIYA SCHOOL SOKOTO  SOKOTO Sokoto	
NIN: 75276797313	First Name: BALARABE		
Issue Date: 20/05/2014	Middle Name:		
	Gender: M		
<b>Note:</b> The <i>National Identification Number (NIN)</i> is your identity. It is confidential and may only be released for legitimate transactions. You will be notified when your National Identity Card is ready (for any enquiries please contact)			
 <a href="mailto:helpdesk@nimc.gov.ng">helpdesk@nimc.gov.ng</a>	 <a href="http://www.nimc.gov.ng">www.nimc.gov.ng</a>	 07040144452, 07040144453, 07040144454	 <b>National Identity Management Commission</b> 11, Sokode Crescent, Off Dalaba Street, Zone 5 Wuse, Abuja Nigeria

## Appendix V

National Identity Smart Card (front view)



## Appendix VI

## National Identity Smart Card (Back view)



