

TACTICAL USE OF MULTIPLICITY IN NIGER DELTA

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At “Boro Day” Summit

The Niger Delta: Path to a New Era.

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Your Excellency

Your Majesties

Distinguished Guests

The Ijaw National Alliance of the Americas

Ladies and Gentlemen

I offer my Humble Greetings

TACTICAL USE OF MULTIPLICITY IN NIGER DELTA

How would you feel to hear over the air wave, to see on the television screen and news papers?

Niger Delta: The Information Technology Zone in Africa. We will exploit the possibilities in this conversation.

I will focus on the strengths of the inclusive diversity in Niger Delta and points to short and long term benefits, if and when annexed. I will give some examples on strategic applications that are easily feasible and attempt to analyze one of the examples, which if exploited, will by all standards, economically outperforms the crude oil in our land; Crude oil that has yielded much of all that a curse has to offer. In essence this is a challenge to South South Geopolitical Zone the

Core Niger Delta to exploit the powers of its multiplicity and reap the tremendous remunerations therein.

It is not my intention here to define diversity as it relates to Niger Delta other than to say in brief, that the Niger Delta Region now known in Nigeria geographical structure and stipulated in the 1999 constitution as South South Geopolitical Zone, embodies the entire Nigeria's multiplicity that can be classified as linguistic nationalities ostensibly arranged in true form of federalism if viewed as a federated region. This is the same form of the organized characteristics that constitute Nigeria Nation.

However what the Nigeria Nation that was born in 1966 has failed to recognize, is the incredible amount of inherent strength, possibilities and benefits in such diversity delimited under a single constitution. So subconsciously these possibilities have since remained rejected and instead, the nation's focus is on the lesser, which is more obvious by contact, culture and linguistically related. This is what they call tribes, if you would please permit me to use the word "Tribe".

When this word is in action we call it tribal, I am sure that we are all very familiar with this word and its actions.

My effort here is an attempt to unveil minimally, the implicit powers of diversity and appeal to Niger Delta to accept them with the same passion with which the Nigeria Nation has rejected them for the past forty five years, and use them for the benefit of the people in the region and the country Nigeria as a whole. You may recall either from history of Nigeria, or from personal experience that the Nigeria Nation and all its Regions did in fact recognized the power in diversity, when in the mid 1950s the people organized themselves in a constitution that gave birth to the old Nigeria in 1960. In that setting, Nigeria citizens were free to pursue their goals at any level, including political positions where ever they were living in the country. However that

formidable foundation erected by the founding Fathers of the country Nigeria crumbled in the iron hands of greed. Suffice to say that it was taken away from the people in 1966.

Diversity

What is multiplicity and what is diversity?

Diversity is far more than a political movement or a demand for social privileges; it is also the sort of cultural principles that shapes personal tastes. It is a moral, legal and practical interest to see that every person can make the most of his or her life. In Niger Delta linguistic communities, we appear to be different; however we are all the same. We want to make the most of our own lives and we're determined to give our children a better one. When we allow people to pit us against one another or spend energy-denying opportunities based on our differences, everyone is held back.

Our major impediment, is the most primordial human failings, the fear of the other, and the sense that we can only breathe, function and matter if we are somehow free of the necessity to associate with and deal with, and maybe even under certain circumstances subordinate our own opinions to the feelings of those people whose culture, religion ethnicity and believes are different from ours. We tend to neglect the fact that our rich texture of culture, religion and political diversity are gifts from God for a purpose.

High Technology Information Age

We are fortunate to live in this high technology information age; the era of liberally flowing communication knowledge. We are witnessing the world forming a global village creating economic powers, free trades and technological advancements. Some of the world nations that were considered poor in less than a decade ago, are now becoming economic Super Powers; countries like Brazil, India and China and many others. These countries are not all selling crude

oil. One might think that they are culturally homogeneous hence their success, well that is not true.

What is true is that we are in an era of human resources consolidation, bringing to bear the powers in multiplicity to accomplish the most needed economic capabilities. Some of them capitalized in information technology customer services and manufacturing, some in hardware and software production. These goods and services are sold to us. The only thing some of them buy from Nigeria is crude oil, but we Nigerians on the other hand, buy everything that they produce even if we have to wait for them to manufacture it so that we can buy.

Exclusive Consumers

How long will we remain as consumers exclusively? When the name “Nigeria” is mentioned in both industrial and non industrial world, they think about Nigerians ability to buy junks and adult toys of any kind, for example: Cars, Generators, Household Appliances, private Planes, Cell Phones, Liquor, Cloths and anything made elsewhere. Nigeria is known for selling one thing and one thing only in the economic world, that one thing is crude oil and we have no time to think of its excursion, of course we are quite oblivious to that. In some countries, their banks offer prayers daily for some wealthy Nigeria to visit them and make huge cash deposits. Be aware that these are deposits that are sometimes so large that they may never be withdrawn even before the end of time, other than occasional withdrawers of some fraction of the interest earned on the original deposit.

Niger Delta “Path to a New Era”

When the name “Niger Delta” is mentioned anywhere in the world, people think of crude oil, poverty, guns and death in the creeks, until probably now for the later. Now there is amnesty and our boys and girls are gathered in a rehabilitation shelters. But when some of them does anything

wrong, they are identified as former Militants, well either current or formal, **Militants are dreadful and are to be feared.** Is that how we would want our youths to be identified? I don't think so. We are told that they are waiting to be trained, rehabilitated and probably given some money, so that they can buy some of those adult toys we spoke of earlier, this must be changed. **It might interest you to know that the world economic boom (the greatest amount of cash flow the world ever known), starting from the year 2000 to 2007, your time and my time, was not as a result of selling crude oil. It was as a result of information technology.**

The time has come when we must come together, work together and think together towards achieving a common goal to accomplishing the long eroded economic survivability of our people.

Ladies and gentlemen, we do agree that knowledge is power, don't we? Of course we do. Well, what happened to our Forefathers' creative knowledge, that knowledge which built Opobo Kingdom, Okirikas, the Benin Empire, the Itsekires, Urobos, the Kalabari Kingdom, the Calaba Kingdom and more? They established great cities, suburbs, Governments and empires; they manufactured and produced goods and services. They created Regional Trade Zone using water ways in what is known today as Niger Delta (South South Geopolitical Zone), these trade roots extended to foreign countries like Portugal, Spain and some other parts of Europe and Africa. Because they were not consumers exclusively, they were successful, lived long and thrived. Therefore I am calling on the sons and daughters of Niger Delta, to work together and build Information Technology Center in Niger Delta. There is no commodity anywhere in the world today that can economically outperform information technology; you may want to know that Crude oil scored about 45% below information technology's economic capabilities.

We do not have to buy or seek technology transfer from anywhere, because no one or country will give it to you. We have the knowledge and wherewithal to create it. We have men and women from Nigeria, particularly Niger Delta Region, living in and outside Nigeria with all the necessary capabilities to build the world's new Silicon Valley in Niger Delta.

Can I Have an Amen to that?

Thank you very much

God Bless Niger Delta and God bless Nigeria

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