

WE THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY VERSUS WE THE PEOPLE: A CONTEST FOR SOVEREIGNTY

“It is high time for me to put an end to your sitting in this place, which you have dishonored by your contempt of all virtue, and defiled by your practice of every vice; ye are a factious crew, and enemies to all good government; ye are a pack of mercenary wretches, and would like Esau sell your country for a mess of pottage, and like Judas betray your God for a few pieces of money. Is there a single virtue now remaining amongst you? Is there one vice you do not possess? Ye have no more religion than my horse; gold is your God; which of you have not barter’d your conscience for bribes? Is there a man amongst you that has the least care for the good of the Commonwealth? Ye sordid prostitutes have you not defil’d this sacred place, and turn’d the Lord’s temple into a den of thieves, by your immoral principles and wicked practices? Ye are grown intolerably odious to the whole nation; you were deputed here by the people to get grievances redress’d, but you have yourselves become their worst grievance! So, take away that shining bauble there, and lock up the doors. In the name of God, go!” (Oliver Cromwell proclaiming the Dissolution of the Long Parliament at the House of Commons, 20th April, 1653.)

With these very words, Oliver Cromwell, as the de facto caretaker of the sovereignty of England upon the overthrow of King Charles I, dissolved and disbanded the Parliament of England at the peak of their debauchery in 1653. The Legislative house of Nigeria has outdone the Long Parliament in every conceivable sphere and as if standing astride the vanquished Nigerian people, now declares itself the **custodians** of our collective sovereignty.

It will be recalled that in our Bulletin No.1 titled **“ÁN ALTERNATIVE TO CHAOS”** (published in Vanguard of 21/9/13, Guardian of 24/9/13), MNN beamed its searchlight on the factual origins of Nigeria’s legion of woes dating back to the period 1900-1914, traced the subsequent mutations of its congenital deformities all the way to Independence in 1960 and the reinforcements that took place from 1966 to 1999 via military decrees.

A few days afterwards, President Goodluck Jonathan at Nigeria’s 53rd anniversary broadcast, obviously realizing that the unresolved issues of Nigeria clearly transcend the legislative mandate of the National Assembly, announced a decision to convene a Conference of the Nigerian people and set up an Advisory Committee to work out its framework and modalities.

Amidst the cacophonous debates that trailed this presidential initiative, bordering on the status of the proposed Conference as between a Sovereign Conference with full constituent powers and a mere talk-shop to make suggestions for the consideration of the National Assembly, came MNN Bulletin No.2, titled **“NIGERIA AT CROSSROADS: OPTIONS FOR RECONSTRUCTION”** (published in Vanguard 14/10/13 and Guardian 17/10/13). This bulletin identified several constitutional grievances flowing from specific provisions of the current 1999 Constitution which was preambled with the naked falsehood that **‘We the people....’** made it and concluded with a loud demand for a Sovereign National Conference. MNN thus established the essential anatomy of the issues for the discourse and therefore, its indubitable sovereign status.

Our conviction on this point is reinforced by the first public direct reference by President Jonathan to the issue on the 18th of May, 2012 in Udi at the burial of Governor Chime’s mother when, in answer to a charge by a reporter that Nigeria was collapsing under his watch, he

pointedly referred to the events of 1914 and 1960 as being at the root of Nigeria's present myriad of problems which can only be addressed by a full interrogation of those periods.

By initiating this all-important dialogue, President Jonathan has, on behalf of the entrapped ethnic nationalities, taken a huge plunge to lead the search for the lost sovereignty of the peoples and has, therefore, incensed a vicious pack of omnipotent, super-representatives in the National Assembly who now boast to be the new custodians of the lost sovereignty of 'Nigerians'. As they growl and snarl, it will be a great act of betrayal if the peoples of Nigeria do not quickly rally behind Mr. President to retrieve our long lost sovereignty from the new illicit 'custodians' of it before they get bold enough to declare it hereditary as happened in George Orwell's Animal Farm.

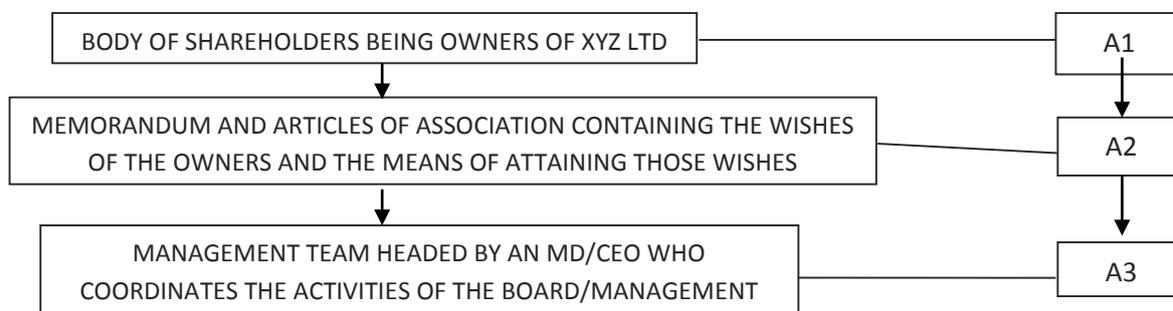
Sifting through the debates on the question of sovereignty of the Conference, MNN beholds an admixture of ignorance, dishonesty, entrenched interests and plain mischief. For the avoidance of doubt and the enlightenment of those who may genuinely not know, the entire agitation for a Sovereign National Conference (SNC) boils down to an insistence by the peoples of Nigeria, (locked into an unworkable Union by Lugard's Amalgamation), to freely renegotiate the imposed union with an outcome which will form the basis of a new Supreme Charter of Relationship a. k. a. Constitution that is not dictated by the imposed manipulations of the past. In this context, therefore, the bottom-line of the debate on the status of the proposed Conference is simply a contest between the peoples of Nigeria and legislators in the National Assembly for the authentic repository of our collective sovereignty. From the outings of the Advisory Committee so far, there is a near unanimity of the stakeholders to take the outcome to a referendum and this should conclusively settle the question of our sovereignty and the custody of it.

However, since the outcome of this strange contest will ultimately determine who draws up the terms of the Nigerian union, MNN deems it necessary to further clarify the issues with a view to affording all stakeholders, including the government and the citizenry, the benefit of informed decisions on this all-important point that separate the slave from the citizen.

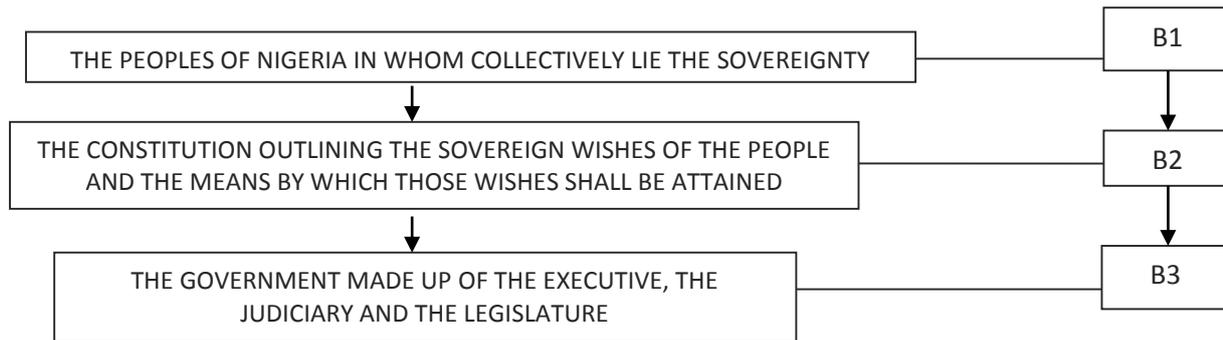
CONSTITUTION-MAKING POWERS BETWEEN THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY AND A SOVEREIGN NATIONAL CONFERENCE

The power required for constitution making is called **constituent powers** and it resides exclusively in the hands of the **sovereign peoples of Nigeria who could have been countries of their own but for the Nigerian Union**. It is exactly like the power of shareholding owners of a limited liability company to draw-up their Memorandum and Articles of Association. An **elected government** is exactly in the position of the **hired management** team of a company and therefore, do not have the powers to make or alter the contents of the country's constitution just like a management team cannot tamper with Memo and Articles of a company.

A. AUTHORITY LINE IN A LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY



B. AUTHORITY LINE IN A DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC



AT NO POINT CAN [A3] OR [B3] DICTATE TO [A1] OR [B1] WHAT THE CONTENTS OF [A2] OR [B2] SHOULD BE. IF [A3] OR [B3] FRAUDULENTLY CHANGES [A2] OR [B2], THEN [A1] OR [B1] MUST FIND A WAY TO RE-ENACT [A2] OR [B2] AND IF PREVENTED, [A1] OR [B1] CAN DISSOLVE THE ENTERPRISE EMBODIED IN [A2] OR [B2].

What happened in 1966 was that the then Management (Government) of the enterprise (Nigeria) toppled the Memo and Articles (Constitution) and forcefully substituted the original charter with one that empower them but enslave the original owners. These illicit changes were carried out by a series of decrees in the years of military rule.

Even by the admission of the authors of the so-called 1999 Constitution in S.14(2)(a), **“Sovereignty belongs to the people of Nigeria from whom government, through this Constitution, derives all its powers and authority”**. Therefore, the falsehood in the preamble to the said 1999 Constitution that **“We the people of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, having firmly and solemnly resolved to live in unity and harmony as one indivisible and indissoluble sovereign nation...do hereby make and give ourselves the following Constitution”** is a fraudulent attempt to put the seal of the peoples’ authority on a document wholly concocted and imposed via Decree No. 24 of 1999. Nigeria today rests on this foundation of fraud. All of the woes bedeviling Nigeria, including *corruption, failed infrastructure, mass poverty, gross insecurity and acute political instability*, flow from this fraud. **We either return to the truth or we forget the NIGERIAN UNION.**

Globally, the limited powers of amendment delegated to the Legislature is subjected to Referendum as a sure mechanism for giving the owners of the enterprise, the people, a final say on the Charter of their relationship, the Constitution. Those who insist on holding power in Nigeria on the basis of the 1999 Constitution are in practical terms, hijacking the sovereignty of the peoples of Nigeria and by implication, the stakeholders’ constituent powers to make their own Constitution

By proclaiming themselves the new custodians of our collective sovereignty, our legislators in Abuja are actually staging a coup d’état, not just against the Constitution but also against the peoples who truly own Nigeria’s geopolitical space. In this brazenly criminal and most provocative claim, the National Assembly is repudiating the very basis of the present Constitutional order aptly encapsulated in S.14(2)(a) of the 1999 Constitution that **‘Sovereignty belongs to the people from whom Government, through this Constitution derives all its Powers and Authority’**, more or less declaring the peoples of Nigeria slaves in whom neither sovereignty nor the appurtenant sovereign rights may reside.

This, in MNN’s reading, translates to a re-enactment of the Lugardian assumptions of 1914 and a bare-faced reinforcement of the Sardauna Ahmadu Bello’s Mission Statement/Battle Script of October 1960 to his lieutenants while celebrating the British bequest of Southern Nigeria to the

North, packaged as “Independence”. In Ahmadu Bello’s words, **“The new nation called Nigeria should be the estate of our great-grandfather, Uthman Dan Fodio. We must ruthlessly prevent a change of power. We use the minorities of the North as willing tools and the South as a conquered territory and never allow them rule over us and never allow them control over their future”**. *Parrot Newspaper, 12th October, 1960.*

Fellow countrymen and women, the President has done his part in tabling this matter for resolution but, if we the people, fail to quickly rally forth to reclaim our stolen sovereignty from the impostors, we will be guilty of acquiescence like our fathers in the 1960s when our enslaved children will have to undertake the inevitable task of self-redemption at much more cost in blood.

MNN makes bold to assert that the sustained legitimate challenge on the current totally untenable constitutional order, no doubt, informed Mr. President’s dialogue initiative and obviously, in deference to the Sovereignty of the people.

In response to this presidential initiative, the political scions of Ahmadu Bello, being the inheritors of the Uthman Dan Fodio Estate called Nigeria, immediately rallied their hirelings, stooges and collaborators from Southern Nigeria into the never-ending task of keeping Nigeria one, so that in the name of the ‘National Assembly’, they can frustrate the attempt at change and so retain their estate.

While no blame can properly lie on the head of the inheritors who are struggling to save their endangered estate (Unitary Nigeria), it must be made clear to national legislators from the South that, without their connivance, the inheritors cannot sustain the ownership and control of the Estate (Nigeria). Be it, therefore, known to you the Southern Legislators, that the jumbo pay-package you each earn directly represents your reward for helping to maintain a façade of National Assembly that you know to be essentially a “Northern Assembly”, going by their contrived numbers.

In accepting a pay package in excess of N500 million per diem, inclusive of allowances and the larcenous “Constituency Projects”, you are directly responsible for the pervading robberies, kidnappings and prostitution being the handy vocations of the army of unemployed youth created by your greed whilst you exploit them periodically to renew your stay in Abuja during elections.

As your children attend the best of foreign universities cruising in private jets and the children of your electors wallow in utter hopelessness, be reminded that the day is near when each of you will take individual responsibility for your roles in the criminality of hijacking sovereignty of the peoples and insisting that **‘we the people’** now mean **‘we the National Assembly’**.

As for the Middle-Belt Legislators, the choice is clear: to remain the **WILLING Tools** that the Sardauna of Sokoto had designated you or to join your people in completing the unfinished task of the likes of Joseph Tarka for freedom. This is a leave-it or take-it matter.

MNN challenges the men of God in the land to publicly take a position on this vexed issue of falsehood competing with truth. Silence on this issue clearly means open support for the evil status quo for rewards, no doubt. We also challenge the lawyers in the land to declare their stance, just as we ask the vociferous civil society cum human rights activists to know that **slaves have no rights**.

For the youth, whose future has been mortgaged by a rogue elders’ generation, we challenge you to redirect some of your energy away from Man U, Chelsea, Arsenal and Barca to the urgent task of recovering your sovereignty being hijacked before your very eyes and to prove to Sule Lamido and his confederates that the people can organize for freedom even amidst excruciating poverty. (See the boast of Sule Lamido in the Punch Newspaper of August 18, 2013)

MNN will, by means of further bulletins, guide debates on issues and procedures for the proposed National Conference.

SIGNED:

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3. MIDDLE BELT CONGRESS:

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