



Leadership and Leadership Selection/Election ‘Drafting’ in Nigeria: A Study of Some Former Heads of State, Since 1966

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Abstract

This study aims to investigate the leadership and leadership selection/election ‘drafting’ system in Nigeria from 1966 to the present. It will analyse the leadership dynamics of the former heads of state and examine the various selection/election processes that have been employed over the past 54 years in order to identify and understand the core features of the Nigerian leadership system. The study will make use of both primary and secondary sources to examine the selection/election processes, the role of the military, the impact of external forces such as international organisations and regional powers, and the internal dynamics of key stakeholders such as political parties, religious groups and the electorate. Furthermore, the study will explore the implications of the leadership selection/election system in Nigeria and discuss the impact on key issues such as political stability, economic prosperity and security. The research aims to provide a comprehensive analysis of the Nigerian leadership system and contribute to the broader understanding of leadership across the African continent."

Keywords: Leadership, Selection, Election, Nigeria

INTRODUCTION

The aim of every leadership is to promote the welfare, security and moral wellbeing of the residents of that society. Similarly, leadership involves such responsibilities including appointment of suitable advisers in problem-solving and assignment of rewards on the bases of their contributions and merits.¹ Since 1966, when a few members of the Nigerian army staged a coup that failed, but succeeded in changing the political history of Nigeria, the perennial abuse and/or violation of transparent election/selection exercise of leaders’ has become a major point of discourse in the country. It should be noted that despite the country’s constitutional provision (act and decree) of electing/selecting a leader the abuse still continued to prevail unchecked. This is perhaps because due process of selecting either military or civilian leader was/is compromised by the political class, to achieve political interest at the detriment of citizens. Noteworthy is the fact that concerted efforts were made to address the issue of leadership in the country.

All these efforts were made by some successive administrations, non-governmental organizations, and civil society organizations. Also, scholars have also been preoccupied in search of leadership that has vision and mission at various conferences, seminars and workshops that could meet the yearnings and aspirations of the citizens. Yet the trend or violation continued unabated.

The purpose of this paper therefore, is to critically examine how some leadership selection/election was/is conducted in Nigeria since 1966 military coup. To achieve this, the paper begins with the introduction, giving background to this write-up. This is followed by section two which explains the concept of leadership. Section three discusses some of the former Nigerian leaders’ that were selected/elected ‘drafted’ without sincere due process in both the military regime and civilian administration. Section four discusses the implications of drafting leaders’ on the Nigerian economy since 1966.

Explaining the Concept of Leadership

There are divergent views among scholars on the meaning of leadership, but one point that needs to be stressed is that leadership is a concept that has endeared itself to many of disciplines or professions. In this light, disciplines try to explain it the way perhaps suit their convenience, circumstances and area of specialization. It is extremely difficult to come-up with a single and unanimous definition. In this context, Tukur defined leadership as:

Function of personality and social system in dynamic interaction. In this discipline the exertion of influence by an individual or a few individuals upon a large mass so as to move a whole collectively, possessing common or compatible goals, in a shared direction, seem to be the component part of the conception.²

At the same time other scholars see leader as someone who may emerge in certain types of crisis situations, if he demonstrates control of the situation. Leadership according to Onoge, is control in certain types of situations, actual or potential, and followership is relative helplessness in those same situations.³ In this regard, the amount of skilful experience and understanding that a person has in a situation determines the role that he may play- leader or follower. However, Usman, in a book gives what could be a clear working definition of leadership contends that “leadership means showing the way. It involves common value, common aspiration, and common goals.”⁴ It should be noted that because of its broadness and relevance, leadership can hardly be restricted to the monopoly of politicians. Rather, leadership also predominates in business organizations, tertiary institutions of higher learning, judiciary, military, paramilitary, mosques and churches.

However, there are some scholars who argue that there could be no best style of leadership. For instance, Fiedler is one of the pioneer scholars who argue that the effectiveness of a leader style-task oriented or people oriented- depends on the situation at hand. This idea is derived from the “contingency theory of leadership”⁵ which holds that leadership success depends upon a number of variables, including the leadership style, qualities of the followers and aspect of the situation. Fielder concludes that lacking these three in the right combination and context will result in leadership failure.

Discussions on Former Drafted Nigerian Heads’ of State

Some former Nigerian heads’ of state that were selected/elected ‘drafted’ without sincere and transparent due process by some political class to achieve political interest are briefly discussed below.

Major-General Johnson Thomas Umunnakwe Aguiyi-Ironsi

Major-General Johnson Thomas Umunnakwe Aguiyi-Ironsi, General Officer Commanding the Nigerian Army, was born in Umuahia in March, 1924 in what is now Abia state. Educated in Umuahia and Kano state, he first worked as civilian stores man in the Nigerian Ordinance Depot, Apapa, Lagos, before enlisting in the Nigerian Regiment of the West African Frontier Force as a private in 1942. He was posted to various countries for training and served as an attaché in Nigerian High Commission in London from 1961 to 1962. General Aguiyi- Ironsi took over power from the rank of majors, the rebels/mutineers that failed to wrest power from the civilian, on 16th January, 1966.⁶ The detail biography of drafted Nigerian leaders’ is certainly beyond the scope of this paper. However, this paper argues that some of the leaders’ were drafted by some political class to achieve political interests. The fact of the matter is that, General Aguiyi- Ironsi was drafted as Nigerian head of state by some political class and rebels/mutineers to achieve political interest. This was because all efforts to suppress the rebellion, which he out rightly said was getting out of hand, resulted to his ascendancy as Nigerian head of state. Shagari asserts that:

He (Ironsi) admitted to us that he had been unable to suppress the rebellion, which he said was getting out of hand. He also stated that the mutineers were in control of Kaduna, Kano and Ibadan, and had killed two regional premiers, Sir Ahmadu Bello and Chief Akintola. They had also murdered a number of his best officers...⁷

In the same vein, he was reminded on how to avail himself during the rebellion. He (Ironsi) refused to redeem the pledge and could not handle the rebels/mutineers. Shagari further said:

We reminded Major General Ironsi if he needed to avail himself of the British pledge of military assistance, he replied it was too late as the army was pressing on him to assume power. Indeed, he confessed his personal reluctance to take over because of his ignorance of government; but insisted the boys were adamant and anxiously waiting outside. He (Ironsi) advised it would be in our own interest, and that of the country, to temporarily cede power to him to avert disaster. Accordingly, we acceded to his request since we had no better alternative. Ironsi then insisted that the understanding be written.⁸

Another important thing worth noting in respect to Ironsi’s ascendancy is that there was no stationery to write the agreement; and all the offices were locked while no office was around. Thereafter, Alhaji A.G.F Abdulrazaq, the then minister of state for Railways (former NPC legal adviser) managed to secure a scrap paper on which he drafted a statement that was endorsed. According to Shagari, that was the so-called voluntary formal hand-over of power by the Balewa Government to Major-General Ironsi. It was agreed that the statement would be typed and Bukar Dapcharima

would sign it on their behalf. Later at 11:50pm, Dr Orizu made a terse nationwide broadcast, announcing the cabinet's voluntary decision to transfer power to the armed forces.⁹ In fact, mutineers' willingness to surrender power to Ironsi on conditions namely: safe conduct for himself, his officers and all the men who carried out the coup; a guarantee of freedom from legal proceedings, now or at any time in the future, for officers and men who took part; an assurance that the people we fought to remove will not be returned to office coupled with his own broadcast, accepting the invitation had shown the extent to which Ironsi was drafted as Nigerian head of state at the expense of sincere due process of selecting/electing leadership in the country.

Lieutenant Colonel Yakubu Gowon

Lieutenant Colonel Yakubu Gowon was born in Kabwir village of Pankshin, in what is now Plateau state, in 1934. His parents moved to Wusasa, Zaria, in 1963 where his father worked as an evangelist until his death. Gowon was educated at the Government (now Barewa) College, Zaria. He began his military Regular Officers Special Training School at Tashie, Gold Coast (now Ghana) in May, 1954 from where he went to Sandhurst in the United Kingdom, later he returned to Nigeria in 1957 and was posted to Queen's own Nigeria Regiment, Ibadan. He saw military action in the Cameroun and Belgium Congo (former Zaire and now Democratic Republic of Congo). He was promoted to a Lieutenant Colonel in 1963 and appointed the first Nigerian adjutant-general of the Nigerian army. Colonel Gowon took the mantle of leadership of the country as a result of counter-coup planned by a number of northern officers and NCOs, coupled with mutiny amongst the Nigerian army on 1st August, 1966.¹⁰ As a matter of fact, Colonel Gowon was drafted as Nigerian head of state following a number of intercessions, notably by a group of federal permanent secretaries/political elites' and junior officers' (northern soldiers). Among these public figures were Alhaji Musa Daggash, Abdul'aziz Attah, Mr. H. Ejueyitchie, and Mr. B.N. Okagbue among others. In fact, when Gowon arrived at Ikeja was to maintain order and help restore normalcy, but found himself being called on to lead a post-coup rebellion against the Supreme Headquarters. Gowon had no interest of being the head of the country and pointed out to junior officers' the necessity of accepting Ogundipe's leadership - a suggestion they rejected. Some junior officers who insisted that Gowon should take over leadership of the country included Murtala Mohammed, Martin Adamu and others. It should also be noted that the Head of the Federal Military Government and Supreme Commander, Brigadier Ogundipe supposed to have been Nigerian head of state being him the most senior and Supreme Commander of Nigerian Army (SCNA), but was denied leadership of the country for political interest. He (Ogundipe) tried to call a special session of senior army officers' in Lagos. But Ogundipe observed "Even a sergeant would not take orders from Major Mobolaji Johnson or himself."¹¹ That was why Lieutenant Colonel Ojukwu promptly rebuffed Gowon's leadership after his taking over speech. Ojukwu observed:

The leadership belonged to Brigadier Ogundipe being the most senior officer after Ironsi. He also opined that the July killings had once again cast serious doubts as to whether the people of Nigeria can ever sincerely live together...¹²

It was after intensive mediation, Ogundipe accepted to relinquish and eventually made his way to Britain, where he was made Nigeria's High Commissioner. Afterwards, former federal cabinet commissioner for communication in Gowon's administration, Brigadier Murtala Mohammed expressed his consternation about his memo sent to federal cabinet meeting, which Gowon vetoed, Murtala angrily commented "we put him there and we can remove him anytime."¹³ This had substantiated the extent to which Nigerian heads of state were drafted in the country. In July 29, 1975, Gowon was overthrown by a bloodless coup masterminded by Gowon's loyalists whom insisted Gowon must accept the mantle of leadership of the country.

Alhaji Shehu Usman Aliyu Shagari

Alhaji Shehu Usman Aliyu Shagari was born in Shagari in what is now Shagari Local Government Area of Sokoto state in February 25, 1925. His parent sent him to Malam Chiso's Qura'nic school at a tender age in Shagari village. Shagari was educated at Yabo Elementary School. Afterwards, he proceeded to the Sokoto Middle School (now Nagarta College Sokoto) in 1935. Again, he moved to Kaduna College in 1941 (now Barewa College), Zaria. Shagari was posted to Argungu as the Headmaster of the new Senior Primary School (SPS) in March 1951. He was elected two-times parliamentary member representing Sokoto south-west in 1954 and Sokoto west constituencies in 1959. Later, he was also appointed as Parliamentary Secretary (PS) to Prime Minister Abubakar Tafawa Balewa in August 1958. Shagari held various positions both at federal, state and local government. Some of these positions were; commissioner for Establishment and Training of the defunct North-Western state in 1968, commissioner of Education in 1969, federal commissioner of Economic Development, Rehabilitation and Reconstruction in 1971, federal commissioner of Finance in October 1971, Board's chairman Sokoto Urban Development Authority (SUDA) in 1976 among others. Shagari took the mantle of leadership of this country in October 1, 1979. As a matter of fact, Shagari aspired for senatorial seat or wanted to serve in the senate right from the inception. But it should be noted that within a couple of months Shagari was drafted by some notable political class in the country.¹⁴

Another important thing worth mentioning in respect to Shagari's contest and/or draft was that Alhaji Muhammadu Maccido (late Sultan of Sokoto) and Alhaji Muhammadu Aminu (late Tafida of Sokoto) both were then sultan's councilors and Shagari's close associates who revealed to Shagari:

The Sultan had been approached by some notables to help persuade me (Shagari) to join the contest. But he (Sultan Abubakar III) assured them he would not force my hand. Which was why he wisely declined to speak to me directly, preferring to be briefed about our discussion first? 15

In addition Alhaji Aliyu Makaman Bida, then interim chairman of the National Movement (NM) was among the notables and/or political class that persuaded and drafted Shagari to Nigerian presidency. This was because Shagari had explained in depth the reasons behind his decision, and reiterated his desire to live a fairly quiet life. In fact, he was not interested in the Nigerian presidency from the onset. It should also be noted that on several occasions Shagari was asked to reconsider his decision not to join the contest. In the end because of the persistence pressure on the side of the notables coupled with Shagari's reminded of Abdullahi Danfodio's dictum regarding the obligation of anyone whom the community calls upon to lead. This made Shagari to have a second thought and join the contest that led to his emergence as democratically elected president of Nigeria.

Major- General Muhammadu Buhari

Major-General Muhammadu Buhari was born at Daura in Kastina Province of Kaduna state (now Katsina state) in December 17, 1942. At the age of six, Buhari was enrolled at the Central Primary School, Daura. At the end of his primary school education, Buhari proceeded to Kastina Provincial Secondary School (now Government College, Katsina). In 1953, Buhari again proceeded to Kastina Middle School. He started his military career at the then Nigerian Military Training College, Kaduna in 1962. Later went to the Yong Officers Course No: 5 at the Nigerian Military College, Kaduna from May 1963 to July 1963. After his preliminary Cadet Training (PCT), he proceeded to the Mons Officers Cadet School, Alder shot, in the United Kingdom from October 1962 to January 1963. In 1963, he was commissioned in the rank of Second Lieutenant and posted to 2nd Infantry Battalion in Abeokuta as platoon commander. It should be noted that from November 1963 to January 1964, Buhari attended the Platoon Commander's Course at the then Nigeria Military Training, Kaduna, and Mechanical Transport Officer's Course at the Army Mechanical Transport School in Boston, United Kingdom.

Buhari also attended the Defence Services Staff College, Wellington in India from January to November 1973 and Army War College U.S.A from July 1979 to July 1980. He has held various command and staff appointments since 1963. In August 1, 1979, he was appointed the Military Governor of the then North-Eastern State (later Borno State) and in March 1979, he was appointed the Federal Commissioner for Petroleum and Energy, a position he held till June 1978. General Buhari became the Head of State and Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces following the military take-over in January 1, 1983.¹⁶ Going by the trend of the past, Buhari was also another Nigerian leader that was drafted by the coup plotters/political class. This is because prior to the execution of the coup that ousted President Shehu Shagari, the plotters had already agreed to draft General Buhari as head of state being him the most senior in the first instance, while others among the plotters insisted Babangida must be drafted as head of state after the coup, which he (Babangida) resisted out rightly. It should also be noted here that when the coup plotters consulted Obasanjo about the coup and their intent of drafting him as head of state. He (Obasanjo) swiftly rejected the offer in totality, but at the same time was not inhibiting the plotters' to proceed with the plot. Babangida asserts that:

Before we went into the whole thing we agreed that General Buhari would become Head of State. They (coup plotters) wanted me to and I (Babangida) said no. Buhari was our senior, so I did not want anybody to jump him.¹⁷

In the same vein, when General Babangida was asked in an interview with one of the Nigerian magazines on whether the plotters attempted to bring back General Obasanjo as head of state after they ousted President Shehu Shagari, Babangida affirms that:

It is true. But to be very fair to General Obasanjo, he rejected the offer. He (Obasanjo) said no. He said it would destroy his integrity, that he handed over to Shagari and that it is not right for him to get involved. But he (Obasanjo) said he was not stopping us going ahead with the plot.¹⁸

This had shown the extent to which Babangida and scores of coup plotters of the Nigerian army drafted General Buhari as head of state. In a couple of months later, same people who drafted Buhari being him the most senior among the officers' ousted him as head of state in August 27, 1985. The regime was also accused of being rigid, uncompromising and derailing from terms of reference of what the military intended to correct. But the fact of the matter is that General Buhari was ousted by the then chief of Army Staff, Babangida and twenty-three coup plotters because of political interest. It was the coup that led to the emergence of General Babangida as Nigerian head of state.

General Abdulsalam Abubakar

General Abdulsalam Abubakar, was born in Minna, Niger state in June 13, 1942. He attended Minna Native Authority Primary School from 1950 to 1956 before proceeding to famous Government College Bida for his secondary school education from 1957 to 1962. Abdulsalam later attended Kaduna Technical College from January to October 1963. He enlisted into the Nigerian Air Force in October 3, 1963 as an Officer Cadet. In June 1964, he was also sent to Germany for flying training, which he continued up to July, 1966. When he returned to Nigeria, he seconded to the Nigeria Army and trained at the Nigerian Defence Academy, Kaduna in Officer Cadet emergency combatant short service course 2. It should be noted that on the successful completion of cadet training, he was commissioned Second Lieutenant in October 20, 1967 and posted to the infantry. General Abdulsalam held quite a number of appointments. Some of these appointments include General Staff Officer 2 Division Garrison from 1967 to 1968, Commanding Officer, 92 Infantry Battalion from 1969 to 1974, Brigade Major, 7 Infantry Brigade from 1974 to 1975, Commanding Officer, 84 Infantry Battalion, 1975 and Assistant Adjutant General, 3 Infantry Division, 1979, Commanding Officer, 145 Infantry Nigerian Battalion 2, (NIBATT II) United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon from 1978 to 1979, Chief Instructor, Nigerian Defence Academy from 1980 to 1982 and Colonel Administrator and Quartering, 1 Mechanized Division from 1982 to 1984.¹⁹

As a matter of fact, General Abdulsalam was also drafted as Nigerian Head of State by the political class and/or provisional ruling council (PRC) following the death of General Sani Abacha on 8th June 1998. This is because after death of General Abacha, there was apprehension among the then service chiefs namely General Abdulsalam (Chief of Defence Staff), General Bamaiyi (Chief of Army Staff), IG Ibrahim Commassie (Inspector General of Police) and Alhaji Gidado Idris (former Secretary to the Government of the Federation) on how to pronounce the death of Head of State without announcing at the same time his successor. Idris observed that: "to announce the death of the Head of State without announcing at the same time his successor could be dangerous because this kind of vacuum could be dangerous."²⁰In a similar vein, he suggested that:

Since we were in a situation where there was no number One (Abacha) and there was no number Two (Diya, then in detention), I said Abdulsalam, you are number Three. I (Idris) said why we don't make the announcement on the passing away of the Head of State while at the same time saying you are for the meantime, the Acting Head of State.²¹

It should be noted that General Abdulsalam was not the most senior in hierarchy after the death of General Sani Abacha, which was why General Abdulsalam swiftly rejected the offer of being him drafted. But thereafter advised the Secretary to the Government of the Federation (Alhaji Gidado Idris) to organize a meeting at 12:00 o'clock and let the Provisional Ruling Council (PRC) handle the issue better.²² Since there was no both the number one and two, the most senior military officer in hierarchy perhaps to have succeeded General Abacha then was Lieutenant General Useni. Despite the fact that, he was then Federal Capital Territory (FCT) minister does not deter him of being the Head of State. This made Lieutenant-General Useni at a meeting to observe that: "If you go by seniority I am the most senior but whatever the Provisional Ruling Council decides I am ready to abide by it."²³ In the end PRC decided to go by so-called hierarchy at the detriment of proper military hierarchy, elevated and drafted General Abdulsalam as Head of State on 9th June, 1998 for political interest.

Chief Olusegun Aremu Mathew Obasanjo

Chief Olusegun Aremu Mathew Obasanjo was born in Abeokuta, Ogun State in May 5, 1937. He attended Baptist Boys High School Abeokuta (BBHA) and enlisted into the Nigerian Army in 1958. On enlisting in the army, Obasanjo was posted to the Fifth Battalion Kaduna, where he served until he went to Cameroon's for further services in 1959, and the same year he was commissioned as Second Lieutenant. For his military training, Obasanjo attended foremost institutions such as Moons Officers Cadet School Alder shot, England, Indian Defence Staff College, Indian Army School of Engineering and Royal College of Defence Studies in London. He was promoted to full Lieutenant in 1960 and sent to Congo as part of the United Nations Peace Keeping Force. In 1963, Obasanjo became Commander of the Engineering unit of the Nigerian Army, also earned his promotion to rank of Captain. In 1967, he attained the rank of Lieutenant Colonel.

He was put in-charge of the second area command of the Nigerian army as commander. Between 1967 and 1969 he was the commander of the Ibadan based Garrison, later moved to 3rd Marine Commando Division as GOC. Again between January and July 1975, Obasanjo served in the administration of General Yakubu Gowon as the federal commissioner for works and housing. It should be noted that after Gowon was ousted in a bloodless coup and General Mohammed took over as head of state, Obasanjo was appointed chief of Staff Supreme Headquarters. Afterwards, Obasanjo became head of state following the assassination of General Mohammed in an attempted coup by Suka Dimka on 13th February 1976. After couple of years later, Obasanjo handed over to a democratically elected president Shagari in October 1979.²⁴

General Obasanjo was also drafted as head of state the second time; this is because he was indicted and accused of a plan to overthrow the government of late General Abacha in 1995. He was arrested, detained and finally convicted by the regime of General Abacha. But when General Abdulsalami took over the reign of government following Abacha's sudden death in June 8, 1998, Obasanjo was promptly released from prison and drafted as Nigerian head of state. Accordingly El- Rufa'i asserted that:

The only reason he (Obasanjo) became president the second time, when chief Abiola died, was because someone from the south-west was needed to assuage the grievance arising from the annulment of the June 12, election which the deceased Abiola had won, and people like Generals Ibrahim Babangida and Aliyu Gusau came to him, drafted him, organized everything and handed it to him for what people alleged was in pursuit of their interest and long term survival.²⁵

In order to substantiate the extent to which Obasanjo was drafted as head of state by the political class in 1999, some of the arguments put forward by General Babangida on why Obasanjo was the right candidate include the following:

- i. The prevailing situation in the country then, that for a country like Nigeria what we needed was stability and by virtue of his experience as a former Head of State he should know what to do to provide that stability.
- ii. He (Obasanjo) is a very strong believer in the unity of this country and that he displayed as president. He really believes that Nigeria should be one country and he is prepared to fight to make sure that this country remains one.
- iii. I (Babangida) also believe that whoever gets there must be somebody once you here his name people will say we have heard that name before.
- iv. He (Obasanjo) does not get intimidated by the media because the media can intimidate you out of Office. He is not the type to be intimidated.²⁶

These were some of the arguments been forwarded by the political class and drafted Obasanjo as Nigerian head of state. But as a matter of fact, he was drafted to depend and pursuit their interest at the expense of the citizens. In fact, this should not be a yardstick of electing/selecting a leader in an Islamic or western democracy. There is no denying the fact that Obasanjo is statesman, less intimidated, experienced and capable of uniting the country, but the way he was drafted on Nigerians without sincere due process right from the inception of new political dispensation. Adesanmi pointed that: "since 1999 the presidency has never been won, thieving elites have always chosen who to give the presidency to for obvious reasons."²⁷

Implications on the Nigerian Political Economy

The explicit implication of drafting leaders is that the country witnessed quite a number of priority policies and programmes that are either not properly designed or suffered feasible development-synergy, continuity and proper implementation, which have continue to affect the nation's economy since 1966. Some of these policies and programmes embarked upon by the successive civilian-military drafted administrations include unitary development plan, national development plan, austerity measures and economic stabilization programme, counter trade, vision 2010, vision 2020, national economic direction, national economic empowerment and development strategy as a panacea to the perennial economic problems/nation's political economy. But it should be noted that all the policies adopted or implemented have not yield any fruitful result to the nation's economy.²⁸ Similarly, there was absence of leadership that is compatible with the objective of a reliant development in terms of its ideological rigors, having strong will and vision for structural and social transformation, enforcing discipline and rewarding genuine spirit of sacrifice, hard work and initiative.²⁹ The citizens are also exposed to unfair treatment, social injustice, nepotism, impunity and mediocrity at the detriment of merit and competence.³⁰ The phenomenon of corruption that has eaten deep into the nation's fabric and remains unabated was the result of drafted leaders that could not appropriately stem it to zero level. Even the prevailing insecurity bedeviling the nation that has got out of hand was the result of the above mention trend. In fact, there has never been a sector of the nation's economy that is not affected by this drafting syndrome.

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, therefore the paper has strived to prove that former Heads of State that piloted the affairs of the nation were drafted /anointed by a political class driven by personal and political interest rather than national interest, this led to the absence of synergy and continuity of government policies and programmes, bad governance, lack of respect for rule of law, prevailing insecurity and misplacement of priorities among others. Failure to address this trend perhaps continues to threaten the unity and peaceful co-existence of the country. This was why one of the past presidents' of Nigeria who was also a beneficiary of the drafting syndrome single handedly anointed Umaru Musa Yar'Adua of blessed memory to power for failing to scale through his third-term arrangement aimed at perpetuating himself in office beyond 2007.

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