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POLITICS OF ETHNICITY AND TRIBALISM IN NIGERIA: AN IMPEDEMENT TO ACHIEVING NATIONAL OBJECTIVES

DR. AYODELE ONYEATOELU OKOBIA

Department Of Social Science Education, Faculty Of Education,
University of Delta, Agbor, Delta State,
Nigeria

Abstract

It is very clear in Nigeria that the politics and human nature has been characterized by ethnicity and tribalism which hampered the human development. There is high level of sentiments and discrimination in Nigeria political environment, tribal issues against others, religious and riots among others. The objectives of Nigeria are not reflecting its objectives that says a united and self-reliant nation, a free and democratic society and a land full of bright opportunities for all citizens. These issues of, ethnicity and tribalism are seriously seen during elections of public officers, political appointment, resource allocation, award of contracts and sitting of important projects in various States in Nigeria. This paper examine, the concepts of ethnicity, tribalism and politics, the paper explained the causes of politics of ethnicity and tribalism in Nigeria such as Election manipulation, Unbalanced political appointment, Natural resources and unequal State. The effects of ethnicity and tribalism on achieving national objectives like: statism, religious instability, political war among others. The paper also highlights ways to achieve National objectives such as free and fair election in a democratic society, creating a God fearing citizens and free and compulsory education. The paper concluded that ethnic politics has posed a lot of challenges towards achieving National objectives, therefore all policies that unity us together need to be active and functional, Nigeria government needs to introduce true federalism if we must achieved the National objectives.

Keywords: Politics, Ethnicity, Tribalism and National Objectives