

SELF DETERMINATION AND RESOURCE CONTROL UNDER NIGERIA'S FEDERAL SYSTEM

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ABSTRACT

Currently there is no legal basis to justify the demand for regional control of resources in Nigeria. But whether this fact represents the democratic feelings or the federative expectations of all Nigerians is a different question altogether. There are so many provisions in so many laws which repetitively say the same thing about the centralization of the control of resources. This is an indication that an unaffected legislator far withdrawn from the danger and volatile nature of the Nigerian Federation is at work, churning out laws that in every democratic and federative sense, are preposterous and unashamedly exploitative. It is therefore clear that the issues of resource control and fiscal federalism are more jurisprudential than juristic, which calls for a patriotic and equitable re-examination of Nigerian fiscal policy and demands unflinching patriotism in the search for answers. What Nigeria needs is not just development in the sense of house and bridge building, but a noticeable leap in the standard of living in the country. People and not federal accounts must be the object of improvement.