

REPORT OF CONSENSUS EFFORTS AMONG FOUR NORTHERN ASPIRANTS IN THE PEOPLES DEMOCRATIC PARTY (PDP)

It should be recalled that four major presidential aspirants in the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) have met and decided to limit the number of aspirants from Northern Nigeria by forming a consensus among themselves.

The candidates that presented themselves for the consensus are:

1. Gov Aminu Waziri Tambuwal
2. Gov Bala Mohammed
3. Dr Bukola Saraki
4. Mohammed Hayatu-deen

This was indeed a commendable development and huge sacrifice for the love of country and the northern region in particular on the part of the four aspirants.

Consequently all the four aspirants visited the former military president, Gen Ibrahim Babangida and gave him the mandate to lead the process for a consensus and agreed to abide by the outcome of the decision. The former president encouraged the aspirants to have a resolve within themselves and come up with one candidate, which they reported back to him after some days and asked him to go ahead and pick one out of the four.

General Babangida on his part opted for inclusion, through wider consultation and assigned me to design a criteria and carry out the necessary consultations with elders and leaders across the three geopolitical zones of the North. The process was conducted in the following three stages.

PHASE 1

CANDIDATES ASSESSMENT

In the first phase, the opinions of six distinguished persons each from the three geopolitical zones were sought with regards to each of the four aspirants. Each of the Zonal delegates were allocated two votes to choose the first and second choice making a total of 36 votes overall. The outcome of that consultation was as follows:

- 7 votes for candidate (A) Aminu Waziri
- 10 votes for candidate (B) Bala Muhd
- 10 votes for candidate (C) A-B Saraki
- 5 votes for candidate (D) M Hayatu-deen

One of the elders deferred his votes on grounds of continuing consultations with traditional rulers and other major stakeholders.

Two members did not cast their second ballots bringing the total to 32 votes casted out of 36

PHASE 2

ZONAL ASSESSMENT

The next phase involved opinion based on regions which was concluded as follows:

- a. North Central - (Eight)
- b. North East- (Seven)
- c. North West - (Two)

One is still under consultation

PHASE 3

PDP PREVIOUS EXPERIENCES

In the end, resort was made to the historical antecedents of the PDP with regards to previous northern aspirations and the following conclusion was reached:

- a. That the North West has had the opportunity of contesting and even forming government in 2007.
- b. In 2011 a consensus was made among the four northern candidates, Which North East got the slot but lost at the primaries. In 2019, it got the slot again though the party could not form the government.
- c. The North Central has not had a single opportunity to get the PDP ticket since the inception of the current fourth republic

RECOMMENDATION

Below is the recommendation I submitted to Gen Ibrahim Babangida which he endorsed and approved based on the exercise carried out above and the findings made:

a.. It was resolved that a leading aspirant from the North Central and one from the North East are to be presented as northern presidential candidates.

b.. The two would in turn be required to make further concessions so that in the end one of them would be presented as the consensus candidate, out of the four that presented themselves from the North.

FINAL NOTE

While thanking the aspirants and President Ibrahim Babangida for entrusting us with the conduct of this exercise and in the hope that all parties involved would continue with mutual consultations aimed at the overall success of the party, we hereby present the following conclusion as presented to and Endorsed by Gen Babangida .

For the purpose of this exercise, it is hereby resolved that Gov Bala Mohammad from the North East and former Senate President Bukola Saraki from the North Central be presented as the northern Consensus Candidates for the moment.

The successful aspirants are hereby urged to work together to make allowance for further consultations to foster understanding among themselves, and the PDP community to ensure a rancor free primaries in which all eligible candidates would be free to exercise their right.

We sincerely commend the sportsmanship and Statesmanship exhibited throughout the exercise by all those involved and urge continuous cooperation and team work to ensure victory for the party



Prof. Ango Abdullahi CON

Magajin Rafin Zazzau