

JIBRIL AMINU AND HIS TANTRUMS

In SUNDAY VANGUARD of December 13, 1998 Professor JIBRIL AMINU was reported as saying: "...the Yoruba race has been colonised by some of their people via tribal sentiments" He followed it up with some shallow flattery of the Yorubas which he again polluted with "they have been colonised philosophically and sometimes physically by some people who have been exploiting tribal sentiments". What can one make of this bombastic utterances in his reaction to the results of the December 5 Local Government elections!

Contrast this with Dr. Alex Ekweme's reaction in VANGUARD of December 10, 1998: in an interview. Extract: "I told you earlier on that when we conceived of this party (PDP) starting from old days of civil society, through the G-34 movement, through the PDP, we had leaders of the present Alliance for Democracy (AD), that is the PCF part of it, as foundation members. There is no doubt that they do control a reasonable amount of support in that area (South West), and when they pulled out of our formation, it did create some vacuum in our formation. And it will take sometime for things to change".

What a display of spirit of nationalism, statesmanship and maturity! Aminu should realise that AD members pulled out of PDP and APP because of Northern hegemonists like him (Aminu) and the Abacha loyalists who infiltrated the two parties. And he should realise that the Ekweme factor was largely responsible for the success of the PDP in the East and to a certain extent in the North.

Aminu and his "concessionist" group have resorted to the same mischievous tactics used to reduce the nationwide protest against June 12 annulment and struggle for its revalidation to a sectional, Yoruba, struggle. Same as they did with NADECO. The result was the calamities visited on the South West people and Press which they labelled Lagos - Ibadan axis. Now we know that South presidency concessionists in the North joined with the progressives to boost the PDP success because they have found a Southerner of

of Yoruba origin (Olusegun Obasanjo) to present as presidential candidate. Birds of different feathers factor is still present and will surface when the choice between Ekweme and Obasanjo, whom they have dazed with floods of naira, comes up for decision.

The AD is the poorest of the three parties. But it retains the banner and principles of June 12 of which Abiola will remain the symbol for a long time despite Gen. Abubakar's claim, and Western world wish, that it is dead. It was what brought the voters out. One could hear people asking each other whether they had voted. To them AD was Abiola's party. They cannot easily forget how he died, how people were killed, arrested, hounded into exile, framed-up, set-up, deprived, pauperised, privationised, brutalised and operation-swept into Police Station and the grave. Mostly in the South West.

Time is up to see Jubril Aminu for what he is. Arrogant, die hard hegemonist whose village comes first, his state next, Northern interest follows before Nigeria in the process of his political ambition priorities. He is very very rich through favoured contracts.

When he was Vice Chancellor of University of Maiduguri he said the only way in which the North could catch up with the South in education was to stagnate education in the South for some years. This was reflected in his tenure as Minister of Education. But it misfired and signalled general decline in Education in the Country. His Nomadic education and gifted child schemes did not help.

He punished a whole Principal of Queen's College for disciplining a student (his friend's daughter) who broke school rules. His response to the book written by Professor Banjo "ON THE SADDLE" was a package of incoherent tirades and bad language. Evidence of intolerance.

As Minister of Petroleum, he saw lopsidedness in every structure and dismantled them in favour of mediocrity which marked the start

of the decline in that industry from which it has not recovered. And for which Nigerians are suffering seriously. This situation gets worse daily.

His foray into politics is controversial. Very much identifiable in his utterances. For instance in Ochereome Nnanna's column, PEOPLE AND POLITICS, of December 7, 1998, in VANGUARD, a letter from one Julius Oke was reproduced which raised some criticisms in a two part interview with Jubril Aminu in which he (Aminu) emphasised his love for a centralised unitary Nigeria and dissolution of States as against the general clamour for restructuring through a new six regional zones or a return to the 1963 Constitutional provision.

Aminu's attempts in a three points expression of what he perceived as correction of "misunderstanding" only created more confusion as I see it. It was just rigmarole. You need to read it to have a grasp of how his mind and mood operate in relation to national issues.

On the back page of THE GUARDIAN of December 17, 1998, is a reporter's extracts from a lecture delivered by Jubril Aminu in Lagos on Tuesday, 15/12/98, organised by Centre for Investment sustainable Development Management and Environment. Pity I do not have copy of the full text. But the alarmist tone from the very start is very disturbing.

"A mass revolt against the elite is imminent, former Minister of Petroleum Resources, Prof. Jubril Aminu, has warned" That was the opening paragraph. And for his reason, we read in second paragraph: "Aminu said that the only way to stem such a revolt was by correcting the social ills that have pervaded the system and allowing the poor majority to participate effectively in decision making."

Hear! Hear! How is this possible in a centralised unitary government where the nations resources are controlled by one man on top

of a Centre that operates like a secret cult? That is internal colonialism.

He accepts that corruption has become the bane of the Country, and that it has degenerated into looting. More to these is State organised terrorism.

LET PROFESSOR JUBRIL AMINU TELL US ANOTHER. He is part of Nigerian problems.

Omorodion Omoregbe
OMORODION OMOREGBE
20, AKIWOWO STREET
AKOWONJO, AGEGE,
LAGOS STATE.

Dec - 1998

*NOT PUBLISHED. KOLA Animashakin
is a muslim loyalist and anti Ibo
and anti-represents*