

By Aliyu Mustapha

At this time when the political climate is rife with much uncertainty, and Nigerians are increasingly seeking an alternative to the ruling party and searching for credible opposition parties for possible solutions to the leadership problems facing this country, the Congress for Progressive Change (CPC) cannot afford to allow laxity and corruption in its midst.

It would be recalled that unwholesome activities of some leaders of the party among which is recourse to Godfatherism and unbridled money politics recently, led the National Headquarters of the party to cancel Congress elections in Kano, Kebbi and Katsina states. The move was a welcome development for members of the party who are yearning for internal democracy, transparency and honest representation in politics.

Unfortunately, it appears that the ugly trend has reared its head once again in Sokoto state and threatening to engulf the young and promising party in a crisis of confidence and ultimately pushing it to the abyss, with clear consequences for the CPC's chances in 2011 election in that state.

The situation in Sokoto is akin to that of Kano, Katsina and Kebbi and the National Headquarters need to intervene immediately to compel the Protem chairman of the party in Sokoto to uphold democracy, fairness and transparency in its dealings as these are qualities that set the party apart from the PDP.

However, it would seem that the seed of discord and subsequent failure of the CPC is being sown by the interim leadership of the party in the state for three reasons. One, the interim or caretaker leadership of the Sokoto CPC has identified a favourite candidate for the Governorship polls in the state at the expense of other promising and even more qualified aspirants.

Secondly, other members of the interim executive of the state branch are being threatened and intimidated to throw fairness overboard in support of this favoured aspirant and thirdly, this favoured aspirant and the head of the caretaker committee are known to be close allies of the State Governor, Aliyu Magatarkada Wammako and the PDP.

This means that if the leadership of the CPC at the national level does not intervene to review the activities of the CPC in Sokoto state, it would be observed when it is too late that the CPC in the state is a mere shadow and branch of the PDP and its Governor, Aliyu Wammako.

Therefore, concerned members of the CPC in Sokoto state would like the national leadership to investigate the Party's National Chairman, Senator Hanga on these anti- democratic happenings in the party, not only in Sokoto state, but in the other aforementioned troubled states.

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