

**(WEEK FIVE)**

**DATE: 27th April – 1st May, 2020**

**CLASS: SS 2**

**SUBJECT: Government**

**TOPIC: MAJOR POLITICAL CRISES IN NIGERIA**

**MAJOR POLITICAL CRISES IN NIGERIA**

**CENSUS CRISIS OF 1962/63**

1. Shortly after independence, a census exercise was conducted in May 1962.
2. The figure was not officially released as a result of alleged rigging but the published figures shows an increase in the population of the west and eastern regions with a decrease in the population of the northern region.
3. The figures published became controversial and a threat to the corporate existence of the country.
4. The Prime Minister met with the premiers and they agreed the 1962 census figured be nullified and another conducted.
5. Another census was conducted in November 1963.
6. In February 1964,a provisional figure was released. It put the population of Nigeria at 55.7 million.
7. The breakdown of the figure gave the North as 29.8million, East 12.4million, West 10.3 million, Mid-west2.5 million and Lagos 0.7million.
8. The eastern and mid-western rejected the figures but was accepted by the northern and western regions .
9. The figure was accepted by the federal government after minor modifications.
10. This generated a lot of protests against the figures especially in the southern part of the country
11. The eastern region went to the Supreme Court to seek a nullification of the figure, but the court rejected their prayer.

## **ACTION GROUP CRISIS OF 1962**

The action group crisis was a major crisis that brought down the first Republic. It was an intra-party crisis on personality clash between Chief Obafemi Awolowo, the party leader and Chief Ladoke Akintola, the deputy leader of the party.

### **FACTORS THAT LED TO THE CRISIS**

1. The mistrust between Chief Awolowo and Akintola.
2. Ideological differences i.e. while Awolowo wanted a democratic socialism (combined element of public and private enterprise) Akintola and his supporters who had commercial and business interest rejected the ideology.
3. Awolowo did not want the party to participate in the unity government of NPC while Akintola preferred a cooperation with the federal controlled NPC.
4. Awolowo's refusal to relinquish power to his successor premier in the west.
5. The abolition of the office of deputy leader and expulsion of Akintola from the party at the February 1962 Jos convention of the Party.
6. Akintola was removed from office by the governor having received a letter signed by the majority of the party's members of regional house of assembly. Alhaji D.S. Adegbenro was appointed in his place.
7. An attempt to ratify the executive decision in the house was met with opposition from the supporters of Akintola in the house. At the order of the prime minister, the legislative chamber was locked. At another attempt, it turned out more violent. A state of emergency was therefore declared by the federal government and an administrator was appointed (Dr. M.A. Majekodunmi), Akintola was however reinstated at the end of the six month emergency period.
8. At the federal level, Chief Obafemi Awolowo was arrested and charged with treason. He was jailed for ten years. Akintola formed a new party (Nigeria National Democratic Party). The crisis led to the carving out of the mid-western region from the western region-a move Awolowo had often rejected.

### **CONSEQUENCE OF THE CRISIS**

- Declaration of state of emergency
- Chief Obafemi Awolowo was charged with treason
- Its crisis was one of the crises that led to the military takeover
- It led to the formation of two main alliances- the NNA and the UPGA

- It led to the creation of mid-western region
- The crisis led to near anarchy
- It was the beginning of the end of the party

**ASSIGNMENT:**

1. State the factors that led to the Kaduna State Legislative and executive crises.