

Twitter Thread by Great Oracle



Great Oracle

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Remember I tweeted early October that attempts would be made to challenge the legality of the Judicial Panels of Inquiry and smack on it, @policeng and its lawyers are doing that.

Should folks be worried?

Please, don't be worried because established case laws are already against the Police. The argument that only the FGN can set up Judicial Panels of Inquiry into SARS/Police brutality is only true, to the extent that it relates to Abuja & FCT. Nowhere else.

The powers to constitute judicial panels of inquiry, which the governors legally exercised, fall within the residual list of the Constitution- and only the states can exercise powers under the Residual List.

FGN has no powers over matters in the residual list- See AG Fed v AG Lagos (2010).

The question of whether the FGN can set up Judicial Panel of Inquiry within the purview of the Tribunal of Inquiry Act 2004 was long settled by the Supreme Court in Fawehinmi v Babaginda

For me it makes no difference that the Judicial Panels of states are inquiring into SARS or police brutality. The fact is that the inquiries are into the actions of police officers in states and not how @policeng is "organised and administered" under S.214(2)(a) CFRN 1999

The activities of the Judicial Panels of Inquiry are chiefly inquiries into human rights abuses in the states. It is absurd for any lawyer to contend that states judicial panels cannot inquire into violations because the violators are federal agents under S.214(1) CFRN 1999

The absurdity of such view beggars belief and more so makes it absurd to suggest that a police officer who commits murder in a state cannot be tried by the state because he works for a Force that is organized, controlled & administered by FGN

Finally, my view is that the Commission of Inquiry Laws of the 36 states under which the Judicial Panels of Inquiry were set up is constitutional by virtue of S 4(7) CFRN 1999, which empowers States Houses of Assembly to make laws

For the peace, order and good government of the state. If you do a community reading of Sections 4(7) & 15(5) of the Constitution 1999, the governors have powers to promote peace, order, good government & to abolish "the abuse of power" as stated in S 15(5).

In any term, the question of human rights or abuses thereof is neither a subject of the Exclusive Legislative List nor of the Concurrent List, so the States' Judicial Panels can inquire into rights abuses by the police

What the Judicial Panels of Inquiry cannot by law do is to make findings of guilt or impose fines or punishment on erring police officers. See *Egbe v Alhaji*; *FRN v Ananche*; *Fawehinmi v Babaginda*

Good afternoon from the sanctum sanctorum of the shrine.