

# Creation of New Provinces on Ethnic and Linguistic Basis Weakens National Integration

## Outline:

### 1. Introduction

Thesis Statement: Although power devolution and geographic reorganization are beneficial for a densified country, it can be self-defeating when lines are drawn on the basis of ethnic and lingual ties. More provinces require legal safeguards and administrative foresight to achieve more manageable federating units.

2. Formation of new provinces is administratively wise as long as formation does not mean fragmentation across cultural seams.

3. Benefits of more provinces with a view to unity in diversity

- A. Axi the extant rigid sense of provincialism
- B. More and better manageable provincial units
- C. Better grass-roots service delivery
- D. More representation of local identities

4. <sup>Adverse</sup> Consequences of geographic reorganization of power for national integration when divide is based on ethnic and lingual ties:

- A. Province-Province tensions in ties
- B. Center-provinces clashes over distribution of national pool resources.

- C. Messy balkanization of country: every ethnicity demanding province of its own
- D. Legislative chaos in national governance
- E. Weaker center, more troubles - when diversity backfires
- F. Financial and revenue collection constraints for numerous governance units.

## 5. Path-forward to more provinces without weakening national integration.

- A. Formation not fragmentation: provinces across administrative lines.
- B. Legal safeguards and Charters of governance for handling future center-province relations
- C. Shore up efficiency of current provinces' ability to fix revenue shipwrecks to make available fiscal resources
- D. Stronger center and democratized center

## 6. Conclusion