

**UNDERSTANDING POVERTY AND THE RESPONSIBILITIES  
ARISING FROM THE DEFINITION, FOR GOOD GOVERNANCE IN  
NIGERIA**



**MUHAMMAD SA'IDU JIMADA**

COPYRIGHT © SAD-TAYY FOUNDATION 2017

Copyright is hereby granted to any interested body or person for study or non-profit circulation, provided it will be in this form and content of presentation.

First published: May 2017

Published by  
**SADAQATU TAYYIBATUN FOUNDATION**  
Post Office Box 2630,  
Minna, Nigeria.

[www.sadtayyfoundation.org](http://www.sadtayyfoundation.org)

## **THE GROUND POVERTY THAT IS BASICALLY UNIVERSAL**

In order to appreciate the challenge of the status of lacking, devoid of intervening developments that are either by design or accident, the very foundation of any claims to possession must be inevitably admitted. This foundation is clearly and indisputably that, **NO ONE OR GROUP POSSESS ANYTHING AT BIRTH.**

The claim to anything must have arisen from **RELATIONSHIPS** defined and upheld as **RIGHT** or **WRONG** and the management of this protection by further or continuous protection or amendment. Thus regular production relationships, forceful acquisition by law, transfer of rights of possession by either uncivil or criminal means of possession are available. The root of total or abject lacking is therefore in the disorderliness of what forceful acquisition by legal arrangements and regular production relationships uphold. And **NO SINGLE PERSON OR GROUP HAS THE ABSOLUTE RIGHT AND INDEED POWER TO INSIST ON THE DISORDERLINESS THAT BREEDS AND SUSTAINS THE LACKING STATUS OF ANY SINGLE PERSON OR GROUP.** The possessions by transfer of rights are **SUBJECT** to what legal arrangements must have initially allowed. Nobody inherits what is legally established to have been acquired illegally, because it can be taken back. And legal acquisition arrangements are ordinarily on the ground to check **EXCESS** forms or types of acquisition that can be uncivil or criminal.

This foundation reality reveals the inordinate greedy craves of man; otherwise the entire mankind on earth will be minimally served or protected. But history has shown that the real failure of one person, group, race or nation has inevitably allowed nations or states to thrive under the protection of one another by changing **GIVE AND TAKE** between the recognized and protected sovereignties. Mafioso, resource control are therefore really only less intelligent than national monetary, fiscal or financial policies. This is why international economics **CAN INDEED** be a moderation of the excesses of individual nations or group of nations against the real needs of **ALL OF MANKIND.** But as we all know international economics is **YET TO ASSUME A MORAL STATUS OR RESPONSIBILITY.** This is why wretchedness captures a

pattern of poverty in basic needs among a people, in a nation or in sections across the globe.

No one can therefore in absolute terms claim anything, just like no one can usefully die with any possession. Therefore in attending to poverty **NO ONE HAS THE RIGHT OR SECURITY TO BE EXCLUDED**. Every and all men and women have **ABSOLUTELY EQUAL RIGHT AND ENTITLEMENT TO BASIC POSSESSIONS TO LIVE**.

### **AGAINST CROOKED DEFINITION**

It is critical to understand at this onset that worrisome and wicked or irresponsible poverty is **NOT THE INDEXED DEFINITION ARISING FROM A SCALE OF COMPARATIVE OR GRADUATING POSSESSIONS**. This kind of truncated conception fails to appreciate and understand what makes Authority necessary, to check Excesses and that the ground measure is the basic needs, wants and fancies of every member of any society. In this perspective, it is fool hardy to talk of poverty as **RELATIVE**. The concept of wretchedness is not worst poverty. The reality of wretchedness is systematic denial by manipulation to protect and enhance inordinate greed. The suggestion that poverty cannot be controlled amounts to the admission that government or state authority can be spared responsibility for all, including every member. The issue of eliminating poverty is ahistorical.

Poverty is Not a state where some people have five houses, some have four, some have three, some have two, some have one and some have no shelter. It is not a state where some have four sources of income, some three, some two, some one and some none. We are not poor simply because it is given that some will eat and drink three courses of meals five times a day, some a mixture of this with single meals, three times, some twice or once in a whole day, while some intermit unpredictably between days. Indeed it is not a situation where the some that are lacking **HAVE TO PATIENTLY WAIT, AT THE PACE OF THE OTHER GRADES OF SOME THAT POSSES, UNTIL THEY WHO ARE LACKING FIND THEMSELVES ALSO POSSESSING**.

This logically and sensibly means that the indices for poverty definition must be locally contextual. In the arena of politics, it will be defined by the state of

all members of the state or national jurisdiction. This means that in a situation where access to the internet or GSM network services are only poorly available, it cannot take priority over teeming members that cannot eat balanced meals daily. In other words, while improving such access and services can rationally and sensibly apply to one particular nation, it must not be for Nigeria. And this does not rule out the right application of this for specific areas, institutions or organizations in Nigeria. This is why the state of poverty in Saudi Arabia can differ from the specifics of Israel or that of Norway against that of United States or China. The fact that there are beggars in all of the seeming model examples mentioned is only an indication that we all share in the intellectual poverty of coming to grasp with the reality of poverty.

### **UNVEILING THE INCIDENTAL GROWTHS THAT BECLOUD CLARITY**

Because the course of history has been on irrespective of our poor grasp of the reality of poverty, it is important to highlight a few subjects that are often taken for granted or as sacrosanct. One is the development of money as a means of value for common exchange. In attending to the understanding of poverty many are easily misled into thinking that the share or spread of money is the real solution because poverty is principally defined by the lack of or the sufficiency of this, to exchange for needs, wants and fancies. But this fallacy is revealed in the fact that an intelligent logical direct response by late Idi Amin who directed that Uganda currency be massively produced was dismissed and not helpful. A more mild response is by fiscal regimes, to prop up the value of a currency. Money may be mopped up by delaying timely releases, by asking for buying of bonds or restricting expenditure scope. The tricky circumstances that define stocks is another. And less insane step is like the radical payments of allowances to the unemployed by outright capitalist settings. The game of interests on financial transactions is no less directed to attend to the management of poverty. In itself or by monetary means the real problem of poverty may only be brushed on probability. For example, it is the daftness of the common that explains a value relationship between a regular commercial bank and a customer AGREEING that a loan is given to the

customer WITHOUT the customer participating in determining the interest AND REGARDLESS of the outcome from the investment.

Another is the structure of reward system. Irrespective of the gamut of indices used in determining levels and forms of rewarding productivity, it is WRONG TO ASSUME THAT THE STRUCTURE IS SACROSANCT. For instance there is nothing inherently making the superior reward of a physician over that of his trainer justifiable. There is nothing inherently making the reward of the employee of the Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation superior to that of staff of the Ministry of Petroleum. There is nothing inherently making the reward of operatives of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission superior to Police Officers. In this respect the private sector that appears to be free to do as it pleases, is not fit for comparison because it lives on the sensibility and responsiveness of the public system. In Nigeria, at its mercy. Thus, when the public machinery structures rewards for its members, it is NOT ENOUGH TO REFER AND COMPARE WITH WHAT OBTAINS IN OTHER COUNTRIES. This is why the incessant wars by the unions, doctors, and academic staff have either been of negligible and temporary effect and weakened our health and educational systems. This is revealed in the senseless reward structures that have evolved for members of our National Assembly and what Governors have been instituting for themselves.

Yet another is mistaking the immediate impression as the real state of poverty. The evaluation of poverty cannot be captured by the indices in Lagos, Port Harcourt, Kano, Abuja, state or Local government headquarters in this country. The inability of a legislator's allowances to enable him stay in a presidential suite at Nicon Hilton in Abuja is not the measure for poverty. It is therefore ridiculous to measure the quality of university education by what obtains at the American University of Nigeria or Nile University.

### **THE FIRST PARAMETER FOR UNDERSTANDING POVERTY**

The principal focus for attention that is not negotiable and is absolute is EACH ONE OF US, MAN, WOMAN, CHILD, YOUNG AND OLD. This is universally recognized and largely instituted. The indicator is the Right to Life. And taking it must be adjudged justifiable otherwise that life shall be equally taken. To

make it orderly and responsible, only the supreme authority can rule and act as such. The absolute equality of individual life is therefore collectively protected, to uphold that same equality to LIVE.

We therefore individually have absolutely equal and indivisible TWIN RIGHTS TO LIFE AND TO LIVE, that MUST BE COLLECTIVELY AND RESPONSIBLY PROTECTED. This is premised on the indisputable naked reality that NO ONE OF US WAS BORN OR CAME INTO THIS WORLD WITH ANY FORM OR KIND OF POSSESSION.

## **THE SECOND PARAMETER FOR UNDERSTANDING POVERTY**

The moment one comes into this world of land and space in passing time, everyone inevitably grows and develops NEEDS, WANTS AND FANCIES. These are of different types and forms with changing times, places and circumstances. But more critical is the fact that the production of these, access or opportunities to them and their realization arise from OUR RELATIONS. And even more serious is the fact that the variety, quantum and quality of these are always changing by growth and development. This is what tempts the impression that man is ordinarily insatiable. But in reality, there is REALLY a limit to what can satisfy each man to remain alive. And this is not to deny that the basics can vary from one person to another. For example, the basic needs of a diabetic person are not exactly the same with that of a non diabetic.

This means that poverty is a state of any person living between the lack, near lack and less than the minimum basic needs, wants and fancies REQUIRED FOR PROTECTING THE LIFE AND LIVING OF ANY SINGLE MEMBER OR NUMBER, IN A GIVEN SOCIETY OR NATION STATE, AT ANY GIVEN TIME. We are therefore constantly in an inevitable dynamism that can curtail, accommodate or sustain poverty IF prosperity is not arranged. In other words, the mere availability or abundance of use and useful values are not in themselves enough, to be unassociated with poverty.

Thus prosperity, the opposite of poverty or poverty can be in Knowledge, in Philosophy, in Education, in Drugs, in Medical Personnel, in Arable land, in

agricultural crops or animals, in Natural resources, in Transport facilities, in portable water, in Books, in Morality, in Designs, in housing, in Bank accounts, in Medals, in Honors, in a Gender population, in statistics, in Armaments or Anything of need, want or fancy, for the individual, a group or nation.

### **THE THIRD PARAMETER FOR UNDERSTANDING POVERTY**

Poverty is not a static or dead or lifeless state like a mathematical, statistical or conceptual definition. It is a LIVING state that is constantly open to change, by degradation, sustenance of the same position or improvement in one or more facets of any or a number of aspects of specific needs, wants and fancies, at a given time place and circumstance of an individual or group, society or nation.

And this dynamic nature is characteristic of every and all shades, types and forms of needs, wants and fancies. Thus, if aspects or respects in which poverty or prosperity are defined are to be listed, it will be appreciated that, over time, the scope and content have been changing. For instance, some one hundred and fifty years back it was not conceivable or meaningful to talk of the poverty of Nigeria or in Nigeria. The same applies to the concepts of resource control or oil bunkering.

### **THE FANCIFUL PERSPECTIVE ARISING FROM THE ABOVE**

It is popular to easily deduce from the above understanding of poverty that EVERYONE is poor, in some states of poverty because NO ONE HAS ENOUGH OF ALL THAT ONE needs, wants and fancy. This perspective is the inclination of those who are blind or wickedly pretend that the state of absolute lack to near lack and minimal have are as good and as bad as one who has primitively possessed hundreds of houses to start an estate business, when considering shelter for each man and woman that has an inalienable right to life and to live in Nigeria. It is no different with one who is pained by not being able to use his jeep to catch a flight as against one who is quarreling with a cyclist for being charged 50kobo above the common N1 for transport to his farm or one who has to walk to the farm located at outskirts of the town. It is not impossible to

have the latter listen and entertain the former, but it will also not be wrong to slap him.

### **THE WANTFUL PERSPECTIVE ARISING FROM THE ABOVE**

While those who by some accident or design stand on the fanciful perspective defined by a foundation of having more than excess of their Needs and wants, there are those whose inclination is to see poverty from the perspective of wanting more and more, to rise to the blind and wicked pretense that the meaning of poverty lies in the relative comparison between them and the lacking, just as it is between them and the wicked and blind. For example, the one that belongs here has a house for his family but desires to have a mansion or other houses for other members of the family. This is no doubt, less criminal than the fanciful definer of poverty. But what is common to the two is resting the perspectives on admitted inordinate greed of man, that historically continues to grow and develop.

Like the fanciful perspective, the equality of every and all men in universal basic poverty that primarily justifies equality to life and living of every and all men, is disregarded. This disregard is both uncivil and criminal because every and all possessions are a result of some complex relationships between men, irrespective of familial relationship, rooted in our historicity. The details of these are a combination of relationships that may be right, wrong, could be tolerated, could be accommodated, compelled, understandable, criminal etc.

### **THE NEEDFUL PERSPECTIVE ARISING FROM THE ABOVE**

The remaining logical or outstanding deduction from the above variations is the perspective that recognizes poverty as being in the painful state of not just lacking or near lacking or being on the pointy edge of probable having, in GENERAL but EVEN THE BASIC OR MINIMUM NEEDS TO BE ALIVE AND LIVE.

For example the air they breathe is highly polluted. Their surroundings do not drain wastes. The layout is not designed. Mosquitoes, pests, rodents thrive alongside them. When in houses they are crammed. You can not ordinarily locate a destination by scientific guide, whether in the day or night. Charities and philanthropy are the signs of love for one another, between them and

those with either the WANTFUL or FANCIFUL perspective. They also work, or even more, to enable the prosperity of the entire society. And above all they are prone to extra contributions to the prosperity of the other members of the opposing perspectives. For example their vulnerability to epidemic provide revenue openings for the businesses and profits of the others. To maintain or keep this class in their positions is really what makes the other perspectives share in their common blindness and wickedness. For example, the schools of the needful, their skills and their deaths scarcely or only miraculously permit escape from such belongingness to membership of the WANTFUL. And a higher error or accident is required to move beyond.

The distinctive livelihood of the needful is that they largely work to eat, in order to work to eat again. They do not seek to rest but rest naturally constantly arrests them. Those who do not work, beg to eat. Living for them is continuous existence. This is opposed to the other two perspectives to who resting can be sought and even organized in the forms of siesta, dieting, hobbies, massage or exercises. They work to opt to only eat or eat to live. The needful can be said to live to eat. And the explanation for this is that because eating and drinking is critical to keep body and soul together, all classes cannot avoid or ignore it. But more than this because what to eat grows and develops, if the needful seeks to eat like the fanciful, a whole of their lifetime work will be committed to eating. However if the fanciful perspective member commits all life to eating, it is his irresponsible wasteful choice.

## **THE ONLY REASON FOR AUTHORITIES, ORGANIZATION AND GOVERNMENT**

Collective voice and strength that will be recognized as rightly acting, in the interest of every and all members is logically and sensibly necessary. In its absence someone or some people will have to take its place. Indeed, where both appear to exist, the most civil and responsible thing to do, is to crush the partial, especially when and where it operates in shadows. And this is regardless of whether the partial operates as a civil or criminal shadow. A mafioso or some opportunistic family circle.

The responsibility of this collective instrument is to check and manage the tending or inclining excesses in satisfying the dynamic inordinate greed of each and some of the members. The ultimate singular objective will always remain, the existence and survival of each and all members for prosperity, as long and as much as the life, living and prosperity of another or others will not be compromised, sacrificed or jeopardized. NO ONE OR SOME, MUST BE KEPT DOWN WHILE ANY OR SOME PROSPER. This singular necessity is rooted in the facts that, we are each equally originally poor, we are each and all differently greedy to immeasurable levels and we are TOGETHERLY responsible for each and all forms of prosperity that can be measured.

Consequently the form or type of authority, organization and government MUST BE ABLE TO REACH EACH AND ALL MEMBERS. The superiority of reaching is the only justification for existence. And it can be better IF AND WHEN IT IS ACCESSIBLE BY ANY MEMBER, WITHOUT DISCRIMINATION. The only equal standard will be, competence, readiness and commitment to Forster THE ONLY REASON FOR THE AUTHORITY, ORGANIZATION AND GOVERNMENT.

## **THE FUNDAMENTAL CHALLENGES OF GOVERNANCE**

The first is to RECOGNIZE and IDENTIFY each and all members in their dynamic state. Indices of this include the CHANGING numbers, gender, age, location, births, deaths. The necessity for this absolute responsibility is informed by the fact that governance MUST be all-inclusive. Free men, convicts, believers, unbelievers, the strong, the weak, the skilled, the unskilled, the healthy, the handicapped, the sick.

The second is to get on the drawing board and generate a historical responsibility template that will ENSURE that with the GIVEN human and natural resources THE LIFE AND PROSPEROUS LIVING OF EACH AND ALL MEMBERS ARE SECURED in the process of THE PRODUCTION RELATIONSHIPS that will be allowed or introduced FOR EACH AND ALL COMPLIANCE BY WILL OR BY FORCE.

The third is to ensure that the enforcement of the second produces SAFETY FOR EACH AND ALL MEMBERS FROM THE BASIC NEEDS WANTS AND FANCIES that are established as the minimum for the right to life and living. Where any or some members absolutely lack or near lack or on the edge of probable prosperity, the PRIORITY OF GOVERNANCE WILL BE TO FIRST SECURE ALL OF THOSE AND MAKE IT IMPOSSIBLE BY ILLEGALITY, TO BE OF THAT STATE AGAIN, FOREVER.

The fourth challenge of governance is to BUILD ON THIS SECURITY FOR EACH AND ALL by organized striving to improve on the template of basic needs, wants and fancies for the prosperity of each and all BUT not EQUALITY IN PROSPERITY. In other words to really make poverty a relative reality BEYOND BASIC LACKING AT ANY GIVEN TIME FOR ANY ORGANIZED AND RESPONSIBLE PEOPLE.

The fifth is to project this to other societies or nations by cooperative arrangements in the forms of partnership or inclusion. This is because all humans have equal entitlement to security from absolute poverty of the basics that will save life and enable living. This is what will distinguish the human race as intelligent, rather than terrorism, racialism, racism etc. And it requires that the beasts among us get transformed against retardation of human integrity.

To be able to achieve these challenges, the government must be responsibly RESPONSIVE. The factor of time is therefore of utmost critical importance. The first justification for this is that the business and responsibility of equal rights to life and living is neither fun, a matter of chance, opportunity, choice, game or gamble. It is the first and final foundation for beingness. The second is that, it is unimpressive and a failure to come with whatever solutions after the death of a member or members. It will be like giving a poor elder and expensive burial or keeping a life insurance for next of kin. That will be an upside down economics. And they are not uncommon because of our poverty in knowledge. The third is that, such unnecessary delay borders on carelessness and irresponsibility because every member of a society is a bundle of useful potentials. The worst that can therefore befall a society is

where and when a government fails to recognize, identify and harness the human resources at its disposal to attend to its challenges optimally.

## **THE CHARACTERISTICS OF NIGERIA'S EXPERIENCE**

Although every and all the governments or regimes we have had, at federal, regional, state and local government levels have inevitably reached many Nigerians, NONE has deliberately taken off with ALL the members under its jurisdiction as the primary basis or foundation for governance. The colonial setting was more determined with at least sitting on the target of taxable subjects. Since independence to date, basic data generating machineries like Offices of Surveyor Generals, Directors of Statistics, Population Commission, National Identification Commission, National Electoral Commission, Licensing Offices etc have NOT received strengthening attention. The poor staffing, equipment, assignments, outputs and corruption that webs them is more than a sufficient failure indicator. Not even unavoidable means where funds have to be constantly pumped into like the Pension, Establishment, Services Commissions or Boards, Works, Finance etc have their data in sufficiently absolute state to relate with others.

A second characteristic is that, the above drawback logically makes whatever best template, manifesto, blue print, vision or mission is produced and funded, NOT REACHING ALL MEMBERS TO SECURE EACH MEMBER FOR THE ABSOLUTE RIGHT TO LIFE AND LIVING that we are EQUALLY entitled to. This is why all the budgetary, supplementary, financial and fiscal efforts and commitments have generated lots of achievements reports including follow ups like records of raping public resources and the ignored ones that grow and develop to become threatening like Niger Delta Militancy, Kidnapping or Boko Haram.

This is not to deny that in our relationship to other humans, other nations we have done marvelously well. We are on record to have paid membership fees for the belongingness of some countries to international bodies. We have strongly supported the dismantling of racism and intervened to secure peace in other countries.

In consequence the governance of this country has been variously carried out IN BLINDNESS OF MOST MEMBERS but in view of those that are seen and felt. This is not to deny that even some that are felt are not only ignored but dealt with. The case of Late Dele Giwa is an example. This is also why you will hear embarrassing propositions like, poverty is relative, everyone is poor in some respect, nobody can eliminate poverty. These are the big opportunists by design or accident that are blind to the wholistic responsibility for every and all members for equal basic rights to life and living.

The leadership has therefore consistently failed to PERSONIFY ALL MEMBERS IN THE GIVEN FACELESS INSTITUTIONS AND ORGANIZATIONS OF GOVERNANCE. On the contrary, the Leaders have largely and often PERSONALIZED OUR COLLECTIVE RESOURCES AND RIGHTS. This explains the common psychological relationship between the leaders that should be bearing the burden and the followers that should be the beneficiaries of what they are made to submit to. The leaders are full of audacity and mistake that they are doing the followers some favors. And the followers misbelieve that they are at the mercy of the leaders. The best of the progress that are therefore achievable will continue to allow a dynamic number of members to absolutely lack, be near lacking or on the edge of probable having - which will continue to REALLY EXPAND.

The summary meaning of the definition of poverty and attending to it is that UNTIL A SOCIETY ELIMINATES THE LACKING OF THE UNIVERSAL FUNDAMENTAL NEEDS, WANTS AND FANCIES, IT CAN NOT CLAIM TO BE DEALING WITH POVERTY. Any government that cannot arrange the necessary provision of balanced diet, shelter, clothing, leisure, education, transport, health for all humans under its jurisdiction on a regular and improving terms has no interest in attending to poverty.

THE CONSEQUENCES OF THE BANKRUPTCY OF THIS DEFINITION  
The first and principal one is that, the political leaders live their responsibilities like opportunities to have their share of the resources, to REDUCE THEIR LEVELS, FORMS AND TYPES OF POVERTY. This is because they are surely not wretched. Some of the governors that instituted life pension for themselves and the like are a typical example. The efforts of the

National Assembly and the lobbied certification of their packages with the Revenue Mobilization machinery is another. The security for chief Justices and University Professors is not different. Most of the current invitations for explanations and refunds are rarely unconnected to public resources.

The second is that operators of public machineries manipulate the laws, rules and regulations in their trust for carrying out their responsibilities, to enhance their prosperity and distance from basic lackings. This is in spite of the pensions arrangements for them. Thus any retiree from the past sixteen years or more who is comfortable must give the credit to some form(s) of indiscipline during service. But the same public servants used to be the model for public service, while in service. Today, even those who are known to have stolen reasonably are at the risk of reversal to threatening lack. It is no more always shameful to be caught to have stolen public resources. The height of this abuse was reflected in the form of IT IS OUR TURN by most the recent leaders and operators. You can therefore have a legislator establishing a largely owned university or an executive officer owning an aircraft even when they have no business history behind them.

The third is that the so called private sector transforms into a largely collaborative arrangements to raise maximum money. This is why Nigeria is terribly characterized by all kinds of heavily paying services with near zero value contribution because there are no corresponding growth and development in the production of useful goods. The richest are therefore not involved in the greatest activities. Those who bear the names are mostly the fronts and many business outfits are real covers for other criminal means of making money.

In conclusion, the bankruptcy in the definition or knowledge of poverty and the needed philosophy for checking poverty is the primary obstacle that both leaders and followers must cross, for our liberation and emancipation. And it is our responsibility to provide it freely for all of us. I have made a related attempt for the emancipation of Niger State, which is technically applicable to other states, local government councils and the federal government.

# **HIGHLIGHTS OF THE CROSSROADS TO GOOD GOVERNANCE IN NIGERIA TODAY**

## **THE CROSSROADS**

These are necessary considerations or commitments that Nigeria as a country or nation-state NEED to GLUE to if we care about good governance. And there are two distinct levels of these crossroads. There is the level that easily and commonly attracts attention by everyone, depending on your placement in society. These constantly changing ones are numerous with each having its specific nature or character. For example, in the field of education, while inspectors will be worrying about examination malpractices, employers will be pushing for the fitness of qualifications with immediate useful skills. And teachers will be battling with content. None of them will however deny that they are all related. And each one will suggest its priority status in dealing with the others. In the health sector, some may be losing sleep for the ratio of doctors to patients while others are worried about the fees for the services. And yet others are concerned about the changing facilities for superior service. None of them deserves to be ignored. The same structure applies to agriculture, water supply, refuse disposal, road construction, prison services, police service, military duties, industry, finance etc. But there is a second level that is not often very obvious and equally but with higher or superior claim to constant attention. These crossroads need to be glued to permanently AS A BASIS FOR THE OTHER LEVEL OF CROSSROADS TO THRIVE IN GOOD HEALTH. For example with respect to time, there must always be A DAY before you can suitably place or live a past one into yesterday, a present one of today and a prospective one of tomorrow. This is not to deny that you can make analysis of the past, present and forecast into the future without placing real men in them. You can also attend to vegetational considerations, but if you do so within the context of a given society and historical practices, there is a difference. The distinctive value of this level of crossroads is that, even though its negligence cannot obstruct the development of the other level of crossroads, its negligence will inevitably produce more dissatisfied members of a society, requiring more laws, men and equipment for sustaining its

prosperity. This is because crimes and sharp practices will be developing alongside with skewed prosperity. In other words, the more this level of crossroads are attended to and developed, the more secure, convenient and meaningfully will prosperity spread for the humans in the society generally. This second level of crossroads is what I will attempt to highlight, for the prosperity of our dear country and indeed all nations that care.

### **THE ESSENTIAL TRAIT OF THE CROSSROADS**

For the level of crossroads that are for attention, their common trait is defined by their absolute need and in no changing form, for all times and in every society. This trait is over and above the similar trait of constancy that they share with the first and common level of crossroads, defined above. This means that the moment they change or transform in essence, to become variant like applies to the first level, they would lose their essence and the ultimate benefit of general prosperity will be obstructed.

### **ONE ROAD TO CROSS**

The leadership must consciously define its own personal needs limits and deliberately exercise monitoring control on its wants and fancies. In the event, this road is ignored or skipped, the most likely consequence is that the broad scope of authorized and instituted comforts that are meant to make the leadership perform optimally, will open up to consume it by making it blind to the real nature of its responsibilities. Instead of a leader becoming the privileged first among variant equals, he will become mostly differently superior. This is expressed by audacity, impunity and even oppression. This caution is very necessary because the initiators of the arrangements rarely have the required limits necessary for optimal performance in view. And with time, succeeding arrangers and some incumbent leaders adjust it further upwards because of the temptation to personalize and even remain there, at least till death. This can be appreciated in the different complexities of protocol around the office of the head of the government, from one country to another. The sharp circumstances in the United States for instance inform the above life protocol machinery around its leader. It also explains the inevitable air of superiority that the leadership innately lives with. In the case of Nigeria

it will be appreciated that the bad start in the establishment of the Presidential Villa is what has been building up, without corresponding attention to those presided over.

### **A SECOND ROAD TO CROSS**

The leadership must rationally and sensibly secure those used to create public wealth and the management of the same. In the event and if this is not done, regardless of the deterrent and sanctions arrangements, the agents will make inevitable, deliberate and even reckless efforts to sort themselves out. This is the bane of the different levels of public machineries in Nigeria. Unless and until this road is reasonably and sensibly crossed, ultimate intentions and goals for the generality of Nigerians will continue to slip away. In Igbo, there is the saying to the effect that you eat where you work. Thus if you are not given the food, the tendency is to eat to gluttony. The worst scenarios have been experienced where the first and second roads are both ignored. The leaders and the operators of the trusts turn into rapists of the collective human material and financial resources. We have had it at the federal, state and local government levels, over time.

### **A THIRD ROAD TO CROSS**

The leadership must endeavor to have plain communication with its fellows. At this level, the executive must be naked with one another, at least at informal level. And it needs to do not much less, with the legislators. The judiciary will naturally take a cue from there, because they can always take shield with learnedness to be firm, mild or hard. If these lines of communication are weak, veiled or even ignored, the prospect of growth and development will be hampered in its rate or cost or both. This does not suggest that all lines have to agree, but it opens the window that can enable probable or even possible touch of conscience. Except for very very few among us humans, most are vulnerable to positive touch by stack truth. In the misfortune of encountering any of these very very few, they are animalistic because they are unwilling to listen, they are daft and mind made up against anything different from their selfish stand.

This plain communication requirement is even more required between the leadership and informal leaders, who are not in the seat of leadership. This may be because they were earlier in that position or have come to be so recognized on the merits of their own. It will for instance be irresponsible of one to appear and claim to assist the leadership with a resource person, when the real objective is to make leadership distant itself from that person. This is a common intrigue when an ordinarily inconsiderate leader calculates that his representation and recommendation of his disliked considerate person CAN be put aside by the leadership on the seeming ground of strong association. It is irresponsible because it is wicked and anti-society, over and above making evaluation difficult and confusing for the leadership. This twin level of communication is really supposed to be the beauty of democracy, because it is civil and real or down to earth. Democracy is not politics with attributes or characteristics of lies, betrayal, manipulation etc.

#### **A FOURTH ROAD TO CROSS**

The leadership must strive to ensure continuity of securing collective summary interests. The areas in which this can reflect are finances and projects. And the only means of expressing it is through accountability. Ordinarily projects that are started but yet to be completed need to be properly evaluated for the decision of continuing, amendment or completion. In respect of finances, the past must be evaluated as the basis for setting a responsible present, in order to move into the future with prosperity. It is there daft to suggest and press that the past be closed. It is irresponsible to make such suggestion a reoccurring thing. The discretion of the limits should be that of the sitting leadership. If as an irresponsible set of people we make it a binding tradition to always ignore the past by letting go armed robbers and murderers, governance will be reduced to our recent past of, it is our turn. And the consequence can be our present experience of near zero liquidity. The rapists and alligators will then become the saviors, from the shackles that their thievery have placed us in.

## **A FIFTH ROAD TO CROSS**

The leadership must sustain increasing improving prosperity CLEARLY above the levels or grades of lacking, near lacking or being on the edge of probable prosperity. In other words, the basic template of needs, wants and fancies must not be allowed to drop - regardless of its approach to managing public resources. It will not matter whether the leadership is rightist, leftist or middle course; the governance must not tend to admit or introduce the range or forms of lacking in basic needs, wants and fancies that each one of us is inalienably entitled to. The failure to do this is divisionist and destructive of the principal purpose of our being together.

## **A SIXTH ROAD TO CROSS**

The leadership and its sponsor, the political part, must develop the ability to admit and work with intelligent criticism. This is expected to be easier if the opposition is a principled and consistent body. It can be difficult where the opposition is not mature for its role and especially so if it mistakes the role of opposition to be dislike or revenge or hatred. Where opposition is just to differ, it can run down its credibility and allow grievous mistakes to be committed. It is even more difficult where the leadership has already failed in crossing the earlier roads defined above.

## **A SEVENTH ROAD TO CROSS**

The education of itself and the general public for self-succession in principles and practice. It will be appreciated that contrary to schooling it is the education by experiential taste, of the all that made PDP more than not, that informed and influenced the real massive support for its replacement, in spite of its criminal efforts with the advantage of incumbency. The audacity and impunity prompted asking for electoral votes on the quality of erudite speech to the Senate even when all that the candidate had been speaking for eight years made no meaning to the electorate. It did not require any incisive literature for the electorate to stone him out of office. But this is an extreme experience that is not worth returning to. The Party, Leadership and Government that therefore succeeds in securing the mandate of the electorate, to be different, must need to invest in the education that will reorient the

polity. Good people are the best security for continuous good leadership, for good governance.

Therefore, IF any leadership is able to cross these levels of crossroads, it can claim to be engaged in real and meaningful governance. Anything less will qualify it for struggling to govern and the outcome will be both unpredictable and strenuous. The governed will continue to suffer in missing the beneficial rights to governance. And it will be more obvious in weak, developing economies, societies and polities. The ball is in our hands and in our court, if we care.

### **CONCLUSION: THE IMMEDIATE THREATENING CHALLENGES**

It is evident from the outlines above what POVERTY can be and what our collective concern must focus on. It is also clear that the CROSSROADS are reasonably and sensibly inevitable. For Nigeria, WHERE ARE WE TODAY, in order to understand how we can hook up with good governance? The present All Progressives Congress government under the leadership of Muhammadu Buhari has had the “advantage” of the shame of its predecessor. This honourable shame is what is often praised as the gallantry of conceding defeat by previous leadership. It is often supported by the laced indication of threat that the country would have gone to war if defeat was not conceded. Rightly, but between the looser oppressors and the frustrated oppressed. All the same, the collective value of this “concession” is that the leadership of the APC was saved the “normal” one to two years of legal trickeries to pool a wool over the eyes of the hoodwinked electorates, to legitimize the continuity of the PDP. This is a profound benefit that was the take-off point of the APC with its dream manifesto FROM A DISTANCE. Ordinarily, this, in isolation will provide a basis for starting off with attending to the outlined first level of crossroads through the standard second level. But it was not the case, and no one needs university schooling or education to know and understand this.

The government inherited very sharp attributes and characteristics of pervasive insecurity across the country. While security will always remain a subject for attention because of the wolves and zombies in human form among us, it properly belongs to the first level of crossroads. But it has

degenerated to the point of assuming a life and it is growing and developing. Regimental services that are operationally faceless now have faces. Indeed a cross section of the uniformed services had dual or even triple loyalty, in addition to the primary authority of engagement. And they were previously operating fairly “smoothly”. With the collective interest of Nigeria being the banner of the APC, internal conflict generated in the interests and between the payers. The gravity of this was attended to equally sharply by the suggestions of secession from the superiority of our collectiveness, the weakening of the superiority of our collectiveness or to have state police services. While these can be options, they are really escapist from our standard of collectivity that has been thoroughly abused. It therefore goes without saying that the government has the problem of citizens security and that of itself, including the leadership that personify this new forms and levels of challenge. The party therefore has the challenging responsibility of going back to the drawing board, to readmit the superiority of our collective security as collective source of strength and throwing away secession and its minor form of state police.

The president discovered that the definition, perception, understanding and management of poverty were thwarted and crookedly twisted. While the poverty level of our collective resources can be understood, he discovered that, rather our poverty, WE were actually exploited, raped, sapped and impoverished by those temporarily entrusted with the management of the resources for ALL of us . His distant expectation of non-need to refer to the past INVITED a redefinition. And those who were deep culprits remain uncomfortable with NOT FEARING FOR THEMSELVES if their actions were impersonal. The regular thieves outside were running around for PEACE. And this destruction is not limited to the resources in themselves, like the quantum of Naira and Foreign Currencies. The managers of the resources were either collaborators with the major inside and outside rogues or were turned into petty thieves. It is not therefore uncommon to find agents to merely invite credible persons to assist the government, being asked to pay before receiving access. The Office of the President was reduced to a subservient one to some smart devilish enemies of our collectiveness. And the streets are building up with humans in real NEEDS.

From the former distance, the APC dreamt of a quick solution of N5000 allowance. But it had to restrain itself from a rushed commitment because it has come to discover that MOST OF THE WEALTH CIRCULATING IN THE COUNTRY WERE IN SERVICES (mostly bogus), WITHOUT GOODS PRODUCTION BASE. Common sense will ask, if more money is shared, what will they buy with it? This precious state was expressed in the Senate when a PDP distinguished member moved for its implementation and the APC responsively turned it down. Politically the APC political party machinery, its Leadership and the President have come face to face with a strange reality. All Nigerians have mostly admitted for themselves that there is AN URGENT NECESSITY FOR CHANGE. These Nigerians rightly include Genuine and Hypocritical PDP members and shifters to APC. The political challenge of producing its Larger Leadership in the Executive and Legislative arms has therefore inevitably added to the complexity of the super ordinary challenge TO STEP ON SAFELY BEFORE CROSSING THE CROSSROADS.

The price of this inherited status is the necessary time required to be invested in order to commence normal governance duties or responsibilities. This was consciously or unconsciously expressed in the time it has taken to luckily, accidentally or riskily form WHAT LEADERSHIP it can. This is why those who are concerned with continuity are already afraid that time is running out of the four years mandate. The debates are on how long should it take to start normal governance; what is the prospect of keeping the tempo; what does the Ruling party need to reposition itself for improved competence etc.?

## **THE REVELATIONS ARISING FROM THE ONE YEAR NATIONAL TRUST**

The commonest approach is to rate and score the government, using either the yardstick of its own campaign or electoral promises, or the seemingly obvious expectations of the people, that find regular articulation. While this will not be wrong I will fairly depart from this to consider indices that are historically critical for a developing nation like Nigeria.

For example on the security front, the menace of Boko Haram insurgents is a common index. No amount of frivolous argument will affect the improved change to the present level of reasonable comfort in the devastated states of Borno, Adamawa, Yobe etc. This achievement is critical because prosperity can better thrive in a peaceful environment. A further positive related achievement in this respect is the growth and attention to Internally Displaced Persons. Some are able to return to their original places while others are being resettled or assisted.

The fact that Nigeria is only part of the global village makes the disposition of other nations to Nigeria as critical as it was damaged. Indeed, the need for their cooperation and support on the realization of how much had been illegally stored in those countries rates international cooperation very high. And within the period the results and feelers from the international community have clearly revealed a renewed strong support to the new government and leadership. While the president had reached out a lot, a good number of the governments have reached back. The cooperation of our neighboring French speaking countries and the visit of the Head of France is a clear boost to the support from the United States, Britain and the United Nations, in attending to the North East security challenges. The new Agreement on monitoring and returning stolen monies is a feat that has paid off the numerous trips undertaken in the past year.

These facets that both define international relations status can attract some ten percent of the totally available score allocation. And in my opinion, the leadership may not be denied a generous seven percent achievement.

When a new government comes into power, it has to attend to the challenge of transition. This comes up in the forms of the resources inherited and the

orientation in place for governance. For example, it was to be expected that the budget on course will be executed to conclusion and the budget to follow will hook up with it, with a new difference. The success in managing this transition provides a fitting bridge for continuity but we are all witnesses to the damaged or even wrecked financial status that was inherited. This compelled the leadership to hesitate on not looking back at commitments made by the ousted government. Beyond that, the values for works done, badly done and undone compelled the government to re-establish the truthfulness, sincerity and accuracy of financial commitments. And the anti-corruption or really, missing funds recovery is the proof for this. The gravity is measurable by the inability of the government to start off early and the returns, recoveries, discoveries or judicial convictions relating to this. The orientation that propelled this mega thieving, which is the real culture of corruption, was attended to on ad hoc basis as it appeared. But this is the real problem and not results like over invoicing or outright stealing. The process of producing the leadership of the National Assembly was an example. The padding of the budget was another. Indeed the gravity and perversity of the problem can be appreciated given the scope of pending allegations, investigations and prosecutions on course. This is why the support of the United States in funding the anti- corruption committee is laudable even though it can only focus on enabling a proper and fair judicial evaluation and determination of reported cases. The only hope is that the results of these will build up the capacity of the government for governance.

The importance of this requirement will afford it allocation of some fifteen percent. And in my opinion, because the government has unfortunately gotten caught up in the very foundation crisis of the governance infrastructure before the challenge or responsibility of transition, the efforts and results can be considered for not more than five percent achievement. This is because, succeeding a hopeless government is a misfortune of the successor that cannot serve as an excuse for reasonably ignoring transition. And most of this five percent will be related to continuing with the pending laudable agreements to completion.

In a democratic setting where the political party served as the platform for coming into power, especially for an opposition group, the development of the political party is of great importance. The level of this development determines the ease and feasibility of not providing just optimal governance but also sustaining it. With a record of non-involvement of the party machinery at the local and state levels in the production of at least forty percent of federal political appointments is poor enough for party indiscipline. The benefit of participation is not always getting what you want. But involvement compels adjustments by the leadership and the party men to be sensitive to what will be most realistic, in the circumstance. It does not rule out the limits defined by the laws and regulations for final responsibility. If this experience was replicated at the state level, one can then appreciate the unfortunate near isolation of the legislative members from the executive at both the state and federal levels in most of the cases. This bred the party indiscipline that was displayed and nurtured at National Assembly in the production of its leaders. Within inputs were dangerously at play in the ruling party.

The weakness in the performance of the leadership and party in this respect adds to making the sailing of transition challenges rougher, because the government will be running like the executive of the party as distinct from the legislature of the party. The advantage of majority will be of no value. And interactions will be on the line of executive - legislature relationship of respect and not government of the ruling party.

But it must be appreciated that the manner in which the coalition came together granted the executive the super caution in constituting the team to rule. For example, from the sudden joiners who were with the ousted party and government, it would be insensitive to simply watch the arrow heads play the games they were used to, except they got handicapped. The needle eye that a former president passed through to get a second term and the making of a governor in one of the north east states were good lessons. And the attempt to actually play the card in Kaduna state was an excellent pointer to the need for serious caution, if the foundation principle of those that made the party is to be kept. This became shamefully clearer when at the peak of the

party crisis on the leadership of the National Assembly, a member of the same party will submit that party indiscipline is POLITICS.

It will therefore be appreciated that a grant of five percent out of fifteen for political party development during the year is not only generous but was largely achieved by the twin factors of the straight iron insistence of the party leadership and the faith of most of the party members in the president. This element of faith and hero worship was what saved the party from collapse, to the displeasure of the joiners from the ousted party that are yet to be committed to the party. And the public did not fail to demonstrate this hero commitment by uncivil attempts to caution some of the legislators, against supporting Saraki or in delaying the passage of the budget. However, the party cannot rely on faith and hero worship for development. The ruling party must admit and attend to the development of the party and its members as quickly as possible.

Very closely related to this is the development of Executive – Legislature relationship.

This can be allotted ten percent, out of which the ruling party and government can be generously scored four percent. And this low score is informed by the weakness of the ruling party members as party fellows and as statutory trustees for all Nigerians. For instance, the budget palaver that took months was essentially because both arms of government were unwilling by either arrogance or shame. The moment they were pressured to open up to the polity on the restraints, the shameful shared their tricks with the arrogant. And time was needed to overcome the insincerity of one of the parties. The executive was not inviting and the legislators were unbending. But crux of the matter was poverty and the solution of greed was unacceptable. From the point of statutory responsibility, the leadership of particularly the Senate was wagging weaker than that of the House. Debates were weak and bills resulting were either below quality or priorities were of national embarrassment. The amendment of code of conduct provisions and invitation of the judge was one bad time shame. The immunity for the leadership, the life pension for the leadership and qualifying year for the office of the president were all bad cases. While the location of the office to cater for north east insurgency

victims was turned into a joke nothing was worth attention with the agitation for Biafra or the new Avengers. This is comparable only to the senseless pronouncement that, there is no room for discussing elections when Nigeria is at war with Boko Haram. It was senseless because nothing was being done about Boko Haram. And the unfolded facts on equipping the military are enough for such functionaries to remain silent for a long time. With the executive, the drag for control of the funds granted for assisting the north east victims is a shame. The experience of the Niger Delta Development Commission in spite of the resources commitment over the years should be a lesson to build on.

Leadership development will bear some ten percent. And from the one year a grant of four percent will be most considerate. This aspect relates to the relationship between the president and his Vice; the president his ministers; the president and the governors; the president and the leadership of the National Assembly; the president and the Party leadership; the president and the leadership of the opposition groups; the ministers and their chief executives; the leadership of the National Assembly and the Committees etc. As leaders they must recognize that if everyone and everything was fine and right, there would be no need for their services. They must also strive to speak a fairly understandable and safe language between themselves for the benefit of the led. If their communication is weak, like being afraid or unable to correct or accept correction, respect and integrity will not be built. It is when this respect that can only be earned in a relationship matrix that leadership can blossom. In the absence of this BOSS-SHIP can achieve something but it will neither be optimal nor sustained. Indeed, it will make it impossible to even attend to positive criticisms of the opposition. And we are worse off because the structure of opposition is membered by unrepentant, careless and uncritical leaders for the prosperity of all Nigerians. The proof is that its former leader repeats his efforts and what positive gains he should not be denied but has subtly distanced himself from associating with the probable doom that the present composition will inevitably reproduce.

Connecting to this is the big responsibility of institutions building, which is entitled to not less than fifteen percent allocation of points. A leader is

normally expected to make a difference by adding value to what he has met on the ground. The assumption is that there is a system that is working more satisfactorily than not. The structures, the laws, the rules and regulations are generating conventions that are complementing the statutory arrangements. The people manning and operating them are satisfied with the care they are given and are impersonally committed to the proper operation of the system. In common parlance, the civil and public service machineries and the servants or officers. With all the cries about corruption, it was easy and quiet to prune down the number of ministries by merger or outright closure by the government. They were either unnecessary, wasteful or a duplication. But since May 2015 monies are being recovered from those who manned them and along with their relations in the private sector or even family members. It is therefore logical to appreciate that only those that are caught are in the light of the laws. Indeed reports have surfaced that even those entrusted with the checks are expressing the willingness to cooperate with those caught. And it is not enough or even helpful to simply dismiss it as disappointing or shameful. Solving the problem goes far, far beyond recovering the monies. It is more serious and required of the leadership to go after what is responsible for igniting the fraud, stealing, and abuse of office or whatever. And the focus has to be on the people, the servants, the workers, the officers, the operatives etc. The padding of the budget was done by them. The forgery of senate rules was done by them. The investigations are being done by them. This gross failure is largely responsible for expectations like sharing of oil blocks as a solution to disregard for collective interests. Indeed the below poor compliance to the constitutional requirements of federal character provisions by most federal organizations between 1999 and 2015, in staffing, is a pointer to this challenge. The relationship between the federal government and state governments in enabling services to Nigerians is another. Even between the state and local governments is not different. This often ignites the interest that scrapping the state governments may be more helpful. But are the local government machineries developed? The same goes to the ambitious dreamers that are careless and have been found wanting in nationalism, suggesting that the federal government that is the most developed be weakened. But because institutions are faceless they are our best guarantee

for national cohesion. And it is easier to raise national institutions and melt down our varying faces for our collective good than the reverse. Indeed the more and larger we are, the better for all of us, in the future.

From the past one year and considering the fact that this problem has both been existing and the window for most of the corruption and failures we are now paying for, it will be unkind to expect that much could have been done. The real tempting question will be if this problem has even been noted and understood. It's only after this we can expect that attention will begin to be given to it, even though ignoring it is the guarantee that reversal to what we now abhor is not merely probable but possible. All efforts relating to this have been targeting laws, rules and regulations and not the people. Neither zero budgeting, single treasury account nor training of personnel by a reputable international organization is directly relevant. The president may have sensed the enormity of the challenges put together and the slim prospect of sustaining what appears to have been achieved when he pronounced that: in two years to follow Nigeria will regain its right and true economic status devoid of major thievery colors, except Nigerians choose to vote in rogues again, who will not desist from raping our collective resources. It will therefore be fair to grant three percent achievement in this respect.

As a developing country, human resources development which covers but goes beyond provision of employment is necessarily of corner stone interest. And it can deserve as much as ten percent allocation out of one hundred percent. To the ordinary man on the street, employment is getting a paid job. And in Nigeria this is pronounced because the government calls most of the shots. However, because in all and every respect employment must connect the expected pay and production that will make the money for payment rational and sensible. This is why the Labor force is threatening to go wild. The Group Managing Director of NNPC submitted to the Senate that the reform of cutting down on the number of divisions they had was not insensitive because, they have and operate one of the best retirement and pensions arrangements in the country. The banks are shedding off staff. Some states are contemplating paying half salaries. But government appears to have

responsively considered this and is commencing a program for graduates in addition to loans schemes for small and medium scale businesses.

But this is short of retraining those in its employment for dual objectives. The first is to enable what is ongoing to continue and on better terms. The second is re-directing the top echelon of the service to operate the government machinery in a manner that befits the difference between the ruling party and the ousted government. It is this that will define and open up employment opportunities within and outside the government, with a clear indication of where more or most openings should come from. Within the period of consideration, a grant of three percent will be reasonable.

The twin partner to the above concern as a developing country is the challenge of National Orientation. For instance all Nigerians should be able to appreciate the piling frustration in the Niger Delta region. The fact that the responses to this by arrangements like the Niger Delta Development Commission and the special allocation to the oil producing states, the responsibilities of the oil producing companies etc have not answered the questions, should not ignite another frustration. This was well played out on the subject of the maritime university between two executive ministers. One appeared to be in support and another appeared to be against it. Protestants should know and be accepted as expressing a right. But, this need be in the context of the laws that has been sustaining us. The constitution is supreme for reference. It is for instance no less evil to ignore defrauding the Commission or State Governments purses than licensing anti Nigeria criminals for oil production. And it will not be rational and sensible to simply engage beloved persons that lack the wherewithal to make good of the licenses for the benefit of Nigerians. The common escapist inclination either in the form of blowing up the pipelines or military response or secession or restructuring the federal arrangement are neither smart nor responsible in the circumstance. This is why the leaders and governments in those areas have no serious problem with the crisis. They are simply negatively neutral. The problem is that of the Federal government. And more interestingly, a dialogue between the government and the militants opened up. The entire experience is a mockery of our history. If licenses were given to wrong people,

they can be revoked, because it was as a result of abuse of office or rules. If any operative defrauds resources entrusted to him, it can be investigated and sanctioned. If a landlord or a contractor defrauded Nigerians, it will be irresponsible to shelve it as inconsequential. Indeed, if a handful of people were made stinking rich at the obvious detriment of services to the people in the north east, south east, south west, north central, south south, north central or north west, it will be irrational and irresponsible to discriminate.

This challenge is for the government and ruling party to lead. It is the purpose for which we have been, we are and should continue to be Nigerians. It is not a matter of geopolitics or resources. And the bad state of things can be appreciated when you calculate the wasted resources in the competition of having universities in places, between federal and state governments. One of the prices is overstretched faculty members, drop in EDUCATION even though some miserable schooling is still ongoing. Go round and check the history of leadership of federal organizations across the country, it is not reflective of national orientation. But we have Federal Character Commission and Inter Governmental Affairs machineries.

The allocation for this should not be more than five percent because government only needs the Will to realize it. But since 1999 it has been snoring or drunk when awake. It will therefore be sufficient to award one percent achievement. The constitutional compulsion in having a national spread of ministerial appointments is sufficient as a take off base. Indeed, states can better give value to this by engaging competent hands from other states, with serious responsibilities. The National Orientation Agency deserves no mention in this respect.

The balance of ten percent can go for physical development. Rating this is more controversial because statistical data may be necessary. Again one may choose to include or exclude what states belonging to the ruling party have done - beyond the Abuja - Kaduna rail service. Given the very difficult circumstances of operations for the government in terms of available resources at the beginning, it will compassionate to give five percent for whatever it has been able to realize across the country.

From the ratings above, achievement overall is abysmally low. And it is worth appreciating that if the achievements between 1999 and 2015 can be embarrassing in the lights of the resources available and what was left in the coffers including debts, the achievements above will not be surprising and even impressive.

The present government must therefore take the note and caution that physical development must be tied to system development, for ease of governance and sustainability. This system is defined by the collection of non-material indices used above for measuring the one year performance. Shying away or ignoring this will definitely disable the government and ruling party from getting optimal benefits of whatever good intentions and plans for the generality of Nigerians.

Beyond this, the ruling party and government should consider differing from the previous harmful unconscious ideological trending.

There is a need to deliberately take off from the interest ground of serving ALL Nigerians. And to develop the strategy all hands of friends, hypocrites and enemies need be brought together to arrive at what is best feasible. For instance, in providing housing for Nigerians, the working class and banks are not the only ones to partner with construction companies or the building industry. When the party was voted unhoused people participated. And if in a developing setting like ours, they cannot even approach their representatives in the executive or legislative arms (if and when they see those they know), it will still be irresponsive to ignore that interest. The federal, state and local governments should pool their problems together and attempt giving them solutions. Do houses not get produced outside the present arrangement? Are they unfit or illegal? The approach must not exclude by immediate coverage, those outside the formal circle. The approach of expressing the housing deficit in Nigeria and attending to it by a million uncertain and exclusive houses per year is most inconsiderate. And the tendency is to treat services like literacy and education alike. This is the unfortunate basis for thinking that you are doing a good job by providing room for private clinics to pay taxes in place of

good water and sanitation. When the party, the executive or the legislature sits to consider things, it should focus on all Nigerians IN NEED.

This leads to the question of the resources. It is nonsensical if the resources in view are ONLY THE NAIRA AND KOBO. The driving factors should be ALL the people and within the TIME available to the government. These will enable optimal pooling together of all related resources, human, financial, physical - free, cheap or obtainable. And in relation to other competing needs of ALL Nigerians, a more rational and sensible scale of priorities will be generated. This will save committing resources on building an airport or government house before provision of water and light. The greatest misfortune that can befall a citizenry is to have a leadership and government sponsored by a party of greatest choice that gives the impression that, it has all the time to do what it believes to be good and needs not to be hastened. The proper time and speed is to be determined by the earliest responsive engagement of the system to work. It will be unkind to think, believe, give the impression or express that it will be as it pleases. The manner in which the legislature took leave when the 2016 budget was presented was not better than when it received the proposal.

### **THE CHALLENGES AND SUPERIORITY OF BUILDING OUR UNITY FROM DEFINING OUR ULTIMATE OBJECTIVE**

The Nigerian definition of the summary of our problems today is CORRUPTION. And the opportune Government and its leadership have made very good of this definition. The Boko Haram insurgency degenerated to the level it was met because the recorded and approved funds to attend to it were mismanaged. The protests for Biafra and the militancy in the Niger Delta rest squarely on the seeming obvious neglect of the physical region. And the unexplainable sudden stinking wealth of political and public office chieftains has been logically found to be related to the failure and refusal to commit the resources for the official purposes they were appropriated. Thus, if corruption that has generated civil unrest, militancy, terrorism, government non-performance, poverty, etc. can be chained or treated, we will revert from Negative to Positive. The experience is so critical because it cannot be brushed

aside. Government discovered and is still battling with the inability to operate to the level it will be seen and felt to be governing.

The Government has therefore been building up achievements of Queries, Probes, Investigations, Visitations, Audits, Prosecutions, and International Agreements etc. The arms and agents of related activities are therefore at above average operations. And the public cannot deny that some results have yielded from these. The central concern that is now building up is if these were the primary purposes of voting in the Government. This is especially so, when it is recognized by all that, these activities are normally part of the process of governance. And the technical value of this concern is defined by the fact that the achievements are not worth the one year it has claimed. If Boko Haram insurgents can be crushed and pushed to be less felt, why are the growth and development of infrastructure and services not felt? The gap is a clear problem that needs to be attended to as a responsive and responsible government. This concern has been crudely expressed by the cries and pleas to commit the stolen funds recovered for development projects. The challenge is that the government has spent its one year opportunity out of three free and effective ones of its mandates without an impressive physical impact and indeed a weak basis for processing the next budget, given the immature and unprofessional manner the present one got through.

This definitional trap is caused by the poverty of the limited definition of corruption. For now, most efforts and activities are on establishing liabilities and dumping them with the judiciary for legal verdicts. But regardless of how impressive the outcomes may become, it is very partial in solving the problem of corruption. And this can be appreciated when it is recognized that the beneficiaries that are now victims are not ALL of those that corruptly enriched themselves. This is why the machinery for checking corruption is not an ad hoc one but regular. The justification is that all men are capable of doing wrong when they feel safe. Those that may not, is either by the discipline of self-restraint or by a set of standards that make it unsafe or difficult. And it is undoubtedly developed enough to serve any modern society. For example, administrative arrangements precede court interventions. A situation where the last leg becomes the most popular sends the signal of the breed of

stubborn creatures that looted public resources and the challenge of the government.

Unfortunately for governance and leadership, the first justification for their relevance is to regulate for the safety, comfort and prosperity of ALL. This logically means that those who need not be caught because they have not abused any trusts, those who have abused the trusts to negligible degree, those who have abused the trusts highly but have not been caught, those who have been discovered but have been ignored, tolerated or accommodated and those who have legalized their excesses, ALL have EQUAL RIGHTS for protection like those who have been caught, charged and convicted as so guilty. Governance and Leadership will have no business if nothing gets wrong or can get wrong. This is the rationale and sense of appreciating that there are no clearly and certainly clean men to use for dirty men. Mr. clean must be ready to soil his hands and body in the process of undertaking clean up responsibilities. This is why the government and leadership must not lose its mind when some of its own are caught, discovered or in the process of the corruption they are fighting against. This is why the militants hate to be misunderstood. After all the government and leadership will not classify the militants along with Boko Haram insurgents even though both are using arms to relate. The former are in pursuit of establishing a new authority while the latter are making the point that it can be an option. The former hinges its justification on self-chosen authority while the latter refers to its neglect by a commonly recognized authority.

We are therefore all witnesses to the fact that there are problems for attention that relate to the System, the Operators and Partners engaged in Governance and Leadership. With regard to the System, the very machinery that was being manned when they discovered thefts were committed is the same that is available to the government and leadership today. It is the one it has used to make the discoveries and rely on to make its own contributions. The startling clear case is the Military and fighting Boko Haram. This is why, when the Legislature failed to be a bit different, there were struggles on getting the 2016 budget. It may be said that the military is more and better developed to respond to national responsibilities. In consequence, the present government

has to make do with an undeveloped or developing legislature. The civil service that was used to serving the previous government as it pleases was able to generate a zero based budget. But the score the legislature was bent making is constituency allocations. With the Operators, the people that have attracted the hands of the law were largely political or government officers. And the Partners found are either bank chiefs or private registered company chiefs - even if some of the companies have no operational offices.

Thus, the definition of the corruption will improve and be more or better serving When the government and leadership admits What is still making the system vulnerable to such manipulation and What is making the Operators find such manipulation attractive, for attention. The Partners are of less consequence because without the Operators, they cannot play any role. At the end of the day, the standard scale for measuring the relevance and achievements of the government and leadership must relate to how ATTRACTIVE and SUBMISSIVE the corrupt, who have been caught and those not caught, along with those who are willing to be corrupt with more caution, ARE WILLING AND FEEL SAFE to embrace anti-corruption. This is because culture and orientation that is supported and protected by real material arrangements are a better and superior guarantee for sustenance and development of what is achieved, against laws and sanctions. This will be the foundation that any government and leadership can count on, to continue. Those who had shamelessly raped public trusts along with partners they believe will serve as reasonable security valve against their future arrest and dream of further opportunity, are creatures that are abnormal for treatment. They are worse than all the other smelly categories and are undoubtedly a discredit to any fold of humans that can change to serve the collective good. Like some of the militants turned patriotic by laying down their arms and embracing non armaments vocations, the different categories of the corrupt HUMAN BEINGS should be seen to become anti-corruption. The primary challenge of the government and leadership is therefore to ENABLE this with greater ease than difficulty – the resistance by the verily corrupt notwithstanding. This is the crusade required for our democracy by the government and leadership.

This tall and tough challenge in relation to corruption cannot be solved intelligently by any form of restructuring because the System on the ground has proven to be capable of goodly deliverance if not badly manipulated. And what makes for the difference between its good of bad service rests with the operators who come and go. The fact that the colour of the operators has not been one and bad, is proven by the new and better direction we are now taking. In essence, our unity in anti-corruption is the only and sure path and guarantee for our safety and prosperity. Restructuring is therefore diversionary, shallow, short sighted and not ALL – Serving. Did it not appear before now that Balkanization into twelve states will give some magical solution? Did we not go further? Have we not had local government areas of jurisdiction and created development areas? Are we ignorant or just playing blind to the resources that have gone into the coffers of those authorities? Have we lost our senses and reasoning to continue on that course? Certainly, not in the interest of All Nigerians. The motive is obviously mischievous and the objective self-serving for the promoters. Like many have said, we must not throw away the bath along with the goodly living and growing baby.

### **POLITICAL OPPOSITION MISDEFINITION AND MISPURSUIT**

Political parties not in direct possession of power are ordinarily and logically associated with the laudable and honourable role of opposition. This position gives the immediate loser of power, the special right and role of criticisms, evaluation of the activities of the winning party for the better or optimal management of the polity, the economy and society. The difference and advantage of this source is that it is a perspective from outside the government, as a critical non participant. The benefit the ruling party can make of this is to harness this with the criticisms and evaluations from within. While participant contributors have the advantage of more and better information base, the opposition may have combined partial information with the current feelers expectations, to form its opinion. The special challenge of the ruling government will be to separate between mischief and gainful direction that will follow obliging the opinion of the opposition.

From our experiences, this distinguished role had been more wasted or abused by those opportune to be in opposition. Although we have in principle

been open to multiparty democracy characterized by two dominant parties. While one is in power the other appears to lead the opposition. But it has in most circumstances a relationship of spite, hatred, jealousy. It was often mudslinging between the two sides. By and large the opposition rarely had any award of credit by the ruling party or even the society. Even in the case of the last opposition that has now transformed into the ruling party, it was weak. Its strength was largely informed by the regular and shameless blunders of the ousted government. And today, one year after being removed from government the lead opposition is even yet to settle down because its composition and record has been anti people. Even when they insult the integrity of the member makes it worthless. Worst still, they have not displayed any critical quality in evaluation even though they had managed the records of Nigeria for over fifteen years. That is the value or the lack of it, between the expressions of what is right by good person and what is right by an evil person. But opposition is to strengthen governance by a fairly good government.

The present government is therefore not lucky to have a growing opposition that will add value to its governance challenge yet. It will have to live with much of its spite, hatred and jealousy because they cannot give what they do not have and you cannot get what is not available.

Beyond this our political parties are yet to define and develop the identity of orientation that differentiates them. Granted that we have the constitutional responsibility of operating a mixed economy, that is essentially capitalist, nothing prohibits the parties from differing in their approach or orientation. This is feasibly so especially for a developing economy like ours. For example, from the records of the ousted government, it was largely inclined to development through the individual. The shabby and criminal privatization program is a good indicator to this. But it was legal. The previous head of government had repeatedly expressed that a fine thread of his achievements is that the government made multimillionaires. And even though he referred to the agricultural sector, records now reveal that some were by buying lands for building university, for bogus maritime security surveillance, by dubious contracts or outright privatization of public resources. The present

government is not expected to question the basic legality of these actions. And what it is doing is verifying those that have attracted complaints or petitions. However, one would have expected some clear difference in its orientation, so that what we are experiencing is not just that the previous government accommodated stealing or corruption and this one is striving to check its continuation. This common or non-differential identity is not a good taste of democracy. And the approach to providing housing for Nigerians is a revealing one. The package is not in any way distinct or superior to what the previous government will claim to have attempted. The difference is in the inflated costs, poor projects execution and sharing part of the real funds between the contractors and the political/government operatives. In essence, if members of the present opposition are not among those caught, they can fantastically fit into the present ship. In practice, the difference is in the name, membership and personalities. The platform for opposition is therefore narrowly nil. This is another root of our weak democracy. It is therefore common to easily appreciate that critics will unconsciously do their best only when appointed or commissioned to direct. They will not direct, because they have nothing different and superior. If the previous government could at best, minus corruption, produce one million houses yearly, this government cannot be different if it cannot produce far more than that in a year. The fact that the previous government failed and only produced three hundred per year with the funds for one million is truly bad. But it is not the best if all that the present government can do is to produce the one million. If the previous government gave oil production licenses to individuals without respect to competence the present government should be able to do more than revoking it.

The uniting front for all Nigerians which the political parties and politics must strive to achieve is the fastest and optimal securing of our lives and propelling of our prosperity. This is because we do not contradict each other in basic needs, wants and fancies. We only differ in the forms we desire them. The best political arrangement must therefore admit defined and focused orientation that differs, for more efficiency and not political arrangements structured along geographical regions. This will reveal how backward some regions are over others in the admission and spread of political party machineries. It will

be appreciated that the ousted political party is superior in this respect, though it failed in developing party discipline. Nigeria and Nigerians are therefore not any better with identities like, our regional party as against others' regional parties. It is wasteful. It is diversionary. It serves only the lead promoters and not All Nigerians. It is therefore dubious to merely set out to originate parties for regional or area identity. It is therefore primitively backward to support a political party based on the origin of its leaders. These shades of bankruptcy on the part of political leaders, political party formations and the electorate is the bad pus in our political boil, which we must join hands to squeeze out, for healthy political healing.

Therefore, while using regions as the vehicular jurisdiction for the same objective is feasible, it is certainly inferior to the use of the National vehicle that already exists. The more in size and variety, the superior the challenges and opportunities for higher achievements. While history is already trending towards larger families and cutting down artificial boundaries like visa and currency, returning to the cradle and womb is absolutely a more inferior option for faster and better development.

### **POLITICAL LEADERSHIP FIXATION**

It is unexpected and impossible that anyone will assume leadership without personality characteristics. The leader was and had been someone with certain attributes before the burden of leadership is worn. There is nothing intrinsically wrong or criminal about this. For instance the alphabet that starts or add up to spell your name, the manner you approve of it to be pronounced, what you wear for clothing, your foods and drinks, your choice of medicine, your achievements, your ambitions or dreams, your belongingness, your fears etc. The person could have been a prince, a title holder, a soldier, a police officer, a technocrat, a unionist, a craftsman, a believer in a metaphysical outlook, a teacher, a dropout, an artist etc. The person might have come from the edge or centre of a geographical location or nationality, minor, medium or large in numerical size.

But leadership is being placed in the front, in the course of driving and achieving standard terms from which every personality characteristics will

benefit and prosper by. It is not reproducing the personality characteristics of the opportune leader. It is equally not ordinarily what the leader always thinks, believes, cherishes or desires. And because it can also not always be contradictory to his, it is not unexpected that where there is a meeting or agreement between the two, the resulting boost will produce optimal drive and achievements. The variations may not be ruled out, but must not even nearly compete with the standard terms. For instance, coming into leadership by a soldier may enable improved equipping of the armed forces, but it will be irresponsible to make it the first or superior to food, drinks and shelter in a society where hunger and poverty can be felt without research.

This standard term is often and largely defined by the appropriation and management of ideas in the form of various knowledge; power in the form of various influences, wealth in the form of various resources and infrastructure in the form of goods and services. It is therefore fool hardy to assume that the leader is an embodiment of the best of all. A leader, who miscalculates or is made to believe this, is the beginning of the misfortune of his led. The utmost that is possible for a leader is to listen, understand and harness or select from among the free flow of offers or contributions that are CONSISTENT with the general safety definitions authorized. In our circumstance, it will be the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria. Therefore, the more the leader develops in his ability to measure inputs for the standard terms by our safety definitions, the better he will lead and the higher the prospect for our utmost benefit, for all or at least our greatest number. Those who symbolize these standard terms are identified as capacities for utmost performance. But until they do, history is not made. For nations they are called nationalists or better still, statesmen. In other languages they are called universal men, saints etc. At a lower level, we can have a senior advocate of Nigeria, a fellow of a professional group etc. Because the symbolism is not a guarantee for positive end results, a nationalist can become a rebel, a saint will arrive only on getting salvation. That is why a senior advocate can be seen to strive a bad or even embarrassing case. And it is no more news that properly audited financial records get upturned after revisit.

With ideas in the form of various knowledge, necessarily leading the other availabilities, any leader who pays for and gives respectful attention to this and their embodiments has a great chance of making a mark, even if very questionable. This why there is the sweeping and common expression that Badamosi engaged the best hands in his government. In reality, if they were really the best and we are still suffering from what they did, they were NOT the best. Indeed if they were good or better we should have overcome our sufferings by now. But it does not deter people from suggesting that the universities can be a good source for partners in leadership. This is without the fear that the ivory towers are not even as developed as those that provided the designers of our pending woes, to Badamosi. And this is inevitable because the damage included the university system. All the same, this unfortunate experience and status does not affect the superiority and leadership of knowledge in what the leader must appropriate and manage for our collective good. The challenge now is simply more complex. It will therefore be self-serving to ignore or underrate the need and the value to which knowledge can be used. A leader, who lacks knowledge and is afraid to associate with those who have it, has no chance and hope of developing even himself. When it is submitted that the cost of ignorance is much much higher than education, many schooled men think that it is referring to the schooling system from primary to post graduate level. It is not. It refers to the critical relationship status and role of knowledge to power, resources for infrastructure. In the same vein though to certainly a lesser degree, a leader cannot afford to close his doors to those who have already built up influence and resources. The discrimination here is more painful and risky, because it is the material field for leadership impact. The leader needs them and should make it easy for those who have questionably acquired their status to transform, so that only unrepentant ones will need to be forced to fall in line.

The essence of leadership is therefore a point of unity for all of us, irrespective of age, language, geography, level of schooling, religion etc. No kind and amount of restructuring of the leaders by who will be the leaders, can guarantee good or better leadership. The real challenge in respect of who leads is therefore and must remain a transitional one. For example while it is not impossible to have all the professors we may require as Vice Chancellors

from Ekiti state, are they not serving us all better outside Ekiti? And the outcome of this is that we now have Professors to a competing level in other places. That is the benefit of unity. Opening universities by state governments or for federal presence is more of restructuring. And the damages of low quality graduates, more part time lecturers, higher unionism, inadequate faculties, publications etc. have neither helped our schooling, education nor our unity. It is therefore shallow for a leader to be striving for unity or development or both, for men, in any society by restructuring. It is even worse to site examples of 2016 appearances while the painful and bitter REAL challenge of TRANSITION is ignored.

And because leadership is necessarily a platform or a stratum of layers differing in the level of responsibility and authority, the leader in every level needs the optimal leadership of others for his optimal performance. The President will need his cabinet members. The Senate President and the Speaker will need the other leaders and chairmen of the committees, like the chief executives support the cabinet head in their respective structure. Thus, while technocracy will ultimately define the form in which the engagement of the political executive takes, in the legislature it will be freer by debates. The leaders here will therefore have more evident challenges of intellectualization and philosophy. The members and leaders, who are unable to see, feel, think and debate BEYOND themselves to the level of ALL NIGERIANS are misfitting for their positions and roles. For example, submissions along party structure, regional constituency are a great disservice to the led. Structures are incapable of serving as the cost effective vehicle for unity, development or both. The only basis for building the arm and checking the executive is by its optimal engagement of knowledge FOR our unity and development. This is what will make our democracy better and more serving for all of us by the political leaders in both arms.

Therefore, between the elected and the electorate, a regular communication lines will not only exist and continue to increase, the language of unity and development should be the standard and enhanced. Thus, where the elected are rarely seen or met or are engaged more in other than what they are

elected to do, is bad enough. This is what breeds or enhances corruption or both. It is the window and justification for party indiscipline.

## **THE ORIENTATION FOR PUBLIC LEADERSHIP**

### **ACCEPTANCES**

One acceptance for the leader is that leadership placement is to hook up for further perfection or at least improvement of the state of goodness for the led. This means that no perfect condition can be met, to just sit on by any leader. Even where there is bankruptcy of what will be superior to what is working fine and satisfactorily, the maintenance of that state is never Given. It is therefore normal to find demanding needs. Their forms, level and variety reflect the results of the total efforts of the preceding leadership. And the evaluation this depends on how rationally and sensibly the preceding leadership had managed the condition it inherited with the time, physical, human and financial resources at its disposal.

The ignorance of this acceptance by a leader is NOT an excuse. Indeed succeeding leaders rarely have a good grasp of the true nature of this before they assume the position even if they were part of the preceding leadership. This is because what the books record can NEVER include the human factors that enabled the physical records. But the acceptance of the records amounts to the ordinary preparedness to relate with the unrecorded human factors. Thus a leader by chance, invitation or struggle has inevitably submitted to inheriting what is largely recorded but not fully known and the determining human factors that are never recorded and will become known only after assuming leadership position.

If the personality of a leader is to ignore this, it will disorient the first standard. The costs can include unnecessary wastage of resources and stress on the competencies that the leader will come with. Whatever the results this disposition in terms of achievements, they will be below what ordinarily could have been the best.

Another acceptance for the leader is the growing and expanding desire by ALL members, like himself, to be more than sufficient in everything to the point of catering for others – irrespective of readiness to strive accordingly. In positive parlance, this is limitless ambition. In negative parlance, this is inordinate greed. Thus, some will actually be on the course of striving, some will be willing to strive if conditioned, some will do so with hesitation while others will avoid it by preferring easiest outlets for fastest realization – TO THE SAME MORE THAN SUFFICIENCY IN EVERYTHING. The logical and sensible implication of this acceptance is without regard to any consistency across the society or members. Therefore, the areas, types and forms of desire do not only differ to contradictions but also in the weight and scope. For example, some will desire to own and control all the oil wealth of Nigeria on the misbelief that they are fair and large hearted enough to drive the prosperity of all. Among these, some will strive by business means, some by primitive abuse of office, some by militancy, some by a combination of two or more. This class or shade is different from those who will desire collective ownership and control. And in contradiction to these will be those who desire more space and times for worship with minimal care for wealth creation or making.

If the personality of a leader is unconscious or disrespectful of this, the requirement it places on the leader in the form of responsibility will be shocking. Thus if a leader assumes office only to face this shock, it is less likely to define what will be a modest standard correctly and work toward. The intelligent balance for history making will be with more resistance than cooperation. This can be worse where knowledge and education for the intelligent balance is either absent or low on both the part of the leader and the followers.

A third acceptance is that, there is always some level of irrational and nonsensical claim to what originally belonged to no one and therefore belong to everybody. These cover all gifts of God. The air that we breathe is hardly of interest because is out of control, even though we have been affecting it by either pollution or in our relationship to plants. Buried values in the earth crust are of common knowledge. And our vicious attitude to possession of plain land is characteristically heightened by the fertility of the land and

knowledge of the values underneath. The same applies to waters, sea portions and attending islands.

Whereas it makes sense to appreciate relationship claims where evident labour and resources of any claimant exist, the purpose of society, governance and leadership is to straighten the level of existing irrational and nonsensical claims against the rational and sensible requirement for the safety and prosperity of each and all members including projected members in view. This is why the world wars transformed just like colonialism and now the development of internationalism, through regionalism and continentalism. The leader must therefore accept that the visitation of the relationship between resources, capacities and members of the society or polity MUST adjust toward the admission of most to all members, for safety and prosperity. This is the primary and ultimate purpose of leadership. And the proof of this is the compelling condition of losing all claims directly upon death and succession by inheritance rights or a set of new claims. Any leader who ignores or takes this for granted will be on the path of disconnecting with leadership.

Another acceptance is that the authority or power entrusted to the leader can be used subtly or nakedly. It can take the form of advice, warning, preventing, inviting, rewarding, compelling, sanctioning etc. It is therefore of no use and dangerous in itself. It must therefore ALWAYS be for creating, establishing and improving the best possible balance in the spread of the common collective resources for the safety and prosperity of all - including every strong, every weak, every potential and every incapable. And only KNOWLEDGE must be used in the application of the first for directing the second. But like the first and second, knowledge can be right, suitable, relieving or the very opposite. Thus, the better the knowledge the less need for naked power and the faster the achievement of its purpose. Indeed, the higher the prospect of sustaining what is achieved. In other words the speed and duration of the pains of leadership is largely the making of the quality of the knowledge the leader either possesses or has admitted to drive the governed. Any leader who therefore either is bankrupt of knowledge, distant himself from knowledge

seeking or is disrespectful of knowledgeable people risks being consumed by ignorance, the ignorant, success by chance and a difficult tenure.

The fifth required acceptance is that a sociology is needed as the cargo for the motor or engine that the leader symbolizes. This sociology needs to be healthy and provided for, above average, to have optimal exploitation or benefits of its political, economic or intellectual powers for general good. Because they are rarely all liberated from ALSO SEEKING FOR MORE THAN SUFFICIENT they may not always become available on volunteer terms or if they are, they will need to be under super watch. This is because they can resort to mischief without notice. Thus, for reasons of political morality, it is only reasonable and sensible to provide for them, a basis for sanctions if they do mischief. It will therefore be fool hardy of a leader to operate in isolation of a fitting social group or network that will aid in driving the vehicle from the origin toward the common destination for all leadership. This can take the forms of inaccessibility, painful access or nonchalance to open invitations. And the sheepish submission to a club of persons based more on blood or mother tongue or accident of attending the same school or belonging to the same calling will be self-defeatist if not formally keyed into the institutional machinery for defined reward or sanctions. A leader is not for any particular person or group but for all members he has authority over.

Another acceptance is that only the psych of attending to every and all is relevant for leadership. Thus, the constant consciousness and reference to every and all is the only suitable orientation for evaluating the fitness of knowledge to be admitted for application. The comparative standard will be the speed and time for enabling arrival at the destination of common safety and prosperity for each and all. And this is impossible without a template for the minimum or lowest admissible safety and prosperity from the definition of what is the status quo. If it is education, the level of literacy will come into question. And this level must be real and near total. If it is health, the enabling environment will come into question. It will therefore be distant of a leader to simply admit knowledge for housing without relating it with how many need and how to provide most to all of these in the earliest or shortest possible time.

Any leader that therefore deliberately isolates, disallows or restrains any one or body from ordinary access to benefit from his governance is wicked and discriminatory. And the path to it is by fearing, isolating self or keeping a distance to or not scouting for or not recognizing and befriending knowledgeable men with good livelihood – with sincere love and respect.

A seventh acceptance is that only purity of heart and transparent sincerity on a consistent basis with self and those in direct and regular reach to him, will serve two immeasurable values for him. These will attract to him knowledgeable and wealthy people that will submit themselves to his leadership and governance. The efforts by mischievous persons from among them to thwart his direction will be checked for him by the actions of others or he will get uncoloured alert to deal with it. And in the continuum of purity he shall welcome and accommodate moderate achievers while he maintains a higher level for superiority and control. This will allow a space for tolerating his own drawbacks for his relatives. The contrary will give him unfairly away as a hypocrite. And this has a way of building up stress on the leader because he would have boxed himself into a creature that he cannot comfortably be. Any leader that ignores, is unable or fails in this respect will inevitably have the greater challenge of competing with others or allowing others to join him in the determination of material comfort limits for himself and others. The real and eventual weakness of this form of superiority is that, succeeding leaders will be inclined or tempted to push the level, quality and scope of comfort up – without necessary respect to the maintenance ability of the society. The development of the presidential seat is a good unfortunate example.

While it is absolutely safe for any leader to thrive well with purity of heart and transparent sincerity and it is FREE for all without limit, it is not very same with knowledge. A leader with some form of knowledge can easily be blindfolded against listening to what may be superior and can be easily misled by a seeming more knowledgeable person. Unfortunately, for leadership the knowledge of what is philosophically and morally appropriate for the collective is a superior need to special knowledge like how to dislodge insurgents, militants, build houses, roads, bridges, trains, vehicles, ships, dams

etc. The leader is stronger and more valuable when he combines purity of heart, transparent sincerity with philosophy and morality for collective good to drive the application of special knowledge – with moderate orientation.

Another acceptance is that the more and better the time available is in view for every and all management and governance activities the more and better the leader will be responsive and responsible. All of the acceptances outlined above and more NEED NOT be at the wretched whims of the leader. If he subjects them to what pleases him, he would have exceeded his boundaries and gone into the betrayal of his trust. Any leader who chooses to move at a pace that disconnects use of available time to optimal management of resources would have failed, regardless of whatever appears to have been achieved.

Nobody in the followership for instance will need to wait to the development of vaccines against malaria or HIV before infected people are attended to. Such leadership will be irresponsive and irresponsible to its primary call. If people must eat rice and there is no money to import it, the responsive attendance will be to graduate the relationship between local production and importation of the same, in the scale of priorities for the available resources. What will distinguish the response or action of the leader from contradictory suggestions from the polity is openness to more and the best related information for necessary actions. It is the exercise of rash restraint against a simplistic decision stand in the continuum between continuing to import and its immediate ban that makes leadership tick. A factor like rainfall, that is not in the control of the leadership must in the earliest possible time be planned for, to get optimal benefits from it. It will be unfortunately be most unintelligent to be planning in the raining season for planting, when dry season farming should be a topping of agricultural activities.

A ninth acceptance is that the crave for final or absolute truth is the singular right fruitful and rewarding addiction for a leader. The closer a leader gets to it, the more he can get closer to every and all of his followers with the guarantee of higher fulfilment for both parties. This is because the numerous truths that propel various orientation cannot absolutely stand on their own.

Even when they appear to be independent, immediate superiority should be in view, when compared or brought together. It is at the level of philosophy and collective morality that this can be constantly appreciated and grasped. And it is the conscious or unconscious, intelligent or foolish discretions of the leader that can summarily reveal his type, form and level of truth identity. Any leader that is naive, ignorant or careless about this does not excuse him from belonging to a shade of truth. And the collective truth that will admit every and all members with respect must be the objective. This is because men do not complete their living by eating, drinking, intercourse, sleeping and convenience only. Animals do this better. This is why Mafioso, cultism, democracy etc. are all living with us. Atheists, agnostics, believers etc. all belong to the leader and deserve a determining fairness in relation to one another from the leader.

Another acceptance is that collective safety and prosperity will always hinge on what is institutionalized. And because institutions are living, if they are not maintained and developed they are liable to deteriorating and even collapse. The superiority of institutions lies in their facelessness and equal admission of members. This is what brings leaders into power and every responsible leader must build it, to enhance good or improved governance. Informalities are therefore always a resource for selection to further strengthen the institutions. This may be any of the arms of government, the seat of power, the bureaucracy, the opposition or interests of pressure groups.

Any leader that is ignorant or nonchalant about this will suffer in governance and even reduce the prospect of optimal performance with the available resources. This because public or official matters will be personalized at the greater risk of privatization of policy benefits. The leader must therefore make personal deliberate efforts to symbolize the priority and superiority of the institution and its building. The challenge that must be openly shared is transparent transition from one form and level to another, in the equal interest of all.

The eleventh acceptance is that the leader must be a super form of any one or group of members. This is only possible with the universal attribute of consistent positivism. And is achievable only if the leader constantly purges

himself of all negative status and relationships with any one or collection of members. This will make friends safe with him and enemies giving him the benefit of the doubt. The dividend of this orientation is that a window is open for all to be positive and for optimal exploitation for the benefit of all. And the negative elements have the prospect of becoming positive.

Any leader who closes his doors against some other than on the instruction of collective and free interest is bound to realize less than optimal results under difficult circumstances. And the price of this that is worse is that sustenance can be stressful because the negative elements can choose to do mischief, which will attract the use of force to protect the positive. The avoidance of relating with force by willingly doing what is right by the followers is what the leader is required to establish in a civil and human society. Leadership is not for self or some.

## **THE REVEALING RESISTANT FAILURES OF OUR POLITICAL LEADERS**

### **IT IS THE FIRST BURDEN OF THE LEADERS**

Without doubt, it takes more than the Elected and Appointed leaders to make the political system cruise. But what distinguishes them is to be at the forefront in making the system work, grow and develop. If and when they fail to make such distinction, they are First to blame and Mostly to blame. And the reason or justification is very simple. All of the OTHERS have voluntarily or involuntarily surrendered primary-principal leadership to them.

In this respect, the President comes first, along with those he has chosen or have been allowed for him. The leaders and members of the National Assembly do not come second but follow suit. This is because the legislature is supposed to be an honorable independent arm, to enable equal responsible leadership management of our affairs.

Responsive and responsible leadership cannot be free of disagreements, conflicts or misunderstandings. And it Must also Not Always or Mostly be disagreements, conflicts and misunderstandings. When the latter becomes the

norm or popular, leadership would have lost its primary and principal purpose. Thus, the inevitability of the former is meant to be transcended.

## **THE FAILURE OF IDENTITY**

It is the first responsibility of a leader and those in the same class along with him to recognize and accept that if NOTHING was wrong or inadequate, there will be No Need for any or many leaders. And most importantly, the Leadership is for All members of the society and not any section. It is in order to carry everybody along that the generous and faceless principle and practice known as TRANSPARENCY is called for, encouraged or demanded.

Thus, if the ordering of priorities in terms of Time Attention is missed, truncated or ignored, it amounts to the highest level of irresponsiveness and irresponsibility to its first purpose. This is the paradigm that explains and justifies the honor and humility of voluntary withdrawal or resignation by a leader that finds himself not fitting into the right response for the governed along with fellow leaders and especially with the Lead leader. Indeed, this same paradigm is the judicial basis for administrative removal of lieutenants who are found wanting and possible impeachment of a leader.

As constantly as the leaders get faced by a variety and conflicting demands for management, they cannot and must not fail to strive to their utmost in REALIZING what is of Timely Priority for All. The approach for leadership is that Truth is One even if it can have several faces. For example, the beginning of a year for public service is January. It is a mark of irresponsiveness and irresponsibility to ignore adjusting to this in the earliest possible time, where it has been shifted to February, March or April with makeup regulations. This was well reflected in the time of presenting the 2016 and 2017 budgets, the processing of the same and passage. The bills relating to the Petroleum Industry, the Ports and the special Courts for attending to stolen public funds present bigger and more evident picture of this leadership failure. In all of these cases, it is neither the executive nor the legislature that is solely to blame. Both are blame worthy because no party was helpful to the other. The judiciary had been cashing on its own underdevelopment to take beneficiary advantage of the failures of the executive and legislature. The discovery, the

seizure and association of senior Judicial officers with unexplainable funds was hopeless enough.

Because the executive has failed or refused to recognize that a good chunk of the legislators were a party to the formation of the ruling government and are entitled to attention even if not protection, the legislators felt free to resist self-slight by clearing an anti-graft czar . It will be rationally and sensibly self-destructive.

The legislature on its part even moved to personalize national legislative responsibility by considering immunity for some of its qualified members for corruption arrest. It also moved to amend the law establishing the Code of Conduct Tribunal that was listening to the charges against the head of the National Assembly. It also moved to relocate the power of appointing an anti-graft czar. And a more debasing one is the minimum age for becoming the president of Nigeria - considering the age, qualifications, experiences of the legislators and the experiences of Nigeria in the hands of the heads of Nigerian Government we have had and the prices.

On the part of the executive, it is regretful to measure the appropriateness of making the appointment of political leaders and chief executives the times they were done. The system provides for a full house for optimal operational take off. The laws expect that the leader is likely to perform best with a Team, from day one to the span of its tenure. If it is difficult, the earliest time in the difficult circumstances cannot fit into when the ministers, board members and most chief executives were appointed.

At the level of the political party, this failure in the consistency of what they have come together to uphold and protect is revealed through party indiscipline. The election of the leadership of the National Assembly was one. The squabble in the selection of the party candidate for the governorship election in Ondo was another. The dance of a party chieftain like Atiku, the withdrawal attitude of another chieftain, Tinubu are all not building the party or leadership of the ruling government.

This has the implication of the leader being alone. The second implication is that the party as a machinery has become inconsequential. The third

implication is that the polity and especially those who voted the party and the leaders have a poor prospect of being well served – except by some miraculous chance or gamble. This is because there is no system, nothing can be built and the future very much rests on starting all over again.

Unfortunately for the electorate, this failure of identity and poverty of responsiveness and responsibility places the political elite on one side and the helpless electorate on the other. The foundation for this is that both the electorate and the political elite are either bankrupt, poor or are careless about the necessary national political education and orientation that can enable right thinking, right commitment and right action by most parties.

In essence, the leaders across the board, the three arms of government have failed more than succeeded in recognizing and building this IDENTITY factor that is inevitable for TIMELY RESPONSIVE AND RESPONSIBLE LEADERSHIP. Their individual or divided style in the following year has not changed from how they started. But leadership can only be given life through a SYSTEM that Considers differences by selective admission for building without massive destruction. This will leave only the stubborn and foolish to be administered and managed by the faceless and compelling instruments of the law. In society, there will often be the wrong. But it is for leadership to separate between the wrong that could have been in error, by circumstance and even opportunity against the wrong that is unwilling, refuses and resists becoming right – with evident safety arrangements.

## **THE FAILURE OF THIS GENERATION**

Logically and unfortunately linked to this IDENTITY failure is the worsened generation relationship with the lower, younger or upcoming one. The concept of generation here is a matrix of those who by their physiological age, political status now cruise the government of Nigeria. Their financial powers, managerial, technical and administrative competences only go to strengthen them individually and collectively for the PURPOSE they have been called and mandated to serve.

This is clearly revealed in the dramatic relationship between the executive arm of the Committee on Corruption and the real executive with the

legislature. The Committee is on independent funds. It is essentially operating on the orientation of systematic dealing, with expressed or recorded corruption procedurally – by guiding or aiding formal agencies like those of anti-graft and courts, to correct corruptive abuses, within the ambit of the laws. No one can deny the value of its role. The real executive is impressed by its indirect effect and the real legislature is a co-witness to this along with the general public. BUT because of the failure in recognizing and upholding the purposeful identity that is relevant for leadership, the real executive sides with the committee while the real legislature feels disrespected.

The leadership is therefore further failing in establishing a standard for successors to build on. Indeed if anything, the misfortune is that the rot and gangsterism that built up the rejection of the previous leadership and is handed to the present IS YET TO BE MEANINGFULLY ATTENDED TO. And even an unpopular often unpleasant voice is able to discern this and get the support of his leaders. All intelligent people will recognize and appreciate this expression. But why only members of an arm who belong to the same ruling party and even miscreant nonmembers? The answer is simple. Leadership is a shade under which ALL are entitled to seek shelter. The painful failure of the present leadership is that, a critical issue like this is NOT the primary Joint concern and commitment of the leaders of the party, executive and legislature at the same time. Indeed, this is a factor for their manufacture, which should attract outsiders like the opposition to help sharpen. This is what will serve as the litmus test for turning things around. The popular movement of people from other parties to the ruling party is not really helpful. This is because, it is like shifting to take advantage with the new opportunity on the excuse of surface positive difference achieved by the present government. This same trend of shifts and not change can easily take place again even by reverse.

Thus, the generation that is either seeking or will become part of those that will succeed the club now in power is NOT BEING GIVEN THE REQUIRED INTELLECTUAL, INSTITUTIONAL PLATFORM for the orientation of the needed IDENTITY for Leadership. The critical gaps are twin folded in the form of Self Education by the present leadership and practical reorientation of the polity. This is because No amount of Transparency rules that men are not

cultured with can be of any lasting benefits. The gravity of this failure and need is partially responsible for lose, unguarded and embarrassing expression like CHANGING THE CHANGE. It depicts the depth of ignorance for what is universally acknowledged as right or fixation to evil that requires crushing.

In present day Nigeria where these are not just examples but the pronounced trends or patterns of political behavior, the present generation of leaders are still failing and Need to quickly adjust. In other words, it is not the people or persons that the ballot box power can surely Change that is the fundamental challenge for both the now popularly molested elected leaders and the electorate. Those who are now power have to work together on defined and feasible principles for all. It is impossible and senseless to have a dead legislature for a living executive. Intra party disagreements should be made healthy. Inter party disagreements should be safe. The management of these along with the AGREEMENTS are what the leadership is required to employ in the optimal service of All. And it is only basis for establishing a universal legacy in history. History, Culture or Civilization is not established by instability or more changes against standardization. The challenging experience for nomadic education is enough pointer for us in Nigeria.

These resistant challenges are the real bedrock for establishing a firm and lively democratic system that remain greatly wanting for the present leadership and government at the close of is second year. The competitive and growing obsessions to rule or lead Nigeria along with the temptations to join the criminal and unrepentant resisters to change are definitely part of the challenges the leadership is required to manage or deal with. And it cannot be done in isolation or with stubbornness. When all hands are placed on deck, it is for the leadership to do the necessary architecture of what the within along with his powers will enable that must allow outsiders to benefit or be admitted, whereas those outside these will become minimal and irrelevant.