

# THE OUGHT CONCERNS FOR POLITICAL OPPOSITION



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## **OPPOSITION BY WHO?**

It is often grossly mistaken that the assumption of knowing what opposition consists of, is safe. And this is a dangerous liberty that politicians and political leaders enjoy at the peril of the electorate and polity in general.

Politicians and political leaders often consciously or otherwise arrogantly believe and behave in the context of being the only ones entitled to express or engage in political opposition. Unfortunately, this is often allowed to pass unquestioned by the electorate. This misfortune is an abuse of the absolute truth and suppression of the political nature and right of every member of the society, respectively.

It is therefore both wrong and inadequate for only members of the political class to assume the sole status and role of political opposition.

Consequently, every citizen, as a political being is entitled to expressing and engaging in political opposition because, political arrangements are sponsored by the citizens. Therefore, political processes do not have to exclude any of them simply because only some of them have been entrusted with the mandate of final administration and management. In the same vein, members of the political class that have lost the mandate or will not mind the same mandate cannot be denied this critical participatory status and role. Indeed, they have the utmost responsive responsibility to do so, as monitors of those rightly, accidentally or wrongly given the mandate. This has the twin benefits of displaying their positive or negative difference to those given the mandate in the eyes of the electorate and preparing them for responsible governance if given the same opportunity in the future. And between the citizens and this political class that does not have the mandate for governance are political members that share the same identity with those

collectively given the mandate but are not in government. This category of politicians includes political party captains or chieftains, party structure leaders or operators and all card bearers.

Consequently, it is wrong and will be most unfortunate for any government not to have opposition from across these classes. And it will be irresponsible to suppress them.

However, this opposition **MUST NOT INCLUDE THE MANDATE THAT HAS ALREADY BEEN SETTLED AND GIVEN TO A CLEARLY DEFINED BODY.**

It is in order to check any such uncivil, unconstitutional, undemocratic and possible animalistic tendencies that the possessor of the collective mandate is entrusted with coercive power to redress such excesses.

### **OPPOSITION OF WHAT?**

The basis and focus of political appreciation, political understanding and political opposition **MUST** remain and continue to be the common and collective truth as **ONE**. This concept of One relates to application to every and all members of the society. It will not be any right of harm or benefit by action, inaction or implication to any individual or group, to the irrational and senseless exclusion of another individual or group.

Matters of the growth, sustenance and development of every and all members of the polity must be the basis, the focus and ultimate objective of opposition. It must always have to do with protection of all irrespective of the freedom of any and some.

For example, with us in Nigeria, it must protect and enhance our material and spiritual beingness. Opposition that is relevant must not seek to serve some first before others; and it must avoid being against some before others. This means that ALL must always take precedence over any and others. And accordingly basic existence and survival of every member and all must take precedence over superior levels of these for any and others. Thus, most fundamental priorities like food, drink and shelter FOR EVERYONE must be the beginning of the success or failure of a government, for appreciation, understanding or opposition. Accordingly, disbelief in the forms of associating anything with God or against God deserves primary opposition and resistance over the kinds of associations to be registered. It is this irresponsible lapse by ignorance and carelessness in our primary identity, by the political class, in the beginning that have opened the path to So Called and Seemingly neutral CLUBS AND FRATERNITIES with destructive orientations to our primary identities. The incursion has grown and developed to the level of some of our MISGUIDED models of our primary identities doubly associate with such OPPOSING-CUM-DESTRUCTIVE identities. And the ONLY TRUTH that remains constant but has become weak is that NO SUCH MEMBERS OPENLY DECLARE THE APPROPRIATENESS OF SUCH IDENTITY. This is not to deny that with time, members and the organizations are beginning to subtly ask for, demand for and even force for a space for themselves. The most dangerous forms known as cults are becoming popular.

Anything different or variant can be admitted as valuable opposition but is certainly not of primary relevance. This is because men have to first exist and survive extermination before other categories of needs, wants and fancies can follow suite. And next to existence and survival is the total primary identity of man. Thus, those who have spirituality in the form of a defined path for now, that

connects to afterlife HAVE SOMETHING TO LOSE IF THEY ARE CARELESS. Those whose spirituality is limited to this life or are bankrupt of any, HAVE THE ABSOLUTE CHOICE OVER EVERY AND ALL OF THEIR AFFAIRS. It is therefore the necessary responsibility of opposition NOT to oversight the relationship between the government or leadership and the basic existence-identities of the people. Any contributors and contributions to opposition that hesitate or fail to make this PRIMARY are doing LESS than will SERVE THE POLITY. This is because beyond this primary necessary discrimination, for every level and sphere of needs, wants and fancies, there is a distinguishable order of priority.

For example, it is not critical to oppose the government on the budget allocation for constituency projects before inadequate funding for oversight functions by the government. It is not critical to oppose the inadequacy of funds for housing before establishing the fastest possible rate of reducing housing deficits with the available human and material resources for safe structures. In the same vein, it is not critical to oppose shortage of food before the provision of farming inputs before farming season. And these cannot be vigorously and passionately pursued in disregard of what are safe for the spiritual security and prosperity of the members.

## **OPPOSITION FOR WHAT?**

This is the aspect that is one but two-faced.

It is clearly for shift of mandate by the electorate to members of the political class that do not possess the mandate WHEN another opportunity comes up. As for those belonging to the same class that have been given the mandate, the objective will be to strengthen the governance, against considering a possible or probable

alternative at the point of future validation by the electorate, for another mandate. Between and along with these two classes, the consequential effect of positive opposition from the general citizens is, SHARPENING the evaluation capacity of the polity for superior political actions.

Political opposition will remain relevant as long as it is directed to raising the quality of governance in the society.

Opposition ultimately serves the positive purpose of the ruling party and government for the general benefit of the society, irrespective of the source. If it does not, then it is not relevant. As a result, opposition is necessarily differing for adjusting, correcting and enhancement of governance. Opposition is neither neutrality to what is wrong nor ignition of what is wrong or even purposeless. Opposition is not pulling down. This is because the responsibility for the development and prosperity of the society rests on the shoulders of all members equally. The transitory mandate to a set of people is therefore more of a test of the group and not a total surrender of responsibility to them. It will be irrational and senseless of any opposition class to withdraw or be neutral about this responsibility. This is why the window of such stupidity is closed in One party democracies, even though in the others, ordinary human rationality is assumed to be a sensible security for colourful governance process. And two-party democracies appear to be modest, in this circumstance.

Any form and type of essential deviation from this will either be self-serving of a group or an individual against the general society. Hence, it is NOT rightly politics to belong to a political class to serve self. This unfortunate idea and orientation is the logical product of our degree of governance failure and opposition failure in

our politics and democracy. Politics and governance are not firstly, opportunities but burdensome challenges, for the intelligent and caring.

## **THE CONSTANT CONCERNS FOR ALL CITIZENS WHO CARE**

Because history is dynamic, our needs, wants and fancies continue to arise, renew and require to be sustained and developed, the right and acceptable understanding of our affairs need to be recertified and developed.

In other words, our primary identities that give us the revolving point for understanding and acting out our livelihood along with securing our fundamental material existence need to be constantly upheld as a responsibility of each and all of us. And knowledge is the only means and instrument of enabling and ensuring this. A society of men who either do not know themselves or do not care to know, stand the risk of losses without pain – the foundation for transforming them into different identities.

Education is thus most critical for the identity of anyone and all of us. This is not necessarily with schooling though it can enhance education. It is knowledge along with experience that sharpens our concept of what is right and acceptable for supporting with collective will and power. Without knowledge, education is not feasible and without education political participation will not help a fulfilling establishment and enhancement of any identity. Education is the necessary foundation for enabling proper representation in political practice.

The constant strive and objective of every society must be, to raise as many of its members who are embodiments of their ideas, perspective and living examples of their collective identity. The more they are commonly available the greater the prospect of representative protection of their identities and ambitions in self-



governance. The contrary implies a window for possible variations and even successful abuse. It is therefore easy to appreciate, read and understand the stress the electorate can go through, when their collective representatives start quarrelling over a budget that should serve them. The presentation cannot be at free will, the appropriation cannot be so either, if they must be responsive and responsible to the electorate that gave them the mandate. Indeed, it will be outrageous to have the executive fighting corruption while a representative will move for some asylum for the corrupt. The electorate will get confused or regret the choice of representation. This is not to dismiss the rare possibility of electing humans who may turn into animals in their orientation.

The family must serve as the first level of this necessary socialization. The school will be the first formal exposure for strengthening this socialization. And outside school, formal and informal platforms must stick to this. The logic is that those who have no identity to protect have nothing to lose. But, they can be harmful to those who have and are careless about protecting it. This is because those who simply pick anything they find attractive have no superior boundaries to exceed. Thus, their orientation inevitably becomes, ANYTHING THAT WORKS IS RIGHT. This kind of OPEN value can for example easily admit single parenthood without wedlock as an approach to reproduction of society. If those who side with wedlock as the means for reproduction of society sit and watch, you can expect that from among the wedlockers, the single parents will get a boost. But who is the loser?

For that reason, education is meant to define and orient members of an identity on WHAT is admissible, HOW it is to be admitted, FOR WHO and WHERE. Thus, while a society does not have to be homogeneous in identity, the different identities must define the terms of their critical or principal difference, for

protection. The choice here is for a people to keep what is principal constant. If what matters most in one's identity is who speaks his language, such backwardness can be kept. But it will amount to irresponsible hypocrisy to be changing what is principal, from one situation to another. The same will apply if what is uppermost is those that share the same physical environment with you.

In the end, it is the ability to do this and continue to do this that enables standard opposition which usefully connects with the development and prosperity of the identity of the society. Every political leadership and governance is consequently a mirror of the Education and Opposition capacity for protecting the identities of the citizens. If it is a weak or disgraceful reflection of what the best citizens stand for, it is the failure of the leadership and citizenry together. And the best citizens are constantly, those among the citizens that members will be proud to be like, in most or all respects. If it is not feasible, then the identity is WRONG or simply for fancy.

In Nigeria of today, it is hardly disputable that the institution of Marriage and Family has BROKEN DOWN for most of our identities. It is no more shocking to discover premarital sexual orientation. This opens the window to out-of-wedlock reproduction, abortion discourse, orphans from unknown parents, contraceptives FOR THE HEALTH OF WOMEN AS THEY ENJOY SEXUAL RIGHTS. This is why with our claims of godly identity it is very prospective to get applicants today, if an outfit seeking to have prostitutes to be licensed and catered for advertises that interested persons should come with their parents as sponsors. This only depicts the level of the general ignorance of our identity along with the damaging consequence of disorientation that is on-going. Negative neutrality is the most dangerous consequence of identity carelessness. The same level of damage is applicable to our schools system. The literature that children are milled with

largely pretends to be morally neutral. And those that specifically entrench or promote our identities are either rare or not available – in spite of the knowledge and production capacities of the older generations and our government. How can this be a surprise when even the production of academic journals that connect with the career progression of teachers in tertiary institutions no more colour them?

The summary of it is that the disconnection between our knowledge and living or between the knowledge and skills we acquire against our primary identity will NEVER give us any fulfilment. The pretence for the seeming immediate benefit of safety is only a foundation for the gradual destruction or negative transformation of our preferred identity.

### **THE ADDITIONAL CONCERNS FOR THE POLITICAL CLASS**

The distinctive attribute of the political class is that they aspire to be given the mandate of governance by the electorate at every time of exercising that right and responsibility. This implies that they have the competence to put together the necessary knowledge and facilities for the same governance. In consequence, their opposition is expected as a matter of responsibility to connect to HOW governance is being pursued or handled.

And so, beyond the general opposition by the electorate the political class must focus its opposition on the timeliness of governance response. This is because it is not enough to have the knowledge of what is right against the on-going wrong; and it is equally not sufficient to make the required correction after gaining the benefit of the knowledge of what is right. It is indeed most important to carry out what is right in goodly time. For instance, it is WRONG to simply admit that every and all citizens of Nigeria need some minimum food, drink and shelter and KEEP

WAITING until the challenge gets itself solved, simply because provisions are made for farming with policies, inputs and related resources. It is the opportunity burden of the political opposition to CHECK the relationship between the arrangements and how far it can cover the scope of challenges within the mandate period and resources available. If this failure or inadequacy is condoned, the society will simply continue to serve as a feasting or gaming field for the political class that will be playing the opportunistic role of serving itself. The best intentions of the ruling government will be inconsequential as the combination of its knowledge and actions will amount to a naught. This zero level is so because, regardless of what may appear to have been achieved is swallowed up by the logical and sensible increase of society members and the avoidable losses to hunger and related deficiencies or diseases. The connection to the factor of time is then a fundamental responsibility of the government and the take off point for responsible opposition by the political class ESPECIALLY IN OUR CIRCUMSTANCE WHERE FOOD, DRINK AND SHELTER ARE MORE WANTING THAN AVAILABLE. And this duty of timeliness along with the opposition to ensure timeliness applies to every and all aspects of governance. Just like the time for exercising the right to decide who to give the mandate is felt to be sacrosanct, by the electorate and those seeking to compete for the burden, it is the necessary attribute of governance for whoever gets the mandate.

It is all-round UNBECOMING AND UNACCEPTABLE to play god with the burden of governance that is sought for and given. It will amount to audacity to simply act at will. Nonetheless, since such situations may not be intended but can come into place, only OPPOSITION by the political class can best ensure the necessary adjustments. The justification of lack of the necessary knowledge, skills, persons and machinery for the right and timely action for every aspect of

governance cannot be IMPOSSIBLE with the leadership, when the party and opposition are alive. But if others are alive and the leadership is unconscious, then, there is an internal problem that is anti-people. And the earlier the government corrects it, the better for its mandate. The gravity of this irresponsibility can be appreciated and measured by the number or weight of those affected, which can rise to generational level. A case in point is if pupils of school age have to wait UNTIL anytime arrangements are made for them, it is UNFORGIVABLE. Indeed, even if it will take eight years of waiting to hook up with the ability to totally absorb them for schooling thenceforth, the creation of a generation of eight year starters is a sufficient anomaly. This is why the longer it is ignored the more we will continue to complain while the politicians pretend to care and feast on it. This is why CROSS-SECTIONAL OPPOSITION is to the benefit of the entire society. If this gravity is not appreciated at this level, take the graduation of students and trainees from all terminal points, if their ENGAGEMENT HAS TO WAIT UNTIL IT SOLVES ITSELF. Most may either get wrongly engaged or languish with their competencies. The popular diversion of self-employment by ignoramus misplaces the primary responsibility of governance in ensuring that no employable hand is left dormant. Indeed in responsive societies where governance is optimally opposed for service, most of formally retired employees get ad hoc re-engagement especially in the areas of institutions building. In our case, the best hands may not be seen again. In fact, it is becoming questionable because there are growing unengaged hands. Timeliness is therefore not only always important but the fastest movement is required according to the relationship between the factors of the specific need, its priority status, the available knowledge, the available skills applicable, then humans to handle it and resources. Where there is no care for timeliness, the question should be, in what factor is the leadership bankrupt and unable to tap from the political opposition and the citizenry?

And from recent experiences, we can justifiably affirm that we have had our Federal budgets of the years 2016 and 2017 passed out of utmost insensitivity and carelessness for the factor of time. While the executive is blameable for very late readiness, the legislature did not help matters. And both the opposition components of the ruling party outside the government and especially the political opposition class not having the mandate have failed to play sufficient roles to make the polity better. This goes to impress that once you are in government, IT IS YOUR TURN to do whatever you decide or in whatever way or both. This characteristic of double misfortune gives our politicians and political practices away from the electorate. Connected to this is the unfortunate realization that Nigeria got or is getting out of its economic recession WITH NO TIMELY COMMITMENT OF GOVERNMENT ACTIONS. And this can be buttressed with the fact that IF there was a responsible synergy between the ruling party, the executive and the legislature, at least the evident real obstacles between them would have been less by some fifty percent and more than three hundred percent of the achievements would have been realized.

At every point in time the evaluation of governance by the government, its partners, the political opposition and the electorate must connect ability of government in relation to the timely needs, wants and fancies of the polity. It is for instance most insensitive and even abusive, to use available resources for construction of roads in exclusion of any geopolitical zones in any year WITHOUT A DEFINITE STATUS OF WHEN, SCOPE AND TIME OF BENEFITING WITH MINIMUM RESOURCES. But because of the common deliberate setting aside of what must be done against what may wish to be done, governance is like playing with resources and making an academic defence of it. For governance, the scarcity of resources is not the first issue but what MUST

FIRST BE DONE with whatever resources are available, to connect with the electorate. It is the ability to swing between optimal satisfaction of constant needs, wants and fancies of the society and minimum available resources that stands a government out as performing. If a geopolitical zone can wait for a year or two to get roads from the federal government, none of the humans can wait for so long before eating. Indeed the connecting roads cannot wait before the internal roads. This kind of opposition failures or incapacity is what the political class and government are being exposed to the electorate by the herdsmen and farmers crisis. One begins to wonder if the activities of these EQUAL Nigerians cannot be managed for the benefit of all of us. The time it is taking to sort it out with the combinations of knowledge, civility, force and responsibility is questionable.

### **THE CONCERNS FOR THE POLITICAL CLASS IN OPPOSITION**

The political class in opposition therefore ALWAYS has what to keep it busy, to build its credibility. This is even more when and where the opposition is part of the government like in the legislative arm. They will be entitled to the same documents and rights of expression, evaluation and debate. Thus, though may be unfortunate, it is possible to have an intelligent opposition representative leading in relevant law making in a mist of ruling accidental majority. But it is easier to be One nuisance.

Even when and where the political opposition class members are not part of the government, they will have responsible Press outfits often checking on them for a balanced understanding, as critical observers. But in our case, the common and popular experience is that even those elected do not have operating constituency offices. Where they exist, they either have skeletal staff or incompetent and ill equipped setting. Indeed even personal aides may be touts. Consequently, they do not add value to either the process or actions of opposition. But this is the window

of greatest opportunity for the political class in opposition to LEAD out of the present political quagmire. That the electorate are largely illiterate is NOT an excuse because they REMAIN the real Masters. And Political Education is best practiced at this connecting point.

Beyond this is the definition of its ideological difference in the process of constant evaluation of governance. This opportunity is supposed to reveal the honesty identity and competence of the opposition as it necessarily lays out its paradigm for governance IF IT REALLY HAS ANY DIFFERENCE TO OFFER. And this enriches the democracy as it provides an alternative to the electorate.

Where there is no real difference, like in our case, even the basics fail to be well attended to. For example, in dealing with the approach of the government to arresting corruption, while the executive is in a ring with party fellows that have consistently failed at party and government levels to provide a responsible alternative, the best the opposition has come up with is that its members are the ones hounded for corruption. Common sense then questions: Are non-ruling party members entitled to freedom even if they are caught, because the ruling party members have not been caught? This tendency of bastardizing basic common and universal truth is the greatest mischief the political class in opposition has characterized itself with. Another example is train of the apostles of taking loans. We have experienced the justification and pursuit of loans on the arguments of Debts do not kill, even developed countries have debts hanging on them, to get out of economic crisis we need loans to build infrastructure that will generate employment etc. We have consequently taken and are seeking for more loans to the point of frightening even the International Monetary Fund. The opposition failed to make the decision qualitative for the circumstances of Nigeria because only the expression of what it is to be used for and the 'soft' terms were largely



determinant. None of the applicants get drilled on WHAT IF THE REQUEST IS NOT APPROVABLE, WHEN WILL THE APPLICANT COLLAPSE? The opposition failed to generate any water-tight terms and procedures that will reveal above average performance of the applicants and the level of generated surplus to determine the suitability for consideration. The logical foundation and assumption for the competence to pay back the loan is that the applicant will be at optimal performance. But our institutions that will enable this are largely undeveloped. Thus, instead of minimal loans, we have dived deep into maximum loans. The quality of opposition is so low, unrealistic and self-serving that, the electorate is bound to develop the fear of NO DIFFERENCE BETWEEN ALTERNATIVES when another round of elections come up. And if this becomes pervasive, then political parties are only bands of power seekers of no common relevance to the electorate.

### **THE CONCERNS FOR THE OPPOSITION IN THE RULING PARTY**

In the present Nigeria where the opposition have succeeded in securing the mandate to oust the almost traditional incumbent, the concerns should be many, without being told. This is because it is not uncommon for party members in government to become blind of real and critical matters.

One of such has to do with the building of the political party machinery. The party necessarily outlives the government it has produced. If it is not built, it is a failure of its opposition capacities within and outside the government. For example, it is both unthinkable and shameful to have the subject of party funding becoming an outside public issue, with the executive expressly assuring that no government funds will be available for running the party. This is a challenge that tests the level of commitment of members. And it is the opposition that must generate the

meeting point of what is reasonable and sensible for members between the ideas and resources need for the party. The commitment of the key sponsors that eventually issued notices of withdrawing must be the take off point for this intellectual and resources challenge to the opposition. And in this case, it is worth appreciating that the expressed stand of the executive was a responsible opposition contribution to administration of the party. Opposition is therefore not smelly or for the outsider. It is a most responsible and honourable role, where the protection and prosperity of our positive collective interest is paramount. And serious indication of the need for party development is the asking for party submission of candidates for ministerial appointments after two and half years of a four year tenure. And the opposition is still sleeping. There is a non-clear relationship role between the government and the party in enabling the powers entrusted to the president. Indeed, at the take-off of the government, there was this lousy submission that, the president was advised to restrain state governors from influencing ministerial appointments because the president will not interfere with their appointment of commissioners. This is undemocratic and anti-party. In a situation where the relationship between the government and the party becomes a matter of INEVITABILITY, the role of its useful opposition is dead. Indeed it is more unbecoming to replace opposition with crass criticism in the media by members of the party. If they cannot be disciplined or they are simply allowed to assume such roles, the party will grow inconsequential. And at the end of the day, the president, whose leadership of the party is meant to provide such security will justifiably be blameable. It is only with a sensitive and active opposition this kind of challenge can be resolved responsibly. And if not, it will be difficult to dismiss the understanding that the politics is FOR THEMSELVES. What makes for the credibility of opposition is transparent expression in the interest of all, whereas for the leadership, it is LISTENING AND RESPONDING. Neither the Party nor the

Government nor Nigeria belongs to the leader. The difference of the leader is SUPERIOR RESPONSIBILITY that can be achieved ONLY BY CONSULTATION AND EVALUATION.

Another concern for the opposition in the ruling party relates to the processing of governance. It is a cold impression for the electorate to hear from a key member of the ruling party that budget submissions by the executive arrive at the legislature dead because appropriations and performance are the business of the legislature, only to hear another plea to the executive that the legislature should be carried along in governance, by the same member. The first impression would have very well qualified the member for an excellent opposition role, against assuming the legislature to be a rubber stamp. Then their objective and timely attendance to the budget would have established the honourable status of opposition. However, the second part cancelled the first part. Nonetheless it really only replicates the failure of its opposition to improve on the cultural relationship between the legislature and the executive. If the precedent culture of smooth and respectable relationship was wrong or bad, the present culture has failed to even achieve the external characteristic of smooth relationship. And it goes to question or expose the present composition of the two arms as strange bedfellows or real enemies. This makes the right and timely achievements involving the two arms a matter of Chance, Accident or Inevitability. Frustration, Pretences and Hypocrisy will be the ruling psych of the members in their relationship. Unfortunately, not even the opposition outside the ruling government cares about this. But most critical is the fact that it is an internal failure.

Across the executive and the legislature is the concern for WHY and HOW what went wrong earlier did so. This is of principal and special concern because the ruling party and government drums on the electorate that virtually all the things

done before it were either wrong or done wrongly. The piece meal approach or strategy of focusing on the costs alone is unacceptable and insufficient. The opposition has the responsibility of finding out and establishing the WHY and HOW. This is because even if every and all members of the preceding government are established to be thieves or corrupt NOT every one of them must have been in the government to steal or solely to commit corrupt practices. The records will reveal the different times each individual got hooked up, irrespective of the quantum involved. And this will enable attending to the problem with a long lasting solution. It is certainly NOT governance, to fill the airwaves, views and the print media with those suspected, those arrested, those convicted and things recovered, as headlines or most of the activities. This challenge of weak institutions has to be dealt with for a holistic solution, otherwise the relief will only appear, be temporary and therefore reversible.

There is also the concern of leadership personality and support composition. Common sense wonders over the energy dissipated on reducing the age of qualifying for various political offices when the experiences of older leaders are still giving us great challenges. It is most unlikely for any or most first time governors or president to personally know the most suitable persons across his constituency for constitutional compliance in producing his cabinet. They must therefore require help. This is why the party is there. This is why the logic of admitting an unknown person known to someone you know or admitting a known person by his credentials are tasks for the evaluation of the leader. And at the end of it all, it the later knowledge of the person after entrusting him with an assignment that matters. It is therefore sensible to deal with those you know just as it is logically provided to ease out whoever disappoints quickly. The responsibility of the opposition is to ensure that WHATEVER the personality of the leader, the

collective responsibility of the party is not veiled. The leader should appreciate it, respect it and respond responsibly. He does not have to agree or submit. He may adjust. In every case, he will bear the responsibility of the outcome for himself and the party.

This necessary concern is different from the assemblage of his immediate support team. While it is logical and sensible to give him all-free hand to do this, the opposition will have fewer problems if the RIGHT people are the outcome. In principle, any person can be right. And right here means LOYALTY TO THE LEADER WITHOUT ABUSE OF THE POSITION AND ROLE OF COLLECTIVE TRUST HE IS TO PLAY. The right person can and should disagree IF, WHEN and WHERE the leader tends towards ABUSE in the form of personalization or privatization of this status and role. Thus, the person can be the spouse of the leader, like former president Mugabe attempted. It can be in a veiled form, like a First Lady. But, in reality only a leader who has transformed into a universal man can have non relations, unknown persons or close relations as effective and efficient aides. Most people will be swallowed blind by their relatives if in formal positions of responsibility. It is for this reason the President of the United States is legally prohibited from giving any appointment to any of his relatives by blood or marriage. One can then only IMAGINE the probable damage if the wrong person is a relative. This burden on the leader must be open to safe criticism and even condemnation by the opposition. If this is ignored or feared, it is clearly anti people for the leader, the opposition, the party and government. A responsible or strong leader will either quickly do away with any such wrong person or a responsible person in the wrong position or role or both or will quickly excuse himself. It will amount to the greatest misfortune for a leader, the opposition, the party and government, to be unable to deal with any such wrong

person. It will amount to BETRAYAL of HOW the trust is to be managed for the entire electorate – as long as such a person remains. And the simple reason is that they serve as the cushioning bridge between the leader and all others. If they either intoxicate him with being always right and requiring no assistance or suffocate him by isolating him from those they do not like and opposition persons, he will be heading for political suicide.

Another cultural concern for the opposition of this government, formerly in opposition, is to check and resist dirty business as in the past, which the previous government can be criminalized for. These are activities that actually destroy our institutions. One example is in the area of employment of staff. Whether it is done by Chief Executives or supported by politicians or relatives of political leaders or by regulatory bodies, it is out rightly irresponsible. The process of appropriating funds for organizations is another or that of processing procurement, after financial releases for projects. It is not a hellish task to STOP all such practices and CONTINUE ARIGHT, instead of NOW BALANCING. The intelligence in so doing is that balancing requires an OPPORTUNITY FOR ‘abuse’, whereas continuing aright begins to entrench the required national orientation. There is no way we can generate nationalism out of federal character principle if there is no restarting point and every set of political or bureaucratic leaders play their turn. The failure of the opposition in government to do this will simply enhance the existing legacy. No difference would have been made by the government.

Opposition is the most serious responsibility after governance. The integrity of those who contribute to positive opposition for political development that will impact on the general wellbeing of the electorate rests on the fact that it is voluntary. The best leadership is the one that befriends, respects and entertains opposition. This is different from academic criticism for pass time. Critiques are

often admirable but have to make their contributions relevant to governance, to qualify for the status and role of opposition.