

ABACHA'S ENDLESS LOOT

MATTERS ARISING

BY BEN UMOLE

Before you start reading this piece of article, have you taken a profound look at the different amount of money embezzled from our National treasury by Sanni Abacha, our erstwhile military Head of State, between 1993- 1998? Can a normal person who said he was coming to rescue, redeem and uplift the lives of the citizenry in his country, be this heartless, cruel, egocentric, warped, myopic, mindless, and even insane? Is there a better way to look at insanity or mental debility than this? Is this not worse than outrageous?

What Abacha intend to do with humongous stolen monies? If he was, he was not stealing pounds, he was busy stealing the US dollars. If the sum of \$150million just recovered from France is added to the previous amount collected or recovered, then we are looking at approximately \$5billion so far recovered from him. Is anybody really guessing well, why Abacha was so inured in purloining our scarce resources? There can no persuasive or convincing reason for this kind of outlandish, nihilistic, thievery, recalcitrant and nefarious behaviour. The man called Sanni Abacha, was simply and practically out of his mind. He allowed demonic and Satanic powers to feast on his mind and brain. In short, he was brainless and had no strand of conscience as a person. Don't also forget that during his tenure as Head of State in Nigeria, he used the blood of innocent Nigerians to water the flowers in Aso Rock. The spate of assassination in Nigeria during

ABACHA'S era cannot be quantified in words. Information, has it that the corpses buried in Aso Rock when he was Head of State are innumerable. That is why today, it has become inhabitable to live by successive Presidents. Aso Rock has become a ghost palace for Presidents to reside. Can you blame President Tinubu for playing hide and seek in moving to Aso Rock to reside there?

TINUBU, started his Presidency by going to work in Aso Rock from his own residence which was a crying distance from Aso Rock. When the spate of traffic and perennial complaints became too much from well-meaning Nigerians that his convoys was causing gridlock to Abuja residents, he resorted to staying in Defence House, one of the places reserved for visiting Presidents or visiting Heads of state. The reason for being scared is better imagined than told. Why would the President of a country choose to loot and siphon the scarce resources of his country to another man's land? It is repulsive, shameful and absurd to say the least. If not for our idiocy and abject folly, how many white men would ever consider stealing their countries resources and stashing it the banks of the blacks? No way! But we happily do this, because we are

inine, asinine, and parochial in our thoughts and behaviour. I hope the black man is not cursed.

However, and having said all this, about ABACHA'S insanity about our looted treasury, what has all the monies retrieved in dollars and pounds, been spent for? Who can really point to a specific project or national monument that that these monies have been spent to build or construct.? ABACHA'S loot is now a singsong in Nigeria. It is no longer news. As earlier said, what has this endless loot remitted monies to Nigeria been used for? Unfortunately, these returned monies have only been re-looted and re-stolen by those who carry the DNA of Abacha at home. In other words, the returned loot of Abacha is only to the glee and avarice of a few officials in government circles. The quick and cheap explanations that government officials are prone to give is that the returned loot would be enmeshed or incorporated into any current budget that the country implements. But is this tenable? How accountable is this method or idea in using the looted and returned wealth? Why don't the government evolve a method whereby the monies retrieved or recovered are expended on a or specific project for glaring accountability of these monies?

Alas, this has never been the case. We are always gleeful to collect these monies and loosely spend it. Shame on us! ABACHA'S loot issue is only a case of the pot calling the kettle black. Those who collect the looted monies are not better than the person who stole the money in the first place.

It is also germane and apposite to say that there are many Abachas still in the system. ABACHA'S loot only became known and of public knowledge because he died in office as a sitting Head of State. If Abacha had not died, how would we have known that one dunce, nuisance and nonentity, looted so much money from our country. Sudden death only exposed him. Abacha's attitude is not different the current political class that gleefully gloat on impoverished Nigerians. Everyday our economy dwindles, innumerable roads are unusable, unemployment is getting rife and rife as every day passes. Nigerian Universities are producing graduates who are certificated but not educated. The civil service is bursting at its seam with anachronistic and fossilized ideas. Insecurity is rampart and many more. The Abachas in our midst may not be those who siphon our commonwealth but those who show apathy to the plight or predicaments of the masses who voted them into power. May God help us and help Nigeria. Are our current leaders better than Abacha?