

CORONATING POLITICAL GREED:

Where Insatiable Power Quest Breeds Hyperphagia Disease

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Contemporary Nigeria's political leaders have become so obsessed with power and wealth acquisitions that they seem to have been infested with a satiability disorder that results in "Political Hyperphagia Disease" that prioritizes insatiability and coronate inordinate quest to remain in power positions perpetually. Perhaps, our political leaders have lost touch with sanity and decency, resulting in Prader-Willi Syndrome (PWS); a rare genetic disorder, characterized by insatiable thirst and unquenchable hunger. A medical condition spreading and advancing into the political and public leadership space. Their unbridled quest for power and more power even at the altar of vanity, may have caused them to believe in their hearts and minds that God

is either dead, out of reach or utterly impotent and unable to intervene in our decaying democracy and political brigandage. Oftentimes, the dishonorable and dehumanizing treatments they mete out on the vulnerable citizenry whose votes made them leaders and gave them power, seriously call for medical psychopathic attention. Strictly bent on actualizing their inordinate desire for power, more power and power always, they do despicable things to acquire power and worst things to retain power indefinitely.

Truly, our political leaders have significantly veered off-track; obviously derailing from the very essence and fundamental principles of modern democracy which lies in ensuring that the will of the people is the basis of



authority and providing an environment that respects human rights, fosters equality and assures accountability.

Very sadly, this present crop of political leaders has lost respect and empathy for the led or the represented but utterly concerned on how to deliberately manipulate the system to their interest. Most times, using petite lies, mirageous projects, deceitful promises and enticingly poverty aggrandizing gifts on their very own believers, followers and supporters, just to achieve tenure renewal against the conscience known term limits or endpoints. Our political and public office occupiers should realize that pursuant upon this inglorious quest is unethical, inimical to progressive leadership, morally damaging, structurally deceitful and democratically destructive.

Comically, all the inglorious battles are just for personal interest and power status. Oftentimes, they use the same power against the very citizenry who trusted them into office with their votes, in high expectations of collective good and general democratic benefits. Surprisingly, some overzealous political apologists justify this vicious trait as ambition, some others describe it as political interest but more rational and logical critics measure it as GREED. From whichever lens, it is a brazen display of insatiable quest for power interminable; power ad-infinitum, which refuses to appreciate contentment and recognize limits and natural endpoints. Whether the quest is unintended or deliberate, it is against the spirit of global political best practices. It is against modern democratic tenets, conscience and natural justice and should be stopped, before it stops us.

Analyzing from a responsible and scholarly evaluation compass, ambition respects conscience, humility, contentment, limits and trust. It radiates positivity and collectivity. While greed delivers the inordinate desire for self-interest, egocentrism and arrogance. It aims at exploitation, deception and oftentimes, wears a harmful and desperation toga. Greed begets insatiability, fertilizes jealousy, ejaculates hatred and sponsors wickedness. It encourages crises and destruction of both lives and properties but risks divine wrath.

Every democratic setting, system or structure is guided by official rules of engagement which includes duration or term limits for office holders. It is either written on papers as a document or written on the pages of the peoples' hearts and minds as conscience. And, our leaders should be reasonable and responsible enough to respect this natural law of limits, terms and endpoints.

No ideal democracy allows a particular person to occupy an office infinitum. Every office needs changes and intermittently too, basically to inject new blood and new spirit in service which in turn brings about innovations that obviously strengthens democracy and improves its deliverables. Yes! Democracy thrives on the wings of change. And change requires vacation or exit from an office after a duration and replacement with another

fitting figure. Of course CHANGE is imminent and should be welcome. Performances; high or low, change is imperative for better results, underscored by the seasoned productivity law of "diminishing returns"

Therefore, most of our political leaders and public office holders must admit and respect the laws of limits and endpoints in service. In some cases, responsible leaders can consider voluntary step-aside or outright retirement into the revered order of statesmanship, just like their counterparts in the Western world. It is equally nauseatingly discomfoting and ridiculous for public officers who enjoyed the people's trust and benevolence for four (4) or eight (8) years, feeding fat on public's common patrimony, to callously throw caution to winds and brazenly ask for more time.

Wait, a moment! More time to do what, for God's sake? Perhaps, white-wash the sky for brighter looks... Haba! Frankly, if this kind of fixation or quest is not sponsored by sheer greed, it is then a kind of political craze, because, only a lunatic can publicly display an uncontrollable and voracious quest for accumulation of material or things not needed including debris. The lunatic can pose for serious war on the slightest attempt to decongest or purge the lunatic of the acquired needles garbage. It is important, we learn that the legitimacy of a political or public officer is derived from the people who hold the right of choice; making their leaders and replacing them at will, through the ballot. Any plot to circumvent this ideal and fundamental democratic process is a deliberate call for revolution, the people are better aware now than before: This is a wake-up call against the greedy hawks and overzealous vipers who may wish to trample on the citizenry during elections, cashing on their sponsored poverty afflictions.

Surveys have shown that any effective achievement not recorded within four (4) years, at most eight (8) years, is certainly beyond the means and capacity of the office occupier and should be replaced. It is therefore imperative that our politicians should learn these lessons of wisdom or become ridiculed by the merciless law of "lowered marginal returns".

In our Nigerian parlance, it is common sense that seeking more power directly translates to seeking more wealth influence and power status; and our politicians can go for it, at all cost.

But, as a divine caution, the Bible sternly warns in Psalm 39:6, that "We are merely moving shadows, and all our busy rushing ends in nothing. We heap up wealth, not knowing who will spend it" (NLT).

In fact, this deeply introspective and humbling reflection from the Psalmist, contemplates the fleeting nature of life, the futility of earthly pursuits, and the discipline of God. Politicians who cannot appreciate this divine admonition are obviously on a mission to a blast in vanity. In fact, this concept should consume the hearts and minds of our politicians.