

Dear Editor

Nigeria: When Government Becomes Organized Crime

Nigeria spent Buhari's eight years locked in a senseless debate over cattle ranching and RUGA, while the world raced ahead with science, technology, and industrial revolutions. That was the priority of a government that had no vision beyond grazing fields. Then came another absurdity: bold criminals spent millions of dollars to launch an airline that never existed Nigeria Air, a fraud paraded with fanfare, logos, and photo ops, but no planes, no infrastructure, and no passengers. A country of 200 million people reduced to a laughingstock by thieves in agbada and Babanriga. And now, the new gospel is "revenue generation." Not wealth creation, not value addition, not human development just squeezing impoverished citizens of whatever crumbs are left for their survival. New taxes, higher tariffs, endless levies, all imposed on a population already crushed by hunger, unemployment, and insecurity. Government or Robbery Syndicate? Let's stop pretending: when the focus of governance is only to collect revenue without creating value, what you have is not government. What you have is an extortion racket. What you have is a gang of criminals wearing the cloak of legitimacy, backed by the law to rob citizens in broad daylight. Governments exist to build, to create, to expand opportunity. Criminals exist to loot, to drain, to destroy. Nigeria's tragedy is that its government has blurred the line so completely that you can no longer tell the difference.

A Pattern of Failure; Eight years wasted on cows instead of classrooms. Millions of dollars wasted on a phantom airline instead of hospitals. Citizens punished with taxes instead of empowered with jobs. This is not mismanagement. It is systemic looting, packaged as governance.

The Brutal Truth; When government stops being a platform for service and becomes a tool for legalized robbery, destruction is inevitable. No economy can survive when its rulers act like bandits. No society can thrive when leaders drain instead of deliver. Nigeria is not short of resources. It is not short of talent. It is only short of honest leadership. Until that changes, every so-called "policy" will simply be a new scam in disguise. So, call it what it is: not government, but organized crime with a constitution. **By Sa'adiyyah Adebisi Hassan Abuja**

Dear Editor

BUILDING BLOCKS OF GREATNESS

Can you set up some rules for yourself and abide by them? ...It's called **Principle**. Can you stop yourself from doing something others are doing? ...It's called **Discipline**. Can you keep going even when it's tough? ...It's called **Perseverance**. Can you choose peace over proving a point? ...It's called **Maturity**. Can you forgive even when it hurts? ...It's called **Strength**. Can you walk away from what doesn't grow you? ...It's called **Wisdom**. Can you believe in yourself when no one else does? ...It's called **Confidence**. Can you show kindness without expecting anything? ...It's called **Character**. Can you stay focused when distractions surround you? ...It's called **Self-control**. Can you be humble in the face of success? ...It's called **Grace**. Can you be honest even when it's not easy? ...It's called **Integrity**. Can you speak the truth in love? ...It's called **Courage**. Can you wait without complaining? ...It's called **Patience**. Can you lead without shouting? ...It's called **influence**. Can you listen without interrupting? ...It's called **Respect**. Can you give without keeping a score? ...It's called **Generosity**. Can you learn from failure without giving up? ...It's called **Resilience**. Can you admit you're wrong without defending it? ...It's called **Humility**. Can you keep secrets you were trusted with? ...It's called **Loyalty**. Can you work when no one is watching? ...It's called **Dedication**. Can you choose faith over fear? ...It's called **Trust**. Can you show up consistently even when unrecognized? ...It's called



Commitment. Can you help someone who can't repay you? ...It's called **Compassion**. Can you rise after falling multiple times? ...It's called **Determination**. Can you stay true to your values under pressure? ...It's called **Conviction**. Can you celebrate others without envy? ...It's called **Contentment**. Can you mind your business in a noisy world? ...It's called **Focus**. Can you keep your promise even when it's inconvenient? ...It's called **Reliability**. Can you stay kind to rude people? ...It's called **Self-mastery**. Can you still let things unfold? ...It's called **Faith**.

Greatness doesn't come from what you do occasionally—it comes from what you commit to consistently. Your values, your habits, and your choices shape your future far more than your circumstances do. When you set standards for yourself and live by them, you become grounded, focused, and unstoppable. The world might sway, trends may change, but people with principles, discipline, and inner strength always stand tall. Choose to grow, even in silence. You don't have to shout to make an impact—just live it.

Dear Editor

Let us examine our leadership status

A leader is a servant to all. If you don't have the heart to serve others without looking for a reward, you are not yet a leader. If you can't withstand criticism and can't withstand and survive the havoc of hate speech, you are not yet a leader. If you don't have the power of forgiving and forgetting, you are not yet a leader. If you stop doing good because nobody recognizes your kind gesture, you are not yet a leader. If you see your followers making mistakes, but you keep quiet saying, "If they don't call me for advice, I will allow them to learn by experience." Your attitude depicts that you are not yet a leader. Do you have the "Pull Them Down Syndrome (PhD)"? When you see someone doing better than you, what do you do, encourage or pull them down? A genuine leader should not desire the downfall of his followers who are better than him/her. If you close doors for your subordinates because you are afraid they will be far better than you, you are not yet a leader. If you don't produce your kind. You are the only champion doing great and mighty things, you are not a good leader. Never forget that every good leader must have a better successor. As a leader, you must feed on knowledge. Don't be stagnant, improve yourself personally, spiritually, emotionally, professionally, mentally, relationally, sincerely, and educationally, so you can make an impact. As a leader, be a ladder for others to climb to the top. Don't pull them down. Your desire should be to make your followers better than yourself. Be humble, let them learn from your mistakes. Do not watch them grope in darkness when you can guide them as light. A leader should be compassionate. How can you be comfortable when your followers are living in abject poverty? A leader should have the heart of a father. A father leads and ensures his family is safe. A good leader should provide for his people sacrificially without using them for his agenda. A leader should have the heart of a mother. When the child is sick, the mother runs helter-skelter to ensure his/her quick recovery. Why do you pretend you don't know your followers are suffering? A leader should not allow evil people to make him wicked. No matter how good you are, some people will not like you. A leader should not allow evil to prevail in the land because of his interest. Sinful associates will want to build a nest of sin around an honest leader and entice him into it. Don't allow that. Do what is right for conscience's sake and leave the rest. A leader should not be partial in judgment. There is always the need for honest, sincere, and forthright leaders. We always need leaders who can be fair in judgment. Be a voice for the voiceless in society without fear or favour. Treat the rich and the poor alike with love and kindness. Do you have the loving heart of a leader?

You are probably wondering if this article is meant only for our leaders over there. You are wrong. It is meant for you. I mean you that is reading it now. You are a leader in your sphere of influence. You wonder, "Really, I don't think so. I am just a follower." You are far from the truth. Believe it or not, you are a leader. You might be under training but know that you are a leader all the same. Do you intercede for your people? A good leader lifts his followers to God in sincere heart-felt prayers all the time. In your home etc., you are a leader. Start making an impact from there. Remember charity begins at home. Wherever you are placed to watch over people, please be a good leader. Don't just be a leader, be a great one. Don't be selfish, greedy, and a cheat, subordinates are watching you. Being a leader is a privilege. Don't misuse it, and neither should you take undue advantage of your subordinates.