



LAW ENFORCERS AS LAW BREAKERS

Nigeria is a country where things are done in opposite direction. This to a large extent is responsible for why the whole system is in a deep mess. It is indeed an irony that in Nigeria that a greater percentage of those who are expected to promote and enforce the rule of law are the same people who break the law. This permeates through every nook and cranny of the Nations life. It is a common sight on our highways to see Government officials in their chauffeur driven convoys breaking the highway code by driving very roughly on one way without a single regard for other road users. It is also undeniable to see officers of the Nigeria Police and other security officials breaking the traffic rules by driving on one way when there is a traffic jam on the right way. This is done with reckless abandon as they believe that they as law enforcers can do whatever they like on our highways because they feel that no one can arrest them.

In the same vein it is a common sight to see our armed security personnel who are kitted and kept with public funds taking the laws into their hand and acting with impunity. Innocent citizens are willfully beaten up mercilessly at the slightest provocation without regards and recourse to the law. The unfortunate thing about these conduct and attitudes is that these same law enforcement Agencies are supposed to protect the lives and interest of the citizens but rather they choose to turn their weapons against the innocent citizens they are trained and paid to protect. We have seen many situations when Officers of the Nigeria Police and other security Agencies connived with touts and criminals to unleash terror and may hem on the average citizen for no just cause. It is like a case handing over a goat to a lion for protection. We are presently witnessing a scenario where some of our security Agencies that are deployed to protect our Oil facilities and prevent vandalization have turned out to be the ones conniving with the operators and Oil Corporation and Multinational to steal our Oil and deny the nation of revenue.

What an irony when those who are trained to watch over and protect our financial, human and material

resources are the same people who turn around to become the predator. A situation where those that are trained to protect and maintain the integrity of the law have turned back because of greed to oppress and steal from the same system has left a sour taste in the mouth. It is equally very unfortunate when the Government that is supposed to be the custodian of law and order deliberately flout and disobey the rule of law. We have heard series of cases where the Federal Government has not only disobeyed court injunctions but has intentionally disregarded court judgement to the detriment of Nigerians and the judicial system. It is indeed a thing of shame for the Government that should be promoting the rule of law to be at the forefront of breaking the law with maximum impunity. This is the reason why the Nigeria society in a big mess. When those that are supposed to lead by good example becomes bad and questionable then the whole system is in trouble. Everyone has suddenly become a thief and law breaker of a sort because of the bad example at the top. No more morality, no more integrity from the top to the bottom. It is indeed very sad. Does being a government or security official makes one to be above the law? Are there a set of people in nations who are bigger or above the law of their land?

Certainly No. It is only in Nigeria that we see things like this happening and nobody seemed to care. The question we should ask ourselves as a people is what legacies are we bequeathing on our children who we often refer to as our leaders of tomorrow. It is very important that as a people we change our mentality and begin to aspire to do what is right so as to impact positively on the lives of our children for a greater and better tomorrow. The people in government and leadership positions at both the federal, state and local level should strive to live by example. No one single person is above the law. We must all work together to salvage Nigeria from the crutches of lawlessness, indiscipline and reckless impunity. This is a battle we must all fight to win. We cannot afford to continue to toy with the future of our children.