

NIGERIA'S LEADERSHIP AND THE MORAL BURDEN

We are yet to come to terms with the true concept of leadership in Nigeria. The Nigeria leadership concept is weird, strange and foreign to reason, logic, and rationality. We seem to have peculiarly contrived a certain leadership idea different from what has been known, practiced, celebrated, and enjoined over the years. Our brand of leadership philosophy revolves around someone occupying a position, without recourse to the moral expectations, responsibilities, and obligations of that person who occupies such a position. A timeless meaning and understanding of leadership is someone with the ability to influence others, enhance followership, without coercion.

Leadership is an art not an act. It's the ability to generate and galvanize human and natural resources to positively impact on the lives of one's followers in the pursuit of a common goal. Leadership is the ability to discern, discover, develop, and dispense or deploy the latent abilities of one's followers for maximum utilization. It's to add value on people, moving them from who and where you met them to who and where they could be. A leader is a pacesetter, an exemplar. He is a mold with which his followers mold themselves, not necessarily being like him but becoming like him. Being like someone is to be the exact person but becoming like someone is to do and act like the person because you have emulated them for a time.

This becomes a challenge to leadership. That a leader must strive to be that mirror with which the people see and dress themselves up. A leader is the moral compass of his followers. He is the yardstick with which morality; probity, integrity, credibility, trustworthiness, and competence are measured. So, when you see the leader, you see the people.

Consequently, where a leader is fraught with a garbage and baggage of immoral questions too glaring for children not to be ignorant of or be ignored, then it calls to question whether such a person is a leader or just someone occupying a position. The worrisome aspect of our country's leadership challenge is that the country is pivotal in the definition and determination of the place of Africa in global leadership index. Nigeria is looked up to by African nations and the world to provide leadership that should transform the continent to global reckoning.

At a time when Africa is considered by some globalists and proponents of one world government as people who are adding no value to human development, and therefore good to be wiped out of the world, Nigeria should be able to provide leadership to protect her people and her African brothers. Where is morality in the leadership of Nigeria? Why do we have people with criminal tag on them as our leaders? Why do our institutions protect criminals in such a notoriously brazen manner? How come we defend and protect evil men to our own detriment and mockery? How come we approve thugs, bandits, fraudsters, and drug lords to be our leaders? Where does the future of Nigeria lie in the hands of criminals? Are the present sociopolitical and economic downturn realities in the country not enough harbinger of a bleak future for Nigeria because of her criminal gang of leaders?

How did we come to this ugly phase where there exist no



modicum of sanity and morality in our 'princes' and 'princesses', whom we look up to, and should be our pride? How come we have people without shame, emboldened and audacious in criminal lifestyle as leaders? If leaders are to be followed, do we have any moral justification and obligation to follow people like our president and his likes in the National Assembly, the Judiciary and those at the state level? So, you mean we can now follow our leaders to forge certificates, lie on oath, peddle drugs, give and take bribe, misappropriate public funds? Where is morality of leadership in Nigeria's leadership? How can there be leadership without moral rectitude?

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