

**RIGHT TO EDUCATION AND WORK: A  
PANACEA FOR INSECURITY IN NIGERIA.**

**BEING THE TEXT OF A PAPER  
DELIVERED AT THE FIRST ACADEMIC LECTURE SERIES AND  
MATRICULATION CEREMONY OF EDO STATE POLYTECHNIC  
(INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY AND MANAGEMENT)  
USEN VIA BENIN CITY, EDO STATE HELD  
ON THURSDAY 3RD MAY, 2018.**

**BY**

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**PROTOCOLS**

**SALUTATIONS**

**INTRODUCTION**

Without doubt Nigerians in the past few years have witnessed major landmarks in the political and socio-economic development in the country. The most important being the return to democracy. In 2015, the country witnessed a major epochal event in the annals of the history of our nation, when Nigerians marked and in some cases celebrated the 16<sup>th</sup> anniversary of uninterrupted democratic rule in the country. That year's event, as many have correctly observed was the first time in our checkered history that a ruling party handed over power to a candidate of an opposition after an electoral defeat, albeit at the national level. The celebration was even more orchestrated considering the palpable fears and apprehensions that preceded the elections of March and April that year, and the US prediction that Nigeria will disintegrate in 2015.

Obviously what Nigerians are enjoying today, and believe should be protected, that is democracy, came by way of great struggles and sacrifices of our heroes past and some still living. But we know that our democracy has come with the trappings of the good, the bad and the ugly. Especially in the beginnings, it was tales of stolen and rigged elections, maiming, killing, looting, and destruction of properties (We know that these still rear their ugly heads in elections in the country, but they are getting less widespread).

Added to these has been the non-performance of some elected persons, failure to deliver on electoral promises and worse still, the wanton looting of public funds. (both “legal” – such as the bumper pay of legislators and the illegal ones by way of embezzlement and misappropriation of funds.) One probe after another reveals massive and monumental corruption by those entrusted with the public commonweal.(The Dasukigate, the Mainagate, the Dazeni financial saga, the Abacha Loot phenomenon among others). There are still accusations and counter accusations of missing and unremitted monies. We are now all witnesses to the discoveries of monies in sundry places, including sceptic tanks, burial grounds, shops in market places, uncompleted buildings, airports, special safes, etc, sometimes the monies have no owners! Not too long ago it was now the stories of animals swallowing billions of money. What is becoming obvious is that all arms of government, religious, political, socio-economic groups and individuals are involved. The amounts being recovered in both foreign and local currencies are mind boggling- running into trillions of Naira, especially when converted into our local currency. Unfortunately, recent revelations, especially as they relate to the probe of the Pension Funds Administration and other discoveries in forms of both cash and properties, show that workers – civil servants were neck deep involved in the monumental corruption. Is it not tragic that those entrusted with checking embezzlements are now being accused of embezzling more? At a point the fight against corruption was almost a ‘novelty’ or ‘mock’ war, as almost everyone was now succumbing to the pessimism that you can’t fight corruption in Nigeria- after all as a mark of submission the new drive was that of ‘plead bargaining’. Very disturbing to many Nigerians is the resurgence of the condemnable incidence of workers being owed salaries, some up to fifteen (15) months.

Recent revelations show that many States still owe their workers' salaries and pensions, despite the bail out funds given to them by the Federal government.(We thank God that Edo State government is systematically working to reduce and eliminate the incidence of workers and pensioners being owed their salaries or pension monies and gratuities.

While government statistical reports were talking of increase in Gross Domestic Production (GDP) and increase in Foreign Direct Investments (FDIs), the fact is that the socio-economic and political conditions of most Nigerians were on the down-ward trend. Rather than the fortunes of Nigerians improving, things are getting worse. The rate of unemployment is rising, palpable poverty is pervading the land, the cost of living is going up in all direction, at astronomical and unprecedented rates. To crown it all, Nigeria is facing the great security challenges. The daily brazen manifestations of acts of terrorism, in form of bombings, burning of properties and killings, which in more recent times are mainly credited to the "Boko Haram" sect and the deadly killer herdsmen , and sporadically the Niger Delta militants, who can be commended for the respite they have given to the country by their cessation of hostilities, the saga of Kidnapping, especially in the South-South and South East, and more recently the South West, and other acts of violent crime are all indicators of the grave insecurity situation in Nigeria. Worse still is the seeming inability of government to positively and decisively tackle these myriad of problems, almost leading some to say that Nigeria is speedily sliding into the status of a "failed state". Many attribute these myriad of crises to the failure of governance in Nigeria. Without doubt one of the reasons for a new sense of optimism in the country is that President Muhammadu Buhari will change things for the better; although there are

many who for one reason or the other are now skeptical whether he is the political messiah they were waiting for to come and redeem them and indeed rescue Nigeria.

Ordinarily, the above realities could lead one to actually give up on Nigeria, but we must state at this point however that there is still some basis for hope in Nigeria, coming by way of the performance of some State governors, who when they were elected turned around the fortunes of their states for good. Permit me to be a little self-centered in giving a sample of the basis for our optimism. There is no doubt that one such outstanding States is Edo State. The numerous accolades, and endorsements that the Comrade Governor of Edo State Adams Oshiomhole earned while he was still in office and continues to earn for his sterling performance in repositioning Edo State, development wise, indicate clearly that good governance that could provide employment, food and education can actually be achieved in Nigeria and this will surely be a veritable weapon to deal with insecurity. (You will agree with me that some former other governors such as Fashola of Lagos, Akpabio of Akwa Ibom, and Lamido of Jigawa and more recently Wike of Rivers, Ambode of Lagos, Obaseki of Edo State and Alhaji Abubakar Atiku Badugu of Kebbi State, through their performances in their States are in a way a beacon of hope for good governance in Nigeria. This is because, through innovative policies and dogged commitment to development these governors are giving credence to the position of those that believe that Nigeria can still get it right.) I would also want to add that the problem with Nigeria is not so much the problems of development facing Nigeria, rather it is largely the way those in government are responding or in most cases failing to respond to them. We say this bearing in mind that at the moment some of the developed countries are going through their challenges. The

tragedy of Nigeria is that the politicians, I dare say, have even now become more of the albatross on the neck of Nigeria. In certain cases, their ways are real evil! Instead of facing the challenges of governance and delivering the much talked about dividends of democracy, some of them are constantly strategizing on how to retain positions or how to move higher, and this they are doing without regard to the damage they are doing to their people. Most unfortunate! The fervent hope is that the present governments at both the Federal and state levels will be more decisive in providing good governance for Nigerians. The fact is that decisively addressing the problems of good governance in Nigeria will go a long way in helping to tackle the problems of, education, hunger and unemployment in Nigeria, which will invariably go a long way in re-focusing our youths, most of who are presently disillusioned, angry, hopeless, aggressive and criminally minded and have become agents of instability in Nigeria. They are exhibiting the above negative tendencies because of the following old adages:

1. A mind is a terrible thing to waste – frustration/Anger = Crime. Cause: No education + unemployment. (Access to education remains highly circumscribed, while unemployment is geometrically on the increase in Nigeria)
2. A hungry man is an angry man – unemployment/consequence = hunger and = stealing, armed robbery, kidnapping, assassinations, etc.
3. The idle mind is the devils workshop = same as 2 above.

It is our submission in this paper that, first, if democracy is properly pursued and the dividends of democracy via good governance get to the people, insecurity will be highly reduced in Nigeria. Secondly, by failing to provide education and employment for the teeming population of Nigerians our governments are failing to meet up with the

well articulated constitutional provisions of what should be the Fundamental Objectives and Directive Principles of State Policy as guaranteed in chapter II of the 1999 Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria (As Amended) which states inter alia:

In section 16, the constitution emphasizes that the state (government) shall, within the context of the ideals and objectives for which provisions are made in this constitution:

“control the national economy in such manner as to secure the maximum welfare, freedom and happiness of every citizen on the basis of social justice and equality of status and opportunity”.

In subsection 2 of section 16 it states that:

“That state shall direct its policy towards ensuring:

- (a) The promotion of a planned and balanced economic development;
- (b) That the material resources of the nation are harnessed and distributed as best as possible to serve the common good.
- (c) That the economic system is not operated in such a manner as to permit the concentration of wealth or the means of production and exchange in the hands of few individuals or of a group; and
- (d) That suitable and adequate shelter suitable and adequate food, reasonable national minimum living wage, old age care and pensions, and unemployment, sick benefits and welfare of the disabled are provided for all citizens.

To emphasize the role government should play in education, the constitution states in section 18, subsection II that;

- (1) Government shall direct its policy towards ensuring that there are equal and adequate educational opportunities at all levels and in sub-section 3 it states that:
- (2) Government shall strive to eradicate illiteracy; and to this end Government shall as and when practicable provide:
  - (a) free, compulsory and universal primary education.
  - (b) Free university education; and
  - (c) Free adult literacy programme.

You can see from the above provisions of our constitution which all government functionaries including the national, state and local governments have sworn to defend, protect and abide with that in a contractual arrangement, they are all supposed to work for the well-being of the people, is that what we have in Nigeria today – obviously no! In most cases they are working for themselves and their families to the utter neglect of the people. The level of primitive accumulation of wealth by those in authority and their utter disregard for the plight of fellow Nigerians almost borders on ‘insanity’ –apologies to the former governor of Anambra State, Governor Peter Obi, who was so frustrated by the attitude and conduct of Nigerian politicians that he said he had decided he will quit active politics. The failure of government to deliver on its contractual responsibilities to Nigerians, the insensitivity on the part of the leadership and worse still the manipulation of the people by the same leaders to advance their selfish ambitions combine to exacerbate the high level of criminality and the resultant insecurity in Nigeria. In a true democratic dispensation, the interest of the governed is expected to be paramount. What are the expectations of the governed from the government, especially in a democracy? Our main thesis in this presentation is that there is a nexus between meeting the needs of

the people and the level of security or insecurity in the society. Thus tackling the issues of education and employment will go a long way in helping to tackle the problem of insecurity in Nigeria. While criminal conduct cannot be eliminated from any society, its incidence can be highly reduced. Good governance in Nigeria can go a long way in helping to address the needs of Nigerians which will go a long way in helping to address the problem of insecurity in Nigeria.

Without doubt there is a direct correlation between good governance and the provision of education and employment for citizens of a country. The adequate provision of the above has a bearing on the level of contentment and satisfaction of the citizens especially the youthful population of the citizenry, when these are not adequately provided it has the capacity of creating restiveness, frustration, disillusionment that do precipitate criminal conduct and the attendant insecurity such as Nigeria has continued to witness in recent times. Before we proceed it is necessary to examine briefly some key concepts and terms in our topic, namely, education, unemployment/ work and insecurity

#### *EDUCATION.*

As to be expected, a multiplicity of definitions of the meaning of education exist, but our functional one is that which sees education as “ a process of teaching, training, and learning, especially in schools or colleges, to improve knowledge and develop skills.” Central to this definition is that there is knowledge and skills to be imparted and acquired. It has been recognized by scholars that education is a life-long exercise, especially for human understanding and existence. An interesting point is that over the ages, man has put in place, systems and methods for the imparting of knowledge which man must acquire if he is to function well and in an agreeable manner in a given society-

this is often seen as education for socialization. Certain basic assumptions of education are :

- A. There is knowledge already in place that needs to be known.
- B. There are things and phenomena that have to be understood.
- C. There are new things to be discovered, including new ways of doing things.
- D. Discovered and established knowledge needs to be disseminated and shared with others.
- E. To properly impart the knowledge, in modern times it has become necessary to formalize a system through which this is achieved and this has given rise to the existence of schools, colleges and tertiary institutions, this is known as formal education. It is also recognized however, that other forms of education exist namely, informal education and non- formal education. The former refers to the type of education which individuals receive from parents, family members, community and local environment. Among other things, this enables the individual to acquire knowledge of the history, customs, traditions, songs, fables, legends etc of the society. It also enables him have the knowledge of traditional method of warfare, agricultural and trading techniques among others which have sustained his society for a long time. Through informal education, an individual also acquires other skills and

occupations which enable him to survive and contribute to the development of his or her community. The latter form of education, that is the non-formal has been described as “organized educational activities outside the framework of the formal school which is designed to provide, selected types of learning to particular groups in the population, particularly the adults.” This education which is acquired outside the formal school system includes, “ programmes on library and basic education, technical and vocational training; community development, family planning, and agricultural extension services. The methods of acquiring this type of education takes many forms, such as short courses, on the job training, carpentry, welding, photography, tailoring, mechanics etc.

We had to expatiate on the last point because it helps to correct certain wrong notions about who is actually ‘educated’. Sometimes the informal and non-formal systems of education are more important for the masses of the people (this was one of the major differences between Booker T. Washington and W. E. B DuBois of America as to what form of education Black Americans should pursue in the American society for their emancipation and survival. The fact is that all the three types of education are important and imperative for the survival and development of any society. What are some of the obvious benefits of education?

1. Acquisition of knowledge for understanding and overcoming ignorance.

2. Enhances mental capacity for reasoning and thinking and thereby making informed decisions.
3. Acquisition of different skills for production, construction and coping with challenges of life.
4. Enhancing the creative capacity of individuals.
5. It helps to promote egalitarianism in terms of opportunities for advancement, especially where meritocracy is emphasized.
6. It helps to facilitate research, innovation and inventions.
7. It enables beneficiaries to cope better with handling life challenges.
8. Gets them to be cultured, disciplined and better behaved, and more tolerant of others, under normal conditions.

It is an incontrovertible fact that education is indispensable to any person or group that wants to live a better life and make progress, that is develop. It is central to our argument that governments in Nigeria at all levels MUST pay attention to the provision of education for the citizens of the country in the light of the benefits identified above. Studies of the most volatile conflicts in Nigeria point to the effect which illiteracy and ignorance have had on engendering the conflicts and these are the results you get in the absence of education. It is one of the most embarrassing features of Nigeria's underdevelopment that the country ranks among the worst countries in the world in terms of out of school children and the level of illiteracy. In addition, when educational access is denied, it breeds frustration and anger which of course could fuel conflicts and make

the disappointed youths vulnerable and susceptible to evil manipulations and machinations. In dealing with the problem of insecurity, Nigeria must show greater commitment to the provision of quantitative and qualitative education (UPN v NPN).

### *WORK*

This concept relates ‘to do something that involves physical or mental effort, especially as part of a job.’ At another level it means ‘to manage or operate something to gain benefit from it.’ Work means the exertion of energy, both mental and physical to produce things and services. A critical question is why do people work? Basically it is to obtain what they want through their own direct production efforts, or they can work for another person or establishment in order to earn a pay, with which he can of course, obtain through purchase or payment what he wants. Thus people work to enable them satisfy basic wants and realize happiness. On a more holistic sense, people work to have better life now and in the future and to provide for their dependents and those associated with them.

While in the traditional society, people mainly worked for themselves, a reality of life, especially with the growing complexity of human society is that people in most cases cannot and do not work for themselves. Instead there are those who must give or perform work to be paid. They work to get remunerated, rewarded or paid, either in kind or in cash. This situation creates those called employers and employees, the latter being those that are employed to work. While in pre-colonial Nigeria the overwhelming majority was self-employed, with colonial rule and western education, many turned to education with the hope of getting employed by government or companies to earn a living. This trend was carried into independence and has become the dominant order of the day. While in

the beginning government and companies could employ almost all those that went to school, today millions who have acquired one level of education or another are out there searching for jobs that are not there. Again, part of the problems with Nigeria is that instead of job opportunities expanding they seem to be shrinking with all the lay-offs(part of the irony here is that companies that are laying off works are declaring whopping profits, while the few that have cornered jobs are earning fat salaries, which could have been better redistributed.- the Nigerian economy, especially its salary and wages sector needs revisiting , especially with political appointees and ALL OF US who are employed giving up part of our salaries and wages for better redistribution of the country's national wealth- how many here will be ready to make the sacrifice so that more Nigerian youths can get work? Part of the problem with employment in Nigeria is that there seem to be work but due to wrong orientation many don't want to work- whereas there is work. Paradox, I believe! The fact remains however that with millions of people out of work, that is gainfully employed, crime and the attendant insecurity will continue to be prevalent

*INSECURITY:*

Words like this are always interesting to define. We can simply say insecurity, means the absence of security. But the next question is what do we understand by security. Simply put, security is defined as freedom or protection from danger or worry. It connotes a feeling of being safe. To achieve security measures are usual put in place to check possible sources of danger, attacks and threats to one or group security. The fact is that there are always those that are out to undermine other peoples' safety or security. Individuals, groups and communities usual take steps to safeguard their security. Without

doubt one of the outstanding responsibilities of any government is to protect the state, its citizens and their properties, thereby providing them security. There are different sources of threat to the security of a nation and its people, this could be from internal or external sources. It is the responsibility of both the people and government to work to guarantee security, but the greatest onus lies with the government especially when the threat is from outside and when it is perpetuated by a group. When there is feeling of insecurity, it means there is threat to order, to life and property and the citizens feel unsafe. This is precipitated in most cases by criminal conducts including robberies, kidnapping, rapes, and worst still killings, arson and other wanton destruction of lives and properties. Unfortunately for Nigeria, the palpable feeling today in the country is that of insecurity, especially in the North East and North Central zones where the boko haram group was holding sway for a long time; the clashes between the Shiites and government forces is a new strand of the security challenge facing the country; the clashes between the deadly clashes between the herdsmen and farmers is spreading to many parts of the country, the South is not spared, especially with the spate of robberies and kidnappings. Apart from this physical insecurity, there is the insecurity of the future for many Nigerians, especially in terms of their well-being. Analysis of most of the predisposing factors that have foisted violence on the nation tend to point to lack of work, poor education or lack of education and hunger as major contributory factors. It is our contention that if these problems are addressed, it will constitute part of the panacea for dealing with insecurity in Nigeria. The best insurance for this lies in good governance which Nigerians expect from their democracy.

## ***EXPECTATIONS OF CITIZENS IN A DEMOCRACY***

So much has been written and said about what democracy is. I will just point out some of the salient and common denominators of democracy and why it is a major attraction globally. In the first place, it is held that the people that govern under a democracy do so with the mandate or consent of the people, which they willingly give through elections. Secondly it is a basic assumption that the people so entrusted to govern are of the people, that is to say, that some members of the community are entrusted with the responsibility of governing the people. Thirdly, it is expected that those who govern, do so for the people, that is protect the interest of, the people. Thus, while a democracy allows the citizens to choose their leader, the citizens also expect the leaders (those in government) to defend and promote their interests.

You would have noticed that in my presentation of the common denominators of Democracy, a common word that emerges is that of "govern". The fact is that Democracy is all 'about how people and resources are run or maintained within a given social, political or economic group, with a view to creating order and ultimately meeting the needs of those within the unit, and this is what governance is all about. As the *Webster's Ninth New Collegiate Dictionary* puts it, "governance is equals to government, while government is defined as the act or process of governing, while govern itself means among other things, the aim of keeping in a straight course or smooth operation for the good of the individual and the whole". These fundamental observations are important, otherwise we might continue to celebrate a means or method rather than celebrate the attainment of our goal. The fact is that at the end of

day, Democracy is just one among the numerous ways that a people, a state or nation can be governed. As a result of the assumptions of Democracy and the historical experience of governance the world over, there is now the dominant and extant thinking that democracy is the best form of governance. This is based on the assumption that it could lead to good governance and guarantee, a priori, good political life for peoples. Have these assumptions come out right in Nigeria?

Therein lie some of the reasons why there is global hobnobbing with Democracy. Under a democratic dispensation, like that of Nigeria therefore, the people are supposed to elect their leaders, the leaders are supposed to govern for the well being of the majority of the people, the leaders are supposed to be accountable to the people that elected them, the leaders are supposed to be the obedient servants of the people, and the people are supposed to have the power to withdraw the mandate they had previously given out through laid down procedures such as elections. Democracy is supposed to be anchored on respect for the rule of law. In the adopted Nigerian Democratic style, the principle of separation of powers is supposed to be adhered to. All these are supposed to lead to good governance. The big question is whether all these assumptions have been real in Nigeria's current democratic experience?

The fact is that we can easily argue, and many indeed have been doing so, that due to the many shortcomings of our Democracy and the obvious non-performance of some elected political elites, that what we call Democracy in Nigeria is a misnomer when applied to the situation in the country. We want to aver however that more recent

developments in our Democratic experience should engender more hope in our Democracy. The fact that after the stipulated time we are "given the opportunity" to elect our leaders, (of course not perfect) and the leaders are being compelled to submit themselves to the people's mandate test, should again compel us to work for the sustenance of Democracy in Nigeria. While recognizing some of the shortcomings of the present democratic dispensation in Nigeria, I belong to the school of thought that we must continue to nurture and work to sustain democracy in Nigeria, this especially as we can conveniently point to positive developments in different parts of Nigeria. I subscribe to the view that we could have done way better than we have done and are doing as a nation, especially in the light of both the human and capital resources available to Nigeria. My optimism partly stems from the developments and positive changes that are coming up in different parts of the country. Let us engagingly compare ourselves with where we were at the point of independence and today, in terms of infrastructure, availability of services and individual and community accomplishments.

***DISLOCATION OF THE SOCIAL AND POLITICAL ORDER AND THE CRISIS OF DEVELOPMENT IN NIGERIA: THE BASIS OF NIGERIA'S UNEMPLOYMENT AND INSECURITY***

We that are familiar with the History of Nigeria, even in its rudimentary form, recognize the fact that the societies of Nigeria have undergone a lot of transformation or change. This change also affected the social values of our people. It is a truism that the only permanent change in life is change itself. Hence one cannot quarrel with the fact that Nigerian people have had to go through a lot of changes; the quarrel and worry however, is that the predominant

changes have been more of a negative nature, especially as they affect the social order. With the coming of colonialism and the attendant social phenomenon of urbanization, the social fabric was distorted and dislocated. Most of the cherished social values were now jettisoned under the guise of civilization. Hence, the society today reflects a situation of flux, where vices seem to be the main attraction for people.

The problem with the turn away from the cherished values of the traditional society is that the system, that is the modern Nigerian society, is under some form of siege. Condemnable vices of yester-years have now been elevated to the status of virtues. And this is very noticeable in our political life. Unfortunately, the society looks helpless in arresting the situation hence the often heard justification for deviant behaviour is "if you cannot beat them join them". Fraud, corruption, embezzlement, injustice, avarice, outright stealing, unbridled and unmitigated promiscuity/prostitution, and lack of respect for human life are some of the vices that now pervade our society. And the tragedy of the situation is that leaders at different levels are the main protagonists of these vices. As indicated above the most worrisome of this pervasive strain on the social order is that some of these vices, have now almost acquired the status of virtues, hence fraud, such as 419 is extolled and perpetrators are literally worshipped as heroes. Corrupt practices such as embezzlement, are explained away as being smart practices. Should this be the case? Should our society continue on this path of denigration and degeneration? We believe it should not be. Hence the question, how do we instill and sustain positive social values among our people. We strongly believe too that education remains a veritable instrument in socialization and the

agency through which citizens can acquire survival skills in terms of expertise and knowledge for work. Through the proper re-orientation of Nigerians through education and the acquisition of appropriate and functional skills many will be rescued from their criminal tendencies, become positively engaged as workers and invariably abandon criminal conduct which is one of the major sources of insecurity in Nigeria. Education remains a most powerful agent of socialization.

***AGENTS OF SOCIALIZATION:***

We are almost all familiar with who and what institutions should be involved in the exercise of socialization. It is globally recognized that the chief agency in the process of socialization is usually the family or kinship group, which looks after the child in the early formative years. It is for this reason, that the expression, "lack of home training" is commonly used to condemn deviant and disrespectful behaviour.

In our modern society, other agencies, especially the schools, contribute to preparing citizens for adult life. It is even now recognized that the school is a more powerful agent of socialization than the family, since as a result of modern day concerns and engagements the family has almost abdicated its socialization function to schools, starting from the nurseries. As an agent of socialization the school has both the formal organization, procedures, and the teachers, with whom students may establish personal relationships that significantly affect their attitudes and behaviour; it also provides a convenient center for the development of informal peer groups. It has been noted however that, "while the school can be a positive agent for socialization, it is obvious that it can easily malfunction in this responsibility

and become an agent of “desocialisation”. (what is now most worrisome is that critical agents of socialization in nation building are now being neglected in our schools – civics, history etc.

Another known agent of socialization is the mass media, both the electronic and print. Actually, with the present day technological advancements in mass communication and the pervasive influence of radio, television and movies, the individual is daily being molded by what he hears and sees through the mass media. And the print media, through what it writes and presents also remains a powerful agent for socialization. It is recognized that "in a complex and heterogeneous society lacking "official" values and with no central direction and control, the influence of the mass media is usually unplanned and uncertain, potentially dysfunctional in relation to prevailing standards in some groups, or to those of the whole society". If well managed, and with sense of social responsibility the mass media stands out as a veritable instrument for transmitting acceptable values of society.

Over the ages, religious institutions have also been recognized as important agents of socialization. The point has often been made that religion plays a major role in the formation of character. As often correctly observed, while there exist variety of religious group, the fact remains that they serve important social function. Among other things they help to promote and encourage acceptance and adherence to prevailing norms and social ideals. It is recognized that differences do exist in the values that various religious groups propagate, however, in most cases all forms of religion tend to emphasize good social conduct, as is discernable from God's "Ten Commandments" as recognized by Christians. Through sermons and exhortation

religious groups help to extol good social conduct. Again unfortunately religion has come to play very dysfunctional role in the Nigerian society as dramatized in religious riots, (Akinseye, 1999:56-69 and Maduagwu 2005:8-27).

We wish to add at this stage that although not always emphasized, the fact remains that custodians of our public life, can and do play a decisive role in helping to instill social values. Thus, political, economic and social leaders, through their statements and conduct have the capacity to influence or socialize other citizens of the country. Unfortunately they are the custodians and champions of negative practices.

A pertinent question at the stage is how have these various agents of socialization fared in the onerous task of instilling social values in our society, and the consequent impact on Nigeria's development. The obvious failure of virtually all the agencies is almost palpable. Rather than instilling positive values, at different levels, the agents of socialization have either forsaken their responsibilities or worse still and more disastrously by their conduct they are continuously desecrating society's revered social values. The family, the school, the churches, the mosques, the mass media, and custodians of our public life, have almost come to endorse, even if not directly, anti-social conduct. As stated earlier, the heroes, and those that are literally worshiped in our society are the fraudsters of the society, the embezzlers of public funds, the cheats and crooks and perpetrators of other vices. Honest, hardworking, principled, and conscientious citizens are looked down upon. The reward system of the society is heavily skewed in favor of those that use despicable means to manipulate the social order for their benefit. Apprehension or punishment of deviants and violators of our social code at

different levels, always go scot-free. When mediocrity, crookedness, prostitution, graft, and embezzlement are celebrated and "handsomely rewarded", why would people accept the society's positive social values? It is therefore imperative that in order to socially re-engineer our society critical and drastic steps have to be taken.

***POSITIONING NIGERIA TO TACKLE THE INSECURITY PROBLEM IN NIGERIA THROUGH GOOD GOVERNANCE***

We strongly believe that the options available are not easy. They are not easy, not necessarily because of their severity or consequences, instead it is largely because of the deep seated acceptance of negative values and conduct by present day Nigerian society. If the nation must re-discover itself, and position itself to actualize the expectations of the people it is imperative that all segments of the society work together. In this task we aver that the civil society and the government need to work together to redress the situation. Education, especially in all disciplines, including Arts and Social Sciences must be enhanced and sustained for both those already in public life and those still in school. It is also critical that we reverse the current order where the reward system in the country seems to be skewed against the educated ones. Through education as already stated, citizens will acquire requisite knowledge both technical and literary that would aid their survival in society and if they are able to get employment, whether by government or through the private sector it would go a long way in reducing the criminal tendencies among especially the youths which is a major source of insecurity in the country.

It is crucial that the society once again extols those social values that seem to have been discarded and are often ignored in the conduct of individuals, groups

and institutions. Thus the first task is the identification of those values we want to extol. The fact remains that even at the risk of being tagged moralists, idealists and preachers, we want to say that the virtues of hard work, chastity, honesty, integrity, trustworthiness, dependability and reliability, humaneness, devotion/dedication to communal work and interests, are worthy social virtues that we must re-enthroned in our society. While orchestrating these values, the vices of our society must also be condemned in very strong and unmistakable terms.

It is our considered opinion that, while the virtues are being orchestrated and preached, the society must by the conduct it extols and celebrates, show that it endorses the virtues. It becomes a monumental charade, and mirage, if the society while preaching against various vices turns around to celebrate perpetrators and beneficiaries of such vices. If the society wants to extol the virtue of hard work, then hard work must be properly rewarded. To achieve this, there must be a drive toward re-conscientising the society. The society should not sacrifice merit and hard work on the altar of mediocrity. We want to state here that the latest penchant for political patronage (political nepotism) has the potential of further undermining our social values. Thus the society needs to be redirected to the path of celebrating virtuous conduct.

We want to posit that all the agents of socialization need to cleanse themselves in order to reposition themselves for helping to instill and sustain social values in our citizens. The saying goes that you can't give what you don't have. Families, schools, churches, the media and those in government need "to purify" themselves and then they could actually now become veritable instruments of instilling social values.

This point is important because as the saying goes, "action speaks louder than words". The agents of our social crusade must be seen as practicing what they preach.

While we recognize that our present apprehension mechanism is defective, it must be overhauled and it must be seen as working. Punishment, whether physical or psychological has the potential of regulating conduct in any group or society. In our traditional society the fear and respect for the gods and ancestors contributed to cohesion and maintenance of social and cultural values in the society. No police was required to ensure good moral conduct, but the reality of punishment forced many to conduct themselves well. The reality of human psychology is that where there is no deterrent force, man will more easily go against good conduct. We believe that it is because of this realization that the present government is trying to pursue the law against corruption, we dare say however, that the problem of corruption in our country, is not so much the absence of laws, but the unwillingness and seeming inability of the custodians of the law to apply it when infractions occur. Many factors are responsible for this. But the obstacles are surmountable. Unless the government is prepared to bring violators to book through the courts and appropriate punishment meted out, the Anti-Corruption Act and the Code of Conduct Law will remain dormant and will not be better than the papers they are written on. While lauding the seeming new invigorated fight against corruption by agencies such as the EFFC, many are calling for fairness, justice and equity in the activities of the agencies, demanding that there should be no sacred cows.

We want to use this opportunity to state that the conduct of the present custodians of our polity leaves much to be desired. If the settlement culture which is a euphemism

for bribery continues to pervade the conduct of public affairs, then all efforts to preach against social vices such as corruption are doomed to come to naught. Sociologists recognize the fact that while threat of sanctions or punishments is not necessarily enough to prevent nonconformity, but it is part of the total constellations of forces that creates pressure to obey cultural presentations. The renowned sociologist Emile Durkheim, once observed that the sociological importance of punishment lies in its effects upon those who impose it as well as upon those who are subject to it. According to him, open disregard of law or convention by some individuals may provoke repressed or hidden desires among others to do likewise. Punishing the offender helps curb the usual stimulated instincts to ignore social norms and values. Thus the society should be bold enough to punish all offenders without exception and in this case public officers should not be spared. The pain of most Nigerians is that on daily basis, newspapers and other news media are churning out stories of the billions of naira now in trillions, that Nigerian leaders have literally stolen, and through charades the leaders, through obvious conspiracy taunt and play on our collective intelligence - EFCC arrests alleged corrupt leaders - they arraign them with fanfare - they accuse them of over 100 charges, the charges multiply by the day - the accused ask for bail, the courts set almost criminal bail terms which almost no honest Nigerian civil servant can meet, but somehow they meet them – after many adjournments, they end up with plea bargaining later from over 100 billion the accused returns under 1 billion to EFCC – then we are told the war against corruption is on. What of those that are not even arrested - on daily basis we see Nigerian leaders out witting almost miracle workers at the pace they build houses, the cars they

buy, the amounts they accumulate in banks -- this is bad. It is worse, because corruption of the leadership seems to pervade and permeate all sectors and segments of the society

How has this impacted on governance of our country and meeting the educational needs of the citizens and providing them work? Until recently politicians rigged and stole elections; so they weren't accountable to the people. They embezzled and stole public funds with impunity and of course did nothing by way of development. This is the nexus between bad leadership and bad governance the first begets the latter. Did I use the past tense? Have they changed?

Considering the importance of proper character molding in shaping the future conduct of citizens, the society should pay greater attention to what happens in schools. The positive virtues already identified above should be continuously and unceasingly presented to our children. In this endeavour, the Arts and Social Science Subjects should be used to point out the true heroes of our country and the world at large and critical variables in nation building. The teachers of our students must exhibit impeccable conduct, otherwise they should be brought to book, otherwise they could be bad influence on the children. This last injunction should also be applied to all our leaders in different spheres of the society. If caught young and set on the right path, there is the hope that the society will start rediscovering its social values again. Along this line, Professor Wole Soyinka reminds us that the development of human capital will be the greatest challenge facing Vision 2020 and the nation (Abdullahi, 10/2/2009). Abdullahi 2009 asserts that “the early childhood curriculum and instruction should be strengthened”, in this direction he avers that “Nigerian leadership needs to articulate a coherent shared vision of where the nation is and what the nation would look, like educationally by the year 2020”. He

also states that, “a commitment must be made to its core values, and effort must be made to improve practice in the classroom”. There is therefore a clear need to address the “proper” education of Nigerians, to face the challenges of development in Nigeria. Education will go a long way in properly re-orientating Nigerians, make them more tolerant, and with the right mix of education, acquire the requisite skills to get them properly engaged. Those that are educated, have jobs and can earn a decent living including food will most likely abandon criminal activities that easily undermine the security of Nigeria.

One incontrovertible fact is that unemployment breeds criminality in citizens, especially the youths. It is therefore very important that to reduce the rate of criminality in Nigeria there should be greater investment in creating employment for Nigerians. In this regard there should be co-operation between government and the private sector. It is also important that there is re-orientation on the part of our youths and unemployed that in the current age, they are to acquire functional and relevant skills, and not just certificates. There should also be greater interest in technical and vocational education. We must congratulate the dynamic and digital governor of our dear state His Excellency Mr Godwin Obaseki for his massive investment in both the educational sector and all that he is creatively doing to directly create jobs for the youths of our state and bring in private investors that will help create jobs.

***CONCLUSION:***

Nigeria seems to be grappling in the dark in terms of national development, hence we continue to face serious economic challenges. One of the reasons that Nigeria seems not to be making progress is the culture of impunity, especially from the leaders of our

society, at different levels. But the fact remains that pernicious or very harmful conducts of citizens have the veritable capacity to destroy that society, and of course undermine efforts of national development. They create insecurity. And without security, there is threat to lives and properties, and no meaningful development can take place. Criminal conduct becomes more rampant when there is the absence of norms and values that control the conduct of such citizens, anarchy, disorder, tension, conflicts, insecurity and utter retardation of development are normally the consequences of lack of control over the way citizens behave. It is therefore imperative that every society must continuously return to its cherished values. One of the great lessons of American History is that for all its industrialization and mechanization, the society has at different times still upheld strong social, political and economic values. Hence, courses in American life and history are taught to all students up to the university level. For Nigeria therefore, in its effort to be rejuvenated, it is imperative that it anchors its mission on strong values and meeting the basic needs of the citizens. In doing this we dare say that the political class at the moment should be in the vanguard of working to restore our seemingly jettisoned social values. Why? Once again, we use this opportunity to congratulate our wake and see, but very methodical governor for being a pacesetter in returning the teaching of history to our schools, a step which the Federal government has also now taken by way of a national policy.

We strongly believe that much of the decadence and rot in our lives as a people have been foisted on us by the very obnoxious ways we have been ruled. The conduct of affairs by our leaders especially under the military, was to say the least that of an occupation force bereft of morals and values. Hence all forms of bastardization of our

values became the norm, looting, embezzlement, brazen stealing, conspicuous consumption, arbitrariness, injustice and trampling on citizens rights through unjust arrests and incarceration became the order of the day. Mediocrity, ethnicity and nepotism became the yardsticks for running our society. In this situation, the helpless and hapless subjects (not citizens) were cajoled, intimidated and in certain cases emasculated. The question now is, should this continue even with our democracy? How can we get our citizens back on the path of righteousness, civility, decency, integrity and honesty. While preaching to Nigerians, we must also provide for their needs.

The country as a result of combination of factors is still contending with the problems of unemployment, and worse and more urgent, grave insecurity situation. Recent reports are indicating that there have been more layoffs by companies and the scourge of unemployment is not abating, and insecurity still very much pervading the country. The few industries that were in place are folding or have folded up – the textile industry is worst hit; no new industries are coming up, insecurity is rising by the day. Our submission is that we can get to actualize the goals of providing for our citizens if we get it right first as a people in terms of our values, which must be reflected in the way we govern our people and provide for them. The success story of Singapore shows how a nation can move from hopelessness to an example of modernity. The instructive story of the foundation of the transformation of Singapore as stated by the leader that laid the foundation for the modern Singapore is summarized as:

A United and determined group of leaders, backed by a practical and hardworking people who trusted them, made it possible. Did I expect an independent Singapore with a GDP of S\$3 billion in 1965, to grow 15 times to S\$46 billion in 1997 at 1965 dollars and to have the 8<sup>th</sup> highest per capita GNP in the world in 1997 according to the World Bank? I

have often been asked this question, the answer is 'no'. How could I have foreseen, that science and technology, especially breakthroughs in transportation, telecommunications and production methods, would shrink the world? The story of Singapore's progress is a reflection of the advances of the industrial countries their inventions, technology, enterprise, and drive... With each technological advance, Singapore advanced - containers, air travel and air freight, satellite communications, intercontinental fibre optic cables, information technology, computers, and communications and their manifold uses, the revolution in microbiology, gene therapy, cloning, and organ reproduction will transform peoples' lives. Singaporeans will have to be nimble in adopting and adopting these new discoveries to play a role in disseminating their benefits... the future is as full of promise as it is fraught with uncertainty. The industrial society is giving way to one based on knowledge. The new divide in the world will be between those with the knowledge and those without. We must learn to be part of the knowledge-based world. That we have succeeded in the last three decades does not ensure our doing so in the future. However, we stand a better chance of not failing if we abide by the basic principles that have helped us progress: social cohesion through sharing the benefits of progress, equal opportunities for all, and meritocracy, with the best man or woman for the job, especially as leaders in government (Lee Kuan Yew 2000, 689-91)

The fact remains that as long as most Nigerians remain unemployed, hungry and the education of the youths is not properly tackled, Nigeria will continue to be under siege of insecurity. It follows therefore that our elected governmental leaders at all levels and those in both the public and civil sectors must show true commitment to good governance which will guarantee the provision of dividends of democracy to the people of Nigeria. It will invariably help to tackle the problem of insecurity in Nigeria. Nigeria is too blessed for the majority to continue to wallow in poverty while a few continue to corner the wealth for themselves and their descendants. There are signs in some states of

Nigeria, such as Lagos, Cross River, Kebbi, Akwa Ibom and Edo State that there is hope of possible good governance in Nigeria. Even the Federal government seems to be showing signs of ‘transformation’, although it remains a very contentious issue. In the final analysis, addressing the needs of Nigerians stands out as the surest panacea or weapon against insecurity in Nigeria, and our elected officials must deliver on the mandate given to them.

Thank you for listening

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