

LEADERSHIP IDEAS ON HOW TO TRANSFORM NIGERIA

There is a well saying which entails that a people without a leader are lawless people which could fall at any time. In other words, leaders are the pillar of any society. Tracing back, history tells us from the beginning of the world that leaders have being, even the children of Israel at some point in life requested for a king to rule them which tells us how much leaders are needed in any society and this is why I am persuaded in my heart to put into writing my own part of this essay topic “leadership ideas on how to transform Nigeria”.

Before I go into details of the essay topic I would love to define the keywords of the topic “leadership ideas on how to transform Nigeria”.

First, leadership according to chambers 21st century dictionary is the state of being a leader or the ability to lead others. The question is who then is a leader? In reference to the above dictionary mentioned, a leader is someone that leads or guides others. It can also be someone who organizes or is in charge of a group. Peter Drucker in his words noted that the only definition of a leader is someone who has followers. More so, the Microsoft Encarta dictionaries defined a leader as someone who is in front of all others.

Second, ideas are thoughts, images, notions or concepts formed by the mind. It can also be defined as plans, intentions or even major aims, purposes or features of something or events. The Longman dictionary, 5th edition defines ideas as something we think of, especially a plan or suggestion.

Furthermore the Meriam Websters dictionary (1882) defines ideas as the transcendent entity that is a real pattern of which existing things are imperfect representations.

Transform is the ability to change in appearance, nature, functions of someone or something often completely and dramatically. Furthermore Encarta dictionaries (2018) defines transform as the process

of undergoing total change completely for the better. Putting the above definitions of leadership and ideas together a layman can freely define leadership ideas as the thoughts, images and concepts coined by a leader to perform in order to achieve a drastic development in the area of his specialization.

In Nigeria today, there is need for positive leadership ideas to be implemented because it will aid sustainable growth and development in our country. More so, the bible made it clear to us that we should smite the shepherd and the flocks will scatter however a leader's sin is a leading sin. In other words, a leader with negative leadership ideas leads to poor sustainable growth and development in his or her territories. With this mind, I would love to note some of my leadership ideas I hope will transform Nigeria.

First, setting up a strategic plan for development is very important. With this, I quote the popular saying which goes "he who fails to plan, plans to fail" and one will agree with me that before one embarks on a journey, there must be a proper planning and preparations for it. Leaders are enjoined to sit back for some time and set up different strategies for achieving their set goals instead of rushing into work without a proper mindset, that is exactly what makes them leaders because they they set the pace for others to follow. For example one time or the other a president will be asked by his executive bodies to sign an act or bill into law, before doing that he considers the implications and how it will contribute either negatively or positively to the nations development which of course every good leader wants the best for his or her followers except otherwise. a good leader should always think back at the successes and failures of his predecessors and take precautions because experience is always the best teacher. More so, I strongly believe that any slightest mistake made by a leader eat deeply into the leadership of that particular leader, thereby causing drought and famine in that leadership.

Second, the voice of the minority is another aspect needed to transform Nigeria. The minority is generally regarded as the fewer people in any section or group. The layman understands minority group

to be the poor ones. I have also noted that the police is the last hope of the common man (minority) and I ask myself why it is so. The minorities voice is neglected everywhere mostly in Nigeria and who knows if in any case the voice or suggestions of the minority group may lead positive results in a nation. I also understand that the majority carries the vote and at last we find out that even if they win the vote, they don't always deserve the vote. With this I urge our upcoming leaders that no matter the case to always request for the voice of the minority and put it into consideration first before they consider it a waste of time.

Third, sovereignty is another aspect of life that leaders must adhere strictly to. What then is sovereignty? Sovereignty is the supreme and independent political power and authority. For any state or nation to experience rapid growth and development, it must operate on sovereignty. It should be free from external bodies worldwide; they should be able to strategies an idea and carry it out without another leadership interfering with it. Just like the case of the three (3) arms of government, the legislature, executive and judiciary are expected to operate independently with any of them interfering in the decision of the other, the same should be applicable to the national level at large. They should be leaders who have the courage to stand up for what they know to be right even when their ideas are not popular and likewise leaders who have been trained and have the capacity to motivate followers to support what he or she knows to be right.

Forth, moral value is needed passionately for any nation's development. Entities, bodies, institutions should be ensured by the leaders that moral values are being taught to the citizens more especially the youth who are widely regarded as the leaders of tomorrow. Parents should also be encouraged by the enlightening bodies on the need for inculcating moral values into their children right from the crèche as it is widely known and also biblical that we should train up a child in the way that he should go and when he is old he will not depart from it.

Fifth, education should be taken as a responsibility by every leader. Children should be encouraged to go to school and how do we encourage the children by making education free, giving scholarship to deserving students and so on. The question now is how education is related to the nation's development. Education transforms a man positively and a transformed man transforms his nation. Education indicates into one, different acts, changes his mindset and improves his ability to create and formulate ideas. Take note that no matter what there are noticeable differences between a literate and an illiterate leader because a the former has passed through the teaching if different scholars and philosophers but the later just pass through the class or teachings of tout and illiterate fellows just like them having nothing to offer.

Sixth, respect for human and civil right. Every leader who wants the best for his followers should not at any time go against human right and dignities because those rights are the reasons why we live, move and have our being on planet earth. Leaders must not be above the law. Leader should learn to treat everybody freely and fairly having no skeleton in their cupboard. This particular act leads to rapid development for any nation.

Seventh, a leader should be able to see and eliminate problems that occur in the country quickly. A good leader of course will not wait for a particular problem to linger in his reign to eat in deeply before he or she takes caution but will try as much as possible no matter what it will cost him to find solutions to the problem immediately. Arnold Glasow noted that one of the tests of leadership is the ability to recognize a problem before it becomes an emergency. In addition, a leader should always be prepared for the worst or emergency situations.

Eight, a good leader should lead for results. A good leader should have the mindset of achieving his set goals. As rightly said by peter Drucker that an effective leadership is not all about making speeches or being liked; leadership is defined by results not attributes. A new leader should be challenged to

succeed where his predecessors have failed. Note that successful leaders not only engage in their current organizational and industrial needs, but the best leaders find new ways to innovate.

Ninth, a good leader should know the needs and challenges of the masses and how do he do that?

Listening to the representatives of different group's example a president should give attention to the governors who are the representatives of the states, the governors should in turn listen to the local government chairman's reports that are the representative of the smaller groups and in turn give the president feedback. If things are done this way, it makes the people happy and willing for change and development because they are sure that better things are coming their way. In addition communication is very necessary in a nation because lack of communication leads to conflicting ideas.

Tenth, team work is very necessary in the nation's development. The leaders in Nigeria should work in team, bring different ideas, put them together and work them out. Note that in team work, every ones idea is very important and can go a long way in development at large. Remember united we stand, divided we fall. Note that as a result of team spirit, decisions are made faster and carried out immediately giving room to progress and attainable development.

Apparently, a leader is also meant to be a good follower. An adage says "you treat others in the manner you want them to treat you" and another that goes "respect is reciprocal", therefore to be in the position of a leader you must have these two major qualities identified above. John C. Maxwell also gave his idea about a leader which entails that "a leader is one who knows the way, goes the way and shows the way". Note that you can be the leader. The one who can think, set goals and question the way things are done. You can be the leader who will change the direction of the nation, create a new course band inspire everyone to follow. You can be the leader who is able to think independently, creatively and flexibly, in order to create a shared vision with a new way of doing and looking at things.

In conclusion, when I look out in the middle of the night and see a neighbor' house burning, I will run next door and wake them up as fast as I can, I don't care how they will feel about waking them up or disturbing their sleep at that time of the night. Nigeria is really burning, the flames are going up very high, ideas are burning, creativity is burning, our God given resources are burning, and some people are burning while some are already burnt. It will take able and courageous minds to stop this flame despite they are in the fire. Youths should wake up; they should rise because the future rest on their shoulders not even the old or the elders.

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