



**POOR LEADERSHIP QUALITIES THE MAJOR CAUSE OF UNDER
DEVELOPMENT OF THE AFRICAN REGION: THE CASE OF
NIGERIA**

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Abstract

Over the years it has been discovered that good or quality leadership paves the way for every sector development in various nations .In as much as we would want certain other sectors to develop and grow there can be no way that we will be achieved without good leadership, thereby prioritizing politics .This paper is set out to exposing how necessary good leadership is to any nation that wish to develop .The question is what is good leadership about? Here, we are talking about the dedicated nature of leaders and the judicious use of resources meant for the development of the nation the way it ought to be used. Back home in Nigeria, leaders seem not be as patriotic as their counterparts abroad thereby affecting the developmental pace of the country and likewise leaders of African region too. Comparison of the region of Africa with others will clearly indicate that much need to be done .This worrisome situation is the reason for this study.

Keywords: *Poor Leadership, Under Development, African Region, Nigeria, Quality.*

Introduction

It has to be emphasized that leadership is a human factor; it encompasses both the leaders and the led or to the rest of the people. Many countries in sub-Sahara Africa Nigeria inclusive have been gifted by nature with rich human resources but what is expected of these countries are rarely achieved. This makes most people ask worryingly what the problem is, the answer cannot be farfetched and can be easily found in our leadership.

The treatise is up to expose most if not all the factors why all efforts geared towards development seem to be fruitless. And these hydra-headed problems have come to dwell with us and it must take exceptional efforts and steps to better out lot

Definition of Terms

A few concepts will be defined to help us understand them better.

1. Leadership: This means the action of leading a group of people or an organization, or the ability to do this.
2. Qualities :This means qualities ,features or attributes.
3. Cause: a person or thing that give rise to an action, phenomenon or condition.
4. Africa: the world's second largest and second- most- populous continent. At about 30.3 million km² (11.7 million square).
5. Underdevelopment: This means a relatively low economic level of industrial production and standard of living.
6. Nigeria: A Republic in West Africa; member of the commonwealth nations; formerly a British colony.

A look at Nigerian/ African Leadership/overview

This segment is devoted to exposing the class of leaders and leadership that Nigeria in particular and African in general have produced over the years, below are the factors which have culminated in leadership incompetence of African leaders and it has resulted in underdevelopment.

Illiterate leaders.

It has been observed that one of the factors that position people for leadership in this contemporary age is reasonable if not high level of education.

Back home in Africa, the case of Africans is different. Many people elected into positions of authority are either not educated nor widely travelled . To worsen the already existing ugly situation, these leaders choose people who are less exposed and less experienced than to work with so that they (the leaders) do not lose their positions to them or may undo them and take away their positions from them.

Politics characterized of money.

Due to Nigerians poor level of education, unqualified, unsuitable and candidates on normal grounds who could have been discarded are voted in or what we call chosen at the expense of the most suitable politicians, what a pity. To the best of our knowledge, this is simply considered an act of deception. What should we expect when one whose certificates are brought or forged are squeezed into sensitive, key positions, we should expect nothing but a mess of the whole system. And this go a long way to affect the whole thing.

Ethnicity

It has to be mentioned that competent, sound and qualified candidates for given political posts can be found all over the place the world over. But some people in given places or countries insist that leadership positions be reserved for people in their region. This makes it difficult for them to support people from other ethnic groups within their country who are more competent than people from their area..

How poor leadership affects Nigeria / Africa and the world at large.

These are the effects.

1. policy making/ implementation

It has to be mentioned of Nigeria and Africa as a whole continent that unsuitable or poor policies are always adopted and implemented giving rise to under-

development and crippling of the growth of the continent or region. This also make the relationship between the continent and the rest of the world get severed. No one will like to enter into dialogue or discussion with one that is below his or her standard.

2 Losses in material resources.

This may sound crazy or be difficult to be taken by all and sundry but when a country is having leaders who are incompetent, it suffers losses in different ways. Many countries experience brain-drain and this is traceable to the above stuff.

On the other hand, material resources may be lost when agreements cannot be reached and relationships entered between a country with bad leaders and the rest of the other countries.

1. Evidences of underdevelopment

One of the mistakes a country can make is to take a president or leader who is incompetent and unqualified. Development is not something that occurs by mistakes, it requires proper planning, harmonization of resources and initiation and implementation of policies, suitable for that country. The prize among others that developing countries have been paying is the unavoidable, under development ravaging their economies. Whether we dispute or affirm to the above, in the words of Okereke 2009, the gateway to development is having good leaders. whether good, competent and qualified leaders, the campaign for development is one that will not yield the expected dividends or results if we are not being genuine. What we witness is people in these countries wangle in absolute hunger and poverty, under feed, infrastructural facilities in short supply. What need be said about these countries is that hopelessness is the order of the day.

Views About Leadership Incompetence in Africa

In accordance with African Holocaust society, the greatest crisis facing Africa is a leadership crisis in all areas of people activity. In terms of natural resources, Africa is the world's richest continent yet, despite this vast resources, the bulk of African people liv as if they are citizens of deserts. Despite being home to

millions of skilled and talented innovators, African leaders struggle to stimulate and retain its strongest resources - the people in views of Owen Alik Shahdah, what kind of world do we live in when views of the oppressed are the convenience of their oppressors?

A lot of others have also said their minds over leadership in Africa as Chester Higgins JR, have this to say, we are not Africans because we are born in Africa, we are Africans because Africa is born in us.

African Leadership Problem

Let it be re-emphasized that the strength of every society depends mainly on its leadership. All through history, it is important to state that successful societies have been those leaders were able to rise to the occasion to calm storms during crisis and advance the course of prosperity during peace time.

During economic hardship, poverty and wars, it is the leaders who make tough economic and military decisions to steer the nation out of those troubles. However, leadership incompetent is a key factor in entrenching poverty in almost all African societies.

The leadership in Africa today could be likened to a bad chef who has all the ingredient needed to prepare a delicious soup but fails to do so. For instance, Africa is home to half of the world's untapped natural resources. The continent receives the highest amount of sunshine comparable to any landmass in the world which when tapped could supply cheap and constant supply of electricity to the whole continent and beyond. It is equally believed that the solar energy potential of the Sahara Desert alone could power the whole of Europe. This is what the Finnish president said on a visit to Nigeria on March 2009, Nigerian people have so much sun and wind, why don't they use it for the generation of light for cooking and every other things? She queried and added that we do it in Finland for our renewable energy.

The continent is home to a lot of valuable minerals such as gold, diamond, cotton, copper, bauxite, uranium. There are huge diamond and gold deposits in Botswana, Namibia, Sierra leone, Ghana and south Africa. There are huge

copper deposits in Zambia and Guinea. It is estimated that mineral deposits in DR Congo alone could fetch the country 23 trillion dollars.

On the other hand, there are huge oil and gas deposits in Angola, Gabon, Liberia, Senegal, Malawi and South Africa.

In furtherance, the continent is home to some of the world's biggest and longest rivers and lakes.

There are rivers like the Nile Congo, Niger, Zambezi, Senegal among others. The value of these rivers and lakes to agriculture, transportation, manufacturing, commerce power generation and household cannot be over emphasized.

The continent is home to some of the beautiful natural wonders of the world. There are animals like lion, Zebra, Leopard, Victoria waterfalls, the pyramid in Egypt and a host of others a source of tourism.

Besides, there are architects Engineers of all kind, medical doctors, planners, bankers, technicians, scientists, industrialists and investors with the qualifications, expertise and rich experiences to help develop these resources on top of all these, the technology need to convert these resources into finished goods exist everywhere in the world and can be bought or borrowed. The rich natural wealth of the continent is the main reason why it is seen as a strategic importance to the survival of the whole world.

African people as it has been discovered have so much natural resources, so why don't they use it to benefit themselves and the world? The answer is the incompetence and ineffective leadership found everywhere in the continent.

There is a leadership that has run out of ideas and solutions to the economic and social problems facing the people. A leadership which is concerned with its existence that the existent of the people.

Theoretical perspectives to leadership incompetence in Nigeria

Some theoretical strands will be examined under this section and their views or position about leadership in Nigeria taken into account.

1. Great Man Theory

Great man theory assures that the capacity for leadership is inherent, that great leaders are born not made. These theories often portray leaders as heroic, mythic

and destined to rise to leadership when need. The term great man was used because at the time, leadership was thought of primarily as male quality, especially military leadership.

2. Trait Theory

Similar in some ways to great man theories, the trait theory assures that people inherit certain qualities or traits that make them better suited to leadership. Trait theory often identify particular personality or behavioral characteristics that are shared by leaders. May have begun to ask of this theory, however, if particular traits are key features of leaders and leadership how do we explain people who possess up those qualities but are not leaders. Inconsistencies in the relationship between leadership traits and leadership effectiveness eventually led scholars to shift- paradigms in search of new explanations for effective leadership.

Summary

It has to be mentioned and in very clear terms that Nigeria and the region of Africa generally have the challenge of leadership.

When it come to leadership in African, never mind putting in anyone of your choice in any position you want because there is nothing bad about it. But I rather see it as an act resulting from ignorance in the abnormalities and have become a game of the winner takes it all. But on the other side of the same coin, the people are yet to learn their lessons and the same problem continues to linger, and nothing done to address it. This is either because the people are care little and ignorant and do not know their rights or are not interested about the whole thing.

Conclusion

It has to be said by way of conclusion that a handful of people are who have realizes what we regard as leadership incompetence or bad leadership.

To a few others they know little of what they could do to change the government of the country in Nigeria and the continent Africa. They believe that leaders in the continent of Africa are sit tight leaders and are not in any haste to leave as soon as they seize-power for they see it as their birth right.

The problem is characteristic of most if not all countries in Africa but there seem to be diversity in their degrees. Some countries are the worst hit than others like Nigeria where the people occupying of key leadership positions are enthroned like little god making the people serve him/her as god on earth. What an insolence. When the leader is supposed to have been accountable to the people who may have elected them into office.

The people become more loyal and answerable to the leaders, leaving the leaders with no option than to finish them off.

Recommendations

Here are our recommendations having concluded this academic enterprise.

- {1} African leaders should understand that leading others is not a right but a privilege received'
- {2} people should learn to fight for their rights and rise up to defend it and at every cost too.
- {3} Corrupt leaders should be adequately punished.
- {4} Africans should shun incompetence and corrupt politicians for they go on to ruin rather than develop the economies.
- {5} Also Nigerians and Africans should be careful in our choice of leaders for good leaders ensures or engenders good leadership while bad leaders do the opposite.

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