

## PLANLESSNESS AND CORRUPTION

Several Decades of failed development efforts in Nigeria, the persistent deterioration in the quality of life of the average Nigerian, the worsening conditions public utilities and the enduring poor economic performance have combined to stimulate scholars to ask questions which are of practical administrative interest and of great concern to scholars of policy science. Some scholars have attempted to enquire into these problems especially from the point of view of causation. Resulting from these rigorous scholarly investigations, there is a convergence of views that the problems, arose not out of any death of brilliant and critical treaties (i.e. policy instruments) on the nature and character of the problem and descriptions for their resolution. If anything, there has been a preponderance of these. Indeed, some critics have observed that the foundation of the problems lies in the arena of planlessness and problem identification and the embedment of personal interest in policy and decision making in Nigeria.

In every singular endeavour, planning is of paramount importance no matter what your venture might be. Even in your own little family, you need a plan. Planning for whom, when to marry and how many children you want to have. Gone are those days when our forefathers just go ahead making baby without planning for their future. Today, we are witnessing a lot social vice as a result improper family planning. Looking at Nigeria as a nation today, it is like we are moving to nowhere. There is no clear-cut direction plan. We are just going round circle. Take a look at 48 years of nationhood after we got our independence, it is glaring our liberators did not even have a plan on how they are going run the business of governance, after the departure of the colonial masters. Soon as the colonial masters' left, we have been engulfing in one problem after another. There was no common goal of what kind of a nation we want to be and how power is to be shared. From onset, our nation has been governed on a selfish and suspicious ground. One group tries to be dominant of the others. Resources are not evenly shared. Most times it is like *"monkey dey work barboo dey chop"*

It is foolhardily to see that we have failed as a nation in spite of so many endowed gifts from God. Instead of us living a comfortable life of self-

sufficiency, we are living a penury life. In words of former Senate President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, Senator Adolphus Wabara, in the guardian newspaper of Thursday, September 11, 2003, he said, *“after 42 years of independence, our country is still far from realising her manifest destiny. Blessed with abundant natural and human resources, Nigeria should be a land of abundance for her people, a beacon of hope for black people everywhere, and a major player in global political economy. But she is none of these. Rather, our country seems trapped in the potentially great zone. Our per- capital income is one of the lowest in the world. Our economic and social indicators are dismal. Our physical and social infrastructures are in disrepair. And our people are increasingly pensive and irritable and disillusioned. For us to move forward as a people, all must change”*. The former Senate President concluded, *“Nigeria I strongly believe can be transformed into a great country, not just a potentially great country. Our country’s abundant resources can be made to serve the generality of our people. And our people can be made to walk tall again, with bounce in their gaits, dreams in their eyes, smiles on their faces, and hope in their being. Buffeted battered and bruised, Nigeria can walk, and work again. It is possible”* I agreed totally with the former Senate President Submission and vision. But if we don’t have a new planning orientation, nothing will change. This is true. We have always had good ideas and intension. But because of like of proper planning, there are no tangible results to show for our collective effort. The only thing that comes to my mind as to why we have so failed is that we have not taken planning very seriously as individual and as a nation in general. Even if at all we had a plan, we have not followed the plan religiously to a logical conclusion. You cannot have an omelette without breaking an egg. Success in life, business and any other undertaking has a lot to do with strong determination and engaging in strategic planning and execution. We have failed all these years to take advantage of our strength, population, and opportunities, potential and natural gifts to our nation to become a powerful and prosperous nation. If life was to present a bill, it will be too high a price to pay by our current generation.

It is not that Nigeria, as nation has not done something great in these 48 years of nationhood. But if you compare this so call “achievement” with the wealth the country has made and squander over the years, your heart will

bleed. Bleed because it is like we are a wasted generation. There was a time in this country, cocoa; palm produce, groundnut and rubber were the main source of revenue to our mother- land. The discovery of oil would have been a big plus. But what did we get? Today, it seems that the discovery of oil became a curse. The whole nation ran into madness. Agricultural economy was abandoned. Petrol dollar became the order of the day. A visit to areas that was predominating an agricultural base economy, you will find a pitiful situation. Cocoa in the western part of Nigeria has been abandoned to frail and fragile old men with the young men eloping to city for white-collar jobs. The groundnut farming and the Kano pyramids in the northern part of the country is totally abandon and forgotten as if nothing like that ever existed before. Malaysia has left us behind in palm produce where we were leading producing nation. Good planning in structured order would have harnessing these natural gifts from God for the betterment of the nation.

Since our independence, the country has being governed by the military, politicians and government officials who believe in personal aggrandizement, enriching themselves and their cohorts and intimidating the masses, thereby creating insecurity of lives and properties. Fraud has been entrenched as an agreed norm. How can a nation develop with such a monster? This is the reason why joblessness pervades the land. Since the idle mind is the devil's workshop, our children are forced to take to things that bring shame to themselves and the country- like armed robbery, kidnappings, lawlessness and our girls selling their body in exchange for cash etc. Whatever efforts you have seen around, are as a result of some few who don't believe in stealing and not that the necessary resources are made available by those concern. We live in a country where no body wants to sit down and plan for anything. We have corrupt leaders and then the corruption of the people themselves. The leaders profit from absence of planning. If we take planning seriously, and applied it accordingly, corruption may well be a thing of the past. If we want a good and a prosperous country, then our leaders must begin to take planning very seriously. They must begin to lead by example because both virtue and corruption flow from the top down. According to the Ecuadorian political leader, Alberto Dalik, he remarked brutally, ***“When the perception is that corruption begins from the top, everything falls into decay. If the minister***

***himself steals, the undersecretaries will commit assaults and the departmental directors will engage in theft, extortion, robbery and murder***". It is therefore important for our leaders to personify the good virtue that is expected from us the followers or at least be perceived to be upright in their dealings. To ward off corruption, both the political and business enterprise must constantly, engage in strategic planning, ideally application of good laws and the behaviour of good leaders. Over the years, I have come to agree with the popular saying- ***"that failing to plan, you have planned to fail"***. Because of its importance, corporate and government organisations must try to refine their planning processes for improve efficiency. It is vital tool for all. Planning is very important if you want success in any venture and it is an inescapable part of human undertaking. Business venture can not be successful without lying down your plan of actions. Planning is an essential ingredient for a successful business undertaking. Planning determines objective or goals by management. Planning has been defined as: *"The establishment of objectives, and the formulation, evaluation and selection of the policies, strategies, tactics and action required to achieve these objectives. Planning comprises long-term/strategic planning and short-term operational planning. The latter is usually refers to a period of one year"*.

From the above definition, you will find that planning is all about formulation, evaluation, and selection of management policies either in corporate world or government. This formulation of plan includes both long term, strategic and short term. In other word I have defined planning as: ***"The link in between ideas and actions so that your actions will have a logical and well thought-out route to your expected destination"***. Planning is like a compass used by the pilot to navigate their route from one point to another. The pilots, before each flight plans his route and the fuel that will be required to take him to his destination. Once you have got an idea, it could be business plan, corporate plan and even running of the public corporations, the route getting to your desire efficacy must be written down logically. Step by step. From my experience, I have find out that most of our business men here in Nigeria see no reason why they should waste their time writing down a business plan. They always make the mistake believing that they know what they want and how they are going to do it.

Life is not about what you know rather it is all about what you can prove.  
That's reason why most of our businesses fail.

I strongly belief that our failures could be prevented or contained if our country and corporate managers approached business ventures with right planning and control with purposeful determination. So from today, if we must achieve the set target of the much talked about vision 2020 our zeal, enthusiasm and courage must be harnessed as a nation to proper planning if success is to be speedy and secure.

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