



International Youth Journal

For The Next Generation Experts And Leaders

VOLUME OF JULY 2019

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Fabian Schneider

Head Press Secretary

Veronika Selzam

Authors

Alfred Olufemi

Dickson Eyinmosan Jnr

Esimaje Michael Onoseme

Francine Beatriz Pradez

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Mauline Gragau

Nana Kwaku M Asamoah

Noor Fatima

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For The Next Generation Experts And Leaders

www.youth-journal.org

info@youth-journal.org

FB: IntYouthJournal

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schneider@youth-journal.org

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selzam@youth-journal.org

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How people's health, businesses suffer from abandoned project in Nigeria

ALFRED OLUFEMI

The uncompleted road project in idi-Ape- Iwo road area of Ibadan, Oyo state capital, had so much endangered lives of residents, passersby and motorists. Alfred Olufemi chronicles in to the health and business effect of the neglected project on the people.



Mr. Oloyede, a security officer at a bank (name withheld for security reasons) narrated how he went ill and was admitted in the clinic for days after inhaling dust particles from the abandoned Idi Ape road project. "I was having severe catarrh, coughing at the same time. My body system went down, and I could not breathe well. They had to rush me to the hospital," Oloyede Akinyide, who was just recovering from respiratory problems, told IYJ one sunny Tuesday.

"I still have my drugs. I am on drugs. It's over there," He reiterated emphatically, pointing apologetically at his medications placed on a table. "When they started the project, we thought that they will finish it on time. I mean with the way they scrapped it and brought bulldozers to work. They sped up the work. Later they stopped and since last year November when they added granite, the dust became too much," He continued

"I was thinking I was agile until two days ago when I landed in the hospital and the doctor told me the sand particles is what I have inhaled- despite using nose covers while at work," Mr Oloyede lamented. The road construction that caused Mr. Oloyede, road users and some residents health problems is one of the Ibadan Circular Road projects of over N70 billion embarked upon by Governor Abiola Ajimobi of Oyo State in 2017.

The state government said that the road would be constructed on a Public-Private-Partnership plan of Build-Operate and Transfer and that it will be completed within 18 months. "We revived the project after considering the importance, not only to our socio- economic survival, but also the benefit of neighbouring states. This made the state government signed a memorandum of understanding for the construction of the road through a Public-Private Partnership agreement with ENL Consortium Limited,"

Mr Ajimobi stated in a Punch report.

Also, a report published by the Highway department of the state ministry of road and transportation, has it that the administration has awarded 79 road projects covering all the zones of the State out of which 66 have been fully completed. Meanwhile, the dualization of the Idi-Ape – Basorun – Akobo – Odogbo Barracks Junction Road (Ibadan) awarded to ENL construction company is one of the 13 uncompleted road circular project abandoned for months.

This reporter gathered that the construction company stopped wetting the dusty road November last year. As a result, the residents of Idi-Ape and Akobo live in dust which is evident on the streets, floors of their rooms, furniture and house paintings. It has become a norm to carry out their daily activities with nose covers to prevent themselves from the health issues that might emanate from nasal intake of the dust particles.

The trade of nose covers became a thriving one. Mrs. Sarah Alabi, a seller told this reporter about the high demand for the product that makes the business lucrative. Despite the preventive measure, some of the residents could not escape irritation, itchy eyes, asthmatic attacks, respiratory problems and other health related challenges.

Asides the health challenges, the road has also recorded more accidents in recent times with several head-on collision of motorcyclists. "I was shocked to the bone marrow when the two motorcyclists collided that day," 26-year old Folake Lawal said while recounting the havocs the abandoned project has wrecked in recent times. In an interview with this reporter, Folake Lawal, a fashion designer along the road spoke of a case of two motorcyclists who got involved in an accident because of a blurry vision.

"They were badly injured. This is not the first time or the second time. It used to be bad at night " She yelled in frustration. Nonetheless, for three days consecutively, this reporter witnessed the clumsy and dusty streets of Idi-Ape in the night with near cases of head-on collision and auto crash.

Businesses not left out.

Apart from the road accidents and the health effects being experienced, this reporter discovered that businesses have also been at the receiving end of the dusty atmosphere. Most who spoke with this reporter complained of low sales and poor customer relations while start-ups owners have been discouraged. Ms. Folake said she cannot display her wares as the dust spoilt some of the clothes sewn for sales. "I was still 'roughing' it till I discovered it (dust) was affecting the clothing materials."

She painted the wall of her shop just to make more customers and for this place to be more attractive, but the dust factor has been frustrating her efforts. Also, the Sales Team lead at Idi-Ape's branch of the United Bank of Africa, Gbadejo Omoniyi, decried reduction in sales since the menace started last year. "It is over 5 months. You can see the banking hall, there's no one inside there. The dust is too much. Most of our

customers prefer to go to our banking hall in Bodija and not here. We appeal that they speed up the project.”

Speaking on efforts made, Mr. Gbadejo said the bank got yards of pipes and has been wetting its frontage from time to time. “We do it hourly. That only reduced the effect. As you see the dust, despite wetting, it enters the banking hall.” When quizzed if there have been complaints to the government to hasten up the project, he said; “The bank manager attends the customers relationship meeting every week and I am very sure that they’ve tabled that at the meeting too.”

Like UBA, some other banks around visited by this reporter wet the frontages of their buildings. However, other business owners around could not afford the palliative measure. “We no dey wet, Na only banks dey wet. How many waters do you want to pour on this ground that will suppress the dust? Unless rain falls. When they removed the bitumen, it was bearable but when they added the white dust, the thing became too much,” Uguu Peter, a tiles merchant, told the reporter in pidgin English.

“All our customers have refused to come compared to before. Some of them will call and say; I will not come today because the dust is much. Sales has reduced in short. We beg make government help us to finish this road,” Mr Uguu added. The Vice-Principal of Best Brain college, Ishola Babatunde beckoned on the government to fast track the completion of the road project because of looming tendencies of losing students to competitors outside the neighborhood.

Responding to questions, Mr. Ishola explained that students’ uniforms and school bus unnecessarily get dirty, asthmatic patients amongst the students have had crises to the point of rushing them to the clinic, thus a worrisome situation for both staff and parents.

Ajimobi’s numbered days in office.

The remaining thirteen of the circular road projects may not be executed by the Ajimobi-led government if not attended to on time- although he initiated them, IYJ can understand. The tenure of the All Progressive Congress’ Ajimobi expires on May 29 after which his party will hand-over to the governor-elect, Seyi Makinde of the People’s Democratic Party (PDP).

Ms Folake said if the Idi- Ape project lingers till the time Mr. Ajimobi leaves office, the suffering of the people may be extended as the new governor, who is from another party different will be busy with the formation a cabinet in the first few months. Another resident, Alabi Michael, told this paper that the failure of Mr. Ajimobi to secure the senatorial seat in the recent elections is one of the reasons for the delay and unnecessary abandonment.

“Since the people voted him and his party out in the last election, he has decided not to complete the remaining project. He wants to punish us,” Aged Michael said. It

should be noted that in the last senatorial election of February 29, Mr. Ajimobi lost the bid to represent the Oyo south district at the Red Chambers to his PDP counterpart, Kola Balogun.

Moreover, this paper reported how the APC governorship candidate, Adebayo Adelabu, endorsed by Mr. Ajimobi, also lost to the PDP on March 2. Analysts have ascribed Mr. Adelabu's loss to the support of the incumbent governor, which worked against his candidacy.

Human lives at risk, medical expert says

Bola Olomola, an Osun-based medical doctor, has explained the health hazards of daily inhaling of dust in a chat with this paper. "It can lead to Asthma. It can lead to chronic obstructive pulmonary disorder and minor cases of cough and catarrh" She highlighted.

Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) is a type of obstructive lung disease characterized by long-term breathing problems and poor airflow. According to her, although the dust cannot kill in its form, but its results can. "If the dust is too much it can lead to serious breathing problems." In the 2016 fact-sheet of the World Health Organisation, the Global Burden of Disease Study reports a prevalence of 251 million cases of COPD globally in 2016 and estimate of 3.17 million deaths caused by the disease in 2015.

The Osun Based medical expert furthered that the prevention through nose covers is limited as best is for the government to complete the road project before it wreaks more havoc than it has done.

Activist blames government

Reacting to the plight of Idi-Ape residents via a telephone interview with this paper, an Ibadan-based activist, Kehinde Akinyemi, heaped the blame on the state government. "The duty of the government is to protect lives of the citizenry, but the reverse is the case here. They are causing distress and damages to people's lives."

"It is the fault of the government if it awards contract and the contractor did not carry out the job well according to the agreement." Mr. Akinyemi spoke on the challenges faced by passersby citing his own sad experience while plying the road. "Myself, I pass through the road every day to work. At a particular time, I developed cold and catarrh. It cost him a lot of time and money before I could treat myself at the hospital," He told our reporter.

"In the night, the place is so rowdy and accidents inevitable because the people can't see clearly." He stressed that "it is the duty of a responsible and responsive government to listen to the cry of the people, but this government seems not to be bothered." The activist like others then implored the government to urgently look in to the case as the

administration will soon end. "I am still using this medium to call on the Oyo State government to attend to the situation because it doesn't affect the residents alone. It affects passersby, motorists and other road users."

Contractor keeps mum, Government lies.

Efforts to get the reaction of the company awarded the project, ENL consortium, proved abortive. The phone numbers on the company's website are not active thus our reporter could not reach the contractor via telephone. Also, series of messages sent via the company's email address and contact form filled by our reporter were not responded till the time of filing this report.

Meanwhile, the state commissioner for information, Teye Arulogun, claimed that the contractors are back to work even when this reporter maintained that there was no sign of such on the site. When responding to the question of health challenges and recurring cases of accidents, Mr. Teye said; "Even in America when they fix roads there will be dust. Don't let us mind what the people are saying. They don't know what they are saying. Is it possible for the road to be constructed without being dusty?" He asked

When probed further, the commissioner promised that an adequate response will be given through the Permanent secretary of the ministry of works and Transports. However, after repeated calls and reminder messages sent, Mr. Teye, on Thursday said he had escalated the issue to the relevant Ministry Development Agencies and that the government will look in to it.

Link: <https://youth-journal.org/how-peoples-health-businesses-suffer-from-abandoned-projec>

Of Students' Victimization and My Parents in the University Senate Building.

ALFRED OLUFEMI

The success of some policies and reformation in the past is not unconnected to the support of the students' union structures and the vibrancy of the student leaders in protest for a better society. The Ali-must-go protest of 1978 against the 50 kobo increment on the cost of students' meal was spearheaded by the leadership of the National Union of Nigeria Students (NUNS).



I rushed in to the five thousand- siting capacity Amphitheatre with the expression of “fulfilling all righteousness” that could be felt through the gloomy visage. The orientation lecture for fresh men goes on for three days as part of the one-week long orientation exercise in Obafemi Awolowo University.

I needed not a Vox-Pop to know that the thousands of students present were bored already. I can not speak for those who had gist partners by their sides. I mean those who fortunately made friends within the first week of resumption.

After two boring lectures from a senior lecturer and a principal officer, I could not stand the boredom and needed to leave the scene. Of course, I have some able-bodied Man o’ war folks to explain why I will be leaving the venue at that premature time to should in case I have to escape. To me, spending four hours at such programme should be rewarded with a Grammy.

“I want to go and drink water. I have a health challenge,” was the concocted lie presented to the para-military man manning the gate. Like a bonafide Nigerian, he did not fall for that. I persisted and the young man was so obstinate. Then, I remembered that the second speaker mentioned in his lecture, saying; “We are your parents on campus with the function of in loco-parentis.”

Although I had no inkling of what the last foreign word implies, I leveraged on that by giving a shout to those on the podium to save me from the unrepentant devil at the gate, not minding the catcalls from my colleagues. Lo and Behold, my campus parents responded and ordered that I be granted exit from the venue.

I was happy that campus is an extension of home. “My parents are truly here,” I muttered to myself. I bounced to my hostel beaming with smile.

The parenting role of the management is one that is preached to students in every tertiary institution. These officials talk about their joy to see you graduate on time, be a good leader for the future as a great ambassador of your Alma mater but their actions over time has betrayed their words.

In the last two years, the clampdown on student leaders, unionists, activists and even budding journalists has been on the high side. This is not limited to any region in the country as it is perceived to be a national phenomenon. It is a case of a ‘parent’ with ignominy and intolerance for his/her children when notable universities in the country have their students’ union structures suspended and denied a voice when cogent decisions are taken.

The expulsion of six student activists in the Federal University of Technology, Owerri, in 2017; the arraignment of three students of Obafemi Awolowo University who resisted an anti-student policy of the management in 2018, the rustication of a student journalist in the University of Ibadan, the recent case of UI’s student’ union President, Ojo Aderemi, bagging four-semester rustication for joining a protest and myriads of cases of victimization in schools are worrisome. These are issues that made headlines in top national dailies. What we can call the outpour of love the supposed parents express towards their wards.

This repelling stance against students and their agitation has caused the victims psychological trauma while many have suffered setbacks in their academic pursuit. Those who are to guide and mentor their foster children have turned oppressors and tyrants.

The success of some policies and reformation in the past is not unconnected to the support of the students’ union structures and the vibrancy of the student leaders in protest for a better society. The Ali-must-go protest of 1978 against the 50 kobo increment on the cost of students’ meal was spearheaded by the leadership of the National Union of Nigeria Students (NUNS). The protest shook the nation and led to the shut-down of universities across the country.

Away from Nigeria, students played a key role in the anti-apartheid protest of 1976 in South Africa, one of the mass action felt in the world and the Vietnam war protests of the 1960s, which was part of the reasons why the American troops withdrew in 1973. The campus is meant to raise leaders and not dummies. Those that can ask questions and hold authorities accountable.

A truth hidden in Nelson Mandela’s quote, that says “education is the most powerful weapon to change the world” is that the change can either be negative or positive depending on how the weapon is deployed. This explains the maxim that if you want to attack a country, go through the education sector. This is not magical but a process

of bad indoctrination. It in turn affects the products of youths in the society.

A cursory look in to the trends in tertiary institution has shown that majority of these foster parents have successfully achieved their aim of promoting docility amongst students. There is little or no resistance against outrageous fee hikes, poor learning environment and deplorable welfare state; thus killing the consciousness of students with the promise of a stable academic calendar. The implication is that the presumed leaders of tomorrow want to graduate at the expense of the reformatory effect and sense of critical thinking that education should reflect.

The problem becomes fully blown when this set of graduates turn out to be complacent about the paltry budgetary allocation to the education sector, not worried about the growing rate of unemployment and satisfied with the development of corruption in every sector. With no hope of a better tomorrow, they grow up to join the frustrated population and may end up seeing an option in crime. Then it will dawn on the university dons that they were baking potential terrorists when given the chance to educate them.

This is a call to administrators of tertiary institutions that the impression of a future is an illusion because the future is a culmination of what happens in the present and the succeeding minutes. The four walls of the university, polytechnic, monotechnic... is a microcosm of the larger society and whatever problem we are facing in the country emanated from there. They should guide and not oppress, they should nurture and not repress, they should educate and not suppress.

I seek solace in the words of the foremost American activist, Martin-Luther King Jr, that says that "The ultimate tragedy is not the oppression and cruelty by the bad people but the silence over that by the good people." Students, quality education advocates, human right activists and civic groups should not be weary in holding these university officers accountable because the rot we are battling currently starts from them.

Link: <https://youth-journal.org/of-studentsrsquo-victimization-and-my-parents-in-the-unive>

Ethiopian pilots of the Boeing 737 Max 8 vindicated

DICKSON EYINMOSAN JNR

Despite the hard-work and full compliance strength level with Boeing recommended and FAA approved emergency procedural measures, it was grossly unfortunate that Yared Getachew alongside his co-pilot couldn't rescue the Max 737 from persistently nose diving despite their ceaseless effort commanding the right sensors program.



Ethiopian Pilot of the Boeing 737 Max 8 vindicated

Sequel to speculations and on the spot analysis of the Boeing 737 Max 8 flight whose crash occurred March 10th, 2019, claiming the lives of all 157 on board members, preliminary reports as released by an investigative panel April 4th, 2019, revealed so much as it underscores the possible resultant of the ET 302 crash en-route Addis Ababa to Nairobi. While exonerating the heroics try of the pilots whose brave attempt to save the day was seriously hampered by a malfunctioning of the Max 737 command sensory system, the report was basically silent on the exact specifics cause of the crash.

Despite the hard-work and full compliance strength level with Boeing recommended and FAA approved emergency procedural measures, it was grossly unfortunate that Yared Getachew alongside his co-pilot couldn't rescue the Max 737 from persistently nose diving despite their ceaseless effort commanding the right sensors program.

According to the preliminary investigative reports, Ethiopian Airline pilots flew by the books, obeyed Boeing emergency protocols on the Boeing 737 Max flight that was barely five months old but alas, the MCAS flew the ET 302 aground.

"The crew performed all the procedures repeatedly provided by the manufacturer but was not able to control the aircraft."

Indeed, the news sent shock waves through the spines of global airline operators as the event left serious scars on the internal standard mechanism on the victim "air-liner" whose airline was the first in the Africa continent to set her plane through the skies en-route Addis Ababa to Cairo on April 8, 1946. It was a site of saddened glance for the Ethiopian Air-carrier whose brand name reckons firmly as the largest and most

successful international airport in Africa with a great percentage of high safety standard and compliance ethos. Though the preliminary report may have exonerated the Utopian aviation standard and safety procedures of the Ethiopian Airliner, it however leaves a big question mark on the absolute credibility of Boeing manufactured Max plane (most especially Max 8 and 9) whose production dates is barely eight months old prior to the march 10th crash. It could be recalled that in October of 2018, a Lion-air flight 610 of same Boeing Manufactured Max 737 crashed along the Atlantic few minutes after takeoff from Jakarta, killing all 189 passengers on board. Flight recorders also pointed causative effects attributing same largely to the Maneuvering Augmentation Characteristics System (MCAS).

According to the Boeing's CEO Dennis Muilenburg "These tragedies continue to weigh heavily on our hearts and minds, and we extend our sympathies to the loved ones of the passengers and crew on board Lion Air Flight 610 and Ethiopian Airlines Flight 302," he said in a statement.

While the preliminary report did not give a direct face-on cause of the crash, digital flight recorders and cock pit recorders revealed the going-on conversations between the pilots as they tried effortlessly to restore command control. In lieu to this, Boeing has cut down her production strength of her Max planes drastically while 8 and 9 Max 737 production remains in a cooler until it can be reasonably vetted by the FAA in all holistic measures for safe flight along the skies.

Though, the preliminary reports didn't assign blames, but it sure will raise the spectacle of Boeing and all other aviation regulators who initially gave a green-lit to the flown model. An events which will hunt the conscience of Boeing and her regulators as long as history exists. No doubt, history remains a kind remembrance of events.

A final reports on the crash is expected but may likely take a year before a conclusion is made on the actuality of what really crashed the ET 302 even though the released preliminary reports gives a faint sense of what might have led to the sad event that killed over 30 nationals on board.

What is the MCAS: Maneuvering Augmentation Characteristic System is an anti- stall software largely intended to override both the aerodynamics attitude of the aircraft and that of the pilots if data from the AOA (angle of attack) sensor's system attributes the nose of the aircraft as extremely too upward, steeply low, or at a risk of stalling. The MCAS basically in an automated fashion commands the nose of the aircraft a bit down to a level of safety.

The new Max 737 model unlike all previous Boeing make model has a better advanced and improved engine design. This makes it more fuel efficient with a larger physical presence when compared to her previous models. With more infused technological software, the new Boeing 737 Max 8 passes for a state of the art aircraft challenge. Given the Max 737 design, it has a tendency of facing the sky with its nose a bit upward when in flight. Now, what the MCAS sensor does here is to monitor this nose

movement and correct any flight nose anomalies through her controlled installed software. But in the case of the crash Boeing 737 Max 8, the controlled sensors functioned abnormally as it sent the wrong signal information to the MCAS telling same the aircraft nose is high while it's not, hence, a continual and uncontrolled down ward aircraft pull regardless of the right command from pilots. The MCAS followed through as her software applications sent a wrong perception despite the right command structure by the pilots. The crash was fatal and the deaths a colossal loss.

See statement by the CEO of Ethiopian Airlines April 4th;

“All of us at Ethiopian Airlines are still going through deep mourning for the loss of our loved ones and we would like to express our deep sympathy and condolences for the families, relatives and friends of the victims. Meanwhile; we are very proud of our pilots' compliances to follow the emergency procedures and high level of professional performances in such extremely difficult situations.”

“We are also very proud of our Global standard Pilot Training Center and the Ethiopian Aviation Academy which is one of the largest and most modern in the world equipped with state of the art and latest training technologies.”

“I would also like to take this opportunity to thank our valued customers, the travelling public, the media and Global aviation professionals for the remarkably high level of a vote of confidences and strong support that you have been giving us starting from the day of this tragic accident.”

“We will double our efforts every single day to win your confidence and earn your business. Your Safety will remain our top most priority and we will continue to work together with our partners around the world to make air travel safer and more comfortable.”

“My highest appreciation also goes to my 16, 000 colleagues at Ethiopian Airlines for their resilience, high standards of professionalism and their continued commitment for operational excellence and their award-winning customer services which enabled us to continue our business without any operational disruption, flight delays or flight cancellations.”

CEO of the Ethiopian Airlines Group Tewelde GebreMariam

Link: <https://youth-journal.org/ethiopian-pilots-of-the-boeing-737-max-8-vindicated>

Notre Dame: The fall of history most iconic architectural framework

DICKSON EYINMOSAN JNR

For a Nation known for devastating terror attacks in major of her city epicenter, the Notre Dame Fire incident was a sad remainder of pain, anguish, and torment as Parisians watched with folded arms engulfed in hot tears seeing yet another tragedy befell a nation whose beleaguered history with terrorist knows no bounds.



The French capital was taken aback Monday 15th April, 2019 as they watched in solemn torrents, torments, and avid torture, the massive fire as it emanates through one of history most treasured architectural heavyweights. It was an evening of saddened shock as millions around the globe saw the iconic Notre Dame cathedral building flamed up at the heart of the beautiful city of Paris on Monday, altering the city's skyline and threatening a potent symbol of France *chequered* history.

For a Nation known for devastating terror attacks in major of her city epicenters, the Notre Dame Fire incident was a sad remainder of pain, anguish, and torment as Parisians watched with folded arms engulfed in hot tears seeing yet another tragedy befell a nation whose beleaguered history with terrorist knows no bounds.

The Notre Dame de Paris (Our Lady of Paris) from time immemorial has been a Catholic Cathedral on the Île de la Cité in the 4th arrondissement of Paris, France. Believed to be one of the world's most recognizable architectural pieces of art, the Notre Dame is a perfect example of France most finely Gothic architectural design model. With a state of the art use of rib vault and flying buttress, it mightily fixated and elegantly poises rose windows and the naturalism and divinely abundance of sculptural décor makes it a standalone historic monument of architectural divinity entirely different from earlier Romanesque designs and model.

The 14th century medieval structure spanning over 800 years of existentiality was completed for the first time in 1345 after a ground breaking laying in 1163. With a length of 128m (420ft) and width of 48m (157ft), the Notre Dame is known for her two towering structure facade 69m (229ft) alongside her iconic spire height and roof structure which gives this building her true elegance and wonderful radiance of a magnificent art work.

During the 1970's the Cathedral Notre Dame de Paris survived absolute desecration during the French revolution, witnessed and survived two world wars, but alas, fell prey to an involuntary fire accident Monday April 15th, 2019 after the most revered structure in historical annals blazed up in flames to the astonishment of all. No doubt, it was sight full of bewilderment as both French nationals and non-francophone nationals mourned the "Great Fall of Notre Dame".

"Notre Dame is one of the world's great treasures. It's in our nature to mourn when we see history lost-but it's also in our nature to rebuild for tomorrow, as strong as we can"- Barrack Obama.

It was a shock no one saw coming as Parisians sang songs of healing praying same that this cup passes over them even in their moment of trial as they watched the Great Notre Dame building that has played host to over 13 million visitors annually fall bitterly in flames. It was a nine hour long battle as over 400 hundred fire fighters fought gallantly and dutifully to save one of history most treasured building from a total collapse as they hurried on to saving also a majority of her Holy Relics most especially the crown of thorns believed to been worn by Jesus during the passion of Christ.

An inferno which will eventually alter the face of one of the finest tourist's location in historical mileage;

Rebuilding the Notre Dame: With so many pledged funds earmarked for the rebuilding of the awe inspiring Cathedral that embodied the heart of Paris for over 800 years, the big question remains thus; "Will the Notre Dame ever remain the same"? For a medieval structure that took over 200 years to complete, rebuilding the Notre Dame in this present day and age might need just more than money and pledges to regain her self-worth and absolute reign as one of history most recognizable architectural model.

"How can you rebuild eight or nine centuries of history? How can you rebuild the tears, the whispers and the memories of a whole country and the whole civilization?" – Bernard Henri Levy, a French author reacts.

Indeed, this has become pertinent to prod regardless of the confidence level of Emmanuel Macron when he noted that the Notre Dame will be rebuilt within the space of five years. According to experts, the French President could be on a sail of wishful thoughts as many experts says rebuilding of this structure may likely take 10-15 years giving the architectural frame work and medieval elegance that forms the fulcrum of this wonderful piece of art work.

Though, the Notre Dame may have fallen prey to an involuntary fire, but it's sure not defeated as France could borrow solace from the rebuilding of the Windsor castle whose building gut fire in 1992.

Link: <https://youth-journal.org/notre-dame-the-fall-of-history-most-iconic-architectural-fr>

The Leadership Scourge in Nigeria And Africa - A Push for a Better Democracy

ESIMAJE MICHAEL ONOSEME

The militarization of the electoral process is a disservice to our democracy and a throwback to the jackboot era of military dictatorship. In some areas of the country, such as, Rivers, Akwa Ibom and Imo states, troops deployed for the elections turned their guns on the very citizens they were meant to protect. This is condemnable and should not be associated with our electoral process in the future.



I WEPT FOR NIGERIA AND NOT AFRICAN

Africa is dying. She is sick, directionless and visionless. Burdened with despots as leaders, the continent is in devilish but firm grips of deceitful educational systems, poverty breeding economic policies, retrogression and accelerated self-destruction. Stating this, is simply lending voice to an already overstated ugly facts; it is no longer news. Worst is, it appears as if there are no solutions. Africans appear to be intelligent enough to discern problems, but at the same time, inhibited by hypnotism of some sort from desiring, finding and implementing solutions.

Economy:

The definition of African economy is chaos, madhouse and poverty. Most of our national economic policies are made and driven by people who cannot manage a local store in a remote village. Some of these people have no idea of what negative impact an unguided statement made by a President or an Economic Minister can make on the health of a country's economy. Some dip their hands into the national coffers as if it is their own personal purse.

As a matter of fact, most people who engage in politics in Africa are there for one singular objective: to have access to public treasuries, loot the resources and live happily ever after. Is it a wonder why they commit all manner of crimes to get to power? It is normal in Africa to see people who steal, lie, cheat, blackmail, kidnap, maim, kill and break the laws of the land, left, right and center just to clinch power. Is it a wonder why our elections are battles and wars? Look around and see rivers of blood across Africa over leadership tussles.

One can state without fear or favour that political violence across Africa has nothing

with leadership! Rather, it has everything to with criminal minded individuals whose only source of livelihood are loots from public funds. The mindset of most African 'leaders' can simply be summarized as, "how can I get more cash?". This is why contracts are awarded, payments made in full but no work will be done. Many Africans think wealth is the same as 'cash'. We are brought up to believe that our problem is lack of cash. So, where ever there is cash, people are ready to kill to get there. Corruption in Africa is only a symptom.

While the economic policies of most developed nations can be summarized as Create, Produce and Export, that of most of the African nations can be summarized as follows: Get cash, Import and Consume. The world over, Creativity and productivity remain the bedrock of growing economies. On a general level, any nation with more imports than exports will have a trade deficit. If there are advantages of such deficits, we are yet to see them in Africa. Most of our economies are battling with inflations and devaluing currencies. Yet, most of our bilateral trade agreements with developed nations always end up in their favour. Often, our leaders sign documents without understanding the implications. A production-based economy will do far better than a consumption based one. This is simple economics.

Most of the people who find themselves in our corridors of power are too eager to sell off our natural resources at whatever terms, provided they will lay their filthy hands on some "hot and free" cash. They don't care about developing private sectors of their respective nations. Manufacturers struggle to produce under harsh conditions, so our industries are mostly small scales. The work force of most developed nations are absorbed by the private sector. In Africa, greater percentage of our employees are working for Governments. That is part of the mysteries of high cost of governance in Africa.

When will Africa experience her own "industrial revolution"? What is the reason behind our reliance on imported food for survival? Even if we can't produce fighter jets, why can't we produce enough cassava and corn? Even if not for exports, at least enough for us not to die of hunger.

Unfortunately, we sell our natural resources, only to spend some of the money on imported processed foods, use some to buy fighter jets and other weapons and then kill one another over manmade unrests. Of course, the remaining funds are stashed away in foreign banks by our 'amiable' leaders; for themselves, their children and for everlasting inheritance for their unborn generations. Is it still any wonder why Africa is poor?

Education

Here is a paradox; we are endowed with natural and human resources, yet live in abject poverty. The secret of developed nations is human capital development. Humans design and produce things. So, wise nations develop their human capital. Once a nation has human capital, their natural resources can be harnessed, processed and managed. The human brain is the foremost 'natural' resource. Furthermore, the brain of a properly developed human can create and produce anything imaginable. The process of

this development of human capital is known as education.

Unfortunately, the kind of education we have in Africa does not seek to develop the brains (consequently mindsets) of the learners. Rather, most of the processes end up killing the creative and productive abilities of our best brains. The best our graduates come out with are abilities to communicate in languages of our colonisations. In addition, they are handed impotent papers called certificates. Most of them come out of school without acquiring any serious knowledge let alone developing skills. They cannot solve any problems.

While we focus on learning definitions in foreign languages and call it education, developed nations are advancing in Science, Engineering, Medicine, Economics, Commerce, Government, Etc.

To grow our economies, we need to redefine education. Our present curriculums must change. We have to shift emphasis from “book only” kind of education and put energy on developing the creative and productive abilities of our younger generations. Theories without practical applications are not but mere stories. While kids in China are competing on designs of next generation smart phones are electronic games, our graduates are dying to at least own one of them gadgets.

Till today, most of our resources are managed by expatriates because we are not sure of our own manpower. Honestly, it stinks to think we are independent.

Also, the emphasis on these languages of our colonial masters must give way to emphasis on knowledge acquisition and skills development. We are today suffering from inferiority complex because we have lost our identities as Africans. We need to experiment learning in our local languages, while studying foreign languages on their merits.

At the moment, most of our youths are scrambling to run overseas, either in search of greener pastures or to acquire real education. Live motto of many of them is something like: “get out of Africa or die trying”. And in reality, many of them are dying while trying to cross to Europe.

Those who have no alternative but to stay and study at home, end up discouraged after graduation. Graduates are tramping out of citadels of learning with little or no hope of getting hired: there are no jobs. The few existing ones are given to the less qualified who happens to know someone “up there”.

We cannot but cry out, “Where are our leaders?”

Leadership

It is only in Africa that incompetent, visionless, unqualified and even outright criminal minded fellows are ‘elected’ into positions of leadership. Most of them are not even educated enough to articulate National Problems, let alone formulate viable economic policies. Africa is under leaders who are blind, insensitive and callous.

Where are the African intellectuals when the half-witted rule over lands? Where are our men of integrity when the corrupt run our affairs? Why must Africa allow visionless people to occupy the most important positions in lands while men of purpose and

vision are wasting away? The lands of Africa are crying for help against violent men who ruin our lives. Unfortunately, our peace makers are scared off from the corridors of power.

The worst part is, our leadership selection processes are often manipulated by people of other continents especially those from whom we have gained the so-called independence. They often see to it that stooges who will do their biddings 'win' our elections. When they say election, they mean selection. Individuals who dared to raise their heads as real leaders among us, are hacked down by these external forces, using their ever-successful divide and rule tactics. If they don't divide us along ethnic lines, they will employ religious lines. For example, Cameroon is at a deadly war for a silly division of "French speaking versus English speaking". Yet France and England are allies. They are not at war.

How long shall we remain in this cauldron? How come we never have people with leadership abilities to lead us?

It is time we examine the processes through which people with questionable characters emerge as our leaders. Something is wrong with we call democracy in Africa. It is time we realise that what is suitable in America, may not be that suitable for Africa. There is a need for an urgent review of our democratic processes. In many African nations, the ballot box rather than reveal the peoples' choice, is used to impose those they have rejected. If we choose bad leaders, we have no choice than to lick our wounds, and learn our lessons. If however, bad leaders are imposed on us, the pains are more severe. The ugly truth is, the 'imported' ballot box has failed us. There exists somewhere, an "African ballot box": with which we can choose credible, visionary and patriotic leaders without manipulations by both internal and external forces.

Africa, Is Our Hope for a Complete Still Valid?

There is hope for Africa. Every Problem Has A Complementary Solution.

To start with, I wish to state clearly that all our problems as Africans have solutions! Secondly, I wish to sound it out loud, that only Africans can genuinely solve Africa's problems. Thirdly, we wish to make it known that other continents have their challenges too, and they are wise and responsible enough to take their destinies into their own hands. Africans on the other hand appear subdued and as a result are passive. Dear Africans, this is a new dawn, a season of paradigm shift and a time to take our destiny into our hands.

The truth is, Africa has made significant advancements in recent years, and each incremental improvement unlocks the potential for future improvement. In stark contrast to the notion of a dark continent, Africa today is home to millions of bright, motivated people whose primary goal is to build great African nations for Africans by Africans. We have great patriots who love our mother lands to death.

Also, outdated attitudes and perceptions about Africa frequently overshadow the continent's attractiveness for investment. However, the disconnect between perception and reality has created significant opportunities for investors willing to roll up their sleeves and put boots on the ground.

According to Henry Morton Stanley, Africa is the second-most populated continent, and the African people account for about 15% of the world's total inhabitants. Between 1975 and 2000, Africa's population expanded from 416 million to 811 million. And the continent's population is now well over one billion, of which 355 million are already considered middle class. Most projections indicate that this population expansion will continue. Furthermore, according to economic data from the World Bank, Africa includes seven of the top 10 fastest-growing countries globally. Regarding resources, the continent has 12% of the world's oil reserves and 42% of its gold. African youths are calling for a Brighter Continent and urges all to shift in our thinking about Africa. It is time to "Light Up Africa."

Moving on to the current realities within the 2019 General election, The patriotism of Nigerians is heartwarming and affirms my oft-repeated statement that we are brothers and sisters born from the womb of one mother Nigeria.

With regards to the Presidential elections that took place on February 23, 2019, it is clear that there were manifest and premeditated malpractices in many states which negate the results announced.

Link: <https://youth-journal.org/the-leadership-scourge-in-nigeria-and-africa-a-push-for-a-be>

When the Oceans rise and the Thunder falls

FRANCINE BEATRIZ PRADEZ

This explores the often complex yet linear connection between the extensive flood crisis in the city of Dagupan which is situated in the quaint province of Pangasinan nested within the Philippines islands. It aims to give a rational insight on the cause of the crisis as well as how the local government unit is handling it amidst backlash.



Dagupan City is a well – known metropolitan community that is home to fisher-folks and is gifted with the subtle natural beauty of coastal beaches and distinct flavors of seafood cuisine immortalized through its famed milkfish. Housing over 171, 271 citizens in its banks, Dagupan City is the place to be for international students, budding entrepreneurs, adventure seekers and for those who wish to reside in an urban – rural landscape that exemplifies the highest values of safety and order alongside with youth development.

Despite these immense positive aspects that lures in numerous visitors every year, the downside of living in the commercial hub of the North is the geologic landscape that is comprised of pliant soil and strong waves that come in from the different bodies of water surrounding the city. Aside from the aforementioned fact is that Dagupan unfortunately serves as the unwilling catch basin of excess water streaming in from neighboring towns and from the rivers of Agno and Sinocalan. Thus, the presence of low pressure areas and the undeniable possibility of the formation of tropical cyclones heighten disaster risk concerns of Dagupenoños due to the severe flooding that might occur.

However, it might be helpful to note that Dagupan is not a stranger when it comes to experiencing floods; in fact, Dagupan City has been a resilient witness to three of the most devastating floods to hit the Philippines. Tracing back the history of the city, the first killer flood that wiped out the old Franklin Bridge, that connected the quaint Barangay Calmay to the city center, and Dagupan's first sectarian school, St. Albertus Magno College was in 1935. Thirty seven years after, particularly in 1972, Dagupan was isolated by floods that ravaged the land due to the prolonged monsoon rains from June to September. And how could one forget Typhoon *Pepeng*? *Pepeng* , in all its grandeur, established its name in the books of history for spawning rainfalls that over-ran the parameters of the San Roque Dam.

From 1935 to 2009, floods served as tangible lessons to learn from in order to prepare for future unprecedented events. But whatever precautionary measures the local government unit (LGU) might have implemented was quickly dissolved when three consecutive floods caused the suspension of a month's worth of classes along with the steady sales decline of businessmen who were unable to open their respective enterprises due to the situation. And while the economic flow was haphazardly affected, the health and safety of Dagupeños were placed at risk due to the presence of hazards such as leptospirosis or the possibility of drowning or starvation because of lack of access to nutritious food or even potable water.

With almost millions of assets lost during the flood, local executives are coming up with a diverse set of solutions to address the problem. First and foremost, the Sangguniang Bayan invoked their authority to declare the city under a State of Calamity that enables the LGU to set and amend specific price rates, accept national and international aid relief along with disposing of the allocated Calamity Fund. Second, the Office of the Congressman of the 4th Legislative District of Pangasinan appealed to the Department of Public Works and Highways to create sufficient infrastructures that will serve as evacuation centers and fortify the current architectural design of the city center. Finally, the Vice Mayor of Dagupan City rallied businessmen and private individuals to fund an in-depth study that seeks to resolve multiple cases of flooding while establishing a research center that caters to meteorological and geological development since Dagupan is a common site of tectonic activities such as the 1990 Earthquake and often a vulnerable area when it comes to weather disturbances.

Throughout the entire ordeal, everyone had their own share of pinpointing the blame from the administration to those under the sublevels of responsibility. Nevertheless, it is vital to take into mind that when oceans rise and thunder falls it will not matter who blames who or which caused what, all that matters is that the Dagupeños may find the strength to rely on each other to ride out any disaster.

Link: <https://youth-journal.org/when-the-oceans-rise-and-the-thunder-falls>

The Philippines In Denial

GAVIELLE GERICO CRUZ

The desolate truth about the Philippine's stagnation: "We blame it on our leaders. We continue to rally for a problem that we've caused all along. We continue to create that zone of comfort that's been keeping us and will keep us asleep of reality longer than the colonial times of our country - our contentment without consideration of others and the future, our denial of the truth."



It isn't new to hear that the Philippines is a country filled with beauty. Ranging from different tourist attractions of stunning mountainsides, distinctive hills, seamless volcanoes, scenic beaches, and much more, the Philippine islands are undeniably gifted with masses of natural resources. The Filipinos have probably gotten so full of these compliments, that it isn't special for their ears to pick up those childish chuckles of tourists while celebrating vacation on the white sands of Boracay, or for their eyes to see hundreds of visitors bathing in the crystal clear waters of Palawan.

It's reassuring for a Filipino to hear all of this—for his nation to be called the Pearl of the Orient, to know that throwing a seed somewhere in his motherland simply means a new tree planted, to live in a place like this means heaven on earth. Yes. It is reassuring for the Filipinos.

To be reminded by what beauty the nation holds, it wouldn't hurt to throw a small wrapper of candy on the sidewalk. It wouldn't hurt to spit a small chunk of phlegm on the road. It wouldn't hurt to cross the other side of the road while the stoplights are red. It wouldn't be much of a problem to be comfortable amidst everything around. The country is rich, gorgeous, and peaceful. Come on now! The Philippines hasn't been independent only until recently. Given that, the Filipinos deserve to uphold the freedom that's been seized from them for hundreds of years.

Current President Rodrigo Duterte states that the problem with this country is the excessive usage of drugs. The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) says it's the increasing pollution in the country. The Department of Education (DepEd) says it's the rotting educational policies. All the congressmen, the senators, the other departments, they all have a share of the problems.

I am a regular high school student, and I have to agree on that part of the reality and the density of these problems. However, I disagree with the proposition that any of these is the real dilemma that haunts this nation.

It upsets me to see the Filipino people blaming the government to what disasters the country is going through. Alright, it's no question that the government of the Philippines is imperfect, flawed, and, as sad as it may get, corrupt. The Filipino people have acceptable roots for their blame, and therefore it's not wrong to rebel against such a government. Yet, the faultiness and the inadequacy of the government—the Filipino people continue to let it blind them and feed their luxury of living the free life of free people. They continue to deny it in themselves that the real problem of the country is the lack of urgency and the overconfidence in themselves, the people, over problems of the country.

The problem of the Philippines on why it is deteriorating, why it's facing different environmental challenges, why it's experiencing cultural depletion, why it's lagging behind other nations in different aspects such as technology, is because of the denial of the Filipinos. As I said, the people continue to harm the country out of too much confidence. It is unknown to them that throwing that one piece of candy wrapper caused the flooding of their *barangay* that cost lives and property. It is unknown to them that spitting out that chunk of phlegm caused others to experience that flu they were experiencing. It is unknown to them that crossing the other side of the road while the stoplights were red cost them their life and instigation of those hour-long traffics. It is unknown to them that this stagnation in their comfort zones, may it have been caused by foreign influence or thirst for finally receiving that snatched freedom from them, needs to stop.

The hard part about this problem is that there is no one solution that can elucidate it. It's something that can't be deliberately served to the people. Additionally, it hurts to say that the problem is continually growing, and in an exponential rate. The people of the Philippines are fed up with the stereotyping of the wealth of the country, how it is indestructible and free, yet again feeding the comfort of the people. This contentment and ease of the people is accompanied by their sightless affection on the large influence of mass social media which has a great deal to do with the slow death of culture and tradition, the country's continuous worsening of pollution, the country's overpopulation, the lack of basic materials for learning of numerous public schools, and serious poverty.

As people complain about the murky waters of Manila Bay or perhaps its filthy streets, they do not realize the reason of it. In the first place, the garbage was thrown little by little by themselves, and they all clumped up to what is now the polluted city of Manila. The overpopulation of the country is caused by improper family planning. The lack of foresight is evident to the people.

Why do we continue to lose our identity as Filipinos? It's because of the undying,

unconditional, and the unconventional hospitality of the people to the foreigners, to the point where we, ourselves, lose a part of us.

The discipline of the people is too much to ask. “The Philippines is a democratic country, the power is held by the people, therefore, the people are free to do what they wish.” If this continues to be the mindset of the Filipino people during the next century, the Philippines will never progress. Amidst freedom, there must be an idea of limitations. We must know when to do something and when not to. Yes, we are free. But how about our motherland that gave us the freedom? She deserves the respect we ought to give her as to be able to progress like other countries.

Our country continues to ask for aid, for help from other states to solve its problems. Though, the only assistance we’ll ever be receiving from them is economic, military, and different support programs that is manifested only by our government. There’s one thing they can’t give to us — the cooperation of our society. I am in no position to say that I am well aware of all the problems the country is facing. I am merely a student who describes the authenticity of his environment. However, I am well aware of the capacity of the Filipino, for the reason that I’ve seen and experienced the amiable aftershock of the movements of the early Filipinos, from the liberty I encounter today, fought by Filipino movements from the Spanish, the American, and Japanese colonial times, to the existent proof, the writings of Jose Rizal, of the ability of a Filipino to fight, create, and progress.

We blame it on our leaders. We continue to rally for a problem that we’ve caused all along. We continue to create that zone of comfort that’s been keeping us and will keep us asleep of reality longer than the colonial times of our country—our contentment without consideration of others and the future, our denial of the truth.

Denying will only cleave us of development. It’s our move that’s going to make it count. Let’s start today.

Link: <https://youth-journal.org/the-philippines-in-denial>

We Only Try To Be

GAVIELLE GERICO CRUZ

In the light of the environmental situation of today's world, it is a must that we go ahead and bring about awareness in our own unique ways; for in reality, we are not aware, or at least, we only try to be.



Look deep into this paper. Read every word with focus. Negate all sources of attention from the outside world for this essay. And after reading, I want you to prove me wrong.

Imagine the Earth. It is all alone but flourishing with beauty and harmony. It is in sync with the laws of nature, and everything is balanced. It is stunning, isn't it – the idea of an environment that is almost perfect, with the profound thought of peace?

As I write this essay with my laptop, the sheer second that I breathe or the mere time that I blink, the world is constantly being consumed by the very inhabitants that live on this beautiful planet—us.

Now lies the big question: Why do we continue to neglect our world through the years? Why do we continue to forget that this planet is our home—our home to protect and love, that this planet is responsible for giving us our security and the very chance of existence? Are we not the stewards who are supposed to take care of our land?

On this note, I would like to use this essay as a medium to bring about the change I want to make: fighting off pollution—the very thing we made because of our selfishness.

We are not aware of pollution, or at least, we only try to be. Before trying to make a change, we must accept to ourselves that pollution is real. Global warming is real. Climate change is real. We should start now while it is not yet too late.

With that, my proposition is to bring awareness. It is true that governments across multiple countries have already made their move to bring awareness to its peoples. But sadly, the world continues to deteriorate and decline in state. So how do we bring

about awareness? The answer to this? We don't give up. In fact, we should continue to expand the propagation of mediums of awareness. By that, we find more ways on how to bring awareness to each and every one's mind.

The educational sector has a great deal to do with bringing awareness. Strengthening the propaganda against pollution by adding classes involving awareness for the environment is a great start. By bringing awareness to millennials, the roots of the next generation are sure to be plump and plentiful.

Besides the educational sector to be strengthened, governments across the world could put together seminars and campaigns for families, neighborhoods, and companies on how they could help support the propaganda. Let's tackle this one by one.

For families, the three R's (Reuse, Recycle, Reduce) could further be acknowledged. With this, non-biodegradables that are commonly found inside homes such as plastics, foams, and metals could be reused or recycled to prevent these materials stock up the ocean with millions of tons of garbage yearly which contaminate the wildlife that live on it. Families that manage farming could also go for organic farming instead of using artificial fertilizers to avoid ocean contamination as well.

For neighborhoods, each family residing on it could come together as one to form local laws to protect the cleanliness of their areas. For example, the idea of "Proper Waste Management" could be carried out across the streets of the area, and when someone is caught violating, a small punishment of community service as payback would help edify the residents.

And for companies, they create the biggest impact to our environment. This is because they blindly use the most resources and give off the most risk to damage the environment. For example, logging companies that harvest wood for a living simply take and take without securing the field. With proper orientation, these companies would be taught on how to properly gather wood without damaging the surroundings.

Finally, everyone should have a voice. There is no density in trying to avoid this problem. It is real, and by real, it gives threats to the very existence of life. We should make a stand against pollution. This essay, in itself, is a way to bring awareness. We should go ahead and bring about awareness in our own unique ways; for in reality, we are not aware, or at least, we only try to be. Prove me wrong.

Link: <https://youth-journal.org/we-only-try-to-be>

Music As A Mechanism for Social Change in Liberia

JANET M KAMARA

There is a wave of social change sweeping across Liberia since the country ended fourteen-years of brutal civil wars through a comprehensive peace provision that was formerly synchronized by the regional Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) in 2003.



Liberia has since advanced its development programs and partially revitalized its priority sectors through a United Nations Mission (UNMIL); and a set of assistance provided by the United States, China, European Union, and other donor institutions, has buttressed the country in the rebuilding of its health care sector, education sector, and natural resource management sectors.

The country has also stabilized politically with two democratically-elected presidents since a 1980 coup that led to sequential eras of civil wars across the country. Liberia former President and 2011 Nobel Prize Winner, Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf, was elected in 2005 as the very first woman president in Africa's political history to ascend to such a leadership capacity. Ellen's regime saw a drastic transformation across the country's political, social and economic landscapes exponentially. During her terms, the former president used her global platform to influence change across Liberia for a span of twelve years.

Her key successes included a gender inclusive workforce and a partially created economic stability that lasted toward the end of her terms. The ex-president also ensured underprivileged women and marginalized youths were empowered to positively impact their community. Learning platforms were intentionally created to empower young people and power their voices in decision-making processes that yielded positive outcomes. A Liberia-Morocco bilateral agreement allows Liberian students to study abroad in Morocco. The scholarship runs for both undergraduate and graduate programs in diverse fields of study as per a student interest. The government also instituted a free and compulsory primary education for Liberian students in the primary division to access tuition-free learning opportunities.

In addition to bilateral scholarship programs and free-compulsory primary education programs, the government has established a national career enhancement program called the “President Young Professionals Fellowship”. The program allows emerging practitioners to roll out their practicum with well-known institutions across the country.

An institution of good governance, as well as aid assistance Liberia has received from international partners, could be termed as factors that influenced the country’s swift recovery from its dark past. However, this is not altogether the case. It is widely acknowledged that one of the most captivating forces in Liberia’s recovery could also be measured by a social movement where youths are using music as an effective tool of communication to leverage growth in Liberia and beyond, on a larger scale.

Like many Sub-Saharan Africa countries, youths make up a huge proportion of Liberia’s population. One-third of Liberia’s population are between the ages of 15 to 35. Ironically, only a minimum portion of the country’s labor force are youths, according to the Liberia Institute of Statistics and Geo-Information Services (LEGIS). LEGIS reported in 2012 that youth unemployment represents a major cost to Liberian society in economic, political and social terms.

The institute further noted that one in every three young persons in the labour force is unemployed in the country. The high share of labour underutilization means a loss of investment in education and training, a reduced potential tax base, higher costs for social assistance and a bottleneck in fuelling the economic transformation of the country. Furthermore, high levels of unemployment and underemployment can be a source of social instability. Even though the lack of available social empowerment programs for youths could lead to them engaging in violence, but youths are rather creating career opportunities for themselves in music and positively influencing behavior change within the larger population through their rhythms.

A Liberian musical style known as “Hipco”, is one of Sub-Saharan Africa’s fastest growing innovations that has emerged in the last two decades. The “co” in the genre is short for the Liberian dialect “Kolokwa” - a widely spoken language in Liberia.

According to sources, Hipco has always had a social and political bent, serving as the medium through which rappers speak against societal ills, including injustice and corruption. During the Ebola outbreak that killed over five thousand Liberians, Hipco artists collaborated with development partners to release Hipco songs on Ebola prevention. Among top development agencies that have worked with Hipco artists are the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF), the American Embassy, and the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). Early this year, a 2017 election theme song “Know Who To Vote For” by Henry Amaze Toe was nominated and won the “Multimedia category of the Through Arts and Imagination creative arts competition organized by global civil society alliance, CIVICUS. Henry reported to CIVICUS in a statement that democracy should be everybody’s business. The song is a sensitive song for citizens to vote right, not to vote based on ethnicity or religion. The song was intentionally composed to educate voters to vote right and not based on ethnicity,

scholarships, or religious background.

The concept of Hipco first emerged as a form of communication practiced by young people living in populated slum and ghetto communities in the 1980s. But it was in the early 2000s that the concept developed into a youth-led movement, where a group of young men across Liberia would convene at street corners and in ghettos to rap about existing issues that needed the public attention. The movement started off with now popular musicians, Takun-J, Henry Amazin Toe, Nassimen, and Beamaster Xclusive as far back in 2003. Hipco music acts as a resourceful communication vehicle for these artists. The concept is unique in nature because the artists usually composed their songs in Liberian English that is widely spoken by a huge segment of the country's population.

In 2015, a local based civil society organization called Accountability Lab Liberia, organized an Accountability Hipco Network to form part of the larger hipco network. This segment of the Hipco Network is mainly focused on using music as a tool for social change. To spark out talent and potential Hipco artists, Accountability Lab Liberia further introduced "Rap2Rep" (rap to represent). Run as a talent hunt, "Rap2Rep is a first-of-its-kind music competition searching for promising first-time Liberian hipco music artists who support greater public representation and good governance". The outline of Rap2Rep includes auditions, mentorships and an indoor awards ceremony where winners are announced.

Apart from being a musical campaign that sparks the passion of talented young Liberians, Rap2Rep is also a platform for the inclusion of youth voices in nation-building processes. Overall, the competition gives rising hipco stars a platform to make their voices heard, connect with socially-conscious leaders in the music industry and build the skills they need to shape the future of the country through song. 2019 marks the fourth anniversary of Rap2Rep. This year's competition was managed by the Accountability Lab Liberia Innovation Campus (iCampus), the very first innovation hub to be established in Liberia.

Rap2Rep 2019 supported hipco artists to produce songs around a USAID Liberia Accountability and Voice Initiative (USAID LAVI) advocacy drive. USAID LAVI is one component of a broader development effort that seeks for policy reform and funding investment in Liberia educational sector since 2016.

As a local-based platform that promotes Liberian culture and speaks "truth to power", Hipco artists use Afro-pop beats, RnB rhythms, and local Liberian dialects in songs to create public awareness around national issues. Since its emergence, Hipco has helped Liberians to "solidify their collective identity and a sense of belonging", across issues that once brought disunity and political uprising among Liberians due to cultural diversity fused by grabby powerholders.

Link: <https://youth-journal.org/music-as-a-mechanism-for-social-change-in-liberia>

Global Solutions Summit: On Multilateralism, Trade and Paradigm Change

JAWHARA KANU

This article builds on findings of the Global Solutions Summit on the pressing need for multilateral cooperation and solving the shortcomings of the current multilateral institutes. It specially emphasizes on trade and dwells into shifting into an approach that's more considerate for developing countries.



At the official opening of the Global Solution Summit 2019, the Mayor of Berlin hosted the delegates in 'Rotes Rathaus' or the town hall, where a giant painting describing the 'Berlin Conference' was hanging on the wall. More than 130 years ago; Berlin hosted 14 countries that gathered for the scramble of the African continent to mark the beginning of the colonization era. One can confirm that the men in that painting were not aware that not only were they making a decision that affects their respective countries' share of land; but they were shaping the face of Africa and the world considering the prolonged damages of that era, and how it still profiles the world governance and political interactions. Similarly, the G20 and other multilateral coalitions need to cautiously navigate their policies that seem to affect the almost every other country directly or indirectly.

Anton von Werner , Congress of Berlin

This article builds on findings of the Global Solutions Summit on the pressing need for multilateral cooperation and solving the shortcomings of the current multilateral institutes. It specially emphasizes on trade and dwells into shifting into an approach that's more considerate for developing countries.

Why does the world need Multilateralism more than ever?

The issue of multilateralism was the centre of many panels throughout the Global Solutions Summit; with voices calling for an urgent to collaborate together, to voices asking for immediate salvation of the existing bodies. Snower (2019) explains; "humans have always managed to come together, giving up on some of their power and delegating a higher-level governance to overcome regional pressing issues "At our current time, issues such as climate change, migration and international trade seem to be demanding a larger level of multicultural cooperation every day.

The urgent need to collaborate on international trade simply stems from the fact that a country doesn't only consume what it produces, and can't produce all that it needs (Weil 2013). Since the early age of time countries were exchanging goods as well as factors of production (labour, capital and technology despite the resurfacing issues of patents and copyrights). Multilateral trade agreements evolved until the birth of the world's trade organization which is the largest standing trade entity with 164 members as of 2016. This evolution has led to a massive growth in world trade; the following graph illustrates the world exports as a percent of world GDP in the period (1960-2016). (Source: World Bank Indicators)

However, is trade a zero-sum game? And do gains reaped by a country would eventually lead to equal loss incurred by another? And how come the world is witnessing a continuous rise in inequality despite this marvellous trade boom? This unregulated globalisation has contributed to the growing inequality by unevenly dividing the gains between the capital owners over workers and trade unions be it locally in developed countries where workers lose to cheap labour from other countries or in developing countries where workers struggle under harsh conditions and weak unions (Schäfer-Gümbel, T. et al. 2018). Achcar, Abdelkarim et al. (2017) explain: a new record was set in 2017, with just eight men owning as much as the half of the world's population. Trade liberalisation contributes to wage disparity and informalisation of labour within countries. Trade advocates seem to ignore that countries harvesting the gains of trade have reached this level by either previous harsh protectionist eras (China, India) or current heavy subsidization to protect local production such as farmers in the EU and the US. These losses not only led to disparities among countries, it further led to increasing welfare gaps within countries.

Additionally, Stiglitz, Charlton et al. (2005) confirm: the trade agreements have been a one-way reciprocity; opening developing world markets towards imports of the advanced world and closing the door in the face of their exports with barriers, and even if the trade terms were fair, some countries would still haven't benefitted as they wouldn't be ready for trade liberation. The least developed countries often lack the infrastructure and the global markets standards, moreover, it puts a country under risks of job loss (and other vulnerabilities such high exposure to economic shocks as explored by (Montalbano 2011)), and while employees in developed countries have their social security and qualifications that help them change jobs, workers of the south simply lack these basics. Furthermore, the negative effect of this unprotected trade for developing countries is that their local goods are no longer competitive internationally due to abundance of higher quality goods produced by other countries for a cheaper price; benefiting of their comparative advantage).

Achcar, Abdelkarim et al. (2017) further add on to that: "The narrative promoting free trade focuses on quantitative indicators such as rates of economic growth and growth in exports and neglects negative socioeconomic impacts on a large proportion of the world population, especially marginalised social groups (the very poor, rural populations and women).

The paradox that poses itself is that on the one hand, for a developed country; multilateral institutes must be emphasized as action is urgently needed to tackle the urgent supra-regional matters such as climate change, while for developing countries, the whole format of these multilateral institutes needs to be modified to embody their needs first and then other urgent issues follow through.

Towards a new paradigm on multilateral trade:

One can confidently argue that the world trade organization work at its current style doesn't serve optimal development, for instance, considering that free trade is key for development in general, WTO doesn't really foster free trade. Second, there is no promise that trade liberalization policy is the ideal policy for the countries of the south (Rodrik 2007). The current trade scene needs reinforced labour, social and environmental standards that are unified internationally, additionally; a special emphasis must be put on developing countries' needs. The trade policies need to be modified to include modern day issues such as migration, supply chain fragmentation and digitalization. (Schäfer-Gümbel, T. et al. 2018).

Then how does this reform relate back to the existing multilateral institutes? Snower (2019) explains: "Cooperation at a larger scale is possible through the creation of narratives that are followed by the appropriate governance structure, thus the mission ahead of us is to create new narratives and structures that that are appropriate for recoupling our social, economic and political domains in a globalized world". Which should place a special consideration on disadvantaged groups of the current structure otherwise would turn into a force that's driving the world further apart.

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Link: <https://youth-journal.org/global-solutions-summit-on-multilateralism-trade-and-parad>

Need to consolidate our political parties

KENECHUKWU UGOH-EZEPUE

As the 'Giant of Africa' and model of democracy in Africa, our democratization processes should be strengthened through the instrumentality of our Electoral Laws. By so doing, we can begin to deepen and propel the continent's democratic principles.



One of the cardinal beauties of democracy is freedom of association which encompasses both an individual's right to join or leave groups voluntarily, the right of the groups to take collective action to pursue the interests of its members and the right of an association to accept or decline members based on certain criteria. Freedom of association is fundamental to political parties. In most countries, political parties are a veritable platform to assume leadership positions after passing through the crucible of elections.

Before the year 2002, three political parties existed in Nigerian political ecosystem. However, due to the largesse offered by the 1999 constitution on the formation of parties, about thirty three political associations applied to Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) for registration. Sensing the danger ahead, INEC later announced guidelines for registration which contravenes the constitution particularly section 222 to 224 with incurred the wrath of late legal luminary, Chief Gani Fawehemni, SAN. He challenged INEC's illegality up to the apex court of law, The Supreme Court where a gargantuan feat which would later change the political ecosystem of the country was recorded by the then indefatigable Justices of the Supreme Court favouring the proliferation of political parties. As of 2019 Elections, the number has staggered to 91 !

Prior to the just concluded 2019 Elections, Nigerians received with relief the emergence of the Coalition for Nigerian Movement "The Third Force" spear-headed by the former President Olusegun Obasanjo which would provide a credible alternative to the dominant duo of All Progressive Congress (APC) and People's Democratic Party (PDP) which many believed had contributed to the predicaments bedevilling the country. The Third Force as it was fondly called was formed as political platform to create a new generation of leaders that will take over the mantle of leadership to transmogrify the fortunes of the country to an el dorado. Many perceived the move as the latest

gimmick perpetuated by the political elite to hoodwink unsuspecting electorates as their proponents still had skeletons in their cupboards. As the merger of some political parties with the Third Force, was being touted in some quarters, some reservations were palpable as clash of interests seemed inevitable. Politics is a game of interest. when one's interest is not protected, loyalty should not be expected. Hence the premature cataclysm of the movement was inevitable. Why did the Third Force meet her Waterloo prematurely as opposed to APC which though hurriedly assembled just few months to the 2015 General Elections, recorded unprecedented feat ?

It is laughable for a party to field a presidential aspirant without representation at the ward or Local government levels. It is not uncommon to witness an aspirant from a mushroom party stepping down to endorse the candidature of another dominant party few days to the election for personal aggrandizement. The issue of cross-carpeting among politicians has been a norm due to paucity of ideologies in our clime.

As we reflect on the gains and losses of 2019 General Elections, there is cogent need to review our electoral laws as regards the formation of political parties with the view to downsizing the number and strengthening its structure. It will reduce the ambiguity involved in managing avalanche of parties by INEC and also provide robust alternative platforms that will help in advancing our democracy. The stability and success being recorded in our banking sector has been attributed to the Consolidation of banks in 2006 by then Central Bank of Nigeria Governor, Prof Chukwuma Soludo. Currently Nigerian banks are competing globally with its counterpart. Shouldn't we start thinking of "Consolidation of our political parties" Our political parties should be ideologically based and internal democracy be entrenched within parties. It is true that Rome was not built in day, however, the journey of thousand miles starts with a step !

Link: <https://youth-journal.org/need-to-consolidate-our-political-parties>

The Cattle Wars of South Sudan

MAULLINE GRAGAU

The story of a family of a South Sudanese lady demanding 250 cows as bride price from a prospective bridegroom went viral for all the wrong reasons. Many people on the internet were quick to judge the family for what they thought was a way to get rich by "selling" their daughter. What they failed to understand was that it goes beyond bride price.



The family found themselves on the wrong end as many who criticised them do not understand their customs and traditions. Granted that as with many good things there is always bound to be some level of abuse, it is not different in this regard. That said, the issue of bride price and its significance is an entire discussion on its own which is beyond the scope of this article.

For many Nilotic communities in Africa, cattle are a hot commodity such that those who have them are willing to die protecting them and those who do not are ready to kill to acquire them. Previously, young boys who would go herding cattle would use traditional spears to protect the cattle however this has changed. Nowadays, many of these herders carry automatic rifles which have caused a tremendous shift in the age-old cattle raids issue. Automatic rifles have led to cattle raids being more brutal and ruthless with every cycle of retaliation. According to Puk Duoth, a herder from a camp near the South Sudanese Village of Udier, Rambak:

"It is good to have a weapon because it helps you to protect the cattle."

*A man carrying a gun stands next to cattle in South Sudan's Kirgui village in Udier town.
Credit: Simon Maina/AFP*

Cattle raids are a common occurrence in such communities and a good case in point is the longstanding feud between Turkanas and Samburus - two neighbouring Nilotic communities in Kenya. In 2012, the cattle raids were so intense that the Kenyan government had to deploy police officers to the region to provide reinforcement and recover stolen cattle - with disastrous consequences of course. In what is considered as the worst bloodbath and most violent attack on Kenya's security forces in the country's

history, armed cattle raiders alleged to be from one of the feuding communities shot and killed 42 police officers in Baragoi town in Samburu county. The Baragoi massacre, brutal as it was and the subsequent investigations, failed to tackle the underlying issues that inform the cattle raids.

It is important to note that cattle raids are not limited to Kenya. South Sudan has witnessed its own share with pastoralist communities feuding over cattle. The cattle raids have only worsened since the power-sharing agreement was signed in September 2018 by the country's leadership in an effort to resolve internal conflicts. This only goes to show that the problem of cattle raids is not one that can be easily resolved because, for pastoral communities, cows are the new gold. It matters not where they are located, Nilotic communities such as the Turkanas, Samburus, Pokots, Dinkas, Nuers among others consider cattle an invaluable asset. In these communities, it does not matter how many degrees you have because without herds of cattle attached to your name, well you are as good as nothing.

In South Sudan, cows are currency. Each herd of cattle is worth about 600 USD (530 euros) thus the more cattle a man owns, the more prestigious he is considered. According to Peter Machar who works for Safeworld:

"If you are sitting in a community meeting and you are talking rubbish, but people know you have many cows, you will be honoured."

In many of these pastoralist communities, it is not uncommon to find the male children being named after a beloved bull. The Nuer and Dinka people of South Sudan (the largest pastoralist communities in South Sudan) are renowned for this practice as well as composing songs about their beloved cattle and the battles they have fought to protect them.

Their pride for the cattle they own is not only evident in their names and songs but also in the folklore they tell and conversations that they have. I do recall a recent conversation that I was having with a group of young South Sudanese men and women on the issue of neo-colonialism in Africa. I do not know how the conversation moved from neo-colonialism to livestock, girls, and cattle. While it was frustrating that we were not able to delve more into the original issue, the insights that I gained on the subject of cattle raids, girls and bride price was well worth it.

There were two things that really stuck out to me from the conversation. The first is, that for pastoralist communities, cows connect everything - health, education, status, and even marriage. For instance, for a child to go to school, a cow will be sold and the money used to pay tuition; If someone is sick and they need treatment, a cow is sold to take them to a dispensary or buy medication for them; When a girl is married off, the bridegroom of the bride compensates the family by giving them cattle as a token of appreciation for having raised her. According to Wani Majok, one of the young men that I spoke to:

Did you know my last name means the markings of a bull?...We have to give the bride's family cows because they are losing someone who has been helping them out with chores and we are the ones gaining. When we give the cows, we are showing the girl's family that we respect and value them for raising a wife for us. so you see, it is a win-win and if there is a problem, the cattle can always be returned."

The second is how that inter-connectivity has fueled the problem of cattle raids. With cattle being such a highly prized possession, it is therefore not difficult to see why young men will raid cattle from other communities to acquire the necessities that they require such as healthcare and education. This is by no means intended to justify the practice of cattle raids.

Richard Won, another of the young men from the discussion group notes that:

Bride price and cows are intertwined. Before donors started bringing money to South Sudan, most young men used to pay bride price of between 20 to 30 cows but this has changed. Today, the price ranges from between 100 to 500 depending on the status of the girl's family. Many of us do not have 100 cows, maybe 10 or 20 which means that if we want a wife, we have to make up the difference one way or another."

The issue of cattle raids is a complex one whose solution needs to address the influx of guns as well as customs and traditions. On the one hand, the number of cattle is limited and you have communities whose currency is cattle and on the other, you have a country ravaged by war and inflation in bride price (paid by cattle) and an influx of guns. If this is not the makings of deadly battles and violent attacks, then I don't know what is.

Guns flooded the country between the war for independence, achieved in 2011, and the internal conflict in 2013 when President Salva Kiir fell out with his rival Riek Machar. The conflict saw the breakdown of law and order which inevitably also destroyed the traditional dispute resolution systems that allowed tribal chiefs to settle feuds between warring communities.

According to the UN peacekeeping mission UNMISS (United Nations Mission in South Sudan), 218 members of herder communities were killed in January in tit-for-tat attacks which is almost three times the toll of 73 in the four months from October 2017 to January 2018.

It is important to note that during the 2013 internal conflict, both Kiir and Riek Machar's sides armed young herders with guns and mobilised them to fight for them. However, since the conflict ended following a peace deal, the leadership has found it incredibly difficult to rein in the herders. What the leadership fails to understand is that the conflict between the herders goes beyond the power struggle of the elite. Theirs is a long-standing feud that has absolutely nothing to do with the national power struggle and everything to do with cattle.

With many of the armed herders being young men who were born and raised during the war, they are fearless. To them, there is no greater honour than dying in 'service' of

their community, that is, protecting the cattle hence the reason that they are constantly launching increasingly deadly military-style attacks on rival camps, with women and children bearing the brunt of those attacks.

Header Image Credit:ibntimes

Link: <https://youth-journal.org/the-cattle-wars-of-south-sudan>

An African Boy's Dreams

NANA KWAKU M ASAMOAH

As a devoted young African, with an insatiable desire and perpetual drive for the prosperity of the African people, I regularly dream about our status in the world and our common destiny as one people.



To a young African boy, a dream represents an enemy, an upset to the “powers that be”. Nevertheless, the boy has the right to dream and my dream for my future is to pursue graduate studies in Economics and contribute to the development of my country, Ghana. I need dreams because I know that as human beings, not only can we dream our future but we can also grow great by our dreams. Fortunately for me and my countrymen, Ghana has seen a very peaceful and prosperous fourth republic. So, my dream for my country is that it should continue to be peaceful, prosperous and serve as the beacon of hope for Africa.

My future is only my dreams, of course, but my dreams for my future is unachievable if my continent remains a place of uncertainty, with no assurance of a better tomorrow. My dreams for Africa is not an Africa that should have one government or one currency or one language but an Africa that is self-reliant. A self-reliant Africa which accommodates everyone, where local talents and skills are promoted and valued and where there is good drinking water, sustainable electricity, good roads, quality education, good and accessible healthcare facilities among others. An Africa which uses its own resources to alleviate the poverty of its people and provides them the basic necessities of life.

The African continent is one of many opportunities. However, it is filled with a lot of hungry persons; people who are yet to enjoy at least three meals a day in their lifetime. My dream is to see these people assured a decent meal everyday through their own efforts. Think of the people who were born or are born in war-torn Africa countries, those who were orphaned or are orphaned at birth, and those who were amputated or are amputated even before they learn to walk, those people who are disadvantaged right at the start of life. How will they survive? These are our people too, they are part of us. The future of Africa is its people. Without its people, there is no tomorrow for Africa. A self-reliant Africa will take care of its poor and most desperate people.

Imagine an Africa without wars or conflicts? My dream for a conflict-free Africa is astounding. I see children all over the Africa continent, with no memories of the loss of a parent or sibling in war, smiling and singing joyous songs. An African continent where tribes have no hatred towards each other and people concerned about the problems of their neighbours. I dream of an Africa where school children go to school with no worries of being kidnapped. An African people with a free mind, people who will never know the frightening sound of a machine gun or suffer the consequences of a nuclear bomb. I dream of an Africa where people protect and respect the values of the human spirit such as freedom and rule of law. Should we kill each other because of political power? No, I don't think so.

My dreams for my personal future matters to me but my dreams for the world is also equally important. And frankly, there is nothing to do than to dream about what the future holds for the world. But, I dream of a world where each and every one of us sees ourselves as created equal by God. A world free of segregation and discrimination where everybody is treated with dignity no matter what their circumstances. A world where diversity is recognized and embraced with people afforded equal opportunities, unhampered by prejudice or artificial barriers.

Right now, we seem to be living in a chaotic world where war, terrorism and violence is on the surge. A world where everything and almost anything gets out of control. War, terrorism and violence hinders peace causing loss of lives, loss of property and finally, crushing dreams. But, I dream of a world of peace. A world which recognizes that terrorism provokes vengeance and war provokes new wars. A world where member nations of the UN adheres to the UN charter and respects the God-given rights of every individual. A world where differences between nations are settled not with guns but words. A world where there is religious tolerance, and especially a world where both Muslims and Christians live together peacefully.

Yes, I am a dreamer. But then my dreams for the world I long for will come true for I dream not by night but by day. And I see it now. I see my country continuing to be peaceful and prosperous. I see Africa growing into a self-reliant and conflict-free Africa. I see people in this world treating each individual as equals and I see a world ridding itself free of the loss of lives and the destruction of property brought about by war, terrorism and violence. I, as a young person, own the future. And I wholeheartedly agree, that tomorrow is all about how, and not about when. Someone might think, "He is just dreaming", but I am not alone. Boys and girls of my generation are all dreaming like me. And we know that, the future is a matter of dreams and vision, not a matter of time.

Link: <https://youth-journal.org/an-african-boysquos-dreams>

My Job is to feed a Hungry Child

NANA KWAKU M ASAMOAH

For a lot of Ghanaians, having an opportunity to give back to society and make a difference in the life of someone is too often imagined as a far-fetched activity, one that only well-off individuals could afford. But the reality is that, a little selfless act such as feeding a person who is hungry will directly impact the very people you interact with each and every day.



Our country is everything that surrounds us, but an individual cannot care about all of the numerous/millions of issues and problems that occurs in the country. It is realistically impossible to suffer for every appalling acts of ill in the country or perhaps, agonize over every single poor person who lacks good drinking water, hospitals, basic sanitation, quality education etc.... This is why my ambition is not to concentrate on helping the entire country or help solve the issues of the entire country now, but to focus on lending a hand to a hungry child in my neighborhood and community. I improve the country by improving a tiny part of it.

Several years ago, I was convinced that solving the problems of country was the job of the government or some authorities but not mine. I believed that, being a layperson, I had no power to make any difference, but that power to make a differences laid firmly with solely government and authorities. I was fully convinced that, I had no tool at my disposal that could enable me help in anyway. But, that was until I attended one forum I was invited to in July 2018. During the forum, all attendees were divided into groups for workshop discussions. And I took part in a workshop that was discussing the topic of volunteerism. In the discussion, I released I wasn't the only one holding such views, as almost all the participants shared similar views - it was the job of government to solve the issues of the country and we, as youths were not equipped enough to offer any help. But at the end of the workshop, the moderator asked a simple question, "So if it falls to the government to tackle all the wicked problems, what then is your job in society?"

Stricken by reality, as I left the forum, I kept asking myself, what is my job in society? What can I do to help people who weren't or can't be recognized by authorities and helped? These are questions that we do not ask ourselves often. Too many of us

are focused on the 'struggle' of our daily lives to even enquire on how to help people. But in all honesty, we know at the back of our minds that there are people in our societies who are living below the bread line and subsisting on a day to day basis.

Fuelled with vigor to do my part, I did some research. And strikingly, there's a struggle taking place all over the country today. According to UNICEF Ghana, it is estimated that one out of four children in parts of Ghana goes to bed hungry. And that's bad enough, but what's worse, the same reports concludes that over five million Ghanaians can't afford a plate of food in a day. Similarly, Feed Hungry Children & Families Project Coordinator Mr Ibrahim Tanko contended that, over 1,200,000 children are living and struggling with hunger in Accra alone. Many of these boys and girls go to bed hungry every night, wishing they had something to fill their stomachs.

Do you know where your next meal will be coming from? Consider yourself fortunate. But, imagine waking up with the expectation of not having food to eat or going to bed with no food in your stomach. Or imagine feeling sluggish because you have nothing to fill your stomach with, thereby lacking the necessary strength to carry on with your day to day activities. This is the reality for hungry children. Sometimes it results merely in children suffering chronic malnutrition. Children who will never reach their full potential in physical or intellectual milestone. But too often, it leads to the shocking deaths of these children.

And, in each of our societies and communities, such a struggle is being waged everywhere. Because of the enormous importance of children to the future of our country, the outcome of such a struggle has immense implications for all of us – those from the affluent homes and the very poorest.

Some people will instinctively say that the answer to this struggle lies in the realms of government; and of course government has a crucial role to play. But it is clear that the dimensions of this struggle is inevitably complex and sometimes affected by nature itself, some children are orphaned at birth through no fault of theirs thereby leaving them no other choice but to languish on the fringes of society. Other children who live in disaster wrecked communities, through no faults of theirs, also become victims of hunger.

And it's these reasons, that enjoins government, authorities, and indeed, all members of society, a responsibility to be compassionate and care for these children in need. For helping others is the first step in making society a better place and improving the lives of those who aren't as lucky as you.

It's for these reasons, I decided it was my job to feed a hungry child. Because the potential for strengthening people of all ages and our country through giving back to society is huge and it's something that we all need to consider looking into. It can impact the way we see people and situations and encourage others to step in and help. Service as little as feeding a hungry child will have something to offer, and leave you walking away thinking about the world around you. Just imagine what our country

would be if everyone took the time to feed a hungry child.

Am not suggesting we should all suddenly turn into Mother Teresa and become a symbol for charity. Each and every one of us has got our lives to live. But, I just hope that maybe, just maybe, this would inspire you to find your job and obligations to your society. If it is my job to feed a hungry child, what is yours?

Link: <https://youth-journal.org/my-job-is-to-feed-a-hungry-child>

Effect of Political Instability on Entrepreneurship and Economy

NOOR FATIMA

In the societies with poor democratic norms, i.e. in many countries of the world, political instability is the most horrible phantom that swallow up all business forecast, time management, targets, resources, encouragement, decision making powers of entrepreneurs.



Having an idea to establish a new business is the most inspirational and people who initiate it are entrepreneurs. Entrepreneurship can change our way of living and thinking, and helps us innovate new ideas. If it gets successful they get to earn money and more new jobs are created for the community. Being in charge of yourself, you could make your own decisions and be a boss of your own is a wonderful mania. You could be able to create something new and earn by this mean. Entrepreneurship idea is based to believe that taking risk to some points is necessary because if we never hit the ball, we can't say that we did not make a goal. To achieve a goal, one should become a player to learn the next strategy of the game. It works like the healthy financial life line of a country's economy.

Like in a game, there is need of favorable ground, weather and equipment conditions. In the same way there are some basic needs for entrepreneurs. To take a leap into the entrepreneurship is not only very easy to be successful in socially, ethically & politically instable economies but further it is moving to decline due the non business friendly environment. The main pros and cons of this system make barriers for them to think like entrepreneurs.

Even with very small resources entrepreneur can establish a business although at a small level that can be helpful in earning money and gaining more experience from it. But in the societies with poor democratic norms, i.e. in many countries of the world, political instability is the most horrible phantom that swallow up all business forecast, time management, targets, resources, encouragement, decision making powers of entrepreneurs. Due to political instability, most of the times there is no national policy to achieve targets of employments and to create jobs in the countries. In such scenario, banking sector is also unable to perform well because investors, enterpenururs remain uncertain that how changing political panorama will affect the Govt.'s policies about

economy, industrialization, banking loans and interest rates. Banks uneven loaning policies are also make it hard to initiate for new small and medium level business ventures. In such uneven political back up, it's not very easy to prepare youth to take initiative for new business start ups.

Due to lack of democracy practices, Governments are not liberal enough to make all positive decisions by using their real authorities. Interruptions and unjustified pressures of the other non- financial institutions of the state on political Govt. make it impossible to implement the straight and easy business policies for entrepreneurs that are the real soul of an economy.

The seeds of entrepreneurship can't become healthy plants, if political institutions are not strong enough to make policies and there is no freedom of speech to ask about human rights, media and press is under strict surveillance to keep them avoiding to prevail truth, courts are unable to do justice and making decisions on personal choices are quite unstable. It's really hard to raise entrepreneurs and people will remain reluctant for loaning or to invest money in new projects due to afraid of loss. In a politically unstable society, even by having resources, new business projects and start ups are not encouraged and jobs are preferred. It make extra burden on the country's economy to provide new jobs, to employee its youth in the previously occupied trade and industry without making extensions in it.

Society become lethargic, jobs are preferred with a mindset to get a specific amount of money at the end of the month without any loss of money. In a country where politicians are pulling legs each other even on long lasting national policies, it's a terrible fact that a project established by one government is paused or spoiled by the next government just to make a bad impression on the public minds to defame the previous Govt. Every day changing laws and unfavorable taxation policies also make it challenging for the businessmen and entrepreneurs to survive in such hard circumstances. Unfavorable governmental policies and high amount of taxes are being asked without any fruitful results.

This instability also hits the justice systems to employee fair distribution of public resources, courts are being pressurized to make decision as per every new Govt. choices or from the political engineers that might be some hidden mafia who are actually playing the role to instable the country to gain some personal benefits. So like all others, judges become puppets to save their jobs otherwise they have to be ready to be trapped in some accusation by political engineering forces. Consequently, there is no voice of human rights, International business communities and organizations don't dare to start their ventures and firms stop working in politically effected countries and the motivation of entrepreneurship collapse because of the absence of any practical business practices and example for youth.

The situations make societies stagnant and there is need of revolution to make drastic changes in the thoughts of generations. There is need of an education system that can prepare people for mindfulness. There is need of human rights organizations to work

there to optimize the society's direction towards positive democracy through free and fair elections.

In this era, world became a global village, such unsystematic societies yet need the other International communities to perform for their personal choices. Public awareness programs are needed to teach people about their rights, to encourage them to make a voice. There is need of more attention by Global Human rights organizations to provide the protection to human right activists so justice can be penetrated in such societies. Youth should be encouraged and involved in brain storming to end poverty and to grow entrepreneurship.

To promote entrepreneurship, Old business systems should be replaced with modern business models and youth should be involved to improve the status co. There is need of new people with fresh minds and suggestions to bring newness in the thoughts and ancient ways of employment. Small and medium enterprises should be encouraged as these are a primary source for young entrepreneurs to initiate at their own. Commercial entrepreneurship signifies small scale business but regrettably been ignored in these economic policies. In such instable societies, mostly business schools are not associated with the business community and there is lack of collaboration between communities. There is no hype for entrepreneurial ethos and study of has-been business models so the grey haired knowledge needs to get updated as soon as possible so that out business community could grow auspiciously. These skills and ideas should be matured by the time because they are not in-born qualities of any person. Deficit of advocacy and awareness results as poverty stricken community. Small scale adaptations increasing played its positive role in day to day country's financial growth.

Most of the people don't know how to develop a business plan; the lack of business education must be covered. People don't get employment in small industries as there are more working hours, workload with very low wages. There is an old custom of paying daily wages and disown them anytime. Government should provide subsidies and should guarantee loans. They should offer workshops for starter ups. Make relevant labor laws to reduce labor turnovers. Only a stable and strong political and democratic Govt. can do implement the above situations.

Link: <https://youth-journal.org/effect-of-political-instability-on-entrepreneurship-and-econ>

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Editor-in-chief

Fabian Schneider
schneider@youth-journal.org

Head Press Secretary

Veronika Selzam
selzam@youth-journal.org