The place of integration in Nigerian political structure: A search for redirection

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Abstract

Since the beginning of democratic regime in Nigeria in 1999 after years of military interruption, Nigerians have continued to evaluate the activities of those elected into power at every level of governance and see how they have been able to exemplify the virtue of integrity in the discharge of their electoral promises to the electorates. Existing studies have engaged this critical narrative from the perspectives of honesty, self-discipline, accountability and transparency with little attention paid to the virtue of integrity which could be said to be the fulcrum upon which other virtues stand. Integrity means the soundness of moral character and consistence of an individual between his inner values and attitude and his outward words or actions. In order words, the more consistent an individual is, the higher the degree of integrity he possesses. In a simple language, integrity means doing the right thing when nobody is watching. It therefore means that, for any political office holder to effectively discharge his electioneering campaigns promises without fear or favour, the virtue of integrity must be his watchword. The method employed in collecting data for this study is the qualitative method which involves the use of observation, one-on-one interviews and focus group discussion. This paper examined the virtue of integrity among the nation's political office holders and the interconnectivity between integrity and good governance and how such synergy could engender immense benefit for those at the corridors of powers and Nigerians at large. Keywords: Integrity, political structure, Nigeria, search for a re-direction

Introduction

The question of integrity among political office holders in Nigeria has taken the centre stage at every political, social and economic discourse in the recent time. Integrity means the soundness of moral character and consistence of an

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individual between his inner values and attitude and his outward words or action. It is believed that Nigeria as a country finds itself in this political and economic mess due to the attitude of those whose responsibility should be for the good of the citizenry. It is their failure that has led to the stunted economic development being experienced in the nation at this critical time. The major role of political office holders is to provide security and an enabling environment through which the citizens can actualize their potentials for the overall development of the country (Oyeshile and Offor 2014). This has never been the case in Nigeria, politicians often lay claim to the fact that policies and actions of government are in the best interest of the public, but unfortunately, the generality of the people, in whose interest such policies are said to be carried out, do not seem to benefit at all from it (Ekanola 2014). This is where the question of integrity comes in. That is, the ability of those who rule over the citizens to march words with action. Integrity is a combination of honesty, high moral standard and respect for others. Honesty and trust are central to integrity. Acting with honour and truthfulness are the basic tenets in a person with integrity. Possession of virtue of integrity among political office holders would greatly enhance peace and development in society, if it is sincerely put into practice by them.

What is integrity?

Integrity stems from the Latin word '*integer*' which means whole and complete. Integrity as a virtue therefore, requires an inner sense of 'wholeness' and consistency of character. When you are a man of integrity, people should be able to visibly see it through your actions, words, decisions, methods, and outcomes. The word integrity is defined as a steadfast adherence to a strict moral or ethical code. It also means the quality of being morally good (https:// awakegroup.com, 2021). A man of integrity, is a man who honours his word and doing what he said (https:// danmacadam.medium,com, 2021). It is all about marching your word with action. Integrity is all encompassing. What we refer to as integrity, is the composition of all the manifestations of good habit of a good person. When one says someone is a person of integrity, it therefore presupposes that he or she possesses all the attitudes of a good man. A man of integrity is therefore a man with good character (https://bcachurch.com.2021). This is because all the components of a man with good character are found in a man of integrity. This

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is why Yoruba people like any other tribes, hold a person of integrity in high esteem and with much respect.

It is the belief of the Yoruba like many other ethnic groups that a man who possesses wealth, money, wives, children and all other good things of life may compromise his personal comfort if he lacks integrity (Adegbini 2014). A man of integrity is the person refer to among the Yoruba as Omoluabi. An Omoluabi is somebody who is honourable, who believes in the right of others, who honours agreement and will never break a covenant. He is somebody who is just and disciplined (Oke 2016). As a matter of fact, integrity suffices as a conceptual framework that aims at instilling a heuristic message derived from good conduct. If one takes away integrity from governance and the society at large, one will be left with a society that is short, nasty and brutish according to Thomas Hobbes (Omoregbe 2004). Integrity underscores what a human person ought to do for the betterment of mankind by reason of what a person ought to be, and based upon inner conviction that conforms to generally acceptable standard of speech and conduct. Integrity implies a means by which we try to expand our sympathies for others by being rational in the pursuit of our individual interest. It is the totality of a person's character.

Campaigns by politicians which should focus on how the interest of the public should be pursued and how to enhance political and socio-economic development as well as facilitate social peace that the citizenry expect has not been the case. It is an incontrovertible fact, that not everybody can become a governor or a President, but putting on a garment of integrity in whatever position we hold will go a long way in bringing about the desired development the citizens have been longing for. In order to avoid civil disobedience which is an act of deliberate disobedience to laws or policies of a state with the aim of advocating a change or cancellation of those policies like the one experienced during the Endsars protest of 2020, the value of integrity should be the guiding principle of all political office holders (Adewale 1986). The existence of government at whatever level is to affect lives and sustain the total wellbeing of members of the country. If the respective governments from the local level to the federal level of administration govern the people with the spirit of morality coloured with integrity in good governance, it can reverse the dangerous trend of youth unrest and ethnic militias thereby making it possible to establish mutual brotherhood (Bolatito and Emmanuel 2016).

The unfortunate experience in Nigeria and most other African countries is that those who have all it takes to develop the country and bring it back to its

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right path, find it very difficult to get to power. It then becomes a herculean task to have good people in government who are men of integrity and who can bring the desired change the people want. Most of those in power are those who had in the past taken up one political appointment or the other and had used such privilege to embezzle money meant for the public for their own personal aggrandizement. They have the money to spend for political thugs to harass their opponents and to buy the interest form from their political parties no matter the amount. Therefore, having people of integrity in government in the real sense of the word, has become a big challenge in Nigeria today. Most of those who occupy important political posts in Nigeria are mostly corrupt individuals, this is evident in different cases brought against many of them by various antigraft agencies such as Economic and Financial Crime Commission (EFCC) and Independent Corrupt Practices Commission (ICPC) (Sunday, 2013). It is due to lack of integrity among stakeholders in politics that has made it extremely difficult for Nigeria after many years of independence to launch itself into socioeconomic, security and prosperity. No thanks to the long military dominance in power, poor economic planning and morally irresponsible democratic leadership. The question therefore is: Is it that Nigeria has not been able to develop a system of ethics and moral values in good governance or that leaders have not been able to imbibe the value of integrity?

Ingredients of integrity

In order to promote good governance, the importance of integrity cannot be undervalued, hence, the need to identify some fundamental ingredients that are necessary to achieve this. Few of such ingredients are discussed in *seriantum*:

Selflessness: Political office holders should take decisions that will be for the benefit of generality of the people. That is, the actions of politicians and those at the corridors of power should be for public interest. A man of integrity should have it in mind that the pursuit of public interest must be paramount in his mind. They should not seek public office to gain financial or other material benefits for themselves, family, friends, political associates or religious group (Bolatito and Emmanuel 2016). Therefore, the interest of the public must be promoted by a man of integrity. As a leader in your own right at every level of governance, one will be looked upon to demonstrate the much-expected selfless leadership, your activities and utterances as a politician will be keenly watched

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by the public. As a man of integrity, you owe it to yourself and much more to the citizens of Nigeria therefore to rise up to the occasion and fulfill the yearnings and aspirations of the millions of Nigerians for the alleviation of their sufferings. Selfless service means the subjugation of political and other differences to the unrelenting pursuit of peace, unity and progress of the country (https://www.redletterchristian.com).

Truthfulness: Truth telling has a great moral significance. A person with integrity is truthful. Truth is substantiated by total elimination of all distortion or falsehood in portraying the intrinsic nature of any aspect of the universe or life (Peter, 2015). Truth telling can be seen as important ingredient of integrity. This concept of truth telling is held in high esteem among many cultures in African. A truthful person will not disappoint, will honour agreement. A man of integrity will always say the truth and stand by it no matter the circumstances and the consequences. He is ready to face the consequences of any action taken as long as he is on the right track. This is why Yoruba people say *Olotito kii ku si ipo ika*. Meaning a truthful person will not die in place of a wicked man. The import of this is that whatever the case, a truthful person will always be victorious. Yoruba believe that though, a truthful man may face some daunting challenges, but at the end, he will overcome. Another proverb in this direction among the Yoruba is the one that says: *Afi otito inu tu eru ika pale*. That is, using his truthfulness to expose the evil act of the wicked one.

Responsibility: A person of integrity is always willing to be totally responsible for his/her actions. Responsibility has many meanings. But the ones that are relevant to our discussion will be examined. Responsibility can be otherwise said to mean accountability. That is, one is accountable for his actions. When one holds himself accountable and is always ready to accept blame or praise for what he has freely done, we say, such a man is responsible for his action. The one that is relevant to our discussion, is the one where a man takes one's duty, promise or obligation very seriously and does everything possible to fulfill them promptly and efficiently (Akpenpuun 2008). In a nutshell, a responsible man is a man of his words. He is a person who can be trusted and can be relied upon. This value of responsibility is very rare among political office holders in the country in the recent times. Politicians are fond of making empty and unfulfilled promises to the electorates. Integrity does not mean that a person never makes mistake. But, a person with integrity accepts the responsibility for his or her own

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mistakes or failures and does what is in his or her power to put things right (Omoregbe 2004).

This is why the action of The Executive Governor of Oyo State, Engineer Seyi Makinde was widely commended across the nation when he held a political rally to accept those who defected from the ruling political party in Nigeria, the All Progressive Congress (APC) to the People Democratic Party (PDP) in Ibadan. Among those that defected were: Erelu Olusola Obada, Prince Olagunsoye Oyinlola, Taofeek Arapaja and so on. This was done when the dreaded Corona Virus (COVID -19) pandemic was ravaging the nations of the world and many states of the federation. Governor Seyi Makinde openly apologized and took responsibility for his action (Anafrica.news, 2020). That is the hallmark of a man of integrity.

Consistency: The virtue of consistency is valued in our society because it breeds trust and order. It lays a strong foundation for a successful, functioning society. Success in life comes through a sustained effort. Consistent people are very rare in the body polity today since many of them find it too difficult to march their words with action. They can't be focused and unrelenting even in the face of daunting challenges. When consistent people believe in a course that is right, they never look back until such is achieved. They are the people that keep promise and appreciate your time and would never waste it. People who are consistent will never pretend to be someone today and another person tomorrow just to be accepted. They detest lying and stick to the truth. They would find the most delicate way to tell you the truth (Olugbade 1992). Political setting in Nigeria is full of inconsistent people who are chameleons but pretend to be human to achieve their selfish goal.

This was not the case in the past as politicians like Chief Obafemi Awolowo, Chief S.L. Akintola, Ahmadu Bello, Nnamdi Azikiwe and a host of others believed in their political party ideology and held on to it tenaciously. They never defected from one party to the other, even in the face of humiliation, embarrassment and loss they suffered as individuals on many occasions when their party lost an election, they still remained in the party and with the party. The case in the present day is a different one, a candidate or a card carrying member of a party who loses in an election is on his way to join any political party in power not minding the ideological differences. Example of those who are guilty of such infraction are: Prince Olagunsoye Oyinlola, Chief Mrs. Erelu Obada, Honourable Dino Melaiye, Aminu Tamboua, Chief Iyiola Omisore,

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Chief Taofeek Arapaja, Chief Adebayo Alao Akala, Chief Rasheed Adewolu Oladoja, Chief Sarafadeen Alli who were formerly members of a particular political party and later pitched their tents with other party. The list is endless. They claim that their defection is for the interest of the people. But, if truly they have the interest of the people and their party at heart, they will be consistent in their deeds and actions. They can join hands with those in government to bring about the desired change rather than becoming political harlots.

Objectivity: To be objective is not to be influenced by personal feelings or opinions and to perform an action without fear or favour of anybody. It means carrying out the business of governance in a transparent manner. Any appointment, award of contract, employment, recommendation for any rewards or benefit or giving out palliative for the citizens should be based on merit and not on 'man know man' basis that has become the practice of political gladiators in Nigeria today. Political office holders have turned their positions as opportunity for them to enrich themselves, their family and friends. This has led to various cases of incompetence on the part of civil servants employed or appointed as advisers since they have refused to put the right pegs in the right hole. Those who are well qualified to take the job are not employed. A man reported a case of another man who was asked to apply for a teaching job in his own state and the day he was to submit his application letter with attached credentials and certificates, the first question that the secretary asked was. Do you know anybody among the politicians in the state? The man said no and that was the end. In an ideal society, meritocracy was the order of the day. Appointments were made based on merit and not on sentiment. This is not the case in Africa and Nigeria in particular as politicians collect money from job seekers to obtain employment form or before he or she could be employed (www.vanguardngr.com). Objectivity has become a scarce commodity in the nation. Merit has been sacrificed at the altar of nepotism. This is not the best for a country striving to develop. For development to occur, the right people should be allowed to occupy positions of authority. Corruption is not only the embezzlement of public funds, but failure to do the right thing. Therefore, political office holders who are not objective in appointments and award of contract are also corrupt. Former United State of America President, Barak Obama in his own view noted that:

> "No country is going to create wealth if its leaders exploit the economy to enrich themselves, or police can be bought off by

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drug traffickers. No business wants to invest in a place where government skims 30 percent off the top, or the Port authority is corrupt. No person wants to live in a society where the rule of law gives way to rule of brutality and bribery. That is not democracy, which is tyranny, and now is the time for it to end. (Obama, 2009)"

The assertion above were and are still succinctly true today. That means, lack of accountability, objectivity, transparency, efficiency, responsibility, truthfulness in government breed corruption and corruption is the greatest enemy of development.

Respect for person: A person of integrity will think of other and respect the views of others around him. Nobody is an island of knowledge. Democracy which is the bedrock of modern government is universally embraced because it considers the dignity and worth of each individual sacred and inviolable. In a democratic government, consultation before taking a decision is very important as it will bring about trust and sense of belonging on the part of the electorates. Much as democracy gives preference to the views of the majority, the minority must also have a say and should also be given the right to dissent. This is the beauty of democracy and why military rule is considered an aberration in any society. Respect for persons in governance involves not only consideration of peoples' view, whether in the majority or minority but also in the promotion and protection of fundamental human rights as well as economic and social rights. Human rights according to Aristotle have link to justice. Human rights to him, include providing an enabling environment for man to allow the best utilization of his God given abilities. In the country today, abuse of human rights and disrespect for person is on the increase (Dada 2013).

For instance, a case of human rights abuse was levelled against a Senator of the Federal Republic of Nigeria by the name Senator Elisha Abbo, a member of the People's Democratic Party representing Adamawa North Constituency in Adamawa state who slapped a shop owner in Abuja (https://wwwpaulse.ng). Also, the former governor of Edo state and the immediate past National Chairman of All Progressive Congress (APC) Mr. Adam Oshiomole used a verbal abuse on Mrs. Joy Ifije, a widow during his tour of duty in Benin City (post.ng, 2013). These actions are tantamount to disrespect for person. They should be able to lead by example and not the other way round.

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Justice: This is defined as the firm and constant will to give to each one his due. The notion is based on the fundamental equality of men according to Thomas Aquinas. As one of the ingredients of integrity, justice implies that people should be treated equally no matter the status, political group or religious affiliation. To treat people unequally is injustice. Equitable distribution of goods among the people is what we refer to as justice (Ayantayo 2002). In Nigeria today, injustice has taken the centre stage at every sector of the country. Many at the helms of affairs both at the private and public organizations have unjustly appropriated to themselves a large proportion of the resources that is meant for the general public thereby leaving the vast majority of the people in extreme poverty and misery.

Justice can be classified into four categories. The commutative justice which implies the respect for the rights of others states that no one should because of his position cheat, defraud or take what belong to others. The legal justice is the aspect of justice which aims at the observance of all laws aimed at the common good of all. The distributive justice ensures equal and fair distribution of goods, privilege, work and obligations to all members of the society and the last is the vindictive justice which is that aspect of justice that demands punishment for an offence (Omoregbe 2004). Nigerians see justice as a condition for a peaceful, happy and egalitarian society. Why we have various agitations and counter agitations by youth from various regions in Nigeria since the country gained her independence from the colonial government is as a result of injustice by those in government. Therefore, justice is one of the ingredients that makes someone to be referred to as a man of integrity.

Patriotism: According to the Standard dictionary, patriotism is defined as a love for one's country. That is, a special affection and concern for the well- being of the country (edu.entries.patriot). A patriot is someone who loves his country. He is not a person who says he loves his country but do otherwise on getting to office. A true patriot will always demand the highest standards of his country and accept nothing but the best for and from his people. Patriotism not in words but in action. Politicians and political office holders recite the national pledge with a promise of what they will do for the citizens. But it is quite unfortunate that majority of them do not act what they recited anymore. True patriotism is possible only when the people at the helms of affair have a common and genuine goal of maintaining the dispensation under which the nation lives. This will, in turn, only happen if the nation is blessed with those who are after the welfare of

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all the people rather than the advantage of the few becomes the corner-stone of public policy (Achebe 1984).

The link between integrity and good governance

There is no doubt denying the fact that integrity and good governance /leadership are sine qua non for the achievement of results. The two concepts are mutually intertwined. The success of any individual, organization or institution is determined by the level and the quality of its leadership. Therefore, integrity is a virtue that anybody who wants to aspire to take up leadership position in Nigeria must possess. This is not limited to politicians alone. But, in all other areas of human endeavour, be it religious, social and economic circle. As a man is considered a social being whose actions can affect the people around him either positively or negatively, it is expedient then for politicians and political office holders to showcase the virtue of integrity. A man of integrity will try as much as possible not to tarnish the virtue he has built for years just because of a transient post. We have it on record of people who were appointed to head one ministry or the other but declined such offer or resigned their appointment on getting to the office due to the level of corrupt practices perpetrated by those he met in office. If a man of integrity finds himself in position of authority, those who will be appointed to work with him, will also be men and women of integrity and this will automatically reflect in the way the citizens are being governed.

The level of underdevelopment that has become the bane of Nigeria after it gained independence can be attributed to the failure to elect people of integrity in government. The management of both human and natural resources that we are endowed with can be used for the actualization of the desired change that Nigerians are yarning for on a daily basis if people of proven integrity are elected into office. The General election conducted in 2015 that brought an end to the tenure of former President Goodluck Ebele Jonathan, where people came out en-mass to vote with a very strong believe that the change slogan of All Progressive Congress (APC) will usher in a new political structure that will bring succour to the citizens after years of suffering. Unfortunately, it was not quite long after inauguration that Nigerians came face to face with the stark reality that since 2015, it has been a story of one step forward and many steps backward.

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The sentiment of many Nigerians both home and abroad was that the messiah has come in person of President Muhammadu Buhari especially when he made his inaugural speech and said "I belong to everybody, I belong to nobody" (www.vanguardngr.com). The thinking was that corruption which has become a monster in Nigeria will be brought under his feet. But, with the appointment of those whose case files are with various anti-graft agencies such as Independent Corrupt Practices and other related offences Commission (ICPC) and Economic and Financial Crime Commission (EFCC), it was crystal clear from the beginning that Nigerians, especially the masses that constitute the majority still have a long way to go. That is, those that will bring positive change that impact their lives have not lived up to expectation.

Nigerians in the 2019 poll came out without any regard for religious and party affiliation as much as we used to experience in past elections believed that they needed leaders with high moral compass whose actions consistently engender values that promote social well-being. Nigeria is made up of leaders who on a daily basis wield fanged tongues like snake. The determining factor for any accelerated development a nation can witness is premised on the integrity of those in power. No nation can develop more that the quality of its people from whose leaders emerge. What you don't have, you cannot give so says a maxim. When people of integrity are voted into power, it results in good governance which is characterized by job creation, security of life and properties and a conducive environment for foreign investors.

The significance of integrity to governance cannot be over-emphasized because, it is seen in the fact that when people of integrity mount podium of leadership, they set the tune for a standard governance. Since, government is all about the people, it then suggests that the quality of leadership will determine how progressive a nation will be. Bad government due to the quality of the people in power result in under development and political instability. As Nigeria is one of the world's most endowed nations with abundant human and natural resources with practically every vital mineral deposit in all the states of the federation. Yet, it remains under developed because of menace of corruption (Oke and Adebisi 2011). With the diverse mineral and human resources as pointed out earlier, it is therefore not far- fetched to expect a nation with such resources to soar high as one of the economic giants in the world. But, paradoxically and very disheartening to note that it has remained under develop since her independence in 1960.

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The failure of those who had ruled in the past and now to harness the nation abundant resources for the development of the country socio-economically calls for a serious reflection. That is, a careful consideration of the composition of the fabric of the nation's leadership. The major disaster in Nigeria today is the lack of people of integrity in government. Is it then apt to say that there are no people of integrity in the nation or the way the political structure of the country is wired does not permit them to get to the position of leadership? Leaders emerged from followers. Can we then say that the set of political leaders in Nigeria is a pointer to the fact that followers too are not people of proven integrity? Since leaders are not ghosts, leaders today were followers of yesterday.

The quality of the nation's leaders came to the fore during the outbreak of the Corona Virus otherwise called COVID-19 pandemic that has brought the socalled powerful nations of the world into their kneels. The pandemic really exposed the nature of the country's health sector as claimed by the Secretary to the government of the federation and Chairman of Nigerian Centre for Disease and Control (NCDC) Boss Mustapha when he said that he does not know that the nation health sector is in total mess (www.premiumtimesngr.com) This statement corroborated the earlier one made by the wife to the President Aisha Buhari when she cried out that the Aso Rock villa clinic does not have ordinary syringe with the whopping sum of 15 Billion Naira claimed to have been spent on the clinic since 2015 when the administration of President Muhammadu Buhari came on board. The chief of staff to Mr. President in person of Abba Kyari was flown to Lagos for treatment when he contracted the deadly Corona Virus disease. He could not be treated at Aso Rock clinic in Abuja due to lack of medical equipment to work with by the medical personnel (www.thisdavlive.com). Apart from the Federal Government, all states of the federation have been running helter-skelter to save the lives of their citizens. This all came as a result of lack of integrity on the part of those at the helms of affair. On a yearly basis, the whopping sum of money is earmarked for the health sector. But the usual noise is always that there is no drug in these government hospitals. Alhaji Abba Kyari died eventually of Corona virus on the 17th of April, 2020.

The reason for this is not far-fetched as most of them travel abroad for treatment at any slight headache. Since the discovery of crude oil in commercial quantity, the money so far realized from its sale has not been used to better the lots of Nigerians rather it is used to satisfy the few. We discovered oil in Nigeria but has to be taken abroad to be refined and sold back to Nigeria. The four

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refineries built years back are not functioning to full capacity while none has been added to them in a nation of over 200 Million people. Before the discovery of oil which has become a curse rather a blessing to the masses, agriculture was the mainstay of the nation (www.bussinesinsider.com). The gain from agriculture by the past leaders was used to build structures that we can still point to around us today. But, greed, self-centeredness and I don't care attitude on the part of current set of political leaders in Nigeria has led us to the situation we find ourselves now. The Corona virus pandemic is a wakeup call on the nation's leaders to put machineries in place to revamp the economy and provide employment for the teeming youth that are jobless across the nation. Political leaders could not travel out of the country because the pandemic started from countries where they run to for treatment. If it were to start from Nigeria, many of them would take their family abroad and leave the masses to their fate. In a sane society, the leaders will explore every opportunity at their disposal to better the lots of the citizens.

Conclusion

The aim of this paper has been achieved. The paper concludes that it is very necessary for all stakeholders in political matter to exemplify the virtue of integrity. The virtue of integrity should not only be pronounced by political office holders but put into action. The muddy water of politics in Nigeria and many other countries in Africa can be purified, if all politicians, political appointees and those elected into political offices can resolve to be responsible for their actions. Integrity which is the totality of man's character must be a watchword for both leaders and followers in Nigeria. This is important because the followers of today are the leaders of tomorrow. It is also important that researchers in the field of political science and policy makers in the country to engage in further study on the need for followers to make effort to consolidate on the little gains of the nascent democratic structure for a better tomorrow. Attention so far has been focused on the leaders while leaving out the tremendous role the followers can play in national development.

Recommendations

For any nation to experience a monumental development, such a nation must be blessed with people of integrity whose vision and focus is for the betterment of

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the people. We therefore recommend the following for any member of the public aspiring to occupy one political post or the other.

Appointment into political office must not be based on money bag politics or party affiliation but on integrity and track record of individual. This has not been followed by political parties in Nigeria. Politicians depend largely on god fathers to get elected. God fathers collect money from candidates. To get people of integrity to occupy political offices, they must not depend on god fathers for support. Politicians who are found to be corrupt must not be spared. They must be made to face the music and there should be no sacred cow. Anyone found guilty must be dealt with accordingly and his case should not be swept under the carpet but exposed.

There is the need for those in education sector to see reason for the introduction of ethics and civic at all level of education. From Kindergarten to University level. This will help in no small way in inculcating moral and virtue of integrity at a tender age. Virtue of integrity should be given its rightful place in Nigeria and leaders should be made to be accountable for their actions. A special purse should be created for the judiciary for them to be truly independent. With this, there will be no sacred cow, the present state where the budget of the judiciary is determined by the executive is not the best for the country.

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