



THE ADVOCACY BULLETIN

The Nigerian Physicians Advocacy Group



NIGERIA, MY BELOVED AT A CROSSROAD

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Nigeria, the mere mention of it sends ripples across world powers and economic chambers. Ripples of awe and trepidation. Who would not at the prospect of a fleet-footed well resourced giant?

Why the shivers?

Because deep in the bowels of the middle belt of Nigeria can be found huge stores of Aluminum, Bauxite, Copper, Manganese, Gold, etc from which flourishing industries that churn out lamps, aluminum foil, decorative frames, abrasives, automobile radiators, electric cables, plumbing pipes, textile pigments, wedding rings, sports medals and trophies, jewelry, watches, dentistry products for the world to benefit from and in turn my beloved country reaps edifying reputation among nations and money enough to liberate a vast segment of the populace from the hold of poverty.

SPECIAL EDITION

Why the shivers?

Because the promise of Aladja and Ajaokuta was a steel industry capable of fueling the industrialization quest of not just Nigeria but of West Africa if not the entire continent of Africa.

Why the awe-inspired by the mere mention of Nigeria?

Because deep in the bellies of our wide expanse of arable land are millet, yam, rice, palm oil, palm wine, cocoa, groundnuts, etc each the engine of growth in different countries. Imagine the agro derivatives industries and the capital the dependent industries can yield.

Why the jitters?

Because deep in the bowels of Oloibiri, Agbami, Bonga, Bomu, Akpo, Bonny lies per the benevolence of God almighty, huge reserves of good quality black gold, aka oil enough to render Nigeria and her neighbor's energy sufficient, exceedingly rich and lead us into the post-carbon fuel energy era. Enough to fuel an all-encompassing petrochemical industry like Saudi Arabia and Brunei and Libya until the nefarious forces of the West decimated Libya. Such a vibrant industry would have saved our land the egregious expenditure of petrol products importation of \$46.5 Billion in 2016, \$49.5 Billion in 2017, \$73.8 Billion in 2018, and \$93.9 Billion in 2019 from France, Belgium, and the Netherlands reflectively.

Why the shudders among our erstwhile conquerors?

By mere numerical parameters, Nigeria at 200 million people if the census is to be believed is almost the total combination of Gr Britain (67million), France (67million), Germany (80million). Not an aging population. No! Nigeria's population like much of Africa is a young, boisterous, enterprising, driven people endowed with irrepressibility in whose lexicon impossible exists not. They see their likes on their streets with excellence a recurrent theme in their colleges and in the soccer teams and working their ways through their manufacturing plants. No wonder the shivers know soon when their respective nations get their act together, Nigeria, Africa, and the Blackman will be unstoppable. Despite her prodigious potential, Nigeria is a clay-footed giant though still well endowed in human and material resources.

Once a nation upon whose predicted ascendancy lay the hope of the black race, it now deservedly objects of ridicule and apt study in national impasse and underachievement. Expectedly, the world now increasingly looks to Kagame's Rwanda as the light of the Blackman and where Blackman's true renaissance and retooling will be birthed. In 60+yrs into being a nation, we have not managed to develop an inspirational ethos that uniformly evokes national pride. Rulership has been mostly for narrow individual enrichment and one region's dominance over the other regions with ebbing of the regional disbalance, not insight. Once upon a time, Nigeria had the good fortune of quotable national leaders like Awolowo, Balewa, Azikiwe, Tarka, Aminu Kano whose speeches of hope and promise of true emancipation we learned to memorize and regurgitate as we did speeches of Leopold Senghor, Patrice Lumumba, Nkrumah, Nyerere, the heroes of our independence struggles and our eventual liberation. We quoted our leaders with the same fervor as we quoted Martin Luther King Jr, JFK, or read the quotes of Chairman Mao Tse Tun in the Chinese Communist Revolution manifesto. Our young hearts twitched with tall and lofty dreams for Africa and the Blackman catching up and surpassing our erstwhile colonialists as India has done. There was a time when we walked with our shoulders and heads held straight and high with palpable pride.

A look at today's cadre of rulership in all of Nigeria, whether a casual or an exhaustive examination, the inexorable conclusion is a disheartening dearth of inspirational rulers. Who we now call rulers to command only our disdain. Who is the usually idealistic youth that will be inspired by a ruler who pilfered the commonwealth enough to boast he is richer than a state while Maroko and Ajegunle slums still dot the region under his watch while in the same period, China churned out bullet trains and liberated 300 million of its citizens out of poverty. What inspirational quotes will come from an erstwhile highly placed politician who used his position to stymie all competitions to acquire major stakes in our National parastatals in the infamous privatization scheme carried out from his high office? Without the proverbial rudder, our national ship is adrift in the mighty ocean of nation-building without discernible purpose and direction. With a taciturn, aloof, and ethnoreligious bigot as a pretend conductor, our collective aspirations do not echo in the aspirational mantra. Instead, we are a cacophony, not a symphony. Without a well-discerned vision manifest in a national ethos that runs in the veins of every Nigerian, we remain 200 million "nations" pulling in sundry directions while the whole is diminished.

We reel and tether in the imbroglia of banditry, kidnapping, insecurity, inter-ethnic and inter-religious distrust, insane and suffocating external loans, and unbridled politicians malfeasance. With the resultant widespread chagrin and hopelessness, my beloved Nigeria is at a crossroads yet again as 2023 looms. It needs no stating Nigeria is in the throes of a crisis of identity, essence, and purpose. In such a time more than at any other time, Nigeria needs a statesman, a moral stalwart. Nigeria direly needs a Winston Churchill who can bellow our capacity to fight night and day to attain our aspirational dreams. Nigeria needs a Franklin D Roosevelt to remind us we can withstand the assault of the impetuous schemers aka our rulers across the land who feign love for us but truly are robbers of our dreams.

Nigeria needs an MLK to keep us focussed on the immeasurable thrill of our mountaintop in spite of the pain of the moment hence we should push on resisting the fleeting pleasure of the crumbs our rogue politicians want to be thrown to us. Nigeria is in dire need of the moral strength of a Mahatma Gandhi reminding us who we are and that our evisceration by our erstwhile colonialists and our own who have suffocated us while fattening up on our God-given resources must like the Jews say of the Holocaust “never again”. Our impasse lies in who we have become while our greatness lies in who we were always made to be but we have denounced.

As Kwame Nkrumah once said “We are going to have to create our African personality and identity. It is the only way we can show the world that we are ready to our won battles”

For such a man/woman to be able to inspire us, he/she must be as near impeccable in moral character as possible. A non-negotiable attribute of the President, akin to the moral Priest of the people is integrity. Such a person cannot have held an ELECTED (or is it selected in Nigeria) office. If they did, there must not be the faintest hint of abuse of the privilege. Sadly, there is NO such in the land at the States and Federal levels or occupants of our governor's mansions, house of representatives, and Senate who has not betrayed our trust. No past Governors, Presidents or VPs, Senators or Representatives. None! This is our shame. Hearteningly, there are many in our land who are ably equipped with integrity and who articulate our dreams, and are versed in articulating the modus for attaining our lofty dreams. The media has been giving too much oxygen to our perennial office seekers without demanding they come clean with the sources of their wealth and abuse of the offices they once held. Their positions on the key issues that face us as a people that threaten to dismember us remain veiled. At this crossroad, there shall be no more smoldering of our lofty aspirations. For this, may we must muster the courage to insist as the Jews say of the Holocaust NEVER AGAIN!



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BUILDING A FORMIDABLE NIGERIAN CONSTITUENCY

Who We Are 

The Nigerian Physicians Advocacy Group (NPAG) is a non-partisan 501c4 organization created by Nigerian American physicians to deal with health care crisis through civic engagement.

The Event

This will be an evening of tribute to not only recognize the unprecedented engagement of Nigerian-Americans in the Biden administration but also to help forge relationships that will impact health advocacy for minority groups.

This event will help promote advocacy for health as well as social awareness for good governance.

SAVE THE DATE

A Night of Tribute to the Biden Administration Honoring its Nigerian-American Appointees

CAPITOL HILL
April 14th, 2022
Washington DC

For Inquiries
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