Africa’s Leadership Challenges in the 21st Century: A Nigerian Perspective


Abstract

Leadership crisis in Africa is often seen from the point of view of the misdemeanor of various political rulers dotting the continental landscape. This paper sees it differently. It explores the fundamental cause of the misleadership parody, ranging from the personal capacity underdevelopment, to social-psychological and value deficiencies and misunderstandings that need to be addressed for Africa to be repositioned politically.

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To understand the leadership challenge of our volatile, globalized, hyperconnected age more clearly, we recently initiated a series of structured interviews with the leaders of some of the world’s largest and most vibrant organizations. A convergence of forces is reshaping the global economy: emerging regions, such as Africa, Brazil, China, and India, have overtaken economies in the West as the three greatest leaders of the 20th century were Winston Churchill, Charles de Gaulle, and David Ben-Gurion. Each had a brilliant mind and a brilliant pen. The microscope, too, affords a critical perspective. Leaders must force their organizations to challenge conventional wisdom; consider the implications of unlikely, long-tail scenarios; and focus on pressing issues in minute detail. The 21st Century has been conceived as: The age of Globalization™, the age of Knowledge Economy™, and the Information age™. Globalization refers to the contemporary social reality, which is characterized by change, uncertainty, unpredictability, complexity, interdependence and diversity. According to Giddens (1990) and Albrow (1994), it refers to the process by which human relations are increasingly being intensified. The educational challenges in a globalized world include: ensuring that learners acquire the technological skills that enable them to access the global information and telecommunication networks, transforming learner attitudes and dispositions to enable them adapt to change and uncertainty. The leadership challenges of the 21st century are facing most businesses and GDD is not an exception. The company is venturing into the global market, but there is no sufficient experience or resources to reach that goal. There are many competitors in the world market such as FedEx, UPS, and DHL (GDD Company Profile). The firm also lacks an alternative plan to apply in case the first one fails. In its globalization attempt, GDD faces problems associated with mergers and acquisitions as the business could opt to take over and reduce its supply. GDD has a weak adaptation system hence the reason...