



Youth Empowerment as a Vehicle for National Development.

Youths are the future of every country because they have the strength and power to work and do new things and they are always the majority. Every nation that desires development and prosperity must try to empower them and give them opportunity to contribute their quotas and play their roles, because just as they are good for the progress and development of the nation, they can equally be very dangerous if they are not quickly tailored towards how to creatively use their youthful strength to work for the progress of the country.

Unfortunately in Nigeria, the youths who are the majority of the country's population are facing lots of problems because of limited opportunity that they have to use their talents. So the country is now witnessing many problems as a result of not creating enough avenues and conducive environment for the youths to work.

The Universities graduate students in thousands every year and after the National Youth Service, many of the youths find it difficult to get jobs regardless of the course they read or certificates obtained from school. Because of these problems some involve in criminal activities, such as internet fraud, Yahoo Yahoo, robbery, thuggery, prostitution, kidnapping, ritual killing to survive, while some of the youths are migrating out of the country for greener pastures abroad and the ones who stayed behind to work things out are under-employed and suffering under harsh economic condition. In Nigeria today there is no home without unemployed graduates that their parents have laboured to give formal education but still depend on their parents for survival.

In order to solve the problem, the Nigeria government created some agencies to empower the youths and give them opportunity to create job by themselves. The agencies like Nigeria Directorate of Employment N D E, Small and Medium Scale Enterprises Development SMEDAN, N Power, P

Yes etc. have equally introduced empowerment programmes like Youth Employment Vocational Skill Development, Small Scale Industries and Graduate Employment, Agriculture Employment Programme, N power which serves as means of temporary employment for the youths and the Presidential Youth Empowerment Scheme with the aims to create at least 774000 employment opportunities.

These programmes serve as good way to empower the youths and create avenue for them to work and earn a living, but unfortunately most of the programmes did not have the expected positive effect on the youths of Nigeria, because of some factors like corruption, inexperience of some of the people appointed or employed by government to oversee the empowerment programs.

Training the youths to become crafts men, technicians and agric bussiness men and women is the best way to empower them, but we may not get the expected result, if we don't find means to change the way we are practicing these skills. If empowerment is actually a way of moving people from position of powerlessness to position of power, then it is very important for leaders to find ways of educating the people on true youth empowerment.

It's also pertinent not to focus on skills acquisition alone but to also empower them with information that will make them embrace entrepreneurship early in life, by introducing entrepreneurship into the school curriculum from primary to University.

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