

LEAD2LIVE

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Editorial...

Good day dear reader.

I present to you the first edition of the LEAD2LIVE Journal. It is important to note that leadership encompasses all areas of life and the effect of leaders cannot be overemphasised. As a matter of fact, leadership expert John C. Maxwell said 'everything rises and falls on leadership' which is to say that leadership is the substance on which all is anchored.

Here in this edition are lessons on leadership from seasoned speakers and leaders in their respective fields of life. It is noteworthy to add that some articles contained within are lessons learnt from the maiden edition of LEAD2LIVE Masterclass that held on the 6th and 13th August, 2016.

Enjoy the read through; more importantly do apply what it is you will learn from the time spent. It is my sincere desire that the articles would effect a change in the orientation you have about leadership and its importance and spur you to act to develop your leadership ability. Lest I forget, do not only read this journal but share the link with your friends, colleagues, families etc. and ensure to cultivate a community of leaders. Remember, those you are surrounded by will determine the course of your life. Help them grow, so you too can grow.

Best regards!

Tolulope Amusa,
Editor-In-Chief,
LEAD2LIVE Journal.

CHARACTER IN LEADERSHIP – DR JOSEPH HUNDEYIN

The word "character" comes from the Greek word KHARAKTER which means a chisel or an instrument for marking in stone.

Character in English language can basically mean moral strength.

The Yorubas have a saying that translates into "a good name is better than gold."

Character is not something you act out. It is not something you choose to do when it is convenient. Character is a nature. It is something you imbibe and make a part of you.

Be truthful to yourself and reflect this truth unto those you serve.

Do not make unreasonable promises that are not feasible. It is good to aspire. But keep your aspirations within the limits of your available and potentially available resources.

Your character is who you are when no one is watching.

It is very easy to live an honest life and run a transparent administration.

You should inspire those you lead to work with you, to agree to work with your vision.

Is the fellow truthful?

Has he delivered on promises made in the past?

How does he manage his personal affairs?

Does he have scandals around him?

Can I trust him with my money?

These are questions to ask about yourself and if the answers are not convincing, you need to improve on who you are.

Martin Luther King said 'One day, people will be judged not by their appearance but by the content of their character'

Character is what makes or breaks a man or woman.

Whatever you do, wherever you go, do not compromise on your character. That is what will get you recommended for certain jobs, positions or offices.

Compromise is not an option.

Interactive Session:

Question: How do you build an infallible character?

List out what you know are your strengths. Also do for your weaknesses. Continue and try to improve on your strengths.

Actively work on what you perceive to be your weaknesses.

Identify leaders you're convinced have great characters and list out why you think they do. Emulate these traits.

Question: How do I convince people that I have changed my behaviour from being what it used to be?

Just live according to the change you have effected. I assure you they will see with time. If anyone confronts you specifically, be glad to share your story of change with them.

Question: Peradventure there is a competent leader, but without character and there's also another leader who is not 'competent' but has an awesome character, what should be my preference?

I dare say you cannot take character out of competence.

Part of what makes you a good leader is competence (delivery of the goods in a timely fashion) the not so 'competent' leader with good character is a safer bet. Reason is he will be easy to talk to and make suggestions to. He will be willing to hear from those he is leading, identify his

weaknesses and be humble enough to learn. Collectively, the group will achieve a better outcome. Character cannot be compromised. And leadership is eventually about the group at large.

Nuggets from Others

Your Character cannot be white washed; if it is dirty, it is dirty!

You can pretend your way to the top but without a good character you would not stay there for long.

Your image is how you present yourself to the world; image can be bought or faked. People can give you an image but not a character

The name you possess as a leader is a combination of your character, your image and your reputation.

RESPONSIBILITY AND ACCOUNTABILITY IN LEADERSHIP – TONY OKPERE, JR

Passion and desire is not enough to produce effectiveness in leadership.

I have seen many passionate people who are simply aware of what leadership should be, but they lack the capacity and the know-how.

When what you see in your head does not equate with what you produce and see in your hands, frustration sets in because you begin to question yourself; what did I do wrong?

Instead, when you find yourself in such a situation, you have to be careful to ensure you ask yourself the right question; what can I do differently?

Responsibility simply means 'response to ability'.

It takes responsibility to walk in purpose.

Service is about utilizing your abilities, skills and talents for the benefit of others. You cannot serve others with your abilities if you do not deliberately respond when you see a need for abilities. Being responsible as a leader is you not ignoring an opportunity to serve, doing the right thing even when everyone else is doing wrong and having the ownership mentality to fix things.

As much as people are supposed to look up to you as a leader, you must be brave enough to accept it when you make a mistake. It is not weakness, it is actually strength.

Responsible leaders are men of character but that does not mean you are perfect.

You must do all within your power to maintain a good name and do what needs to be done, not because you feel like it, but because you know it is the right thing to do.

Accountability is first a function of one's attitude before it is an expression.

As a leader, you cannot flare up when you are asked questions or asked for an explanation.

To be accountable, it takes:

1. Humility
2. A good attitude
3. A culture of honour.

There is a popular saying 'Respect yourself if you want me to respect you'. But I say unto you, I honour people not because they are honourable, but because I am honourable.

When you develop a culture of honouring people despite their bad behaviour, you are not doing it for them, you are only expressing that you are above them and that you are a man of character.

If you must be accountable to anyone, if you must do the right things because of anyone, do it, because of you. You will first be accountable to yourself if you truly value yourself.

Interactive Session:

Question: About honouring others because you honour yourself, what was your mind-set whenever you were at that point where you wanted to put honour aside and give a piece of your mind?

Answer: I am of the school of thought that says 'Say your mind but also mind what you say'
You must learn to always stand for the truth at all times.

But in dealing with an issue, learn to confront the issue and not the person.

The mistake we make most times is that in trying to deal with an issue, we start attacking the person involved. So honour is not about what you do, but how you do what you do.

Question: When you delegate duties as a means to empower followers, is it the same as irresponsibility?

Answer: Delegating duties is not irresponsibility, but be careful not to delegate duties to people who you have not trained or have not been trained elsewhere because when they mess up your work, you will feel terrible about the whole situation and become frustrated and would not know why. For effective delivery, ensure you inspire, train and then demand from them

Question: Where eventually the leader's decision cost his class members a lot but he just would not listen to reasons, what do you do?

Answer: Take the leader's decision which you know is not the best and do all that is within your power to make the best out of that decision.

Never try to prove to your leader that, 'I told you but you did not listen'. No, instead, tactically present your opinions as suggestions. If he takes it, good but if he does not, work with what he decides.

Never forget, your leader always has a wider view of things than you do, so believe in him that he may be seeing something you are not and whatever he decides, know he is doing it for the good of the entire organization.

Question: How do you serve a leader that you do not like, that does not inspire you at all but you must serve under him?

Answer: There are 5 levels of leadership

1. Position
2. Relationship
3. Production
4. People development
5. Character

Now if you cannot get people to like you and want to follow you, it shows how weak your leadership is. But however, I personally do not allow myself the luxury of not liking somebody. I speak to you as the leader now, because whether or not, you are the Boss; the position does not make the leader, you make the position.

There is no such thing as an unlikeable person, only a misunderstood person.

LEARNING IN LEADERSHIP – MILTON TUTU

We frequently upgrade our phones and gadgets to the latest operating system but how often do we upgrade our personal operating system?

The learning leader is the leading leader.

There is always something new to learn every single day.

The trick to good leadership is making out time for the hard work that learning requires.

Learning is a skill that should and must be acquired by all leaders.

The illiterate of the 21st century is not the one who cannot read and write, but the one who cannot learn, unlearn and relearn.

What have you done today to make yourself a better version of you? What is the status of your current personal operating system? Is it out dated or updated?

One sure way to excel in leadership is learning from a mentor. If you do not have a mentor, get one.

There is something so strong about mentorship — in other to have exponential acceleration in a particular field, get a mentor; not a just a mentor, the right mentor.

Find that mentor and keep him or her with all your heart. He/she is more precious than gold.

One of the secrets to be a master in a particular field is being a diligent student. Be diligent in your craft.

How often do you read?

As for me, I read a minimum of two books in a month

It is not just about learning and reading, execution is necessary.

Ideas are useless until you execute.

Be a better version of yourself today and I believe you too can be exceptional.

Interactive Session:

Question: About mentorship, how do you know the mentor that is right for you?

Answer: Getting a mentor is something everyone needs to be careful about.

Like I said, you do not just get a mentor, you get the right mentor.

To get the right mentor you need to;

1. Pray and ask for direction from your creator
2. Define your niche
3. Identify someone ahead of you who is doing something that is close to what you want to do.
4. Connect with that person
5. Serve

Question: How do you bond with a faraway new mentor?

Answer: Why is there Social Media? Social Media breaks the dilemma of distance
Connect with that mentor on all the social media platforms you can find him or her

If it is on Facebook share all their posts, do the same on Twitter. Disturb him or her till you are noticed. Be the Elisha and do not let Elijah go without blessing you.

Question: what if you do not 'flow' with the person, but you know that you can learn a lot from him or her. Can you still make the person your mentor?

Answer: Your proposed mentor is a "Big Boy" in that field does not mean that he or she is meant for you. Because they are good does not mean they are good for you.

Find who you flow with, mentorship is a relationship. If you do not flow with your fiancée, will you marry her?

PLACE OF RELIGION IN POLITICS – DR TUNDE AJAYI

Taking off from where the previous speaker stopped, my mentor is one of the few people with whom I hold hands and pray over my dreams. We have been doing this since 2008 and I have never been confused.

Yes, there is a need to have a spiritual pillar for your leadership pursuits.

Speaking on religion in politics or leadership is particularly apt for this audience as I understand wherever you are now is the training ground for future exploits and the perception you leave with will stick with you for a long time.

As a matter of fact, religion has very little role to play in the quality of leadership and the valuation or appraisal of a leader. However, when it comes to getting votes in developing countries, people use religion to get followers.

Your content is very important.

If you are familiar with global politics, you will know that trends are not in favour of religion. To get quality secular leadership and function effectively, you may need to deem phase religion. Let there be equal rights and preferences. Exude positive energy to everyone. Your next big hit could be a link from that friend you would not talk to because you do not share the same orientation.

Pray for guidance when you are stuck.

Interactive Session:

Question: Is it true that there is an influence of religion in political leadership?

Answer: Like I said earlier, people use religion to get votes.

Question: As religious believers in Nigeria, most understand that being in political positions is an assignment from God... from experience in politics, your view?

Answer: I agree. But you must deliver! Do not blame your failures on religion

Question: I used to imagine, if we had political leaders that pray for their citizens or fellow workers. Will there be a possible change in the outcome?

Answer: Prayers without a complete reorientation will not do much, especially in Nigeria. There are many prayer sessions for Nigeria in Nigeria. We have a long way to go.

LEADERSHIP IS LIFE – TOLULOPE AMUSA

World number one leadership and management expert John C. Maxwell in his best-selling leadership book, *The 21 Irrefutable Laws of Leadership* titled the first law as the 'Law of the Lid' which goes thus 'Leadership ability determines a person's level of effectiveness'.

In his book, he pointed out what incredible impact leadership ability has on every aspect of life. He further explained that one's effectiveness in life can be no greater than one's ability to lead as he narrated the success story of the McDonald brothers who were limited due to their lack of leadership ability, in contrast to how a leader came on board and made explosive growth and the rest we can say is history today.

You will agree with me that the populace in our dear country is in dire need of right leadership as we noticed during the last presidential elections and in the world of football amongst the premiership clubs for soccer lovers. This is because, no matter how great the ability and passionate the desire to succeed is, if there is poor leadership in a unit, that unit is bound to produce poor results. If the best brains or players are on a team but there is poor leadership in

the team, you can predict that it would be a struggle for that team to achieve extraordinary success.

A friend once asked, 'what is your view on leadership?' I thought about how enormous the impact of leadership is and summed it to these three words; 'Leadership is life', and those thoughts have brought us what we have today. The aim is to learn to be better leaders and achieve extraordinary success.

PRINCIPLES OF LEARNING – TOLULOPE AMUSA

An inspirational leader and friend, Temitope Levites, once said, 'In life there are three principles towards learning which are LEARNING, UNLEARNING and RELEARNING'.

Learning is defined as the ability to receive and process new information, skills and ideas which eventually would cause change in behaviour. That is why we say that one who has not changed behaviour has not learnt.

Unlearning can be defined as the process of discarding old and irrelevant information that have been acquired. This is important in the learning process as it is the refining of knowledge acquired that helps its application.

'Relearning' can be defined as the process of reinforcing or reiterating the instructions from learning in order to commit them to memory. This is likewise important in learning as what is committed to memory is what gives response to our daily activities.

As we have received new information over the past few weeks, let us apply the principles towards learning discussed today to ensure that we cause a change in our behaviour towards life.

Some of the expectations for the Masterclass in participant's words are as follows:

- To broaden my horizon and learn new information
- I was hoping to know specific things about being a leader, the very key things that must not be missing.
- to learn more about leadership skills
- To be taught how to function best in Leadership positions
- Improving leadership skills

And to God's glory the question 'Were your expectations met?' was answered with a resounding 'Yes' by all participants.

Kindly send us your feedback too.

Best Regards!

LIFES Consulting.

ABOUT US

Having observed tremendous lapses in the leadership and financial system of the Nigerian confederation and the devastating attitude of the youths of the nation towards these matters, the vision to build a group of skilled individuals that would secure the glorious future of the nation through astute leadership, financial and management principles birth the founding of the firm in 2016 by **Tolulope Amusa** who has a passion for excellence in leadership, finance and management. Sequel to successive development and experience acquired from occupying several leadership positions, attending seminars, conferences, workshops and trainings on leadership and finance, and having digested diverse literatures on the principles guiding these matters, and coupled with a strategic observation of the critical state of the Nigerian economy, *FinancialInsights* began and was largely appreciated by the reached populace.

Thereafter, LEAD2LIVE Masterclass started as an online class with its maiden edition tagged LEADERSHIP IS LIFE. What wonderful sessions we had learning from seasoned speakers. Appreciation to the **Fashina Ibidapo, Adeya Anuoluwapo, Akinnimi Tolulope, Atunde Folajimi and Olulaja Femi** for moderating sessions, our speakers for sharing from their wealth of knowledge by experience and God for making the event a success.

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