



EDITORIAL COMMENT

‘JOB MINING’: A PHENOMENAL TREND OF NEED IN NIGERIA

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A lot has been said about the level of unemployment in Nigeria, which is a scenario trending in the midst of opportunities and thousands of unemployed tertiary school graduates. Yet, no definite effort has been made by successive governments or her relevant agencies to tackle the ‘monster’ breeding uncertainty in the land, poverty and insecurity.

This trend explains the massive hydra-headed emigration of unskilled, semi-skilled and highly skilled Nigerian youths, out of the country through legal and oftentimes, illegal routes in deserts, open seas, and cargo containers. Consequently, we are confronted with tragedies upon tragedies at the Mediterranean Sea including human slavery in Libya and other countries, and uncountable deaths across the deserts. Only few of these illegal economic emigrants return as deportees with tales of woes and horror, and raised hands of praise to God for sparing their lives.

But have these tragedies prevented others from attempting the journey of survival or death? Of course not, since the forces behind the exodus had remained ever potent. Even professionally trained Nigerians –the doctors, engineers, lawyers, nurses and pharmacist, among several others, are emigrating and preferring to write rigorous and income-draining examinations, just to be licensed to work in foreign countries; particularly the United States, United Kingdom and Canada. In these foreign lands, such economic emigrants do not mind engaging in financially rewarding menial jobs, which oftentimes, does not correlate with their tertiary education training in Nigeria.

What then is making the difference between our clime and theirs? It is obviously our government’s ineptitude, inaction and nepotistic tendencies that have taken a toll on us. In fact, are the government’s Ministries, Departments, and Agencies (MDAs) aware that they share a large portion of the blame in making this blessed country called Nigeria, one of the miserable countries on earth to live in?

It is also obvious that our government preoccupy themselves with matters of ‘succession’, considering their gang-like electioneering activities, as if it is a war between themselves, and between them and the people. How then can development come with the glaring evidence of failure in leadership? At the end of such elections, nothing changes. The suffering and misery continues. Life expectancy keeps dropping in numbers amidst rising levels of unemployment, illiteracy, poverty, disease, and maternal and child death. Money in-flows meant for development including provision of basic amenities, are squandered on frivolous, unproductive and unsustainable projects with blames and counter blames hitting the roofs amidst blatant lies and deceptions from same government officials. Indeed, the list of woes are endless.

Nevertheless, we advocate the trending phenomenon called ‘Job Mining’ as one of the ways to deal with the rising incidence of unemployment in Nigeria. Our knowledge economy should be given a boost. Creativity should be encouraged. Singapore without mineral resources did it. Bill Gates and Microsoft did it. Mark Zuckerberg and Facebook did it. We can do same in Nigeria by providing the enabling environment devoid of harassment and over-taxation of small business enterprises and budding entrepreneurs. Already, our music and film industry have taken the lead. They have done it and consequently unleashed both direct and indirect job opportunities.

Our education managers must therefore, appreciate the ‘Natural Resource’ status of education and the endless economic potentials that can be unleashed from it, using the tenets of research and innovation. Of course, if the curricular is defective, fix it. If there is lack of emphasis on training-for-service delivery in our institutions, then fix it. Enough of the emphasis placed on paper qualification. It is time for ‘Job Mining’ like sane climes do.

