

EDITORIAL COMMENT:

AFRICAN CHALLENGES: THE UNFORTUNATE HIBERNATION OF YOUTHS

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Typical African communities are characterized by peculiar local challenges, which, to a large extent, are defining their state of health, security, justice, literacy level and life opportunities, as well as their social wellbeing and freedoms. Some have given the impression that it is all about the challenges and their consequences, with little or no emphasis on the triggers of the challenges or the need for a robust plan to eliminate them.

Generally, it can be said that such African challenges thrive or are thriving due to failures to curb them at the onset or even confront and categorize them sincerely, while also seeking and proffering solutions. Although there can be natural incidences posing challenges of concern to communities, it is rather unfortunate that most of the challenges are human-induced. These human-induced challenges are borne out of sheer greed, corruption, contest for power and relevance, as well as material or territorial acquisition, criminality, occultism and intolerance amongst others. Of course, the manifestations of these destructive triggers are the leadership crisis and the failures in governance experienced in most African nations, coupled with crippling insecurity, illiteracy, infrastructural deficiency, disease, injustice and shameful electoral processes.

These scenarios literarily painted above are the bane of development in most African nations that are

blessed with natural and human resources. The irony however, is the fact that despite these challenges begging for solutions, the forbearers of the solutions are relentlessly migrating to other nations considered socially and economically safer. Even the less skilled ones are risking their lives daily on journeys of death along deserts and the Mediterranean Sea. The associated reports of horror on these paths of death are better left for the archives. In fact, the brain drain and the unnecessary loss of lives are indeed alarming. Yet, lessons are not being learnt by most African leaders. More so, critical demands are not being prioritized for financing, while the common wealth of nations are stolen and laundered abroad or stashed in cash at ware houses, customized underground storage facilities and uncompleted secured buildings.

Obviously, most African nations have successfully shut out their brilliant and youthful population from governance leaving the aged and a handful of favored and mostly compromised youths in government. In this regard, most policies and decisions are based on sentiments or affiliations as the case may be, and geared towards power succession and sustenance in power. When then can we deploy our teeming brilliant youths to address our common challenges for a common good? When can we stop the hibernation of these brilliant assets of ours?

