BLAME THE GHANAIAN PROFESSIONALS IN GHANA FOR OUR CURRENT EGOCENTRICISM AS AGAINST NATIONALISM?

A popular song writer of the middle Volta Region of Ghana wrote one piece, which happened the be one of my favorites borborbor songs goes like this:

“Never ask about what your country done for you but ask yourself what you have done for your country. Our grandfathers have their bit and our fathers have done their bit. And now it's the turn of you and I to show our love to our country.”

Any time I sing this song, especially when I have the opportunity to speak to the youth, I asked myself what can I do to help my country grow. I realized over the years that we need not be in a considerably influential position before contribute our little parts to the country's development and I think we need do that whenever we get the opportunity to ensure that this country’s interest comes first before our personal interests. This is because since we cannot choose which country we are born into but rather the country chooses us, there wouldn't be any of us if this country hadn't existed.

This is where I keep asking myself whether the western education has become an albatross on our neck or a blessing to our economic development? Or whether the various experts and professionals are becoming hindrances to our forward movement or actually helping to develop the country? Or do we have to blame our individual and collective attitudes and mindsets as the cause of where we still are instead of the western education? These and many other questions remained unanswered in the minds of many Ghanaians.

Many of our professionals continue to drain the country to the last drop instead of offering their acquired skills to help the country to develop. Many of us after our professional trainings only think about how quickly we can make ourselves rich and live in the big houses and drive the big cars even if that materialized at the detriment of the nation we care very less about that. Let us take the Doctors for example and ask ourselves whether the lots that we have working in the country have ever lived by their hypocritic oath to always save lives no matter what? We were told recently that some group of Cuban trained doctors have been working at some of our government hospitals for over a year now and have never been paid but only receiving a pantry allowance and I said wow. Doctors? Found it very difficult to believe but when I heard they were Cuban trained I said aha!! Because I know very well that no Ghanaian trained doctor will sacrifice himself for that long without the whole world hearing of it. After the taxpayer’s money has been spent to give them the necessary skills, they don't care whether people die as they are on strike for delays in their allowances. Allowances and not salaries? Which government would eventually pay anyway after some long stay home while collecting their monthly salaries but unfortunately they cannot reverse the life of people who died during such strikes. Where is our nationalism spirits that our fathers and grandfathers left with us? Many of them are very quick to share the internally generated funds in the name of some spurious allowances rather than using
those moneys to improve on the equipments they use for health delivery. Should they change their hypocritic oath to "Me, Myself and I First Before Any Patient"?

What about Ghanaian Lawyers who will be more interested in twisting the hands of the judges to pronounce judgment against the state in favor of foreign companies because of the money? Many of the lawyers would not like to work at the Justice Ministry to help ensure that disputes are dealt with quickly and fairly. Many would be happy to work with the crook firms which will do everything to win high profile criminal cases even when they know those criminality is unpardonable and the perpetrators deserved to be behind bars. Lawyers are very happy to bribe judges in high profile cases against the country for judgment debt in favor of local and foreign private companies and individuals when they knew that the state is short changed in such cases. Some even collaborate with locals and foreign individuals and companies to sell our nations properties through some deliberate twisting of the law and come out happy with no conscience. And I asked myself where is the spirit of nationalism that our forefathers and fathers left with us? So why are we using the pen (Western Education) to rob our nations?

What about the accountants who are trained to look after our properties including financial and material properties to ensure that they are safe at all times? We have accountant at the Accountant General Department who collaborate with some criminal individuals to get paid from the consolidated funds for no job done to the state. Huge contract are paid for by the Accountant General when all the available documents are showing that no work has been done. As we speak there are many people who are paid regular salaries on monthly basis but are not is any employment with the government, what we are calling ghost names. Officers of the controller knew this but they siphon some of these moneys into some ghost accounts for personal use. Let's take the SSNIT for example and I can say that institution can boast of a sizable percentage of chartered accountants of this country. But the same institution cannot get qualified persons to manage their banks and continue to sell them left right and center. Banking is one of the most lucrative industries in the whole world but such lucrative ventures are the ones being discarded by an institution who is supposed to hold our future pensions. They cancelled debts (calling them bad debts) when the companies owing those debts are still in profitable operations. And I asked what makes a debt bad in accordance with the IFRS? They can even invest in an entity or dispose off an entity without conducting any value analysis meanwhile they have been trained as experts in such financial analysis. Where is our nationalism spirits that our forefathers and fathers left with us?

Let us ponder over our local song which is sung across the country, especially in our schools and ponder over it once again. “Yen ara asase ne, eye b)n dindin mayen moja na nananum hwegen yeritu) mayen! Edu minin wunsu su se yebeye bi atasu”. It translate to mean “This is our land that we are all proud of, our forefathers sacrifice their blood to get it for us. Now it is our turn to do our best for our country”. Let us use the acquired knowledge and skills from the western education to help develop our country and refrain from the selfish spirits. Let us support our government to build onto what they have come to meet instead of using our skills to be writing
letters to donors and financial supporters against the country. Let us revive our nationalism spirits that use to take center stage in our development. Volunteerism, communal labor and self devotion to the people and our country. We have large percentage of us believing in Jesus Christ and Mohammed but failed to emulate their communal and people centered lifestyles but rather adopting egocentric, acquisitiveness and ethnocentric attitude that are detrimental to national development. Ghana must be placed first in our daily professional and expertise life or else we remain in the trenches for very long years ahead.

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