

Dynamic Future LEADERS

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Presentation Outline

- Who is Your Hero?
- The New Economy
 - Nigeria's NEEDS
- Africa's Last Chance?
- Building the Leaders

Who is Your Hero?

- We all have heroes. Beginning from reading comics, watching TV, news, movies, playing games, discussing about your parents (or your friend's parents) and reading books, we all have people we want to be like
- Who is your hero? Lets discuss them...
- Now he's your hero and a leader, but he was once just part of the world's statistics – one of the 6 billion people dotting the face of this planet. He failed, triumphed, recognized opportunities, etc
- Leaders are made, not born. Even people born into families known for great leaders may not become leaders
- One of the main problems facing Nigeria (and indeed Africa and the world) today is that of leadership
- The caliber of leaders groomed in any nation decide what kind of nation it will be from a space of about 10 years

The New Economy

- Referred to through diverse terms (Knowledge Economy, Information Economy, New Economy, etc), the times we live in are different
- Technology and knowledge are now the key factors of production
- Globalization, Information/Knowledge Intensity, and Networking/Connectivity are the driving forces of the Knowledge Economy
- Know-why (proficiency) and know-who (networking) matter more than know-what (disciplines)
- Life long learning is vital for individuals and people-groups. Special consideration must be given to exposure to new Information and Communication Technologies
- Information and Communication Technologies release creative potential and knowledge of people and nations

Nigeria's NEEDS

- Nigeria's unofficial reputation is not fit for global galleries: 419, scam, 3rd most corrupt, are popular aliases
- Nigeria needs a new generation of leaders (government, academia, private sector, civil society, etc)
- There are ongoing efforts seeking to help with this (YDEF – ICT/E seminars for youth; JA Nigeria - ESP, PE/ESIS, CP, LEAD, HPGBC, ViMP, LDV; etc)
- But... leadership is a personal choice you have to make
- There are two options that you have – make things happen (1's) or watch things happen (0's). Leaders don't just gossip, complain, discuss or analyse; they stand up and make things happen
- Look around you – you may begin to recognize some who are on their way to undisputed leadership. But this is not a sprint race, you can enlist today

Africa's Last Chance?

- Nigeria's unofficial reputation is not fit for global galleries: 419, scam, 3rd most corrupt, are popular aliases
- ICTs hold great opportunities for Nigeria and Africa. 90% dependence on oil is unsafe and all eggs in one basket is unwise. New Economic indices reveal that we need to groom ICT experts
- See what GSM alone has done to Nigeria's image – fastest growing telecom country. “Haven for telecommunications investors”
- “I see a new Nigeria emerging...one that will be built on the labours of our heroes past, hewn out of the debris of the present waste and engineered by the strength of the future leaders: the youth. These young men and women will adopt Information Technology for the purpose of personal development, nation building, regional cooperation and global participation...”

Building the Leaders

- Youth are NOT the leaders **of** tomorrow because tomorrow never comes. We are leaders **from** today...
- What do you want from life? (Personal Mission Statement and Planning)
- Develop yourself and maximize ICT opportunities, e.g. online self-paced study, search and competitions
- Network with like minds (e.g. WSIS Youth Nigeria Policy Train, “Youth Agenda”) and this helps you get involved in nation building, regional cooperation and global participation
- Learn from those who’ve gone ahead – read books, send emails, speak up... use IT!
- Start planning and acting now!

“I see a **new Nigeria** emerging...one that will be built on the *labours of our heroes past*, hewn out of the debris of the present waste and engineered by the strength of the *future leaders: the youth*.

These young men and women will adopt **Information Technology** for the purpose of *personal development, nation building, regional cooperation and global participation*. They exist unknown today, but in the secrecy of their abode, they master the tool that will change their lives and that of their nation. This presentation is dedicated to such **heroes**; *unknown but silently building the nation's tomorrow today*”

- ‘Gbenga Sesan. November 26, 2001

Thank You/Questions

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