

THE REALITY BLUFF

The breeze from the nearby sea blew the winds of hope against the tirades of disappointments the village had recently experienced. The previous day had ended their mourning over their last leader who had pioneered regeneration in the key areas of their village. At the foot of the hill stood an old oak tree that marked the boundaries of their village. That was the exact spot they had buried their hero.

Today is another day; another chapter of their village. But there is no king. The leader left without any warning into his rest; no successor. The elders will have to look for a new leader. The last king never went through the traditional educational system but had gained his unique leadership skills through the practical hands-on approach 'education' he received via the council of elders in the village. He was elected as a leader of the village when he turned thirty after his graduation. *Quite interesting! He led the village for thirteen years and brought in a number of changes that have improved the quality of life in the village and its surrounding areas. Unfortunately, the politicians have seized on this progress to their own glory. The story continues!*

Yet a few meters down the road from the last king's house, John believes he is the new leader of the village without doubt. He had had a meeting the

previous night at the only drinking bar; the villagers' hangout. That was a beautiful bricked modernised building refurbished from the locally manufactured bricks. This was one of the many projects the last leader achieved through the village's brick manufacturing company. The government had promised many times to finance the project. That had only been a political propaganda, of course for the votes during the last general elections. *What a disappointment!*

John studied *History* at a tertiary institution and graduated with honours three years before the night the chief kicked the bucket. He had been the unofficial critic of the king and likes telling stories about the big city but has never been involved in any key development apart from his long statements at the village's press house, the local bar. He tells everybody he is better than him or her because he is *EDUCATED*. To him, that is the benefit of his education and his diploma. His office remains at a certain table and chair in this bar, the drinking bar where he surrounds himself with his protégées. To these unfortunate 'disciples' he is the new Socrates. They never leave the bar until a few bottles have filled their potbellies. Like their leader, they have gotten many of the teenagers in the village pregnant leaving them to deal with their own plights; a dilemma the last king struggled to solve. He tried to help these unfortunate would-be single parents through the introduction of a local parents' council. But he is dead now!

Today John will have a meeting with the rest of the last king's elders and tell them his plans. He has threatened to attack them with his mob if they failed to acknowledge his demand. What a shame!

"I declare myself as the new king of this village". He thought to himself.

"I am educated; I have a diploma in history. I know much about this village's history and I can manage your finances better. In fact I intend to change a lot of things here. Support me or else?" He continued in his thoughts looking forward to tonight's meeting.

He was still preparing his speech before the elders when I began to write this book. *We hope to catch up with him later.*

**Is he also an educated bluff bent on deceiving
the system with a few learned theories
from the books?**

Years ago, I used to bluff to my friends that there were a number of issues Africa needed to deal with if we were to progress at all into the folds of the most industrious.

In fact the very fabric of our society had been woven with the craftiness of '*revealed advancement*' in different spheres of wisdom and understanding as the years rolled on.

By '*revealed advancement*' I am referring to the pseudo-technological exposure the third world societies have received in the light of the increased pressure of the world's super powers to race them to a certain level of competitive development.

In the advent of such '*desire*', the third world countries, including those African countries who were so privileged to have their debts cancelled have ended up galloping for what they can quite master.

One of such telescopic '*advancements*' had been

the use of the internet in Africa. This has given the communities the opportunities to keep track of what is going on in the world. This has in turn created a gap in the poorer societies for basic education.

Sadly, in Africa and many parts of the world many of us have ended up in traditional streams of what is known as 'education'. Which, education? That is the question most of us should answer for ourselves.

In their book, *"Why We Want You To Be Rich"*, Robert Kiyosaki and Donald Trump wrote, 'one of the reasons so many people feel insecure today is because school never taught them about the importance of control in their lives'.

The failure of adequate control in how learning students have been exposed to the realities of the world has left many endangered in their walk towards success through education.

The need for effective practical education in lieu of curriculum educational fed to our young students is much desired since from a young age people will be exposed to reality and would not have to bluff their way through life.

Could we be right to state that education is far fetched in our modern society?

Ayn Rand, an authority born in Russia who taught herself to read, defined education as the life of man.

"The only purpose of education is to teach a student how to live his life-by developing his mind and equipping him to deal with reality. The training he needs is theoretical, i.e. conceptual. He has to be taught to think,

to understand, to integrate, and to prove. He has to be taught the essentials of the knowledge discovered in the past-and he has to be equipped to acquire further knowledge by his own effort."

I tend to agree in so many ways the definition by Ayn Rand and believe in, especially the last sentence, since equipping those being trained is indeed what one's educational goal should be.

However, the usual janitorial statement followed by many so called educated men and women of our advancing societies are that we will go to school from kindergarten through to university until graduation then to the office to work for the government or to work for private companies.

I am not condemning the 'education' we had because it carried its benefits and almost everyone who can read and write might have received some sort of education. But the fact is that most parents have wasted their money. True or false, we are to live with such defaced placards in own upbringing because no one was there to teach our parents or to rebel.

My own parents wanted me to become a medical doctor; I respected their wish. Instinctively I knew their wish might just be a satisfaction only to them and their ego but not what my mission on earth was to be. I chose a different path.

Becoming what our parents wish us to be in the future is a good idea but such wishes should rather be what we will make of what is left of the world when they depart.

Generations! Generations! Successful Generals!

However, there is little sense of owning up to our own responsibilities in many ways because instead of being agents of propulsion, that is, being able to think for ourselves we end up becoming manipulated into a system invisibly created by tradition and not favourable to our preferred status. Hence, the future becomes almost prophesied into what we will all end up, that in so many ways resort to the *STATE PENSION BEFORE DEATH!*

Yes! The educational stream heralded by all depict not many favourable conditions other than what we think we are entitled to which is the state pension or just our accumulated savings, if any at all.

Is it not a bluff when such desires remain in the subconscious mind of our progress in life as we live to work and wait to satisfy ourselves with money we may never enjoy after so many years of waiting?

It is of course your choice and my choice to let go of such a mentality because thinking beyond the ordinary is what is needed to build successful generations and not state-owned and meagre-savings society.

What about Our Prized Degrees?

Yes, that is the problem! Let's face it, we have become degree chasers that we fail to actually discover the reasons why we school and why we are even in school after huge sums of money have been spent educating ourselves.

Surprisingly, many people have been educated to degree levels and have neglected to learn about basic everyday life's experiences like listening to the news

or even knowing which company in the stock market is doing well and what stocks and shares are all about. Oh, what a world!

This is not to suggest that the normal education route is not good. The truth is that, it is now becoming apparent that education is not the only route to changing the world, a place with a high percentage of the people in the middle class belt. There is more to be done for the people of Africa, Asia etc. to detach themselves from the begging mode to the owning mode.

We need to begin to own our freedom and to declare our independence by understanding that the government cannot do everything for us. We have to do our bit. More hands are needed to do it.

Let us ask ourselves these questions:

- Who is the government?
- Is the government the president, the prime minister or the legislature or the judiciary or is it the people?
- Is the government all the people within the four corners of the world?

These questions may seem quite easy to answer but the point is that we are quick to blame our leaders or everyone seems to seek the chance whether directly or indirectly to blame the other person for something that has not been accomplished.

Dear Reader,

The question is: In today's society, parents blame teachers and the government for their children's attitude and irresponsibility. Could you please comment and post the reply to...

I do not know whom the response would be for but let us simply HEAR!

How much innocent blood has been shed in Darfur, Sudan alone since the start of the war 4 ½ years ago, which, has displaced 2.5million from their homes and killed more than 200,000?

Your view!

The quickest critic will answer the questions with ease over tea or coffee analysing statistics upon statistics. The information is up there and the solutions are with us and not the government because the system is also framed on the hinges of our attitude.

Like the people in Darfur, their plight could have probably started unnoticed with fingers flying all around at people in the local government, neighbour against neighbour causing the resultant escalations into what the world cannot control.

Or could it have been an argument that began between two people in a very small village who could not control themselves but has now ended up erupting such 'dormant volcanoes' into an unquenchable furies that the whole world has now been called to deal with?

There is the need to change but the change will not come from our societal possessions because in spite of the wealth of the lands of Africa, the

poverty and the insurgency of civil wars that continue to reign supreme may not reduce if the grass root arguments are not dealt with and done away with.

**What is therefore the government for
the people and by the people?**

Wrong attitude towards Africa's own progress has spurned into gigantic desires on her part to copy the developed countries without re-addressing the basic needs to re-educating ourselves that education is not always going to school from stage one to stage two but the renewing of our minds is the first key.

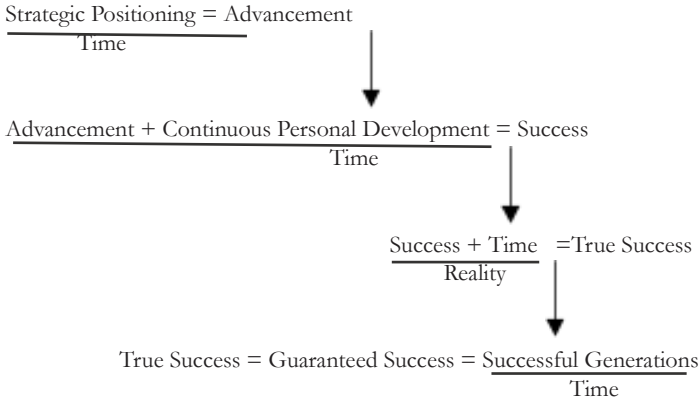
What is your attitude towards progression? Does it really end with just getting a degree from university and ending up in a council flat or a government sponsored building or in a high street shop as a shop assistant, waiting on the government to feed us from taxes? Or do we take every opportunity to create and progress further?

The Truth!

The truth is that the mind has been neglected and it has built fences against the real owner because we have failed to use it properly. Thank God that the brains have been created to be used at all times. How did Donald Trump or Robert Kiyosaki become who they are in our modern society? They will tell you that they fought against the wishes of societies to bin them in the normal educational stream. They thought outside the box! Simply put, they made use of time! Strategic positioning and time equals advancement!

Let us examine without any help the model below.

Model 1



The Common Denominator

The model above is quite simple. The issue here is that no matter where you would find success, Time remains constant and is indeed the common denominator. You cannot by-pass time to do anything or achieve anything. It is therefore important that one finds working to the principle of time in order to time the opportunities of life.

This principle is just simple; *HEAR!*

When you are working in order, the methods of life begin to unfold without wasting energy because every step you take, you are aware that the hope of the timing is your scheduled success in time.

Strategic Positioning

What is that all about? Let's go back to what strategy is all about? Strategy came from the Greek word

called *strategia*, which means “generalship.” It is a term, which has been borrowed from the Military, which often means moving, or manoeuvring troops into position before the enemy is actually “contacted” or engaged. It can also mean the deployment of troops. Once the enemy has been engaged (contacted), tactics then become paramount. Hence, the need for priority and the ‘how to’ achieve the required objective dictate the winning curve.

In the same way, in our daily lives, strategy plays an important role in that one has to be aware of the priorities after they have identified themselves with their objective. The required objective is however revealed through the ability of the individual to be at the right place, with the right mindset, in the right relationship and with the required tool.

In order to be strategically placed you must have a good marketing tool to achieve your goals because in positioning the relationship building and its accumulation are important.

If you fail to cultivate healthy relationship, your dreams may not be achieved because there will not be anyone around to celebrate your success.

Your advancement is born over time when you are well placed. It is a decision you make for yourself because one of the tools everyone possesses as a right is the power to choose. That is the weapon to make it in our society. You can choose to be a beggar or not depending on your strategic positioning.

Even luck is a result of strategic positioning!

Your resources will not be identified if you are not placed at the right place at the right time.

Professor Michael Porter on his visit to Nyenrode to address a focus group in Netherlands on January 25, 2007 made the following statements on strategy and strategic positioning. *“Strategy is a quantitative subject. Always keep sight of the basics; there’s no room for flights of fancy.”* By juxtaposing operational effectiveness and strategic positioning, he pinpoints the difference between the two: *“There is more choice involved in strategic positioning. Usually, this is where long-term advantage comes from. Adopting and assimilating best practices, on the other hand, can achieve operational effectiveness. Keeping the difference straight is vital to the success of any organization.”* As an example of effective strategic positioning he quotes Enterprise Rent-a-Car, a US car hire operator whose strategy is radically different from Avis or Hertz. An organization can only define a strategy, Porter observes, if it knows which customers it is targeting, which needs it wants to meet and at which relative price. The result will be a different value chain from that of its competitors. In the automobile rental example this means that Enterprise delivers cars to where they are needed rather than expecting customers to collect them.

It does not end there! Why?

People like Bill Gates have the right to stop working but they still do; why? Probably because they are not satisfied with their comfort zone! Here is one of

what Microsoft pressroom published about him on June 30, 2007: *William (Bill) H. Gates is chairman of Microsoft Corporation, the worldwide leader in software, services and solutions that help people and businesses realize their full potential. Microsoft had revenues of US\$51.12 billion for the fiscal year ending June 2007, and employs more than 78,000 people in 105 countries and regions.*

On June 15, 2006, Microsoft announced that effective July 2008 Gates will transition out of a day-to-day role in the company to spend more time on his global health and education work at the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. After July 2008 Gates will continue to serve as Microsoft's chairman and an advisor on key development projects. The two-year transition process is to ensure that there is a smooth and orderly transfer of Gates' daily responsibilities. Effective June 2006, Ray Ozzie has assumed Gates' previous title as chief software architect and is working side by side with Gates on all technical architecture and product oversight responsibilities at Microsoft. Craig Mundie has assumed the new title of chief research and strategy officer at Microsoft and is working closely with Gates to assume his responsibility for the company's research and incubation efforts.

Difficult to believe but it is true! People who are rich will continue to be rich in the paths they have taken because they are always aware of the need to progress without the desire to retrogress unless their wealth meant nothing to them. People like Bill Gates are authorities in their field who do not rest until the last breath is siphoned out of them because they understand their position and know its implication to their wealth. He comments in his executive welcome on April 25, 2007, 'We are

constantly expanding our understanding of what we must do to be a responsible leader and a good corporate citizen, and we are always seeking new ways to put partnerships and innovation to work to really make a difference. Our global citizenship efforts represent our mission and values in action, and they underscore how creativity and a spirit of innovation can make a difference, not only in the products we create, but also in the way we give back to communities worldwide.'

Not only Bill Gates can give back to the world and communities around what our world needs. All of us can be part of the whole process to use our creative force into becoming 'servers' of production to help our world by strategically positioning energies.

You can attain the strategy to position yourself but that does not end there. Advancement and continuous development are required in order to reach anywhere significant.

Our societies dictate our livelihood and we accept it. How many millions of people will die today? How many of these people may just die without the slightest part on their backs to make them feel good? They die in sorrow or just comforted with situations, especially if they were made to believe that their pensions and little savings were all that counted for *SUCCESS!* What an excuse to die! That does not mean that all deaths warranted such sad statements. Not at all. The excuse in this context is that many are satisfied with their environment and have failed to address this dreadful demon that is killing many generations ahead.

I am sure that God made man as a creative being

but all defeat originates from the mind. The mind has to be stronger than all physical attributes of mankind! Of course our spirits never die; but in order to satisfy the Creator fully, 'let us make man in our own image'! It can be made if the mind is renewed.

True Success

That is realised anytime we check with time. Time remains constant when it is counted in reality. How many of us have just attained degrees and have ended up as taxi drivers just because we think of such excuse or that excuse. I believe that there are and there may be certain unchallenged circumstances that may be challenging our progress in certain directions. The truth is we are not alone. Many billions of people face similar problems and yet they do not complain in the same spirit. True success unfolds over time when we gauge our continuous education with reality, something almost synonymous to what Calhoun Wick and Lu Stanton Leon, 1993, wrote, *"In companies across the country, the ability to learn is becoming a condition for employment, one that requires every successful manager's deliberate attention and commitment"*.

How many African students graduate every year from our tertiary institutions and how many ends up in so-called white-collar jobs to be tattooed with their much-yearned retirement desires? The calculation starts from day 1 because our system determines our future. But who has left it? You and I of course! Hey man, look here, it is time to change!

The farming sector of many countries has been left dejected without the plausible desire of many so-called educated children of Africa. Now the drift is from Africa to Europe with the spirit of currency as the determining factor of the success pull. The Ghana News Agency (GNA) on the 23rd August 2007, wrote on the topic, **'Mazrui applauds opposition...'** in which the world acclaimed professor, Dr Ali Mazrui was quoted as saying, *"A recent online research indicated that through brain drain, one-third of Africa's education budget has become a supplement to the US education budget because most of the people who leave Africa to the states are people who are highly trained with African resources,"*

We may agree with the renowned professor born in Mombasa, Kenya, who also claimed that, *"Not just in Ghana but in the whole of Africa at the time, politicians made it look like African intellectuals were destabilizing elements rather than development partners – I was personally refused an appointment to lecture in my own country and I was told it was for political reasons,"* during the 7th of the Golden Jubilee Lectures in Ghana.

What do you have to say to that?

In my opinion, not many people desire to remain poor in Africa yet we end up poor in the Diaspora because our educational standard does not meet the required standard elsewhere. *Rhetoric!*

That is the usual story told to those who toil day and night at the mercy of the sun and mosquitoes in schools and universities back home in Africa simply because they have been fed with the theories and

exposed to no real time examples. They call it *PRACTICALS!* Should they really be blamed? *What do you think reader?*

The Question Is Who Cares?

We should, at least! The historical plateaus of Africa dictate heritage and monarchical contours evenly but steeply distributed and slashed respectively by intrusion of 'advancement from Europe'. This was not embraced well as it had been copied, thus ditching many children of Africa into the gutters of poverty. The normal African graduate detests those on our farms feeding the economy because to most of these graduates, those are non-educated palm-wine drinkers who know no better. They are considered as not part of the decision making process of the system because they never wore ties around their necks. Their hard earned monies are used to play politics and to feed the growing retiring age of the land. Shame spells on each of us because we neglect these 'peasants' who toil daily to save our economies yet the fingers are pointed at the colonists!

NO! It is time to own our own problems and to find solutions. There may be many school children in the schools but many of these students are not receiving education because their parents are driving them into what they can never become. Some children grow up to become 'degree holders' because of the titles but not because of the relevance of such degrees. I am afraid that we are producing a world full of bastards other than a world worthy to be counted among the glorified creation of the Creator.

At their website, *www.edge.co.uk*, the organisation pioneered a new wave of direction in finding solutions to some of these and other problems facing career path for young people as per their press release on the 15th August 2007;

Edge launched the 'Pushy Parents' campaign with the help of Sky News on Monday morning

The news channel showed exclusive footage of Edge's new television advert, which encourages parents to stop automatically driving their children down an academic route, listen to what their children really want and look at the vocational and practical qualifications available to young people.

According to Edge, the advert was then aired for the first time in its entirety on Channel 4(UK) later that evening.

Since the advert 'broke', the campaign was supported by organisations such as Parenting UK; the Learning and Skills Council, and examination board Edexcel. Leading lights in the education field backed the campaign, including Professor Deian Hopkin, Vice Chancellor and Chief Executive of London South Bank University, and Marianne Talbot, an Oxford don and lecturer in Philosophy.

Mind you, this is not in Africa but in the United Kingdom. Concerned citizens should not be far off in following through with similar programmes aimed at building the right future other than the 'Pushy Parents' generation.

Let us remember that the great problem that faces us today is not the problem of the government alone but it is everybody's problem.

John's Reflection...

"I was born to a wealthy farmer who had six wives. Among the wives of my father, my mum was the favourite. He had all that I could ever think of having when I was growing up. He told me I should become a historian because history will make me wise.

I wanted to become a farmer because farmers help sustain the economies of the world but he will not let me become what I wanted to become. He thought farming would earn me no respect in the big city. I could have studied farming at college.

Now I know how to write. I can tell you the history of our country but I know nothing more, I know nothing more apart from history.

Yes, I applied for jobs in the city. Yes, that school wanted me to come and teach but I know teaching isn't what I want. I'd be employed in the wrong profession. Oh my father!

But now is my chance to prove to my fellow villagers, that I am not useless. At least becoming a king in this village would earn my family's honour back.

At least, it's better than an office in a drinking bar. I could cease all the land and charge the farmers for farming on the king's land! Don't tell the elders"

With that, he panned on waiting for the elders to turn up at his office for the meeting. We will catch up later!

The New Terrorist

Our success is not guaranteed anymore because we have failed ourselves. Discipline is no more needed in our society because we have no guarantee of anything any more. We have substituted freedom

with 'big brother watching you' thinking that is the society that is reaching perfection.

- It is true that we can do all things in the name of modernity but where is the guarantee of our tomorrow?
- Should we always decide for our children?
- Should we always fill our pockets with the little of the poor?
- Should we always be seen as the begging motherland?
- The future is here but who is there to pilot the ship of success?

Our educational set-ups have neglected the life building skills and the vocational skills needed to build the very foundations of our societies on because we need no guarantees any more. There is more sense in comical drudgery on television than the potential elements of the talented of the new society. What a shame!

We refer to Africa as the continent showered and endowed with many natural resources yet the pull of the 'educated pool' is possibly the only political agenda on the manifesto of many political aspirants. What education? Is it better to simply state that it is not the only concern we face but that the disparity created by such invisible denominators controlled by the wrong timing is sending us into dooms day.

Africa needs revival and the renewal of our minds in the renewal basin that will enhance the use of our Creator's Brains!

Our resources are always here with us yet we look somewhere else for them because we neglect our foundations, the natural resources and the workers of the land. If it be teaching, let us teach with all our heart; if it be farming let us farm with all our heart; if it be medicine, let us pursue it with all our hearts without prejudice.

Africa's terrorist is not the Bin Ladens but the mindset of the people.

Our mode should not be limited to occasional invite of educational gurus only in information technology and medicine but the drive should emerge from all angles to make us into a better society.

The facts here may not need to come from any body or a well-organised research company or an organisation before we believe. *This is reality in the coin of the seers! Should just a cross section of the people see the truth for us or together we can all see?*

We can stop copying and HEAR!

What about Europe and Others?

Yes! What about them? Is it not 12:00GMT and are the parliamentarians not eager to pass new bills quite unfavourable and irrelevant to the needs of the general public? The very people who voted them into parliament.

The media giants are so busy looking for their next prey because that is what sells. Mr X killed someone! That celebrity has just been checked into a rehab hospital!

Those are the type of headlines mostly held in high esteem because that is what sells. Apart from occasional helpful stories, it is all about having a go at *WHATEVER?*

Like the paparazzi, the media giants are quick on the scene to a brawl outside a London West-end club between two teenage girls are after Tom and Harry, but never after the poor sickle cell patient who needs people to just care for her. What a world!

At least here in the UK, they have a Prime Minister's question time when the opposition leaders get the chance to jibe at the country's leader, but to what extent are the concerns of the common people treated in their highest priorities. Like others, in many other parts of the world, the question of pension may be bothering them but not so dearly considered because hey, the UK can afford to pay the ageing populace. But to what year? 2020?

Wow! How many years more before the UK's economy becomes crippled in what we think is our comfort state now?

Or, could the current decline in the US stock market or the UK's stock market an indication of a time or season ahead to dislocate such powers to a downward trend?

Could we the people help at all?

Must the once Great Britain become a widowed trench of beggars drenched in not much intoxicated spirits of 'we thought we had it all' or must she be bent on

asking questions in parliament but rather satisfied with parliamentarians who whistle 'Yes and No' under their own selfish desires?

We may be thinking that the world is always going to be around.

That may be true but a world without economies to sustain it is a wilderness of catastrophes

Africa must be doing badly because the people have not received their revelation to be their own problem solvers yet. But would the rest of the world relax in their rest till all doom is here?

We must hear!

The General Shift of Success

The governments of the developed countries have gotten it right to put in place a system of accountability in the area of government. Yet, they too have failed in other areas but not so much as in the African system.

Africa simply begs for more and fails to raise successors because we blame and cheat our way even to the top.

The people of the lands who qualify to rule are done away with in favour of those who are not yet qualified.

Many politicians in parliament and heads of states remain on their seats for years until they die or decide to pass their 'inheritance' to their children. This 'inheritance' is not their hard earned property

or assets to be passed on to their children but their elected seats of governments.

If they were at least delivering good governance in their respective countries then, one would be satisfied. But...?

Well! We cannot point fingers at just the government but we should ask ourselves if the educational system and the entire system of life have been tempered with and that the tempering is not our own doing?

The generations that are being raised are not being educated but they are just being schooled from year to year, especially in Africa because they grow up and do not understand the real meaning of life or success.

We cannot continue to feed the growing pool of children giving birth to children in the name of humanity. We cannot continue with measures to safeguard single parentage if our parents fail to take the responsibility when delivering the 'bomb shells' of new babies, all in the name of population.

**Education is needed but the proper education begins
at conception and what we desire
our future world to be.**

It can be done! It can truly be done! We need to guarantee success and raise a generation of successors who are better off in the right quality and in the right place.

**We should hate to beg as Africans and we should
desire to embrace the future with all
that makes us as Africa!**