

LEADERSHIP

Shakespeare's favourite line was "The valiant never taste of death but once"

As a leader you are required to be strong, to exhibit strength when everything else in your face is plunging. Look around us, there's war, there's famine, economic recessions that seems like they are not ending. We have been as Africa, stricken with grief for so long.

Grief started when colonization begun, when the slave trade was used to detach us of our loved ones to the far coasts of our fertile lands to be replaced by oppression. As Africa, our politics has been known as revolutionary, standing against imperialism. We have our heroes referred to as revolutionary stalwarts instead of statesmen.

At this moment we take a moment to recognize the impediment role played by Winnie Madikizela-Mandela, as she is a revolutionary stalwart, we thank her and honour her for paving a way for statesmen.

Leaders that uphold Ubuntu above anything else.

Leaders that are not vain but accept the role of a united force against resistance.

Leaders that are selfless, that shun corruption. Leaders that uphold the Constitution and steer a fully integrated leaders, for socio-economic and political development. From within the vast prison Africa seem to be at the moment, we need a leadership that is skilled to bring a ray of light at this hour of darkness. It is time for leaders to exhibit a different level of intelligence, clarity and charisma.

Leaders must not jump to run office where there's no political will, why would you be there?

A leader must have fine-tuned skills to say no when there is no political will. The ability to unite leaders from all walks of life is critical in addressing part of the equation of development and thereby influence them to work towards same goal.

African politics has been polarized by denouncing what is termed as the "opposition".

This is not only wrong but dangerous. Challenges in any nation must provide an immense opportunity for all to come on the table and try to do and negotiate for sustainable solutions in order to bring change.

Coalitions allow much more to be achieved exponentially as a result of unity. At the height of this great dark darkness that is being witnessed by Africa, it does not need leaders who are 65 or 75 years old but leaders who are young, vibrant, innovative and the continent's youth can relate to. Today I call upon all those emerging young leaders, myself included, to remain committed to the

cause for the development of Africa. Young people with a determination and leadership skills to bring together academic and economic minds, discussing ways of uplifting the continent through improved knowledge based education systems, entrepreneurship development and human rights, health care and leadership programmes.

Today's leadership must understand that the baton must be passed on and that is a skill of mastery.

Leadership is about integrity and values and making the choice to lead.

My fellow African youths I urge you today to grasp the opportunity to lead. You must continuously check yourself to see that you are still committed to your values which make you want to be a leader. Majority of African population today are the young people who are looking for leaders who they can relate to, who they believe will be honourable and committed, especially to public service.

We need to stand up and be counted. To embrace knowledge of their elders, stand out their shoulders and take up the challenge of leadership.

The road will be long, it will be difficult but we must have courage to make the choices and sacrifices needed to serve.

It can no longer be "I", that is not leadership or Africa is about. Our Africa is about people, the collective.

We need women, our mothers, our sisters to be treated with dignity and respect they deserve regardless of age.

For too long women have simply been seen as "she" and inferior.

In conclusion, the problem among leadership skills, the role of youth and women must be addressed and solved today.

We cannot let what many see as the problems for the future. We have to resolve them today.

Leadership skills remain critical for the development of Africa and I believe this is the time for Africa Rising

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