

**IMPULSIVITY OR CONSCIENTIOUSNESS: A DISCOURSE OF THE TALE OF
THE MACABRE LEADERSHIP AND GOVERNANCE IN NIGERIA**

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Abstract

The role of psychological factors such as individual personality has long been canvassed as an explanatory variable of the leadership problems in Nigeria. For these reason scholars, researchers and public affairs commentators have request for psychiatric test as a requirement for accessing candidates for public office in Nigeria. This paper investigates the relationship between personality traits and leadership orientations in Nigeria. The paper based on theoretical review of the literature seeks to juxtapose key decisions and actions of government at various levels with key personality traits with a view to predict which of the key personality traits (Openness, Agreeableness, Conscientiousness, Impulsivity/Neuroticism and Extraversion are inherent in past and present leaders in Nigeria. The findings reveal that rather than the traits of conscientiousness and extroversion required for purposeful leadership, Nigeria leaders exhibits traits of impulsivity and introversion.

Keywords: Personality, Consciousness, Impulsivity, Leadership, Governance

1. Introduction

The understanding of the enigma called personality has for centuries been the preoccupation of Scholars, researchers and students especially in the Social Sciences, Law, Humanities, Medical profession and the Natural and Applied Sciences. This is because personality as a phenomenon, a multi-dimensional and intricate concept has defied a full, consensus and comprehensive understanding with scientists and researchers/scholars greatly interested in the understanding of personality in order to explain the social and psychological phenomena, problems and prospects of human society and its very existence (Ugiagbe, 2009, Shibutani,

2017, Alzeer, & Benmerabet, 2023).

Personality can be defined as a dynamic organized set of characteristics acquired and learned/possessed by a person that differentiate one person from another and uniquely influences his/her cognition, motivation, emotion, cosmology, dreams, aspirations and behavioural dispositions towards others in various situations (Sanotrok, 2008, Alzeer, & Benmerabet, 2023). In other words, personality refers to the enduring patterns of behaviour acquired or learned over the years through the processes of socialization, interactions, associations, contacts, exposures, parental identification and displacement etc. which reflects his/her relationships with himself/herself (i.e. intra personality relationship) and with others (inter personality relationships) and how his/her cognition, motivation, foresight, dreams and emotion are manifested in his/her day to day associations with other members of the society, (Ugiagbe, 2008

From the foregoing, it is obvious that understanding human personality is a *sine qua non* in the understanding of any human endeavour, activities and ventures including management and leadership. The nexus between leadership success/failures and societal development and progress is very important because of the prime position that leadership occupies in the context of development in human society. Leadership issues have been a topical and subject of debate and controversies for ages. This is because the failures or otherwise of nations and societies all over the world in their attempt to transform their societies have been intrinsically linked with the nature, style and quality of the leaders of such societies/nations. The Third World Nations, particularly the Sub-Saharan nations have remained poor, backward and retrogressive because of the types of leaders that have led and still leading these aforesaid nations. It is therefore imperative to put in the right perspective in the discourse of the topical issue of leadership as it affects Nigeria. Though, a lot have been written and said about leadership in Nigeria, but to the best of our knowledge, no concrete works has been carried out or written on how personality traits impinge on leadership failures in Nigeria.

Initially, Psychologists were guided by trait approach of leadership hence several studies sought to discover the characteristics that defines talented leaders. Early studies produced inconsistent results (E.g Bass 1990, Mann, 1959, Stogill 1948), but there was renewed interest in discovering the traits associated with successful leaders after the emergence of the 5 factor model of personality (Costa & McCrae 1992). For example, Judge Et al (2002) conducted a meta-analysis demonstrating that leadership effectiveness was related to various specific factors of personality. Their findings revealed that Extraversion and Conscientiousness are moderately and positively associated with leadership effectiveness (Judge, Bono, & Gerhardt, 2002). Additionally, Derue, Nahrgang, Wellman, & Humphrey (2011) conducted a meta-analysis that reiterated the importance of both leaders' traits and behaviour for effectiveness. They concluded that traits and behaviour explain about one-third of the variance in leader effectiveness and that Extraversion and Conscientious were consistent predictors of leadership effectiveness (Derue Et al (2011).

For example, suppose there are two persons of the same age but have different interests, activities, feelings and thinking, it means there is something different inside them, and that "something inside" is said to be personality which differentiates the unique traits and

dispositions of the persons in questions (Kasschau, 2000). Against this background/ backdrop, the purpose of this discourse is to investigate the relationship between personality traits and leadership orientations in Nigeria. This study based on theoretical review of the literature seeks to juxtapose key decisions and actions of government at various levels with key personality traits with a view to predict which of the key personality traits (Openness, Agreeableness, Conscientiousness, Impulsivity/Neuroticism and Extraversion) as suggested by Kornor & Nordvik (2004) are inherent in past and present leaders in Nigeria.

2. Conceptual Explication

The Concept of Leadership

The complex phenomenon of leadership is a topic with universal appeal. Over the decades, it has been defined by social scientists and scholars in other disciplines in number of ways. In fact, for centuries, scholars have attempted to develop a consensus on a standard definition of leadership and who is a leader, yet there is no single shared definition that is accepted by all factions (Northouse, 2016). Literature on leadership demonstrates that there is no consensus for a uniform definition of leadership among academics, including the debate whether leadership can be studied and learned. There are over many definitions of leadership because history, world affairs, organizational structures and behavior, socio-cultural and political climates are examples of factors that affect the viewpoints about leadership. The evolution of a definition of leadership has transformed from the initial theme of dominance at the beginning of the 20th century to the varied and expanded approaches that emerged in the 21st Century (Northouse, 2016, Bass, 2019).

Dvir & Samir, (2003), within both leadership research and practice, the focus is often on the leader as someone having unilateral influence on subordinates and followers/subjects and the follower's characteristics are typically posited as dependent variables affected by the leader's traits, behaviour and power base. According to them, leadership is a personal relationship in which one person directs, coordinates and supervises others in the performance of a common task. Ozumba, Okafor and Udom, (2011) put it thus:

Leadership in its simplest form can be depicted as the ability to inspire, direct, motivate and encourages others, positively to targeted end. Also, leadership is about rising up to the occasion by organizing and adequately coordinating the resources of time, relationship, skill, expertise and finances, to achieve a goal for the common good of all. Leadership is the ability to lead because certain qualities are normally expected of one person who wishes to attain a leadership position. Even though availability might at times lead to leadership position, it is not leadership itself.

In this context, leadership is a social influence process in which the leader seeks the voluntary participation of subordinates in an effort to reach or attain organizational and societal goals (Onidayo, 2007). Similarly, a leader can be defined as a person who influences, galvanizes, motivates, spurs, directs, organizes, and manage others to act so as to carry out specified objectives of the organizations or societies, associations or the group, (Mullins, 2014). Leadership includes influencing task objectives and strategies influencing commitment and

compliance in task behaviour to achieve societal or organizational objectives, influencing groups, group maintenance and identification and influencing the culture of an organization or the normative order and value systems of a nation (Yuki, 1989).

Marsiglia (2004) itemized the four basic dimensions of leadership by Bowers and Seashore in their efforts to develop a comprehensive definition of leadership. The four basic dimensions of leadership are:

- i. Support; that is, leadership behaviour that enhance someone else's feelings of personal worth and importance.
- ii. Interactions facilitations i.e. behaviour that encourages members of the group to develop close, proximal, enduring and mutually satisfying relationships;
- iii. Goal emphasis which means the behaviour that stimulates galvanized and spurs an enthusiasm for meeting the groups or societal goal(s) for achieving excellent performance and
- iv. Work facilitation which refers to behaviour that helps achieve goal attainment through activities such as scheduling, planning, strategizing and providing resources such as tools, materials and technical knowledge etc.

Leadership is frequently defined in the context of transactional and transformational dimension. The paradigm of transactional-transformational leadership has universal applicability across all continents and cultures of the world. In terms of universality, Bass(1990) posited that transformational leadership tends to be more effective and satisfying than transactional i.e. contingent rewarding, contingent rewarding is more effective and satisfying than managing by exception and managing by exception is more effective and satisfying than laissez-faire leadership.

Similarly, Fiedler and Garcia (1987) posited that a leader is a person who is elected or appointed or who has emerged from the group to direct and coordinate the group members' efforts towards some given goal(s). The leader generally plans, organizes, directs and supervises the activities of group members and develops sufficient cohesiveness and motivation among group members to keep them together as a functional compact unit. A leader marshals and challenges people to transform a vision into a reality. According to Kinston & Patterson (2006) in Onolememen (2005) a leader is one or more people who selects, equip, trains and influences one or more followers who have diverse gifts, abilities and skills and focuses the attention and mindsets of followers to the organizations/society, missions and objectives causing the followers to willingly and enthusiastically expand their spiritual, emotional and political energy in a concerted coordinated efforts to achieve the organizational mission and objectives. For the purpose of this study, Leadership is defined as a process of influencing and motivating people towards achieving a clear goal, while leaders are expected to lead and influence their subordinates. These two concepts will be used interchangeably in this discourse.

Leadership is influenced by several factors that impact leadership behaviour in different situations and how they affect the perception of leaders as effective or ineffective. Some of these factors are high task and low relationship; high task and high relationship; high relationship and low task and low task and low relationship and low task (Hersay & Blanchard

1997). In the same vain, Fieldler & Garcia (1987) noted that the situation gives the leader locust of control and influence over the followers. According to these authors, the following conditions are essential to a leader's success, namely the relationship between the leader and followers, the structure of the task and the position-power.

3. Impulsivity or Conscientiousness: Debacle of the Leadership and Governance in Nigeria

Effective leadership and governance have been recognized as imperative for the attainment of the political, economic and social objectives of any political community or a nation. The significance of leadership to governance is evident in the fact that good leadership sets the tone and standard of governance (Vanlalhlimpuii, 2018). Hence, the success or failure of any society depends largely on the personality traits and mannerism of her leadership. Just as it has been taunted of Africa, there is a crisis of leadership in Nigeria. Current debates rest on the conclusion that Nigerian leadership suffers from extreme moral depravity and attitudinal debauchery (Agbor 2011, Ezirim 2010). Sule, & Ishaq, (2025: 231) succinctly declared that as a result of bad leadership, Nigeria of today cannot compete favorable with its counterparts in the march to development especially in the areas of quality of life, infrastructural facilities, basic need of life and technological development.

The trouble with Nigeria is simply and squarely a failure of leadership because the Nigerian problem is the unwillingness or inability of its leaders to rise to the responsibility and challenge of personal example which are the hallmarks of true leadership (Achebe, 1983, Sule & Ishaq, 2025). A lot have been written on the variables and attitudinal traits, behavior and power bases of leadership but the focus of this discourse is narrowed down to **impulsivity** and **conscientiousness** as they affects and determine Nigerian leadership scorecard.

Impulsivity-a personality trait is a comprehensive and complex subject due to its multidisciplinary structure and as a result does not have an agreed or collective definition. However, impulsivity can be defined as the inability to avoid behaviours and acts according to situations (Milich & Kramer, 1982), or incitation to act without any plan or thinking with the tendency of impulse (Schalling, 1978). Impulsivity is a tendency to act on whims, displaying behavior characterized by little or no forethought reflection or consideration of the consequences (Vandenbos, 2007).

Impulsivity describes a set of behaviours characterized by relative dominance of spontaneity over consideration. Examples of the manifestation of impulsivity include a preference toward obtaining immediate gratification over a delayed (yet ultimately more profitable) outcome making snap decisions, inordinate and parochial choices before evaluating available information, or having difficulty waiting for one's turn, withholding a reaction, or aborting an initiated motor response (Daruna & Barnes, 1993; Moeller et al, 2001). Similarly, Hollander & Evers (2001) defined impulsivity as a dimension of personality and a failure to resist an impulse, drive and temptation that is harmful to one and others. It is a measurable feature of behavior, manifesting as impatience (including the inability to wait for rewards), carelessness, risk-taking, sensation-seeking, an underestimated sense of harm and introversion. Impulsivity is a core symptom of a broad spectrum of psychiatric disorders including disorders of impulse

control (pathological gambling, intermittent explosive disorder, pyromania, kleptomania and trichosllomania), impulsive aggressive personality disorders (borderline, antisocial, histrionic, and narcissistic), neurological disorders associated with disinhibition of behavior and substance abuse.

Impulsive behavior manifests in normal individuals and characterized by poorly conceived and prematurely expressed actions and choices which often lead to undesirable results and attitudes which include impaired action restraint and/or cancellation impulsive action) and decision-making in the absence of adequate deliberation (impulsive choice) which is characterized by a tendency to choose small (sometimes inconsequential) but immediate gratification over larger but delayed ones (Daruna & Barnes, 1993; Evenden, 1999). Impulsive actions are typically poorly conceived, prematurely expressed, unduly risk or inappropriate to the situations that often result in undesirable consequences which imperil long term goals and strategies for success (Rachlin, 2000). Impulsivity can be classified as a multifactorial construct and a functional variety of impulsivity has also been suggested, which involves action without much forethought in appropriate situations that can and does result in desirable consequences (Madden & Johnson 2010). When such actions have positive outcomes, they tend not to be seen as signs of impulsivity, but as indicators of boldness, quickness, spontaneity, courageousness or unconventionality (Dukman, 1990) thus, the construct of impulsivity includes at least two independent components-acting without enough or detailed deliberation which may not be appropriate and choosing short term gain over long-term ones.

Conscientiousness on the other hand, is the personality trait of being careful or diligent. Conscientiousness implies a desire to do a task well, and to take obligations to others seriously. Conscientiousness is a spectrum of constructs that describe individual differences in the propensity to be self-controlled, responsible to others, hardworking, orderly and rule abiding (Roberts Jackson Fayyad, Edmonk & Meints, 2009 cited in Roberts et al, 2012). Conscientiousness is a very specific human trait, in that it is based on the prominence of long-term goals in directing purposeful behavior which is typically absent in other species (Roberts et al, 2013). Conscientiousness concerns the way in which one controls, regulates and directs the impulses which are inherently bad; occasionally time constraints require a snap decision and acting on our first impulse can be an effective response. The positive aspect or benefit to trait owner are obvious because conscientious individuals avoid trouble, are cool headed, calculative, pragmatic and achieve high levels of success through purposeful planning and persistence. Conscientious people are equally positively regarded by others as intelligent and reliable but they can be impulsive perfectionists, red-tapist and workaholics (Molaei, 2013).

Conscientious people tend to be efficient and organized as opposed to easy-going and disorderly personalities. They exhibit a tendency to show self-discipline, act dutifully and aim for set goals and aspirations hence they display planned and strategized approach rather than spontaneous and compulsive approach/behavior and they are generally dependable, trustworthy and reliable. Conscientiousness manifest in characteristic behaviours which includes being neat, systematic, organized and confident. They also manifest such traits as carefulness, thoroughness, deliberations, caution and pro-activeness. Above all, conscientious persons are generally hardworking and do not accept defeat or failure as an option (Thompson, 2008; Cohn, Jordan & Higgins, 2002; Carter et al, 2015).

Conscientious persons are also likely to be conformists and perfectionists hence people who score low on conscientiousness tend to be laid back, less goal-oriented, and less driven by success and they are also more likely to engage in anti-social and criminal behaviours (Ozer & Benet-Martinez, 2006). People who score high on the trait of conscientiousness tend to be more organized and less cluttered in their homes and offices, and are more likely to have successful academic performance. Conscientious persons also manifest satisfaction and happier in life than those who score low on this trait. Research also shows that the strongest predictor of long life was conscientiousness. This is because nine different behaviours that are among the leading causes of mortality namely: alcohol use, binge eating (including obesity), drug use, lack of exercise, risky sexual escapades, risky driving, tobacco use, suicide and violence are all predicted or trait associated with low conscientiousness (Skirbekk & Morten, 2013).

Moreover, conscientious people are associated with high quality relationship and are less likely to get divorced. Politically, conscientious people significantly correlates positively with right-wing authoritarianism but uncorrelated with general prejudice. Conscientious people are also creative, industrious, focused and trouble shooters, and are usually open minded and self-disciplined (Blickle & Schlegel, 2006). Moreover, extremely conscientious individuals might be regarded as stuffy and boring but people who are lacking in conscientiousness may be criticized for their inability, lack of ambition and failure to stay within the lines. But they will experience many short-lived pleasures and they will never be called and labelled stuffy (Molaei, 2002). On the final note here, the eight facets identified by researchers on conscientious persons are industriousness, perfectionism, tidiness, procrastination, refrainment, control, caution, task planning and perseverance (Rikoon et al, 2016).

Juxtaposing the above and the facts as revealed by research (see Kornor & Nordvik (2004) that conscientiousness and extroversion are important traits possessed by great leaders and required for good governance with the failure of leadership in Nigeria which has resulted in consistent crisis of insecurity and poverty of the extreme order among the citizens of Nigeria, debilitating miasma of corruption and rising unemployment indices amongst others (Agbor, 2012).one need not ask if these traits of conscientiousness and extraversion have been present/or present in past and present leaders of Nigeria.

Ideally, good governance is supposed to be a qualitative form of the concept which consists of the traditions and institutions by which authority is exercised (Olu-Owolabi, Oladoyin, Odukoya, & Osimen, 2024). This includes the process by which governments are selected, monitored and replaced, the capacity of government to effectively formulate and implement policies; and the respect of citizens and the State Institutions that govern economic, political and social interactions among them (Owoye & Bissesar, 1992, Vanlalhlimpuii, 2018).

Nigerian leaders in our opinion (and who say we are not entitle to our opinion), lack the emotional, mental and moral qualities and traits to govern and lead Nigeria to its expected Eldorado by harnessing the rich human and natural resources that abounds in Nigeria.

Whereas in other climes, especially in developed nations, leaders prepare for leadership and undergo tutelage for a period before venturing into the political arena and seek power from the people via elections or by appointment. But in Nigeria, leaders are not prepared for leadership (a factor of impulsivity) and there is this “my people want me to lead syndrome” hence what we have in Nigeria are reluctant and impulsive leaders (Adoyi & Ekene, 2026).

The results of such confusion, lack of preparedness intellectually, psychologically and morally is abysmal failure, retrogression, ineptitude, squalour and pain as the lot of the people. The moment power is trusted or fostered on them, rather than see the wielding of power as opportunity to serve the people and leave a legacy of good name behind, the leaders rather manifest impulsive tendencies as inordinate ambitions, greed, unwholesome acquisitive spirit, arrogance, aloofness and vindictiveness. Against this background, our opinion in this paper is that Nigerian leaders are not driven by conscientiousness but impulsivity, arrogance and bereft of ideas and moral wherewithal to lead. For instance, Ugiagbe & Omigie (2014) noted that the average Nigerians political office holders and leaders and power wielders behave like demi-gods and sort of czars (god-fatherism) with fiefdom and their actions and dispositions that seek to engender consent, popularity and progress. Ochonu (2004) in Ugiagbe & Omigie (2014) noted that political office holders have been gently but steadily planting their persona and their image on the landscape by inscribing their names on any edifices with the remotest connection to their tenure and such an act is packed with power implication.

Nigerian leaders especially in the political arena and State governance are deficit of morality and conscience and treat the exalted public offices with disdain and levity. They hire thugs and use State security apparatus to intimidate opponents and dissenting voices/ members of the public. The impulsivity of leadership traits in Nigeria reflects in the theatre of power unfolding in Nigeria mirror a dangerous escalation of a familiar trend – an abuse of power that is so entrenched that it renders alternative forms of aberration (Ugiagbe or Omigie, 2014). The impulsivity in the exercise of power in Nigeria by leaders and political office holders include any method-direct or indirect, brutal and crude and the leaders are narcissistic, megalomaniac, impulsive, arrogant, parochial and myopic. These megalomaniac and narcissistic personality traits inclinations manifest power and authority as if there is no tomorrow. For example; they move about in long convoy of hybrid, expensive and bullet proof SUV vehicles bought with tax payers' money, the leaders drive recklessly on the roads as if there are no other road users which have resulted in deaths of many innocent Nigerians, political leaders always move around with retinue of fierce looking and heavily armed security personnel who brutalize anybody that fails to stay clear of their path. The Civil Societies and opposition members and those who criticize them are labeled as disgruntled elements, subversives, ingrates and enemies of the State, and most times harassed with EFCC and other security and State paraphilia. Their impulsivity knows no bounds as they personalize power, offices, opulence and authority in their dispositions, mien and actions on issues concerning the State and the Nigerian people (Ugiagbe & Omigie, 2014).

A conscientious leader manifests empathy, love, positive correlation, foresight transformational policies and dreams for the nation. They are emotionally stable, agreeable, open to new ideas, and always embark on people oriented development ventures, humble, reliable and dependable. They put the people first and deify the normative order and ideals of the State. In the face of the present socio-economic reality, it is indisputable that Nigerian political leaders lack these virtues and laudable traits because they are not honest, humble and agreeable. They always surround themselves with hordes of praise singers, sycophants, bootlickers, hanger-on and apologists who will always tell them what they want to hear such as “the best leaders and talk and do administrators” even when there are no iota of empirical

evidence of leadership achievements to support these claims (Sule & Ishaq, 2025).

Despite the plethora of social, economic and political policies in Nigeria at both federal, State and Local Government levels, the facts on ground in the context of development and progress are a far cry from what it should be and a very unfortunate commentary. Nigerians, over the years have not witnessed significant improvement in well-being despite the series of poverty reduction programmes and economic reforms put in place till date. Nwafor-Orizu, Chinyere, & Tochukwu, (2018) identified seven key challenges responsible for this, they are: Intolerance and Conflict; Corruption; Strong Individual Factor; Citizenry Acceptance and Approval of Moral Laxity and Corruption; Inadequacy of Resources; Wide Policy Scope; Continuity Deficiency Problem. As a result of impulsivity of Nigerian leaders who are bereft of conscience and ideas, these problems remains unresolved. The socio-economic conditions of the masses keep plummeting and the country cannot feed her populace, cannot provide education for the Nigerian children, Nigeria is a country that cannot generate and distribute electricity, with over 70% of her population experiencing Energy poverty (Obileke, 2026).

Today, there are myriads and complex endemic and pandemic social, political and economic problems because the empirical facts shows that unemployment in Nigeria has risen astronomically and 63% of the population, about 139,000,000 people living in poverty (NBS, 2022, Aina, 2026). Omorogbe (2019) succinctly declared that the enormity of the debacle in the form of miseries, deprivations, hopelessness, squalour, brutish deaths, trauma, suicides and underdevelopment in Nigeria is better appreciated if we consider how the country (Nigeria) has been depicted at various platforms and Nigerians treated with disdain and as vassals outside Nigeria.

While various countries in the World are making progress and creating landmarks, Nigerian leaders are busy amassing wealth and depleting the common wealth of Nigerians- hence media houses and News Papers are inundated daily with news of banditry, kidnapping, insurgency, armed robbery, rape, political assassination, and herdsman saga etc. which are devastating the Nigerian society unabated (Omorogbe, 2019).

The antidote to the malaise is conscientious, visionary and committed leadership. Nigeria should do away with the present crop of greedy, megalomania, pimply, parochial, myopic, self-centered and bereft of ideas leaders who are drifting the ship of Nigeria ground. A leader with the right focus, commitment, dedication, poise, intellectual prowess, foresight and conscientiousness who will diagnose and resolved the challenges of Nigeria is what Nigeria and Nigerians need at this critical time. The feasible panacea to the myriad of problems bedeviling Nigeria as earlier said is capable, effective and transformational leaders who are conscientious, dependable and reliable and will put the nation and the people first (Sule & Ishaq, 2025).

The impulsivity of our leaders is the bane of Nigeria, little wonder Nigeria is moving in vicious circle of retrogression, and polemic, and stagnation, and poverty, and indebtedness, and insecurity, and corruption, and infrastructural decay, and political grandstanding, and unexplained/unresolved assassinations, and disdain for Nigerians in foreign nations, and rise in crime, criminality, cultism and insurgency, the list is endless.

4. Conclusion and Recommendations

It is indisputable that Nigeria and Nigerians are going through trying and turbulent times because of the failure of past and present leaders, the complacency and seemly timidity of Nigerians. But things cannot continue like this, hence it is time Nigerians should hold the leaders responsible for the problems and hardships Nigerians are experiencing. The leaders themselves should have a rethink and consider the miseries fellow Nigerians are going through otherwise it may get to a stage where the uprising in the North Africa and Middle East will be replicated here and that may result in unnecessary destruction and perhaps bloodshed.

We have espoused the nexus between leadership and development in the human society and nature, dimension impact of the leadership failure in Nigeria. Based on the above discourse, we make the following recommendations as feasible panacea to this avoidable problem of Nigeria:

Every prospective political leaders whether by appointment or election should be made to produce a text on his/her conception of the society, nation and humanity. This will give insight into inner recesses of the personality dispositions of the prospective leader. It is a requirement in the United States of America to write a book before aspiring for exalted offices. Every leader that is found wanting especially for corruption should be blacklisted and ban from holding public office. The State officials who aided in the corruption should also go down with the disgraced leader. In the Armed Forces in Nigeria for example, the law is see no coup, hear no coup and participate in no coup hence an officer who heard about a coup and failed to report is as guilty as the coup plotters themselves. So the Permanent Secretaries, Accountants and Personal Assistants who know about the corruption but fail to report should be severely punished. The notion of obeying orders or anonymity should stop if we are to fight corruption. Prospective political leaders should be made to undergo medical test to ascertain their mental, emotional and conscientious capability before appointment or election. And leader who indulges in atrocities like stashing money away in underground bunkers, water tanks etc. should be made to go for test for mental balance or fitness.

There should be a generational context in punishing any leader found wanting. In other words, the generation of such leaders should be banned from holding public offices after all the sins and misdeeds of their parent were monumental and affect generations thereafter.

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