



THERE IS HOPE IN OUR FUTURE

INDEPENDENCE DAY LIVE BROADCAST

ON AIT

BY PASTOR 'TUNDE BAKARE

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Fellow countrymen and women, today, the 1st of October, 2009 is the 49th anniversary of our independence as a nation from the British colonial rule. To many of us nothing worthy of celebration is happening around us because it appears that since Independence, we have not been moving as a nation 'from glory to glory' but rather from external colonization to an internal one.

This view may be largely true but it is not totally true. For those who know their God and truly understand His intervention over the years, there is a lot to thank God for on behalf of our nation and our people. But for the mercies of the Lord we would have been consumed and our situation that appears hopeless could have been worse. So this morning, at this solemn assembly let us begin by giving thanks to Jehovah God for His faithfulness, His goodness, and His mercies over us as a people.

SONG: "WE GIVE THANKS TO JEHOVAH GOD (3CE)
FOR HIS FAITHFULNESS
OH! WE GIVE THANKS!"

[PRAYER AND PRAISE INTERLUDE]

For a very orderly presentation and in order to maximize our time, today's broadcast is divided into four major parts namely:

- Part (1) - Sober reflections
- Part (2) - The Trumpet of Jubilee
- Part (4) - Prayers for the Nation

PART 1: SOBER REFLECTIONS

49 years after independence, it would appear to every right thinking Nigerian that not so much has changed in our polity as well as the quality of life of majority of our people. A few days ago I decided to read again some of the several speeches delivered by 'the best President Nigeria never had'. Let's listen attentively to some of these selections:



8th December, 1982 at the U.P.N. Congress (27 years ago)

"Our current leadership is totally bereft of new ideas, and utterly incapable of evolving or devising solutions to our problems. It is also incapable of appreciating effective solutions or of how to apply them, even when these are presented to it unsolicited and on the platter.

"Our Government is a source of despair at home and a disgraceful laughing-stock on the international scene.

"We are regarded as a chicken-hearted giant with jelly-like physique. Africa has waited in vain for years for this giant to be conscious of its destiny and give the desired leadership: the world has also waited for it to realize its unique potential strength and make its influence felt in wholesome directions: but the world has, so far, had to wait in vain.

"The good people of this country, the entire lot of them, are entitled to live in reasonable comfort. Nature herself commands that this should be so. Our natural and mineral resources are super-abundant. Our human resources are just adequate for our purposes – not more, not less. The latter are awaiting to be fully developed and fully utilized, in order that we may explore and exploit the former to the optimum level. But so far they have been largely neglected.

"And the agglomeration of obtuse, supine and unawakened minds that are responsible for this criminal neglect want to continue – indeed perpetuate themselves in office.

"From all accounts, it can be said, without fear of valid contradiction, that Nigeria is about the most unsafe country in the world to live in, robbery by violence is endemic and is committed with impunity, even in broad day-light. Our roads, instead of being safe means of egress and ingress, are quicker avenues to death than any known deadly disease. Corruption



is extolled and largely emulated: mediocrity is enthroned: industry and hard work is discouraged.

“The society is getting more and more insecure. More people are going into crime and they are getting more ruthless, desperate and sophisticated. With the way the society is, it is a predictable result of a malignant environment dominated by man’s insensitivity to man.

“The most serious of these negative consequences is the complete breakdown of law and order. Lawlessness is pervading now in Nigeria and the law enforcers are being overworked, stretched and overtly pressurised...we must all act concertedly now to forestall the likely natural occurrence of complete chaos because then, neither the oppressed nor the oppressor will have either succour or respite. When the morning of doom dawns, even the soldiers and the police will run for their lives. World histories have confirmed this.”

That was VINTAGE AWO 27 years ago when Nigeria was only 22 years post-independence.

Indeed not so much has changed. Just check our different national dailies and weekly magazines, not to mention the recent admission of our President and that of our new Inspector General of Police in this regard.

I once read a true story with a comical twist to it that reveals the other side of the dilemma faced by our overworked, ill-equipped and perhaps underpaid law enforcement officers. The story goes thus:

Police cadets were given a test paper to determine their skills and activities which would help senior police officers place them. The paper went like this:



"You are walking down a street and you hear the honking of a horn. You turn around and see a lorry laden with petrol charging down a hill out of control. At the crossroads it collides with a nearby restaurant and an almighty explosion takes place while the owner of the restaurant is hurtled through the glass window over a wall whilst the driver of the petrol tanker is trapped in his seat."

"You are about to radio for help when you hear a cry. You rush across the road picking your way through the broken glass and flaming tarmac – there are those from the restaurant drowning in a canal – they cannot swim."

"You are just about to radio for help when you hear another cry. It is that of a pregnant woman about to give birth to a child. The explosion has brought on the untimely birth but she is trapped, the door is stuck and she is in immediate need of medical attention."

"You are just about to radio for help when you hear a noise, you look behind you and there is a group of young men – area boys, totally drunk, looting and laughing at the whole affair and staggering across the road."

"Now the question! In this situation what would you do? One police cadet wrote: "Remove your uniform and mingle with the crowd."

That is the pathetic parable of a pathetic nation where some law enforcement agents supply ammunition to armed robbers to augment their pay; the state of a nation filled with the crime of blood.

What are the possible causes of this unfortunate development?

1. Government by crony and for the cronies, the hangers-on and recipients of favors for old times' sake. It was George Washington who said, "Associate with men of good



quality if you esteem your own reputation, for it is better to be alone than in bad company." Across our political landscape are a dysfunctional and dangerous conglomerate of business-as-usual cronies who openly claim to be the friends of men in power, who in turn use their position to protect these influence-peddling felons. Today in Nigeria the rule of law has become the ruse of law ('ruse': an action intended to mislead, deceive or trick). That is Cause #1. [See back page of *This Day of Sunday*, September 27, 2009. SIMON LIVE!]

2. Violation of the 8TH commandment. Exodus 20:15 – "Thou shall not steal".

"Those who serve at the altar in Nigeria's Public Service do not only partake of the offerings at the altar", they carry the altar away even to foreign lands and every attempt to make such people face the law is sabotaged by their cronies in power.

Such people forget what the Good Book states in Proverbs 29:24 - "Whoever is a partner with a thief hates his own life; He swears to tell the truth but reveals nothing." When you add the Preacher's verdict in Ecclesiastes 8:11 to all these, then you realize why we are in this State of Lawlessness: "Because the sentence against an evil work is not executed speedily, therefore the heart of the sons of men is fully set in them to do evil."

To compound our matter, I recently listened to a seven year-old girl as she read her vacation reflections on the state of our nation during a Youth Programme. If those at the helm of our affairs turned deaf ears to the voice of reason in years past, I seriously hope the reflections of our collective posterity in their tender years will serve as a wake-up call to those in authority today. Please welcome to the podium our very own charming 7 year-old



AYOMIDE OLUWADAYO ADEYINKA as she reads on live television her vacation reflections on the state of our nation.

THE 2nd PART: THE TRUMPET OF JUBILEE

It is universally acknowledged that the future belongs to those who prepare for it today and that those who fail to plan only set themselves up for nothing but failure. To most people, including ardent believers unfortunately, it is assumed that the Jubilee celebration of a nation commences on her 50th anniversary of independence or when she became a nation. But to our God, it is not so. According to the Word of God Jubilee commences from the 49th year because He is a God of PLAN, PURPOSE AND OBJECTIVITY. See: LEVITICUS 25: 1-3; 8-10.

According to God's word, once the nation of Israel turned 49, it was time to cause the trumpet of Jubilee to sound on the 10th day of the seventh month in the Ecclesiastical Calendar which in our Calendar is the 10th day of October. By the orchestration of the Almighty God, I will be in Abuja F.C.T. on that day.

The purpose of this ancient ritual is not only to consecrate the 50th year but to also proclaim liberty throughout the land to all its inhabitants.

Some may ask: how does this apply to Nigeria as a nation? Was Leviticus 25 not written to Israel? I am glad you asked. I will let Scripture interpret Scripture so that you can gain the understanding that Israel is God's prototype, a model and a template for all other nations of the earth.

Let us unravel this mystery:

- i) EXODUS 4: 21-23
- ii) EXODUS 5:1
- iii) 2 CHR 7:14
- iv) ACTS 15:6-18
- v) ACTS 17:24-28



Besides this point, Jesus Christ died not just for the sin of the Jews but that of the whole world. And for us New Testament Believers, True Jubilee is not in how old a nation is but in the understanding that Jesus came to proclaim liberty to all the captives, people, nations and institutions in the grip of Satan. See LUKE 4:16-27.

Just as Zarephat in the region of Sidon and Naaman the Syrian were not part of Israel, in like manner people, cities, and nations who are not part of Israel but who believe the message of the gospel can benefit from the Proclamation of the Acceptable Year of the Lord. It is those people, cities and nations that enjoy the new dawn namely the days of heaven upon the earth. (Deuteronomy 11: 21)

[PRAYER INTERLUDE]

Let's stand in the gap and proclaim Liberty over the nation of Nigeria and her inhabitants:

Liberty in our Lives
Liberty in our Families
Liberty in our Homes and Marriages
Liberty in our Businesses
Liberty in our Polity
Liberty in our Judicial Systems
Liberty in our Legislature
Liberty in our Press and the Media
Liberty in our Banking & Economic sector
Liberty in our Armed Forces
Liberty in our Health sector
Liberty in our Agricultural sector
And Liberty in all the sectors of our national Life.
- See Psalm 144:11-15



PART 3: THE WAY FORWARD

“UNLOCKING THE MIND OF OUR NATION”

Fellow countrymen and women, you do not need a certified psychiatrist to confirm to you that over the years, the psyche of our nation has become desensitized through tragic occurrences. According to Scriptures an oppressed society is an insane society. ECC 7:7 declares, “oppression makes a wise man mad.” Except and until we unlock the mind of our nation completely, our people will neither rise up above the shackles of oppression nor respond to the Trumpet of Jubilee accurately.

Why? Because cruel bondage and anguish of spirit usually hinders a people who have been subject to inhuman treatment for a very long time from responding to the message of hope and deliverance. Their minds must be first unlocked.

All truth is parallel: President Franklin D. Roosevelt - “A nation like a person, has a mind – a mind that must be kept informed and alert, that must know itself, that understands the hopes and needs of its neighbors – all the other nations that live within the narrowing circle of the world.”

See:

- i) EXODUS 4:21
- ii) EXODUS 5:1-8; 9-21; 22&23
- iii) EXODUS 6: 1-8; 9; 10-12; and 13

This is our present situation and dilemma as a people. Our people are battle weary. Those who resisted oppression with their lives and all their possessions are either gone or have become old and weary. Many others are compromised. Is there hope for a people oppressed, suppressed, and



subjugated? Yes, there is hope. The God of all creation began with Israel as a model.

Consider their plight when they came out of Egypt:

1. They had no Government
2. No Schools or Educational Institutions
3. No Land of their own
4. No Infrastructure of any kind
5. No Constitution
6. No Army
7. No Hospitals
8. No Religious System
9. No Economy or Banks
10. No Developed Social System
11. No Work Ethics except welfare mentality
12. No Industries

Upon their exit from slavery, they were without a doubt the most undeveloped large nation of people that ever existed. Compared to any nation I can think of today, Israel was in much worse shape. It is to these people that God said, "You are not a people but I will make you a people." He promised these people in this condition that they will become a great nation and other nations will admire their greatness and be blessed by them. Can you imagine the unbelief, the bewilderment and even the cynicism they might have felt as they received the news? Just like Israel of old, can Nigeria ever come out of internal colonization; can she be delivered from the grip of greed, corruption, violence, wastage and underdevelopment?

With all emphasis due me this morning as a firm believer in the God of all creation, I declare to you as we begin this Year of Proclamation of Jubilee that Nigeria will flourish again. The labour of our heroes past will not be in vain. God Almighty will bring an end to oppression in our land. What He did for Israel, He will do for us. THERE IS HOPE IN OUR FUTURE.



As we bring today's broadcast to a close, let us examine the content and the context of our hope, if indeed there is hope in our future.

As I waited upon God for this day, one picture kept coming to my mind - that of Apostle Paul in the midst of a terrible tempest that could have been avoided but for the ignorance of those who worship at the altar of logic and humanism.

ACTS 26: 9 – 20

Today this is the prophetic portrait of our nation following the years of the locust from 1999 till date. "All hope that we would be saved is more or less given up." It was in the midst of this hopelessness that God's Messenger showed up and gave the turnaround word of hope to Paul and it happened as he was told.

Fellow countrymen and women, we have set sail so many times in our recent history, putting the cart before the horse and moving backwards instead of forward. Now that we are almost running aground, maybe we should revisit with the urgency it deserves the issues that will safeguard our survival and oneness as a nation.

These issues can no longer be kept at the back of the burner if we are truly concerned about the hope of our future and the future of that hope: These issues I will bundle together as GOD'S TEMPLATE FOR NATIONAL TRANSFORMATION, DEVELOPMENT AND GREATNESS are the keys to our expected turnaround.

Looking through the Bible you will see God's wisdom for every domain of human society:

- i) The Government
- ii) The Economy
- iii) Military and Defence
- iv) Health and Hygiene
- v) Education



vi) Family, etc.

Let's take a few examples.

i) **The domain of government:** Deut 1:6 – 18, especially verses 13, 14 and 15.

Vs 13: This implies that the preferred form of government was representative. Every tribe or ethnic group was to have someone representing their tribe through some sort of elective process. The tribe was able to choose for themselves whom they would send. They were not all lumped into a ONE-PARTY SYSTEM.

Vs 14: "What you propose to do is good." Translate that into modern political language – Moses had a consensus.

Put the two together, what you have as God's template for government is Representative Consensus. NO ONE CAN GOVERN A PEOPLE WHO WILL NOT BE GOVERNED. Whatever the form of government, these two elements of elected representatives and a consensus process must be present for it to be a godly government. Also there is ample provision in the Word of God for the voice of dissent and opposition. See I SAMUEL 10: 24; 27, & 11: 12 – 15.

ii) **THE JUDICIAL SYSTEM:** Deut 1:16 & 17

In the laws and the court system the essentials are so clear:

- a) The law must be impartial and unprejudiced in spite of race, color or creed.
- b) It is to have a process of appeal.
- c) It is to be comprehensive
- d) It is to deal with matters of justice no matter how big or small

iii) **CONSTITUTIONALISM**



It is clear from the Word of God that the constitution of a nation destined for and working towards greatness can never be imposed.

1 SAMUEL 8:10-22.

Within the provision of this Constitution are sections that spell out the qualities of those to be in leadership and the rights of people to reject such leaders whenever they do not act in the interest of the people.

Deuteronomy 17:14 – 20

1 Kings 12: 1-16

If we go by the events in our nation and the necessity of a People's Constitution, it is evident that we prefer lawlessness to Law and Order: See Front page of *This Day* Monday, September 21, 2009.

An imposed constitution cannot serve the same purpose as a People's Constitution and it is a matter of time, the People's will shall prevail.

iv) **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND RESOURCE CONTROL**

If there is an issue that generates a bloody conflict continually in our land and at the same time reveals our incapability to evolve or devise solutions to our economic crises, this domain of economic development and resource control is.

What is God's template for both economic development and resource control? Let's refer to God's Word:

- a) Eccl. 5: 8 & 9: The profit of the land is for all
- b) Genesis 41: 46 – 57: Resource control and derivative principle
- c) Genesis 25: 21 – 23 & 33: 8 – 17



By God's design, every nation is to develop at her own pace. The United Nations Millennium Development Goals and all the surrounding politics will only benefit those who designed it. Whereas no nation can be an island in this age of globalization, we must learn to develop at our own pace, one sector or domain at a time and do so thoroughly except where the available resources in the hands of selfless leaders can be utilised to accomplish simultaneous development of all domains. What Nigeria has spent so far and what we still need to spend to attain the MDGs could have been put into some productive use in developing vital domains of our society and by now we would have something to show for credible governance. Time has come for us to stop running the race of our national development looking at the clocks of other nations except those truly interested in our not becoming a failed state.

It will do this nation a lot of good if our leaders can remove their political and chieftaincy caps and wear thinking caps for a change in the overall interest of our survival and development as a nation. Happy Independence Anniversary. God Bless Nigeria.

PRAYER FOCUS FOR THE NATION

1. ISAIAH 49: 24 – 26
2. PROVERBS 22: 22 & 23
3. PSALM 12: 5
4. JOB 12: 6 – 10; 13 - 25