



## **THE PRESIDENCY**

### **OFFICE OF THE SPECIAL ADVISER TO THE PRESIDENT ON ETHICS & VALUES**

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## **NATIONAL CONFERENCE**

**ON TRANSPARENCY, ACCOUNTABILITY AND ETHICAL VALUES  
IN TERTIARY INSTITUTIONS FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT**

**THE PAPER:**

**ENTHRONING ETHICAL VALUES IN THE MANAGEMENT OF TERTIARY  
INSTITUTIONS**

**BY**

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#### **PROTOCOLS**

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Great Congratulations! Congratulations!! Congratulations!!! to the collaborators and all the stakeholders that are gathered here today to revisit the missing or neglected issue of ethics that is of very critical importance to our national developmental transformation.

This National Conference that got born out of collaboration of the ICPC, with Mr President's Advisory Office on Ethics and Values and funded by TETFUND, is a clear evidence of emerging understanding by all of us what His Excellency, Mr President meant, by recreating the name of this office and the content of the Schedule of Duties for national social transformation for effective national development via Ethics and Values.

Thus –

## **THE SCHEDULE OF DUTIES OF THE SPECIAL ADVISER TO THE PRESIDENT ON ETHICS AND VALUES**

1. *Responsible to Mr. President on Matters for the upholding of Ethics and Values in the polity;*
2. *Collaborate with relevant Government institutions, such as EFCC, NOA, ICPC, SSS, CCB, etc, to raise the moral, ethics and values system of the country;*
3. *Continually identify contemporary and topical ethics and values issues that can improve interpersonal and corporate relationships;*
4. *Identify any ethical issues that can negatively impact the administration and advise on solutions before they get out of hand;*
5. *Continually engineer the conscience of the citizenry to improve and raise the national and individual morals;*
6. *Develop from time to time, relevant slogans that represent the character of the administration as a message to improve the ethics and values of the citizenry; and*
7. *Any other assignment as directed by the President.*

- Presidency, Federal Republic of Nigeria, June 7, 2011

### **DEFINITIONS**

Note that:

Transformation = Upgrading renewal or repentance, or positive change from bad/mediocrity to better towards the best, by the conscience/mind, heart, attitude/behaviour, systems and structures.

**Ethics in simple general definition** = Good Character

**Ethics in Islam** = Sharia

**Ethics in Christianity** = Righteousness

**Values = The Dos and Don'ts by the family or the community or principles of faith/spiritual rules, the commandments, the constitutions, the agreed rules in personal agreements for corporate interactions of positive norms/etiquette.**

### **THE TOPIC**

**NB:** The sound knowledge and skills about ethical values sustained in the CONSCIENCE of the leadership of the Tertiary Institutions are the foundational ways to build and maintain Transparency and Accountability; Ethical Values also serve to prevent the erosion or the absence of Transparency and Accountability in the institutions.

Therefore all leaders in tertiary institutions must accept that their behaviours must be exemplary as Mentors, for the students and the staffs!

**NB: “The most important role of a leader is to teach character!” –Kenneth Blackwell (USA).<sup>1</sup>**

- In addressing this topic, it is only logical to refer to the **1999 REVISED CONSTITUTION OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA;**<sup>2</sup>

- i. Chapter 2:15(5) -Eradication of Corruption: “The State shall abolish all corrupt practices and abuse of power”!
- ii. Chapter 2:23 -National Ethics: The national ethics shall be Discipline, Integrity, Dignity of Labour, Social, Justice, Religious Tolerance, Self-reliance and Patriotism.
- iii. Chapter 2:24 -Duties of the Citizens: It shall be the duty of every citizen to
  - a. abide by this Constitution, respect its ideals and its institutions, the National Flag, the National Anthem, the National Pledge, and legitimate authorities;
  - b. help to enhance the power, prestige and good name of Nigeria, defend Nigeria and render such national service as may be required;
  - c. respect the dignity of other citizens and the rights and legitimate interests of others and live in unity and harmony and in the spirit of common brotherhood;
  - d. make positive and useful contribution to the advancement, progress and well-being of the community where he resides;
  - e. render assistance to appropriate and lawful agencies in the maintenance of law and order; and
  - f. declare his income honestly to appropriate and lawful agencies and pay his tax promptly.

The status of all the above is that they are “injusticeable” in the law courts! The implication can be further discussed later, because the injusticeability status of this section creates the problem of establishing sanctions, penalties and even standards for ethical systems in all sectors, levels and tiers.

**NB: “AUTONOMOUS MORALITY” (i.e. willing Self-Policing/Self-Regulating by individuals, corporate/governance systems without being policed by the Police or the law enforcement agencies, but guided)! i.e. “TRANSFORMATION BY ALL, FOR ALL AND WITH ALL”!**

This simply means the content of the inculcated ethical values in the individual managers or the administrators of the tertiary Institutions, from their families, communities, faith teachings, the schools attended and the national political quality or will, all add up to the quality of the content and the application of “Transparency and Accountability” in the Tertiary institutions.

**NB: “Resolute” Progressive Political – Will is born out of Resolute Ethical Will.**

**i.e. Ethical will results into Political-Will! So; “Political Will= Ethical Will!”–Sarah Jibril<sup>3</sup>**

**Few Quotations:**

- i. **Character is the cornerstone of citizenship –Kenneth Blackwell<sup>4</sup>**
- ii. **The absence of character is the beginning of all crises –Dr. David Oyedepo<sup>5</sup>**
- iii. **Ethical Values constitute the first step of anti-corruption drive:**

**Ethics prevent, plus being the antidote to corruption, conflicts, crises, crimes, all inequalities/inequalities insecurity/terrorism/wars and societal underdevelopment –Sarah Jibril <sup>6</sup>**

**b. Values unite; Ethics harmonise development –Sarah Jibril <sup>7</sup>**

A. How to inculcate ethical values into the conscience/mind/attitudes of the Leadership and Managerial teams of tertiary institutions is the task of this paper from Mr President's office of Ethics and Values, and part of the purpose of this National Conference.

NB: "Scientific Knowledge + Positive Attitude = Best Action; anywhere, time and situation!"

This Conference is certainly a right step in the right direction in order to enthrone Ethical Values in the management of tertiary institutions.

#### **STRATEGIES FOR ENTHRONING THE ETHICAL VALUES:**

- I. Tertiary Institutions must start to understand and collaborate closely with agencies listed in the Schedule of Duties of the SA-P earlier on.
  - b. Ethics & Values must be accepted and lifted out of the paper into practical actions for the purpose of monitoring the "Rigour of the application of Ethical Values-systems in all aspects of the tertiary administrations.
- II. The employment of all staff must be rigorous in standards of integrity of pedigree/records which must be accomplished by sworn oath in court for compliance to high ethical values/standards.
- III. A National Workshop for the harmonizing of National Curriculum of Civics, Ethics and Mentorship must follow this logically timely conference.
- IV. Establish the office and appoint a professor or engage the services of a Private Project Monitors or Consultants to monitor the Transparency and Accountability content, from the Ministry level to the NUC and in all the tertiary institutions
- V. Tertiary Institutions must go back to become renewed by the transformation of the individual and corporate/institutional/systemic consciences to become Zero Tolerant of corruption and all unethical practices, because tertiary institutions are the points from which young leaders graduate into professional and leadership responsibilities in the society.
- VI. Tertiary Institutions must immediately intensify the teaching plus the content of their academic and applied philosophy, social psychology, and corporate ethics/systemic ethics
- VII. Appoint Ethics officer; including "Ethics Observatory" and Compliance Office.
- VIII. Renew the penal codes, incentive/reward-codes, preventive processes and systemic ethical codes, that must be effective for preventions, management, solutions/resolutions of conflict/ethics crises.
- IX. Establish Parents and Stakeholders Forum, which will also include Corporate and Private Employers of graduates from Tertiary Institutions.

- X. Set aside at least 5% of annual budget for research, internal seminars and possibly for external exchange programmes, in order to enhance comparative knowledge about current issues on global ethical standards and practices.
- XI. Raise ethical funds continually for workshops/seminars in order to enhance ethical expectations of efficiency and standards.

B. From SA-P's office, in compliance to the Schedule of Duties

- i. Seek audiences with all stakeholders to explain and persuade them about the INDESPENSABLE importance and relevance of Ethical Values to National Development, Security/Insecurity prevention, Peace-Building, Social/Political-Stability and Transformational Discipline by All, for All and with All!
- ii. Follow up after this conference, a National Workshop to harmonize National Curriculum.
- iii. Facilitate a private Ethics Bill in the National Assembly by the Foundation for the Advancement of Ethics and Values (FAEV).
- iv. Promote the understanding of the grassroots communities informally and formally in local languages e.g. through Cooperative Societies – in order to engage their attention by ensuring “Food in the Stomach”, “Change in the Pocket” and “Skill for sustenance of “Self-reliance”.
- v. Encourage credible partnerships to raise funds in order to establish e.g. Institute for Ethics and Values, as well as Community Transformation/Development Centres (CTCs) and Community Farms (CFs) to serve as laboratories for information dissemination, data building for assessment, and measurement by which to further advice Mr President!

**CONCLUSION:**

Transparency and Accountability can be enthroned in Tertiary Institutions, by accepting the indispensable place of ethical values for the establishments of the high standard of the Rigour of Ethical Systems in all sections and tiers of the institutions.

High standard of knowledge with applied ethical Transparency and Accountability are the main functional contribution of Tertiary Institutions to national development. Developing,

Enthroning and Maintaining Ethical Values in Tertiary Institutions are **All POSSIBLE!**

**Because We All and Nigeria are: -Teachable! Changeable! Developable! and Transformable!**

Signed,

Dr Mrs Sarah N. Jibril,

Special Adviser to the President on Ethics and Values

## REFERENCES

1. “The most important role of a leader is to teach character!” –Kenneth Blackwell (USA).<sup>1</sup>
2. 1999 REVISED CONSTITUTION OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA; <sup>2</sup>
  - i. Chapter 2:15(5) -Eradication of Corruption: “The State shall abolish all corrupt practices and abuse of power”!
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5. The absence of character is the beginning of all crises –Dr. David Oyedepo <sup>5</sup>
6. insecurity/terrorism/wars and societal underdevelopment –Sarah Jibril <sup>6</sup>
7. Values unite; Ethics harmonise development –Sarah Jibril <sup>7</sup>

## SUMMARY OF REFERENCES:

- 1 & 4 - Kenneth Blackwell (USA) –Secretary of State –Ohio State, USA
- 2 - 1999 REVISED CONSTITUTION OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA  
Chapter 2:15(5), Chapter 2:23, Chapter 2:24
- 3, 6 & 7 - Sarah Jibril - Ethics for Development -2006 - Nigeria
- 5 - Dr. David Oyedepo –Living Faith Church - Nigeria