

THE PROTOCOL OF LEADERSHIP

JANET ADETU

Great leaders often have one unique aspect in common, a sense of responsibility and positive impact. The statement “some people were born to be leaders” is not a mistake. An early childhood teacher can almost accurately identify those children with the potential and tendency to become good leaders of tomorrow. Though everyone has the potential to display great leadership traits, some do so more than others.

Leaders project outstanding characteristics, behaviour, attitude and attributes that make them stand out from the rest. A leader’s mind is often fine tuned to produce a positive impact on all those around them. They believe they can steer the ship towards success, victory, progress, development and overall achievement.

Adopting a position of leadership is no small task because the status comes with a tremendous amount of merit and trust to create a positive influential impression. However, not all leaders are successful or capable of steering a ship to victory.

In today’s economy and evolving world, leadership involves large elements of discipline, dedication, commitment, honesty, courage and confidence. Approaching tasks with an unconscious attitude and destructive mindset will only result in failure.

Leadership and Etiquette

My perspective on leadership is highly related to your level of etiquette. It takes commitment to develop into a well groomed leader. There must be a willingness to acquire new knowledge and develop the refined soft skills that will distinguish you. The ultimate etiquette and protocol skills are simply the ABCD of life:

- Articulate Attitude
- Befitting Behaviour
- Charismatic Communication
- Distinct Demeanour

Your ability to understand these skills will propel you to pursue outstanding leadership abilities.

Articulate Attitude

Your attitude towards life, success, career, business and those around you once refined will set the tone for positive interactions, compelling innovative ideas and drive results. The correct attitude will make you more likeable, approachable, authoritative, trustworthy and distinctive. Your dress sense will stand out as your approach to daily scenarios becomes more calculated as your presence is felt.

Befitting Behaviour

Great leaders exhibit behaviour that highlights responsibility in immense proportions. Even in the midst of bad situations the aim is to turn a bad situation around. As you climb up the leadership ladder, your behaviour is on the radar; you are constantly watched, judged and mirrored. While some will pick up on your positive behavioural attributes others will focus on your weaknesses. Understanding how to conduct yourself at all times will sift you from the pack and put you high on the pedestal. Great leaders regularly modify their behaviour and learn from past mistakes. With a combination of almost perfect behaviour and the correct attitude you are on your way towards building a self image that emulates the required self esteem and confidence.

Charismatic Communication

While your general communication skills will get you attention, your non-verbal communication skills are essential to the behaviour and attitude you portray. Your positive body language should be assertive and portray your true state of mind. Your gestures should not fall below expectations.

Most leaders have been elegantly groomed to represent their leadership roles. First ladies or women of power and substance take etiquette sessions to improve their posture, speech and appearance in a bid to achieve the ultimate image.

How you stand, walk, sit, smile, speak and look constitute your Total Personal Package (TPP).

VISUAL VS VIRTUAL IMPRESSION

Your virtual impression is just as important as your visual impression. Your written communication skills are highly representative of good leadership. Stand by your views and address situations accordingly. There is no room for slang, abbreviations or even half measured responses. Your ability to perfect written communication skills by sending important text and instant messages will produce a sense of ease and confidence around you that will affect others.

Lead by example they say, it is a sure way to exhibit great leadership.

Distinctive Demeanour

Your demeanour will affect your overall attitude, behaviour and communication ability. Your looks and overall appearance is highly classified as an important leadership trait.

Do you dress distinctively, bold and proud; simple and elegant; classy and charisma? Your dress sense brings out your own unique style that all leaders can associate with. Dress to impress, as your clothing will speak volumes.

Conclusion

All great leaders are on the lookout for great leadership traits. They develop an in-depth understanding of leadership by finding role models they can mirror. Leadership is a choice, between success and failure based on your willingness to work hard. A leader is not always liked or favoured but you must believe in yourself.

Every leader should listen and learn; dedicate and delegate; have courage and confidence; be persistent and pursue; have great ideas and be innovative; and finally be able to react with responsibility.

I leave you with a great thought that I believe will influence your leadership perspective:

- Watch your thoughts, your thoughts become words,
- Watch your words, your words become actions,
- Watch your actions, your actions become habits,
- Watch your habits, your habits become character,
- Watch your character, your character becomes your destiny

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Stand by your views and **address** situations **accordingly**. There is **no room** for **slang, abbreviations** or even **half measured responses**

Frank Outlaw