



# LEADERSHIP IN NIGERIA

**WHAT ROLE  
FOR LAWYERS?**



# WHAT IS LEADERSHIP?

- What is leadership for?
- Enabling people to accomplish results?
- ***“An influence relationship among leaders and followers who intend real changes that reflect their mutual purposes.”***



# THE LEADER

- One who has followers (**people who willingly accept to be led**)
- “The first among . . .” **becomes the leader only because he/she is one of the group**
- Committed to the purpose (**what needs?**)
- Develops and pursues a vision to achieve sustainable outcomes (**proactive change management**)



# 'PROJECT NIGERIA'

- Not a new project
- One with a more attractive past
- Excellence-promoting indigenous values
- Enterprising human resources
- Identifiable timing and causes of drift
- A God-fearing community
- Correction, restoration, renewal,



# **LEADERSHIP MUST ADDRESS ....**

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- **The decay of values and standards**
- **The tendency for self-interest to overwhelm the sense of duty to a corporate Nigeria**
- **The dwindling commitment to individual productivity**
- **An unstable approach to discipline – (personal, professional, communal)**



# LAWYERS AS PROFESSIONALS

- **Organized study to acquire knowledge, skills and competence**
- **A focus on principle, standards and values**
- **‘Best practice’ encouraged through peer assessment and sanctions for off-beam performance**
- **Professional success depends on practising good discipline**



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**To succeed in leadership, law professionals must ‘keep faith’ –**

**With the expectations implied in the quality of their training;**

**The objectives of their endeavour;**

**The principles and discipline of their profession**



# **Lawyers and ‘Project Nigeria’ – A Stakeholder’s perspective**

- **Ouster clauses in some legislation**
- **The ‘uses’ of court injunctions**
- **The ‘dead-of-night verdict in the ADB case**
- **Election tribunal processes that render their verdicts irrelevant**
- ***The need to REBUILD confidence in Institutions that should deliver JUSTICE!***



# The Leader as an Individual

- **Leadership – for what responsibility?**  
*Driven by the needs of the situation*
- **Leadership – by what authority?** *Based on personal performance of own tasks*
- **Leadership – with what accountability?**  
*Purposes and stakeholders of the enterprise*