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And the children fail yet again!

Again, WAEC has released results and the children have failed... again...as usual. Again the finger-pointing has resumed and will last a while before it subsides and we prepare again for another season of failure. For indeed between one season's fail and another season's examination, nothing revolutionary or situation-changing will happen to stem the tide of failures.

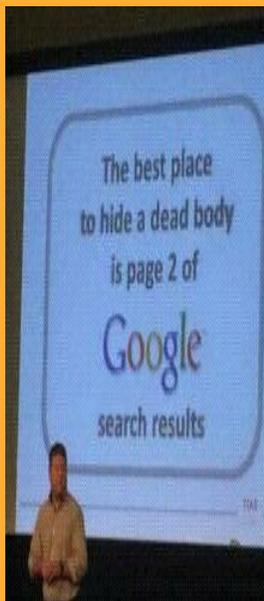
People will ask questions and the same superficial responses will be given. Schools will prepare desperate Plan Bs which will not include any significant change in orientation or strategy. Education authorities will make a bit more noise and harass teachers a bit more to create the impression that they are doing their best. Parents will make inquiries about other approaches to examination success other than the ones available to their children in their schools. Governments will take a look, exonerate themselves because they have provided *everything* the teacher needs to succeed and cannot therefore be held liable.

Back and forth they will knock the blame until it eventually falls on the desk of the teacher. The same teacher who is owed salaries and whose allowances are also withheld. The same teachers who have served 15 years and have not attended any workshop or refresher course. The same teacher who is the rubble of the society. Unloved, unsung uncared for. And the amazing thing is that nobody bothers to ask the teacher why the pupils fail. The professors have spoken.



They are the ones that make the curriculum that cause the damage and they are the ones that blame the teacher.

One day, we will indeed be ready to do something about education. Meantime, we are under a threat of certificated illiterates taking over society. It's happening already.



Dr. Ameyo S. Adadevoh: Oct 27, 1956 - Aug 19, 2014
A grateful nation thanks you.

It almost comes as a surprise that it's been a year already since our very existence was threatened by a disease out of the blues. One of Nigeria's finest, a woman of substance, comfortable and poised to enjoy life for many more years stood her ground and saved her nation untold agony. She dies for others to live.

A grateful nation salutes your courage. A grateful nation thanks you. EduDigest celebrates you. Rest on in peace.





EPL returns...to steal more of your time

Sometimes it pays to listen to people who do not agree with you. In the eyes of those of us who love football, any argument against the EPL or La Liga is a pure foolishness. But listen to the man who says it is a waste of your time. He asks, 'what did you eventually lose for the games you missed while you were busy?' Nice one. We all get to see the highlights and the scores won't change and we gained whatever we were doing at that point. True that we don't enjoy the euphoria of the moment but that's it.

Now, take a typical match week. Man United plays on a Friday, it costs us 2 hours. Then we watch Chelsea play at 1.30pm on Saturday, and watch Arsenal

play at 3.00pm and then Man City at 5.00pm. On Sunday, we watch Liverpool at 3.00pm and finally on Monday night, we watch Everton v Tottenham. The whole of Saturday is gone, along with the money we paid. Two hours each are taken on Friday, Sunday and Monday. Now, that's huge. Now add that to the classic and to FA Cup and Champions League. Then add Super Eagles! Have I added the time we spend at the newspaper stand or the time we spend debating who is better between Messi and Ronaldo? Football is expensive. You enjoy and pay heavily.

Oh well, the season is here again. Let's enjoy the games but let's not forget that it is another man's business investment. Except you can come up with a plan that earns you some money from it. Otherwise, it's pay pay pay.

The challenge of fatherhood- Kene Okoye



It is common to hear a father proudly declare, "that's my kid" when a child excels but quick to denounce one that fell short of expectations. Fathers are wont to bask in the glory of their children's success. The question however remains, how much influence did this father have in the development of the child? In an increasingly virtual society, where role models can be discovered and followed by a click of their twitter handles, it behoves fathers, to start early and create visible models for their children to follow after. An attempt to mould a child's character cannot be achieved by accident but by a conscious effort to bond with the child and win his/her confidence. This requires realignment of priorities and understanding that your child is non-negotiable. In present day Nigeria, there is an extant danger of fathers abdicating some of their critical parental responsibilities and turning their focus solely on the pursuit to acquire more wealth and provide adequately for the family. While it is laudable to aspire to provide for one's family, it is even more important to take up the challenge of fatherhood and be available to nurture these young ones. Raising a child, should not be the exclusive preserve of the mother... there is a vital place for the

father. Imagine a scenario where daddy sets out to work early, without seeing his children. He equally gets back late, sometimes after they had gone to bed. The children have never seen daddy take them to school, attend their open day or inter house sports or put them to bed. They get to see daddy only on weekends. In some instances, both parents are involved in this dangerous routine. It is worrisome to imagine the impact of some of these decisions on the psyche of these children in the years to come. Their opinions and mindset would have been formed by people other than their parents and we stand the risk of having a society populated by children we cannot identify.

Don't get me wrong. I am not advocating that we abandon our pursuits and sit home to raise the children. No way. I am only saying that we take out time to plan for our children and consider the implications of decisions we make on their lives. We need to make a conscious effort to be more visible in their lives.

My thoughts flow from my observations of the dilemma parents face in a society like ours, where certain core values have taken flight due to a failure of leadership. I often wonder what the children of the present working class Nigerians would be like in twenty years time and sometimes the picture I get is scary. If we are busy building financial empires and take little thought of grooming and influencing the heirs to the empire, of what use is our labour? My pitch is simple. I believe fathers can create an indelible image in the minds of their children by playing more visible roles at home.

Read the full article at <http://edudigestnigeria.wordpress.com> OR at <http://kenespoint.wordpress.com>

Oyo State and the burden of sponsorship



Recently, WAEC came out publicly to declare that many of the states who pay registration fees for their students for WASSCE had not paid up. They threatened to withhold their results and name them.

Whatever became of that is hard to tell but one fallout is Oyo State government declaring it will no longer foot the bill for students' registration. Not only that, the government imposed an education levy of N3,000 per child per session to be paid in three equal instalment, one instalment per term. Their reasons were a lean purse and children not working hard enough, as well as passive attitude of parents. The thinking is that the parents and their children will only value what they pay for.

But apparently under pressure, the governor has not only said that the

decision was taken in consultation with parents, he has also said that the measure is temporary and would return to normal when the state is again buoyant.

This has thrown up a lot of debate. Some have said the government needs to look inward and cut down on other areas other than education. Some others have held that the pain the government feels is self-inflicted since the decision to pay the levies was for political gain in the first instance.

More worrisome is that the government has based its decision on a philosophy only to declare that it would go back to a structure that has already failed. It remains to be seen how this will play out and how this will affect the students and their parents.

<http://www.punchng.com/education/wassce-mixed-reactions-as-oyo-govt-stops-payment/>

Ogun civil service sacks staff

Ogun State has been brought under intense scrutiny because of recent happenings that resulted in some staff being retired prematurely or dismissed. A passage used for the unified secondary school examination was adjudged to be unduly critical of the state government's implementation of its education policy. The passage was said to have been chosen by a teacher and was not embargoed by any of the senior officers under whose charge it fell to screen the questions. The offensive passage sailed through the levels of scrutiny and made it to the examination questions distributed statewide.

Details of the sequence of events after that are sketchy and differ with each telling but eventually, the officers involved were brought before a panel according to Civil Service procedures. None

of the reports on the matter said anything of the events at the panel sitting but it culminated in the retiring of senior officers and sacking of others.

Some have sought, since then, to link the state governor, Senator Ibikunle Amosun with the punishment meted out to the officers but the concerned agencies of government have debunked any such claims, stating that the civil service acted as the civil service should; calling its staff to order and disciplining them as should be the case.

Debates on the matter have been prolonged and heated with some parties calling the action illegal and other parties asking them to seek redress in court. A group is even reported to have reported the matter to the UN. Yet other voices are calling for clemency. EduDigest online has no opinion on this matter, especially when all the details of what transpired are not available.

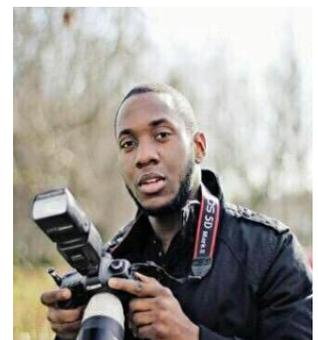
More worrisome is that the government has based its decision on a philosophy only to declare that it would go back to a structure that has already failed.

Tearful goodbye to one of Nigeria's best

About 3.30pm on Wednesday August 12, 2015, a Bristow chopper returning from an oil rig crashed into the Alonge area of Oworonsoki, Lagos. Four persons were confirmed dead while another six persons sustained injuries. The news spread, prayers went up from friends and family ones. When the dust cleared, some of the best brains in Nigeria were gone from us. Two of the most celebrated victims of that crash are the pilot Capt Wyatt and the co-pilot, Peter

Bello. For the one who knew Peter, his passing has been hard to take. Encomiums have poured in, incidentally more from people who never met him but are amazed at the personality, inspiration, influence and achievement he packed into 26 years. Taking him and his friends and colleagues at the point when they were best poised to give back to the society and families that raised them remains the worst pain death can inflict on the hopes and expectations that they raised in us through their hard work and commitment to everything they did.

We join the rest of his friends and family to mourn this painful passage. We at EduDigest online prayer that God gives his parents and friends the fortitude to accept this loss.



Peter Bello



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Education advocacy is our primary pursuit. We strongly believe that more needs to be done in education in Nigeria. We believe the duty of making this happens rests on everyone who has either benefited from our education situation or has been deprived by it. We have consequently continued to create a platform for people who have something to say.

Our list of members includes anyone who is willing to make a difference. We do our work online as well as on the field. We also now publish a mini magazine called EduDigest.

We encourage you to write your contributions for publication. Send to chumaokoye@gmail.com

Top 5 campus crimes

The campus setting is a unique one. It is a world of its own with its own rules and unwritten codes. It takes some learning to operate without drawing attention to oneself, for indeed, nothing draws attention faster than either doing too much or doing too little. The more academically oriented and demanding a university's focus is, the less time the students have for divergent activities. Conversely, the less a university asks of its students, the more time they have for things unconnected with their educational pursuits. In the pursuance of education, the laws of the Republic still stands supreme and when gravely broken, the law makes an appearance and briefly disrupts the rhythm of the campus life, enforcing its presence and withdrawing again. Here are five crimes adjudged to be the most commonly committed in the campus environment.

Copyright Violation and Plagiarism

Many of the people guilty of this crime have no idea they are committing a crime. To say it simply, every creative work has a law protecting it so that the owner of the work can reap some reward from his work. The law prevents you from reproducing or marketing another person's work for your own gain except you have his permission. Books cannot just be reproduced and sold. Therefore, every time you make photocopies of another person's work, you are guilty and liable to go to prison. Equally plagiarism is when you cite or use another person's work and make it appear as if it were yours, you are stealing intellectual property.

Robbery

Because of the nature of security in campuses, an armed robber can live among students for long periods undetected. Some may even be fully residential in campuses where it is possible to buy allocated accommodation space from other students. Such robbers escape serious police

scrutiny. Apart from this, robberies happen which are fully orchestrated by students

Rape / Sexual Harassment

One of the factors that mitigate against the exposure of rape is the desire by victims to avoid social stigmatization. Victims would ask what benefits there would be in getting raped, openly admitting it and then suffering stigmatization in addition. Many of the cases of rape happen because victims trusted people they shouldn't have. Against rape, sexual harassment takes a backseat but it is no less a crime. People associate it more with lecturer-student situations but it happens just as often in student-student situation. Recent developments have given rape a new definition. More and more males are becoming victims of rape by other men.

Cultism

Not much needs to be said in the manner of explanation of this crime, its execution or its consequences. Suffice to say that it has come up in our nation's history time and again and left horrible scars across the land. In many campuses now, cult-related activities are on the decline as more and more young people find other ways of defining themselves.

Exam malpractices

This is because contrary to common definition, it neither begins nor ends in the student breaking the rules and trying to earn undue advantage in the examination environment. A lot more examination malpractice happens outside the confines of the classroom. Allowing a student access to the questions before the examination for whatever reason is malpractice. Suffice to say that whatever breaches the integrity of an examination is malpractice irrespective of who is involved.

You can now rate these five in the order they occurrence or enormity. It is my duty and yours, in our small spaces, to raise a voice against crimes as much as it given to us. Only be wise about it.

For those who are students, you can see how close a student is to going to jail especially with a resurgence of law and order by the present government. Please, let's not be the first student(s) this government will send to jail. Be careful everyday who you company with and what you become a part of. For your sake and your parents'.

