

Accumulating Real Time Data on "Follow the Money" Security Theory

I recalled a conversation I had with my late maternal grandmother one mid afternoon in the mid-1990s seated as we were under a mango tree when she visited us in Jos. My grandma had converted to Christianity after years of membership in the African Traditional Religion. The topic of conversation was comparative analysis of both religions since her conversion.

At a point in the course of the conversation I posed a hypothetical scenario to her. Suppose you were given two options of a bag full of money and Jesus Christ to choose. Which would you go for?

With a broad grin on her face, my grandma said she would go for the money. According to her, it was the bag of money that will solve her problem. Jesus Christ will only console her.

Nigerians have been inundated with revelations after revelations of allegations after allegations and concluded but hidden reports of investigations after investigations on the management of fund by heads of agencies in the public sphere since 2015. Ditto the LawalDaura DSS burst, the BabachirLawal model grass cutting, the Maina Pension Theft, the Magu EFCC hunting the hunter, the NDDC, the PTF Covid 19 management, the School Children-on-Holiday Feeding programme, the Covid 19 palliatives, the yet-be-detected and reported cases incubating at the local, state and federal levels etc. the list goes on.

All these are Emerging Additional Real Data in support of the theory "In Search of a Security Philosophy for Nigeria? Follow the Money".

The stolen and pilfered money goes into S-E-C-U-R-E, S-E-C-U-R-I-N-G and thus the SECURITY of the individual privileged to steal the money.

Security is wellbeing. This is my definition of security. Wellbeing or security covers every aspect of the life of the individual. There is no better lead to answering the question what is security, whose security, what is a security issue and how can security be achieved than that provided by following where the stolen money goes.

To the extent that those who lead the way in stealing government fund are supposedly the apex of the elite shielded from the bare need confronting majority of Nigerians demonstrate the state of siege of institutional failure and the elites desperation to make hay while the sun is still shining their temporal path.

Since governments after governments are UNWILLING to advance and enhance security or wellbeing for most Nigerians, most Nigerians have conclusive evidence, if any is required, that the acquisition of money is key to security or wellbeing. What most Nigerians lack to

actualise their security or wellbeing and which the few privileged Nigerians in the public sector are perennially demonstrating is the OPPORTUNITY.

The theory of "Follow the Money" is constructivist. Follow the Money redirect attention to the reasons behind the looting of public fund by those who can. They loot fund because of the eternal fear of the unknown particularly when they can no longer provide for themselves. This is in view of the eternal failure of governments to fill this gap.

If the few Nigerians that can take to this root of stockpiling money because it is security or wellbeing, what is the faith of the majority that cannot but are well aware of money's security or wellbeing potential?

This is the majority of Nigerians whose insecurity or lack of wellbeing is caused by need. This need is fuelled by governments and governance criminal unwillingness to manage the public sector effectively and efficiently. This, in turn, is anchored on the greed of government officials. The majority can only bid their time. Their appetite for money as security or wellbeing is being oiled day in day out by the ENTERTAINMENT industry's mantra of money equals all luxuries, happiness and means.

To construct security as wellbeing is to recognise that this is the original philosophy of security. To construct security as wellbeing is to recognise that the pursuit of wellbeing or security is the sole purpose of every human being on earth. To construct security as wellbeing is to recognise that wellbeing or security is lacking in every sphere of the lives of most Nigerians.

To construct security as wellbeing and to insist that every public institution's end-state be security or wellbeing is to give security a philosophy from the lack of philosophy that bedeviled "security" as it is currently the case.

If and when public policies and institutions are governed by this philosophy and an index is established to monitor compliance to the advancement and enhancement of wellbeing or security in all spheres, the wellbeing or security of most Nigerians would be enhanced on the short, medium and long terms to the extent that the greed and need or both that power the rapacious and immoral theft of public fund will be curtailed and managed significantly by persons and institutions.

SECURITY is WELLBEING. MONEY is the key to the doors of wellbeing or security. Ask my unlettered but wise Grandma. Rest in eternal peace! Ask all the convicted, alleged and waiting-in-wings thieves of public fund in Nigeria.