

BLAZING THE TRAIL FOR POSITIVE CHANGE & DEVELOPMENT

The 2013 edition recently concluded brought a new twist to this annual event as it attracted eminent personalities from the Diplomatic community, the Academia, Business, Government, the Legislative, the Social Institution and it recorded a large participation of Nigerians and friends of Nigeria and Canada. The event was held at Sheraton Toronto Airport Hotel & Conference Centre, Canada. The Speakers at the Forum were Honourable Abike Dabiri-Erewa – the Chairperson, House Committee on Diaspora of the Nigeria House



Mr. Ojije Eghobor - NCA Secretary General

of Representatives, Senator Don Meredith of the Senate of Canada and Professor Modupe Olaogun of York University, Canada.

Also at the event were the Deputy High Commissioner of Nigeria to Canada, His Excellency, Ambassador Charles Nduka Onianwa, Honourable Sikiru Busari – Member, House Committee on Diaspora of the Nigeria House of Representatives, Hon. Jim Karygiannis of the Ontario Parliament and a host of other dignitaries.

The theme of the event was – Nigeria @ 53: The Challenges of Transparency and



Mr. Fabian N. Nwaoha - President NCA, Mr. Sam Adewale - President LGC, Hon. Abike Dabiri Erewa, Ambassador Charles Nduka Onianwa and Mr. Kola Esomojumi - Vice President LGC

Accountability. The presentations and submission of the speakers left no one in doubt as to the need for true and genuine transparency/accountability in governance. This is the only way for true development and building of an enduring/lasting democracy.

In the course of questions and answers; the need for creating at platform or institution for public complaint was emphasized. This question was addressed by the Keynote Speaker to the event, Hon. Abike Dabiri-Erewa as she re-iterated the fact that certain legislations



Mrs. Michelle Meredith, Mr. Sam Adewale - LGC president, Prof. Modupe Olaogun, Ambassador Charles Nduka Onianwa - Deputy High Commissioner and Presenting is Senator Don Meredith.

have been passed which provides a platform for people to air their views, complaints and opinions.

The position of all at the Forum is that there is an increasing demand and pressure for accountability and transparency in governance. That is, to be open, transparent and provide information that is both comprehensive and reliable. The need to develop strong institution for the purpose of enforcing legislation was emphasized. With such in place, scandals that rocks government and government officials would be minimized. Building a dynamic



Mr. Wale Adesanya, Mrs. Perihan Adesanya, Mr. Kola Esomojumi, Senator Don Meredith, Mrs. Michelle Meredith, Hon. Abike Dabiri Erewa, Mr. Sam Adewale, Mrs. Remi Adewale, Mrs. Toyin Esomojumi and Ms. Kemi Amusan.

movement for transparency was also stressed. These would in no small measure impact the country's economic growth, improve political stability, and foster trust and credibility.

For LGC, the outcomes of the last two events have led credence to the fact that nationals are thirsty for positive change in their respective countries. We will therefore continue to provide platforms for intellectual discussions that are geared towards bringing positive changes to our nations.



Hon. Jim Karygiannis P.C., M.P, Hon. Abike Dabiri - Erewa (Keynote Speaker) and Ms. Sima Gandhi.

10 Essential Business Leadership Skills: Are you a leader?

Truth be told, not everyone is a leader. It's just not meant for everyone. And that's OK.

But more people are leaders than they realize. Leadership takes on many different faces; it's just a question of understanding how you lead and why.

Here are 10 key business leadership skills you'll need to succeed as a leader:

1 LEAD BY EXAMPLE

You can't be an aloof leader, someone that's never around and incapable of getting your hands dirty. One of the best ways to lead is by example – pitching in where needed, lending a helping hand, and making sure that the work you do is clearly understood by your team.

2 PASSION.

A leader without passion isn't a leader. He's a paper pusher. Or a taskmaster. Or a government employee... Passion drives a lot, and you can inspire so much in others through your own passion and enthusiasm. That doesn't mean you have to be constantly cheery, it means you've got to believe in what you're doing and what your company is doing.

3 BE ORGANIZED.

A disorganized leader isn't leading, he's chasing his own tail. Disorganization breeds nothing but more disorganization. If you're frazzled and messy, your team will be too. When you're organized you'll be much more productive and so will everyone else.

4 DELEGATE.

You can't do everything. A great leader needs to be able to delegate effectively. The key to delegating successfully is giving employees ownership of the work you assign them. They can't just feel like they own the work, they really have to.

5 TAKE OWNERSHIP AND RESPONSIBILITY.

Although you've just delegated work and truly given your team ownership, you also have to take ownership and responsibility at all times. Your team has to know you'll be there for them through the good and the bad times. That doesn't mean you absolve people from making mistakes or ignore crappy work/effort, but it does mean you take responsibility for the big picture.

6 COMMUNICATE EFFECTIVELY.

Duh. Everyone knows great leaders have to be great communicators. But there are certain points of communication that many people forget. For example, it's critical that you communicate to employees how their work matters in the bigger picture. **Are they a cog, or does their work truly make a difference?** Communicating success is also something leaders forget to do. People need affirmation. They want to know they did a good job. You just have to tell them. And be precise. Insecure leaders will often ramble; uninterested leaders cut things off too quickly. Whether you're giving praise, providing constructive criticism, or defining goals and to-dos, you have to figure out how much to say and in what order. Be precise, specific and concise. Get to the point.

7 BE BRAVE AND HONEST.

Cowardly leaders will shy away from any number of situations that crop up regularly when running a team. The project your team has worked on for 6 months just got shelved. **Now what?** Or you have to talk to someone about their lack of effort recently. **Do you ignore the problem?** Or maybe it's time to take your product into a new market. **Do you hobble forward, scared and nervous, or do you grab the market by the throat?** Leaders are brave and honest. Tell it like it is. Don't sugarcoat, don't obfuscate. Don't be a jerk either. You have to learn how to present things to your team in an honest but balanced manner.

8 GREAT LISTENER.

A huge part of being a great communicator is being a great listener. If all you want to do is talk, you're not a leader. Keeping people motivated means listening to them, asking them questions, understanding their issues. When you listen more, you can respond more effectively and get to the heart of things much faster.

9 KNOW YOUR PEOPLE.

You have to know your people. You don't have to be best friends or even socialize outside work, but you do have to know what makes them tick. You need to know something about their personal lives because their lives outside work matter. Their lives outside work drive a great deal of their success (or lack of) at work. Keep track of simple things: birthdays, marriages, children, etc. The more you know your people the more common ground you're likely to find, the more you'll be able to connect.

10 BE A FOLLOWER.

Benjamin Disraeli said, **"I must follow the people. Am I not their leader?"** That sums up many of the other points so beautifully. Great leaders are followers too. If you're a leader without following, you're a dictator. And as fun as that sounds... Being a leader-follower means finding value in your team, getting inspired by your team, encouraging your team to communicate, brainstorm and be open.

Very few people are great leaders overnight. It takes time and practice. As long as you're open about learning along the way and working with your team on leadership versus dictating to them, most people will be happy to go on the journey with you.

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"The very essence of leadership is that you have to have vision. You can't blow an uncertain trumpet." – *Theodore M. Hesburgh*

"Delegating work works, provided the one delegating works, too." – *Robert Half*

HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

More pictures of the event: www.leadershipandgovernance.com/Gallery