

PAPER PRESENTED BY PROF. NAOMI N. JAMES-RUGU DURING  
THE SIXTH (6TH) INAUGURATION OF EXECUTIVE MEMBERS OF  
ROCHAS FOUNDATION OLD STUDENTS ASSOCIATION (ROFOSA)  
AND FIRST (1ST) MAGAZINE LAUNCH HELD ON SATURDAY, 6<sup>TH</sup>  
AUGUST, 2016 At ROCHAS FOUNDATION, RAYFIELD , JOS,  
PLATEAU STATE, NIGERIA

The Chairman of the occasion,  
Chief Launcher,  
Distinguished Guests,  
The Principal,  
The Vice-Principals,  
Teachers,  
Members Rochas Foundation Old Students Association,  
Students of Rochas Foundation,  
Gentlemen of the Press present,  
Ladies and Gentlemen.

I am highly **delighted** to be in your **midst** this morning in order to **celebrate** with all **members** of **Rochas** Foundation Old Students Association (**ROFOSA**) and the **School** authority on this **epoch** making event. Let me use this **Forum** to appreciate **God** for **sustaining** our **lives** and giving us the **opportunity** to witness this **marvelous** day.

To have been **invited** and **requested** to present a **Paper** titled "**Education: Self Empowerment; Hope for Nation building**" is designed by God's inspiration and it is therefore a privilege indeed. May His **holy** name be glorified.

From the **invitation**, this is the sixth (**6th**) inauguration of **ROFOSA** Executive members. This occasion is **special** in that the **members** have worked **assiduously** and **collectively** to come up with its first (1st) Magazine. On this note, I **congratulate** you for

your **togetherness, cooperation, understanding, teamwork** and **concerted** effort in producing a **Magazine** that will be **launched** today that will **put** your **dear** school on the **face** of the **world**.

**Education** has been variously defined by several authors as "*the systematic development and cultivation of the normal powers of intellect, feeling and conduct so as to render them efficient in some particular form of living, or for life in general*".

*Education is "the bedrock of human and natural development"*. Education commences from the **elementary** to the **advanced** stage i.e. **Tertiary** level.

Permit me to state that **University** education, **particularly** anywhere and everywhere is the **process** of **progressive** development and of the **advancement** of the **culture** of the **promotion** of **socio** — **economic, political, technological** and spiritual well being of **individuals** and **society**.

In order to cultivate **courage, strength, knowledge** and a **sense** of **spiritual** values, **education** is our **most** potent **weapon** (Awolowo, 1981).

Be however **mindful** of the **fact** that **education** is not **necessarily** mere **literacy**, but **literacy** is indeed the **foundation** on which the **edifice** of **sound** education may be **securely** built (Awolowo, 1981).

Furthermore, he noted that **literacy** is the **surest** and the most **effective** means to **education** (Awolowo, 1981).

**Education** is that **process** of **physical** and **mental** culture whereby a **person's** personality is **developed** to the **fullest**.

Additionally, **Awolowo (1981)** asserted that "*A person whose personality is therefore fully developed never fears, doesn't cringe and never feels inferior to any one*". He/she is **self-reliant** and will **resist** any form of **enslavement** by an **individual, community** or **nation**. He/she **remains** a **self-confident** and **courageous** individual who offer his/her services with efficiency and probity, but with no sense of servitude. **His/her** **breath** of mind **enables** him/her to **exercise** his/her **freedom** in such a **manner** as not to **endanger** the **interest** and **freedom** of others (Awolowo, 1981).

### **Our collective contributions towards nation building**

For us to be involved in nation building:

- ✓ We have to **know** where we are **coming** from.
- ✓ We as **Nigerians**, we must **accept** our **identity**, it doesn't matter where we **come** from, or **religion** should not be a **barrier**. God has a **purpose** for our **creation**. He created us to be **black** people **Africans** and **Nigerians**. **Mother Theresa** advised that *"No matter who says what, you accept it with a smile and do your own work"*.
- ✓ We must **learn** to **shun** negative **tendencies** that has suddenly become our lot. Remember the **assertion** of **Nelson Mandela** that *"we must use our time wisely and forever realize that the time is always ripe to do right"*.
- ✓ We must **learn** to accept the fact that life is a **journey**. **Albert Einstein** stated that *"Life is like riding a bicycle. To keep a balance, you must keep moving"*. Suffice to say, that we **must** work **ceaselessly**. We must be **willing** to take **risks**. According to **Leo Buscaglia** *"Risks must be taken because the greatest hazard in life is to risk nothing"*.
- ✓ We must **engage** in teamwork for the **development** of our-Nation **Nigeria**. Teamwork does **not** require our **ethnic** group or **religion**.
- ✓ We must also **learn** to shun **Godfatherism**, this **kills** the **system**, it hinders **progress**, it clouds our **potentials**. The **disadvantages** far **outnumber** the **advantages**. It should be killed in **totality**.
- ✓ We must **examine** our ways in order to **build** well. This brings to **fore** our **mindset**. Our **determination** to **succeed**.
- ✓ We should be **involved** in various **positive** activities that will **enable** us leave a **legacy** for younger **generation**.
- ✓ We must **love** the Nigerian "tradition".  
There is a **philosophical statement** that says *"A love for tradition has never weakened a nation; indeed it has strengthened nations in their hour of peril"*.
- ✓ We must ensure **self discipline** because **self discipline** is **self mastery**. **Success** is possible only when you can **master** your own **emotions**, **appetites** and **inclinations** (**Brian Tracy, 2010**). To **extrapolate** the **assertion** of **Brian Tracy (2010)** therefore, if we as **Nigerians** lack the ability to **master** our **appetites** we

then become **weak** and **dissolute** and therefore **unreliable** in order things as **well**. Based on the **foregoing**, therefore, **Brian Tracy (2010)** noted that **lack of discipline** is the **major** cause of **failure, frustration, underachievement** and **unhappiness** in life.

- ✓ We must be Achievers for us to successfully play a role in nation building. **William Arthur Ward** made reference to "*four steps to achievement: Plan purposefully, Prepare prayerfully, Proceed positively and Pursue persistently*".

### **Recommendations**

- **Parents/Teachers** are **expected** to **train** their **children** in **collaboration** in order that **children** have good **morals** as a **support** base for **meaningful** education.
- Teachers participation at **Seminars, Workshops** and **Conferences** is imperative.
- **Government** which is the **major** employer of **education** resource should **intensify** effort in **meeting** the very necessary **yearnings** of its **teachers** so as to avoid **incessant** and **unnecessary** strikes.

**Ladies** and **gentlemen**, I enjoin you to **wholeheartedly** bring **forth** your **inherent** passion, **courage** and **commitment** towards the **realization** of a **better** Nigeria.

My **indebtedness** goes to all members of **Rochas** Foundation Old Students Association (**ROFOSA**) for **finding** me **worthy** to **present** this **Paper**.

Let **me** at this point, **appreciate** you all for your **time**. I **sincerely** wish you the **best** in your **future** endeavor.

Thank you and God bless.

### ***Signed***

Prof. Naomi N. James-Rugu

***(Professor of Zoology)***

**University of Jos**

### **References**

- **Awolowo, O. (1981). Voice of Reason. Fagbamigbe Publishers Akure. 158ff.**
- **Philosophical statements are highly acknowledged.**

