

GOD DID NOT COME TO THE PARTY BOOK EXCERPTS

“Over time, it has been established that the power that propels transformation and models the future and dreams of unborn generations lies on the shoulders of the Youth of any nation. Every developed country ascribed its successful revolution to the intentionality and strong determination of the young people. The book, ***God Did Not Come to the Party*** is a call to the young people of Nigeria and African descendants to unite with purpose, rise to the challenges, actively participate in governance, and restore the glory of the hero’s past.”

Page 5; Foreword by Dr. Juwon Ojo Fayomi, President, NANS Diaspora

“The Youth are no longer waiting for change; they are demanding it. Their voices are getting louder, their united passion for making Nigeria great is intensified, their prayers stronger, and their actions bolder. Forget not that present and future belong to those who dare to dream, plan, and act in solidarity. Let this book be the spur that incites your yearning sense of purpose for a brighter and greater Nigeria.”

Page 5; Foreword by Dr. Juwon Ojo Fayomi, President, NANS Diaspora

“Nigeria has arguably five of the ten richest pastors, and some of the largest church auditoriums in the world. Yet, the country has one of the most corrupt successive governments, with the global notion of producing adept Internet fraudsters. How can you reconcile the fact that Nigeria that boasts of having the richest black man on earth has the fourth highest number of poor people, many living under a dollar a day? Interestingly, the country has the highest paid legislators in the entire world, who ironically are making laws for the impoverished majority.”

Page 7: Book Introduction

“There is hardly a country in the world that you won’t find a person of Nigerian descent doing exploits in academics, entertainment, sports, or even politics. In fact, there is a common assertion that, if you get to a place and don’t find a Nigerian thriving there, you better leave! It is an expression of the famed resilience of Nigerians. The typical Nigerian is hard-working, creative and intelligent, often manifesting the ‘can-do’ spirit and the ‘never-say-die’ attitude. As a result, while some people ‘fear’ the Nigerian because of his aggressiveness in getting things done and moving ahead, others admire the die-hard

nature of the Nigerian. The most amazing of all is that Nigerians home and abroad love their country dearly. And, whenever you find two or more Nigerians together, especially abroad, they are discussing about their beloved country.”

Page 7: Book Introduction

“We can’t sleep when Nigerians, especially the youths are angry, frustrated, hungry and desperate, particularly when others are meeting at ‘ungodly hours’ to decide their fate. So, if we are to be taken seriously, we must do the needful, irrespective of the time of the day. This is no time for young Nigerians to be sleeping when our country desperately needs us. We must work really hard, in order to make Nigeria great.”

Page 10: Prologue

“Nigeria’s greatest wealth is not in oil and gas, but in its abundance of energetic youths. The country has a young and dynamic population, with over 60% of Nigerians under the age of 30. This demographic dividend provides a significant opportunity for Nigeria to drive economic growth and development. Young Nigerians must join hands to harness this huge, God-given potential.”

Page 15, Chapter One: United By Passion

"Nigeria's problems are not new, but the solutions we seek must be innovative and inclusive, because as young Nigerians, we have the benefit of technology and a growth mindset. And, if Nigeria will emerge as a great country, and be the true giant of Africa, the youths of Nigeria must operate with an entirely different mindset. We must choose cooperation over separation."

Page 17, Chapter One: United By Passion

“There must be engaging and honest conversations about the issues that tend to frustrate Nigerian youths, as well as about the way they are showing their frustrations. They are frustrated about the high unemployment rate amidst the often talked-about, but never seen job-creation efforts. They are frustrated about the economic situation, which seems to worsen each day. There is also the worrisome insecurity in the country, and the list goes on. Not many Nigerians, including the youths believe that the government is able to address these problems, so the typical Nigerian youth is understandably anxious, stressed and fearful about their future.”

Page 22, Chapter Two: Let's Have the Conversations

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“For Nigeria to truly emerge as a great country, strong leadership is necessary. One key responsibility of the desired strong leadership is to selflessly mobilize the people of Nigeria around the cause that they are ready to fight for. This is in order to harness the amazing human and natural resources of Nigeria for the greater good of Nigerians. Strong leadership in this regard is about empowering people through the interplay of the ***‘Effective Leadership Matrix’***.”

Page 29, Chapter Three: Hope Cause and Destiny

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“The evidence of true leadership is a combination of humility in service and accountability. Unfortunately, most Nigerian leaders are not the most humble set of people found anywhere. Also, many of them don't live or behave as if they know that they owe the people any sort of accountability. But, if only they would dare try to be truly accountable leaders, many more people would begin to trust them.”

Page 29, Chapter Three: Hope Cause and Destiny

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“Restoring hope in Nigerians, for Nigeria is a tough assignment, which will require committed and consistent action by everyone. There needs to be the continued amplification of the frustrations of Nigerians, but also genuine and intelligent committed conversations among Nigerians, especially the youths about practical and sustainable solutions. It is all about fusing the hope, cause and destiny of Nigeria and Nigerians.”

Page 31, Chapter Three: Hope Cause and Destiny

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“Nigeria, a nation of vibrant culture, resilient people, and vast natural resources, is witnessing a significant shift in the dynamics of its governance. The people, especially the youths, are awakening from their apathy and are now making their voices heard. For too long, Nigerians have suffered in silence, enduring hardship and injustice without too much dissent. But those days seem to have been consigned to history. The Nigerian people, especially the youths, are now 'awake' regarding political happenings and governance.”

Page 35, Chapter Four: The Voice of the People is Getting Louder

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“The government of the day needs to take notice and take heed to the voice of desperate Nigerians. They are crying for a better deal in the country they so dearly love. The people are demanding an end to corruption, poverty, and inequality. They are demanding good governance, accountability, and transparency. They are demanding a better life for themselves and their children. The voice of the people is getting louder, and it is a call to action. It is a call for the government to listen to the people, to hear their cries, and to respond to their demands. It is a call for the government to be accountable, transparent, and responsible.”

Page 36, Chapter Four: The Voice of the People is Getting Louder

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“The voice of the people is getting louder. It is a call for the government of Nigeria to prioritize the welfare of the people, to provide good governance, and to ensure that the resources of the country are used for the benefit of all. It is a call to action, a call for change, and a call for a better Nigeria. The people will no longer be silenced, and their voices will continue to get louder until their demands are met. The youths in particular are becoming increasingly frustrated with the status quo. They are tired of being ignored, tired of being marginalized, and tired of being oppressed. And they are making their frustration known. The government needs to take notice and take heed to the voice of the desperate Nigerians. The voice is no longer a whisper, it is now a shout. The youths are taking their destiny into their own hands, and they are desperate to make their voice heard.”

Page 37, Chapter Four: The Voice of the People is Getting Louder

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“For decades, Nigerians have prayed for divine intervention to address the problems of poverty, corruption, insecurity, and infrastructure deficits, among others. But it has become clear that prayers alone are not enough. Nigerians must transition from prayers to action, taking concrete steps to address the country's major problems. Transiting from prayers to action in addressing Nigeria's major problems is however not an event. Rather, it is a process, which although may be long and tedious, is essential. It is a process of believing, but also doing the needful when necessary.”

Page 41, Chapter Five: Prayers and Actions for the Nation

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“Certainly, prayers are needed to provide comfort, solace, and spiritual guidance, but they are not to be substituted for human action deemed necessary to achieve a specific goal. And, while prayers can inspire and motivate individuals to take action, they cannot replace

the hard work, dedication, and collective effort required to address the complex problems that must be confronted for Nigeria to make progress.”

Page 42, Chapter Five: Prayers and Actions for the Nation

“It is the balance of prayers and actions that some people fail to establish and end up blaming their lack of achievement or attainment on God. It is the same mindset that some Nigerians have concerning politics and governance. They forget that, as citizens of Nigerians, they have the power to shape their own destiny and create a better future for themselves and their country. And, when in situations of learned helplessness they say *“let’s leave it to God”*, they are unwittingly worsening the situation. This is especially when they can do something to ameliorate the situation by just being more creative and courageous.”

Page 44, Chapter Five: Prayers and Actions for the Nation

“The youths of Nigeria, like their counterparts in other parts of the world certainly possess the ability to drive change and shape the course of history. They just need to be well organised and forge strong united bonds with allies, such as civil society, labour movements and the ‘concerned professionals’. And, considering the significant effects of youth-led protests on Nigeria’s social, economic, and political landscape, youth-led revolts and protests continue to demonstrate the importance of ‘youth power’.”

Page 47, Chapter Six: The Revolting Youths: A Call to Action for a Better Nigeria

“The youths know that they would not be young and energetic forever. They know that the future belongs to them, so they want to guarantee their future today. The youths should not be blamed for seeking and working for a better future for themselves, because it is their right. They are not asking for too much by sending clear messages by their revolts.”

Page 47, Chapter Six: The Revolting Youths: A Call to Action for a Better Nigeria

"We've seen so many youth-led protests and revolts in Nigeria over the years, but what have we really achieved? What have we learned from these experiences? We get excited about a cause, we protest, and then we forget about it. We don't follow through, we don't build institutions, and we don't create lasting change. Moreover, we often exclude certain groups from our movements, whether it's because of their ethnicity, religion, or

socioeconomic status. We have also failed to learn the importance of strategy. We often react to events without thinking through the consequences of our actions.”

Page 52, Chapter Seven: The Unlearned Lessons of Youth Revolts and Protests

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“As Nigerians, we need to learn to think critically, to plan strategically, and to execute our plans effectively. Another issue is that we blame others for our problems, but we fail to look inward, to examine our own biases and prejudices, reflect on our own actions, and acknowledge our mistakes. One of such mistakes is failing to acknowledge the importance of economic empowerment. We often focus on politics and social justice, but we forget about the economic dimension. We need to learn to build businesses, to create jobs, and to empower ourselves economically. We still have a long way to go, but let's keep learning, let's keep growing, and let's keep pushing forward.”

Page 52, Chapter Seven: The Unlearned Lessons of Youth Revolts and Protests

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“There is this notion that the youths of Nigeria are considered ‘soft targets’ by politicians who see them as willing tools to be used during elections in particular to commit atrocities, including disrupting elections and snatching ballot boxes on election days. When these politicians get to power, knowing how easily they can manipulate the hungry and desperate jobless youths, would hardly do anything to empower them. This is possibly why the leaders and those in government would do little to assuage the yearnings of Nigerian youths.”

Page 53, Chapter Seven: The Unlearned Lessons of Youth Revolts and Protests

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“There is a great possibility that every Nigerian government, including the current government would not deliberately try to destroy the future and aspirations of the youths. It is obvious that they do make plans, policies and programmes to improve the lives of the youths, knowing how doing that would continue to stimulate economic growth. But there seems to be the lack of political will and the sincerity of purpose to take the desired steps and actions to effect the needed changes.”

Page 54, Chapter Seven: The Unlearned Lessons of Youth Revolts and Protests

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“Nigerian leaders should be bold enough to engage with the youths in genuine dialogue and get their buy-in by involving them in the decision-making process. This must however be without the leaders trying to play to the gallery, using “meaningless words of sophistry” to placate the restive youths.”

Page 54, Chapter Seven: The Unlearned Lessons of Youth Revolts and Protests

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“The leaders in the Nigerian government and other political leaders are our parents and elders. Just a few years ago some of them were in the exact position that we find ourselves, revolting and protesting as we are doing right now. But, there seems to be the absence of a clear, non-elitist, practical, realistic, and sustainable strategy to engage the youths of Nigeria. Would the youths reject a proposal offered by the government when they know that it is genuinely to benefit them?”

Page 55, Chapter Seven: The Unlearned Lessons of Youth Revolts and Protests

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“If our leaders seek to engage and talk to us as caring parents and elders would we refuse them? And, if they actually show us solid proof that they care about what we care about, would we not listen? The difficulty that can be foreseen in this kind of arrangement is how a great idea like this would not become the platform to engage youths for political mileage and leverage. But let us not give up hope. After all, we and our leaders are still Nigerians, and we all love our country very dearly”.

Page 55, Chapter Seven: The Unlearned Lessons of Youth Revolts and Protests

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“Don’t let them deceive you that you are the leaders of tomorrow. Be the leader today and build your legacy now, so that when you look back in years to come, you can say, with great satisfaction that, as a young energetic Nigerian, you did your best and left good footprints for others to thread after you.”

Page 57, Chapter Eight: Gathering of the Party Goers

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“Most Nigerian politicians are ‘strategic partygoers’. They don’t attend social events like birthdays, wedding ceremonies, and similar meetings just for fun. They are strategic in deciding which meetings they attend, which is possibly why they are always on the move and extremely busy. To these amazing Nigerian politicians and their associates, politics thrives on so-called positive engagement and the creation of beneficial linkages. So, when they gather at events, it is almost always about gaining and advancing political

leverage. The Nigeria masses are merely onlookers and outsiders in this game of 'partying', so they cannot fully grasp the intrigues of Nigerian politics. As a result, they often get perplexed when they see opposing political leaders who, just moments ago were raining abuses on one another come together, warmly embracing themselves at social events."

Page 60, Chapter Eight: Gathering of the Party Goers

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"The world of Nigerian politics is no doubt very complex, with its web of alliances, rivalries, and power struggles. But the end goal is clear in the minds of the 'partygoers' when they gather to strategize. They are not just meeting to shape the Nigerian political landscape. They are meeting to shape the destiny of Nigeria and Nigerians."

Page 60, Chapter Eight: Gathering of the Party Goers

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"As the Nigerian politicians meet and feast, planning for their next electioneering campaigns, the youths of Nigeria are also meeting to discuss how to challenge the status quo. They're mobilizing to seek ways of harnessing Nigeria's commonwealth through effective leadership and competent governance. It's a gathering of two distinct classes of Nigerians: the politicians, who are more concerned with maintaining their power and influence, and the youths, who are demanding change and a better future."

Page 60, Chapter Eight: Gathering of the Party Goers

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"A good number of Nigerians currently occupying the political space are known to have distinguished themselves in different professional and business vocations before venturing into politics. Many of them have joined politics arguably to further contribute to Nigeria's growth and development through the opportunities afforded to them as political leaders. However, in Nigeria, the general impression that people have of their political leaders are not flattering, which is why in some sectors politics is even described as 'a dirty game'."

Page 63, Chapter Nine: God Did Not Come to the Party

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"There is the perception that Nigerian politicians cannot be trusted to make and keep promises, because they often prioritize their desired short-term gains at the expense of the nation's well-being and improvement of the lot of the suffering masses. Whichever it is looked at, the great disparity in the posturing of many Nigerian politicians before and

after elections further tends to support the notion that attaining political power is their ultimate. This perception is unfortunately fueled by the politicians themselves.”

Page 63, Chapter Nine: God Did Not Come to the Party

“Nigerians have become accustomed to seeing politicians walking the streets, and visiting local market stalls like ordinary citizens only during electioneering campaigns. That is the time to also see them doing ‘home visits’ to the people who expect will vote for them on the day of elections. But, once voted into power, these same politicians would longer be seen or heard by the voters they call “their people”. They would have conveniently forgotten their campaign promises. That is of course until the next electioneering campaign begins, and the cycle continues.”

Page 64, Chapter Nine: God Did Not Come to the Party

“The cycle of failed expectations that many Nigerians experience, especially during election seasons has made the phrase *"God did not come to the party"* to become an expression of the frustration and disappointment with the state of the country. It is also an expression of disappointment and disillusionment that many Nigerians feel toward the government and the ruling elite. The situation is exacerbated by the current posturing of political leaders who continue to make strategic moves for the next general elections. To the typical politicians, the end of one election certainly signifies the beginning of the preparation for the next election.”

Page 64, Chapter Nine: God Did Not Come to the Party

“The suffering masses and especially the youths of Nigeria are getting restive and desperate. Many young Nigerians believe that God has abandoned Nigeria, leaving its citizens to suffer at the hands of corrupt and ineffective leaders. So, in a country where the divide between ‘those who have’ and ‘those who don’t have’ is glaringly evident and actually widening, the phrase *"God did not come to the party"* resonates deeply. It is a powerful reminder of the need for justice, fairness, and equality in Nigeria. It is a call to action that the Nigerian government and the ruling elite cannot afford to ignore.”

Page 65, Chapter Nine: God Did Not Come to the Party

“The adage *"politicians are usually concerned about election, but true leaders focus on building lasting legacy"* appears to ring true in the ears of the Nigerian youths. They are

certainly running out of patience, as they have been waiting endlessly for real and transformational action from their leaders in government, but the political leaders seem to have other priorities. The youths are asking these leaders to be truly impactful by striving to leave lasting legacy. There is a fundamental difference in mindset between Nigerian youths and Nigerian political leaders. Nigerian youths who have over the years lamented about being treated like spectators in their own country are advocating for inclusion at the 'table' where issues that shape their future and destiny are discussed."

Page 65, Chapter Nine: God Did Not Come to the Party

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"Personal development alongside integrated leadership training, coaching and mentorship programs are essential to youth empowerment, in making Nigeria to become the hub for innovation and entrepreneurship in Africa. This is based on the famed entrepreneurial spirit of Nigerian youths, which is a source of encouragement for 'youth power' to drive Nigeria's economic growth and development. The ability of the youths of Nigeria to thrive and make positive impact amidst the many challenges they face points to Nigerian greatness. This emphasizes the point that Nigeria's greatest wealth is the *"hidden wealth"* in the teeming youths of Nigeria, which needs to be unlocked and unleashed for the country's continued prosperity."

Page 72, Chapter Ten: Conversations for Greatness

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"Many Nigerian youths are smart, but they need more exposure to leveraged technology, in order to develop digital skills and create innovative solutions. Not only that, they need the kind of support, which can be provided by youth-focused NGOs among others. Credible partners must create platforms to help the youths to access funding and benefit from impactful mentorship programs, in order to acquire and optimize the skills needed to be relevant in today's competitive environment. These skills include critical thinking, problem-solving, communication and emotional intelligence, which are usually acquired outside the university walls, but are critical skills to make Nigerian youths competitive globally."

Page 77, Chapter Eleven: Nigeria's Hidden Wealth

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"There is the growing trend of mental health issues among Nigeria youths, and something needs to be done to arrest the situation, and improve the wellbeing of our youths. It is a fact that there are still many gaps in our knowledge of the link between anxiety and mental health. Generally, Nigerian youths are anxious over many personal and societal issues. There is the need for increased awareness and education, to create safe spaces for youths to share their feelings and concerns without fear of judgment. The promotion of

self-care and stress management as healthy coping mechanisms are important, as affected youths learn to prioritize their mental health, practice self-care, and seek support from friends and family, as well as access professional help.”

Page 78, Chapter Eleven: Nigeria’s Hidden Wealth

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“Nigerian youths are so creative that they will play local and national politics at the right time, and in their own way. The youths can participate in several ways apart from joining political parties or running for political office. The courageous and consistent demand for accountability from political leaders and those in government is a way to get involved. We will also not stop advocating for policies that benefit young people, drive innovation, and promote entrepreneurship. Through effective stakeholder partnerships, Nigerian youth leaders can receive good and relevant training in politics, leadership, resource management and governance. The key is to demonstrate personal integrity, vision and communication skills, as well as the ability to inspire and mobilize others to drive positive change.”

Page 79, Chapter Eleven: Nigeria’s Hidden Wealth

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“Nigerian youths can play an important in promoting women's empowerment and gender equality. They can promote girls and women's empowerment by advocating for policies that support gender equality, challenging patriarchal norms, and creating opportunities for women's economic empowerment. And, as community change agents, they must train their minds to be acutely aware of the needs in their community, so that they can together with collaborating stakeholders develop innovative solutions that drive positive change. In this regard, voluntary community service can help youths develop empathy, build their capacity, and make a positive impact on their communities.”

Page 80, Chapter Eleven: Nigeria’s Hidden Wealth

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“The youths of Nigeria at home and those abroad must commit to be true ambassadors of this great country. The youths have the power to shape their own destinies and the destiny of the country. They have the knowledge, skills, creativity and sheer drive to create platforms for sustainable development and desirable change. They just need to harness their collective will, networks and energy to do the needful. They must however remain passionate about the country we all love so dearly, and not give up hope, even though a lot of things are not right at the moment. They may be dissatisfied with the way things are currently, but they must be willing to engage with open minds, and show the willingness to learn, as well as the commitment to take positive action when required. The youths are the best products that Nigeria has produced.”

Page 80, Chapter Eleven: Nigeria's Hidden Wealth

“The potential of Nigeria being one of the greatest countries on earth has never been in doubt. But how Nigeria can unlock its hidden wealth and become a major player on the global stage remains a mystery. Everyone seems to know what is needed and what has to be done, but when it comes to the ‘real doing’, everything falls apart. The path to unlocking the true wealth of Nigeria, and unearthing its hidden riches has never seemed to be a ‘train-smash’, yet it continues to be like a mirage. We know that the country needs to commit to greater investment in practical education and vocational skills training. But, where is the commitment and action?”

Page 84, Chapter Twelve: Making Nigeria Great

“There is a question to be asked patriotism among Nigerians. Can sufficient patriotic zeal, selfless commitment and unrelenting personal and political will be summoned by Nigerians to bring about desired and required change? Can the famed ‘can do’ attitude and spirits that Nigerians tend to display individually when they want to achieve something of importance to them be applied to issues of common good, in making Nigeria great? Certainly, with the right conditions, this is possible.”

Page 84, Chapter Twelve: Making Nigeria Great

“Many Nigerians are known to be great ‘dreamers’, and there are still a good number of Nigerians that believe in, and dream of Nigeria’s emergence as a truly great and prosperous country in their lifetime. Can their dream of seeing Nigeria becoming great ever come to reality? The possibility is definitely there, but dreaming alone will not bring attainment. All patriotic Nigerians must work together to make Nigeria truly great.”

Page 84, Chapter Twelve: Making Nigeria Great

“The Nigerian politicians, who have long been accustomed to marching to the beat of their own drums, are certainly on the march again. They have put either the gains or the losses of the past elections behind them, and are now jostling, strategizing and positioning for the next general elections. They are meeting and plotting, as they realign to either join or oppose certain political structures and forces. But, this time, the politicians are not alone. The youths of Nigeria are also on the march.”

Page 90, Chapter Thirteen: On the March Again

“Nigerian youths are driven by a renewed sense of hope and determination for a better and greater Nigeria, where their dreams can flourish, and they can express themselves as passionate and patriotic Nigerians. The youths are ready to march against the policy, human, and political issues that have failed them in the past, and have led to continued hardships, inflation, poverty, and unemployment. The rallying cry of the youths is: *“The good, the great, and the possible.”* It is a testament to their unwavering belief in Nigeria's potential for greatness. They are creating a movement that is driven by hope, determination and a commitment to creating a better Nigeria.”

Page 90, Chapter Thirteen: On the March Again

“The youths want to be given the chance to work alongside the older, wiser and more experienced generation of Nigerians to create a brighter future for every Nigerian citizen. They desire to use their zeal, energy, innovation and connectivity, as well as the power of social media and other platforms to raise awareness about the issues facing Nigeria. They also want to mobilize support for their cause, in seeking practical solutions to the myriad of problems and challenges that continue to plague Nigeria. They are not just idealistic, naïve and uninformed as some people may think. On the contrary, they are pragmatic, perceptive and well-informed. They know that the major economic and social challenges facing Nigeria are daunting, but they are undeterred.”

Page 91, Chapter Thirteen: On the March Again

“Nigeria can overcome its current challenges and achieve greatness. But, amidst the rising hope, there is the need for Nigerian politicians and all Nigerians, including the youths to work together for the sake of Nigeria and Nigerians. As we reflect on the cycle of failed expectations that follow each election cycle in Nigeria, let us to move beyond the 'We versus Them' mentality. We need to find common ground and work together to address the pressing issues facing our country.”

Page 91, Chapter Thirteen: On the March Again

“Nigerian youths are no longer content to just sit on the sidelines and watch as their country is ravaged by corruption, inequality, and poverty. They are taking matters into their own hands, using their creativity, energy, and idealism to drive positive change. They fully understand the massive roles they can play to facilitate the unlocking of Nigeria's

greatness, knowing that they have the power to shape their own destiny. Certainly, Nigeria's greatness is not just a 'pipe dream'. It is a reality, which demands committed and sustained collective efforts. The youths know that the journey will be tough and rough, but also believe that, with persistence, the goal(s) will be achieved."

Page 94, Chapter Fourteen: Beyond Survival: The Journey to Greatness

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"It is an undeniable fact that many Nigerian youths, given the opportunity would opt to leave the country and migrate elsewhere. It is a phenomenon popularly referred to as "*Japa*". The Nigerian slang is a corrupted *Yoruba* term meaning to 'break away'. So, to "*Japa*" implies 'to run away' or 'to flee' from the hardship in Nigeria. This of course is usually in search of better job opportunities, education, healthcare, and generally a more desirably standard of living and lifestyle. The "*Japa*" phenomenon notwithstanding, many Nigerian youths believe that, with determination, hard work, and a willingness to challenge the status quo, Nigeria can overcome its current challenges and achieve greatness. It is for them a matter of having a paradigm shift from merely struggling to survive, to 'hustling' to thrive, where 'hustling' is about working hard, seeking opportunities, and remaining focused on succeeding."

Page 94, Chapter Fourteen: Beyond Survival: The Journey to Greatness

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Nigeria undoubtedly faces numerous challenges, including economic instability, corruption, and insecurity. However, despite these challenges, there are many reasons to be optimistic about Nigeria's future. The teeming Nigerian youth population will always be a source of such optimism. The country has a vast pool of talented and resourceful youths, many of whom are eager to make a positive impact when, and if they are given the opportunity to make a difference."

Page 94, Chapter Fourteen: Beyond Survival: The Journey to Greatness

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"In Nigeria, where challenges are abundant, it is very easy to lose hope in the face of the mounting adversity, which many Nigerians have to contend with on a daily basis. For these Nigerians, 'prosperity' appears to be a distant and remote possibility, and the dream of the country ever becoming a great nation like a nightmare. Yet, Nigeria is a country with enough wealth and resources to make a large percentage of its people to enjoy a decent standard of living. But dreaming about that is like an unhelpful academic exercise."

Page 98, Chapter Fifteen: Keeping Hope Alive

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“Nigeria is the land is paradox, where great possibilities and potential run alongside seemingly unending problems and shattered dreams. With a complex and tumultuous history, the country’s historical background is marked by failed dreams and aspirations. From the colonial era to the present day, Nigeria continues to face numerous challenges that have not only hindered its progress and development, but have also tended to frustrate or dash the great ‘Nigerian dream’.”

Page 98, Chapter Fifteen: Keeping Hope Alive

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“Despite all of the problems associated with Nigeria, the dreams of Nigeria’s emergence from the doldrums of failed expectations can be kept alive. Surely, through collective efforts in the right direction, Nigeria can overcome its challenges and achieve its aspirations for a greater future. It is almost unimaginable that Nigeria, a nation with such vast human and natural resources can fail. Some people would even say *“Nigeria is too blessed to be cursed, and too rich in many ways to be poor.”* To regard a country that is so richly endowed with oil, natural gas, and several other natural resources, which also boasts of having some of the most gifted and smartest people on earth as ‘poor’, is beyond the imagination of some of incurably optimistic Nigerians.”

Page 98, Chapter Fifteen: Keeping Hope Alive

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“The optimism and believe about Nigeria’s potential greatness and prosperity can be linked to some ‘blessings’ of Nigeria, which stand as evidence that, with the right approach, Nigeria can attain its potential as a great nation. One such ‘blessing’ is Nigeria’s burgeoning young population, which makes the country a treasure trove of untapped potential. With over sixty percent of its population under the age of 30, Nigeria is a nation driven by the passion, energy, and idealism of its youth. These young Nigerians are the driving force behind the country’s potentially vibrant tech industry, innovative startups, and thriving creative industry. They are the ones pushing the boundaries of what is possible, challenging the status quo, and shaping the future of Nigeria.”

Page 98, Chapter Fifteen: Keeping Hope Alive

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“From the bustling streets of Lagos to the vibrant markets of Kano, Nigerian youths are making their mark. They are entrepreneurs, artists, activists and leaders, using their talents and skills to create positive change in their communities. These are the ones who

will continue to drive Nigeria's growth and development in the years to come, leveraging their creativity, resilience and determination to overcome the challenges that lie ahead. Nigeria's youth power is not limited to the urban centers. It is also evident in the rural areas, where young people are working tirelessly to improve their communities. They are the ones who are driving innovation in agriculture, using their improvised technology to improve crop yields, and develop sustainable farming practices. They are also the ones who are providing key services and economic empowerment to their communities."

Page 98, Chapter Fifteen: Keeping Hope Alive

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"As Nigeria looks to the future, it is clear that its youth will play a critical role in shaping the country's development. They will be the ones who will drive economic growth, innovate and create new opportunities, and lead the charge towards a more equitable and just society. Nigeria's youth are not just the leaders of tomorrow; they are the leaders of today. They are already making significant contributions to the country's development. And, because Nigeria's youth are also remarkably resilient, they are driven by a fierce determination to succeed. Despite facing numerous challenges, including poverty, inequality, and insecurity, they remain optimistic and determined."

Page 100, Chapter Fifteen: Keeping Hope Alive

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"Just like the Olympic Games, which take place every four years, the election cycle in Nigeria is also a four-year cycle. And, just as the athlete that is serious about winning medals in the next four years must start immediate preparation, the Nigerian politicians start warming up and preparing for the next general elections as soon as the dust begins to settle after each election. That is when the winner begins to plan how to win another term if still eligible to contest again, or commences a strategic succession plan. This is inevitably a process to become the 'Godfather', still pulling the political strings after successfully installing a 'mentee', who is expected to still take orders from the 'Godfather'. This is even when occupying an office referred to as 'executive', or when representing a constituency of several thousands of largely voiceless Nigerians."

Page 104, Epilogue

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"Who among the political class and elites have the conscience and compassion to speak for the concerned masses that continue to be disenfranchised, ill-treated, manipulated and dominated in the quest for political power, position and privileges? Who among the political class and elites will dare to lose their political popularity and perks in order to gain acceptance and recognition for fighting for the betterment of the generality of Nigerians?"

Who is concerned about improving the lot of the generality of Nigerians, who always bear the brunt at every election cycle? The answer is 'blowing in the wind!'"

Page 104, Epilogue

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"The conversations among the Nigerian youths are now about working hard and smart, as well as truthfully, in order to become the real and true Nigerian 'VIP's. That stands for Value Image Promoters. This is to show that there is indeed the possibility of the emergence of a new, great and prosperous Nigeria."

Page 105, Epilogue

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"Nigeria is indeed a great country, full of possibilities for attaining greatness. The country's rich cultural heritage, vast natural resources, as well as the large and growing youth population are just a few of the reasons why Nigeria has the potential to become one of the world's leading economies."

Page 105, Epilogue

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"It is up to Nigerian youths to seize the opportunity and confront the challenges facing the country. It is up to the youths to join hands with others, and work together to build a brighter future for themselves and their country. It is when this is done with great desire, truthfulness and passion that prayers and praying can become more reasonable and effective. That is when we can say *"God has come to the party. Nigeria will be great again."*

Page 105, Epilogue

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