



Institute for National Transformation

Lecture 4

God's Purpose for Nations and Dreams from Nations' Founding Fathers

Developing value-grounded, no-excuse leaders that will transform their organizations, communities and nations to greater levels of performance and achievement.



Session Objectives

1. Lay a biblical foundation of the birth of Nations – purpose and process, a prototype;
2. Explore and Understand the dreams of the founding forefathers as a foundation for National transformation
3. Ignite a personal philosophy/conviction to get involved in National Transformation;



Session seeks to Address

1. How and Why are Nations born?
2. What is the process of the birth of a nation?
3. Origins of the Burdens of Founding Fathers?
4. What Must Nations Do to Fulfill Purpose?



#1. God's Purpose for Nations

- Nations are not here by accident
- Nations have destinies and purposes in God's scheme of things
- People of different nations are gifted in order to fulfill such destinies and purposes and someday will account to God for potentials given to them
- We must take responsibility for our national mandates in God



God's Plan For Nations

Acts 17:26-28 (NLT)

26 From one man he created all the nations throughout the whole earth. He decided beforehand which should rise and fall, and he determined their boundaries.

27 "His purpose in all of this was that the nations should seek after God and perhaps feel their way toward him and find him--though he is not far from any one of us.
28 For in him we live and move and exist.



FROM ONE MAN - NOAH

Genesis 8:18,19

So Noah went out, and his sons and his wife and his sons' wives with him. Every animal, every creeping thing, every bird, and whatever creeps on the earth, **according to their families, went out of the ark.**



Origin of Lands, Languages, Nations

Genesis 10:1-4

Now this is the genealogy of the sons of Noah: Shem, Ham, and Japheth. And sons were born to them after the flood. The sons of Japheth were Gomer, Magog, Madai, Javan, Tubal, Meshech, and Tiras. The sons of Gomer were Ashkenaz, Riphath, and Togarmah. The sons of Javan were Elishah, Tarshish, Kittim, and Dodanim.



Origin of Lands, Languages, Nations

Genesis 10:5

From these the coastland peoples
of the Gentiles were separated
into their lands, everyone
according to his **language**,
according to their **families**, into
their **nations**.

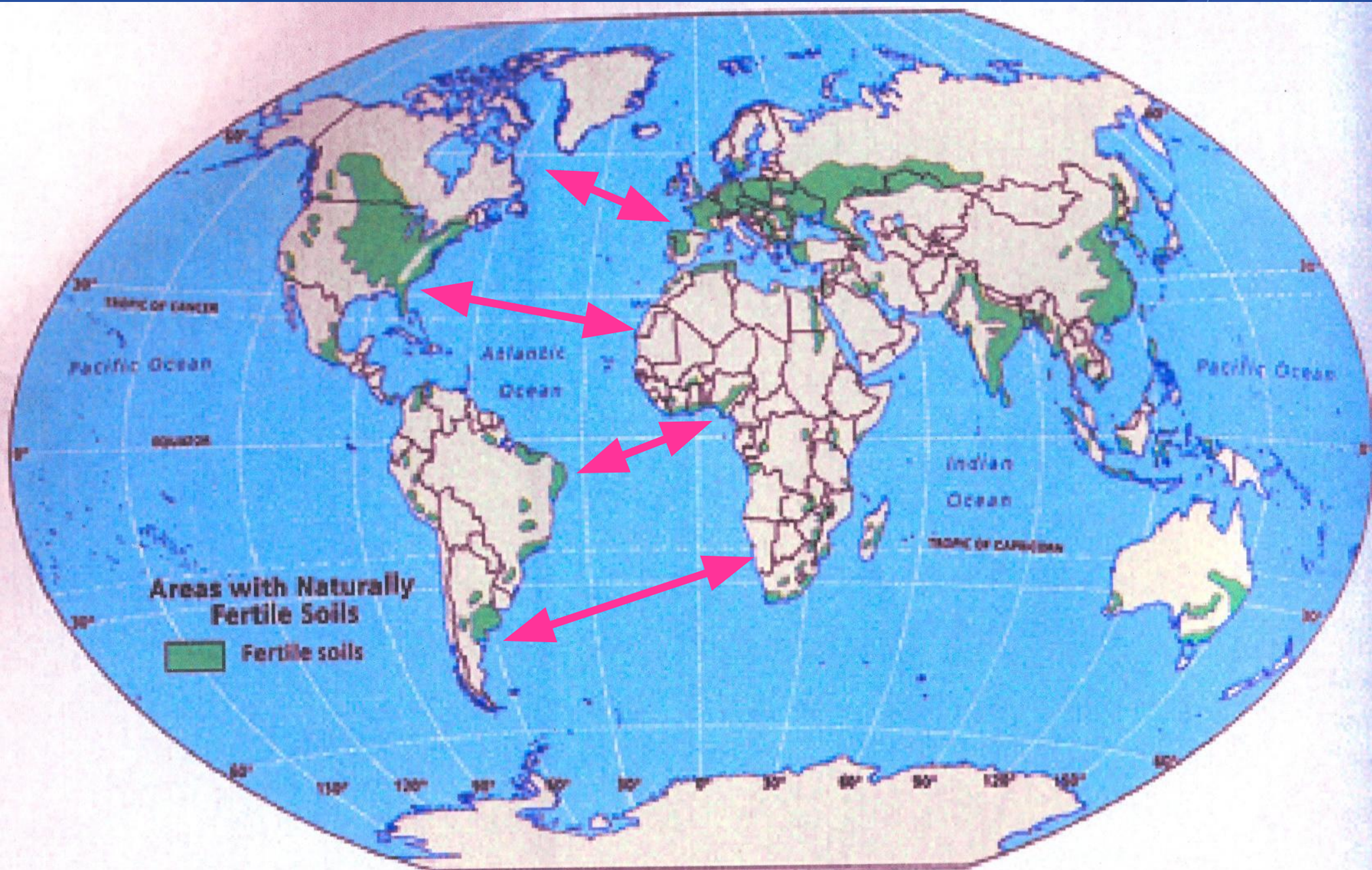


THE PELEG PHENOMENA

Genesis 10:22-25

The sons of Shem were Elam, Asshur, Arphaxad, Lud, and Aram. The Aram were Uz, Hul, Gether, and Mash. Arphaxad begot Salah, and Salah begot Eber. To Eber were born two sons: the name of one was Peleg, for in his days the earth was divided; and his brother's name was Joktan,....

THE PELEG PHENOMENON (Genesis 10:25)





Come, Let Us Build Ourselves

Genesis 11:1- 3

Now the whole earth had one language and one speech. And it came to pass, as they journeyed from the east, that they found a plain in the land of Shinar, and they dwelt there.

Then they said to one another, “Come, let us make bricks and bake them thoroughly.” They had bricks for stone, and they had asphalt for mortar.



The Genesis

- Abraham: Genesis 12 & Genesis 15
(400 years)
- Isaac
- Jacob
- The 12 sons
- 70 go down to Egypt
- 400 years of slavery

This was when they became a nation



God Raises a Model Nation

Exodus 3:9,10

“Now therefore, behold, the cry of the children of Israel has come to Me, and I have also seen the oppression with which the Egyptians oppress them.

Come now, therefore, and I will send you to Pharaoh that you may bring My people, the children of Israel, out of Egypt.”



Nations are like sons

Exodus 4:22,23

Then you shall say to Pharaoh,
'Thus says the Lord:

"Israel is My son, My Firstborn. So I say to you, let My son go that he may serve Me. But if you refuse to let him go, indeed I will kill your son, your firstborn."



Israel: God's First Born Son

- Israel was not the first nation on earth, why first born?
- It was the **first nation God revealed Himself to** and gave His laws and principles for nationhood
- Even when in backsliding and exile, the Jews have tended to do well wherever they have gone because their cultural practices and mindsets are God given



Israel: God's First Born Son

- If Israel is called firstborn, then it implies that God has and is waiting for other nation sons to be born
- In God's eyes, nations too are sons
- Nations have special callings and identity in God just as individuals do
- Israel was delivered from the yoke of Egypt, hence other children nations must be delivered and nurtured to maturity
- Each generation must take responsibility for the deliverance of their nations from the bondage of Egypt to maturity.



The Birth of Nations

The Birth of Nations



The Birth of Nations

Israel the First Born (Exodus 4.22)

- Israel as a **prototype**
 1. Yearning for Liberty
 2. A Call to Nationhood
 3. Discovery of Purpose
 4. Institution of Law and Order
 5. Conceiving of National Vision



1. The Yearning For Liberty

- Israel became a nation through brutal slavery
- Oppression drove them to desire and cry out for freedom
- There was a cry for liberty - desire to be free
- Moses brought a unifying call to all the 12 tribes, **not just Levi**
- There was **a fight for freedom** in which God was actively involved

2. The Call to Nationhood

- There was also a celebration of freedom
- There was a wilderness ahead though
- The experiences the Israelites went through galvanized the sense of nationhood:
 - Shared history
 - Shared values
 - Shared vision
 - Shared identity
- Oppression too though more benign drove African nations to agitate for independence
- The call to nationhood often comes through leaders who are responding to the cry from the populace



3. Discovery of Purpose

Now therefore, if you will indeed obey My voice and keep My covenant, then you shall be a special treasure to Me above all people; for all the earth is Mine.

And you shall be to Me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation. These are the words which you shall speak to the children of Israel.

Exodus 19:5,6



Discovery of Purpose

- Every nation has a purpose
- God will often communicate this to the leaders
- The leaders must find a way to communicate this to the people
- Just like individuals, nations find fulfillment when they walk in their purpose



4. Institution of Law and Order

- The first thing God did was to give them laws
- There was a transition from Moses to **the rule of law and institutions**
- God's laws were detailed and thorough
- They were robustly enforced without fear or favour - no one was above the law.
- They broke the laws of the oppressor to be free but now you must keep the law in your own country!



God's country!

- There could not be a nation without law and order
- God was tough! An eye for an eye, an ear for an ear
- Even secret sins were found out! Many were stoned to death
- Even vacation (sabbath) was enforced otherwise you were put to death!
- Leviticus was written on Sinai; it had laws on everything



Importance of Law and Order

- It is the foundation of growth: law abiding countries grow
- Singapore: spitting, drugs
- Switzerland: littering
- One of our greatest failures; there is pervasive lawlessness
 - Traffic
 - Building regulations
- African countries need to set up laws enforce them robustly and get out of the way of the people



God's Laws

- Worship
- Property rights
- Enterprise
- Construction
- Health
- Dressing
- Environment
- Sexuality
- Agriculture
- Food
- Celebration
- Even toilet habits!



5. Conceiving of National Vision

- God painted a picture of a land flowing with milk and honey: Deuteronomy 8
- The milk and honey did not flow though; everything grew.
- They had to create the milk and the honey.
- No more miracles; no more hand outs; no more free services
- FROM NOW ON WORK; PLANT AND HARVEST, NO MORE FOOD FROM THE SKIES



Conceiving of National Vision

- In the land of Canaan Israel finally became a nation.
- **THEY TOOK RESPONSIBILITY**
- Miracles are emergency interventions
- Miracles must be preached with process as well.
- There is a big difference between collecting manna every morning and planning for planting and harvest

WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE?

- God creates nations according to His own purpose, plans and agenda.
- When Nations fulfill these God-given purposes and destinies, they flourish, prosper and are blessed for generations to come.
- However, when nations refuse to recognize their days of visitation, they perish and are uprooted from the surface of the earth. (Deut 32:7,8)



Africa's Experience

Africa's Experience



Africa's Experience

- Slave Trade
- The role of Colonialism
- The agitation by the founding fathers
- The winds of change
- The season of independence - celebration and wilderness ahead
- The problem of tribalism/racism on the continent
- Corruption... (modern day plight)..
- Those that God will work through in this season must have risen above tribe & race



CHALLENGES AFRICA FACES

- Information and Knowledge coming out of religious and academic institutions reveals that we on the whole do not understand our role in nation building
- Leadership: lack of servant leaders (nurturers) & therefore no defined direction
- Faulty Foundations: Wrong value systems and mindset
- A lack of understanding & application of the principles of nation building
- Inability to apply leadership principles and quality management practices in business and in government.



Samora Machel

*“Tribalism is the
Commander-in-Chief of
Africa’s problems.”*

WE MUST THINK NATION AND NOT TRIBE OR RACE



Ask Your Fathers... & Elders

The burdens, intents, cries and yearning desires, and deliberations of nations' founding Fathers are typically articulated in historical documents such as:

- Declaration of Independence
- The Constitution
- The National Anthem
- The National Coat of Arm
- The National Flag
- The National Pledge
- The National Motto



The Birth of Nations

Recap

- Israel as a ***prototype***
 1. Yearning for Liberty
 2. A Call to Nationhood
 3. Discovery of Purpose
 4. Institution of Law and Order
 5. Conceiving of National Vision



RACE AND TRIBAL ISSUES IN POST INDEPENDENT AFRICA

There was a widespread belief that once African nations gained independence, the new states would focus on nation-building and economic development, hence, ethnic loyalties would wither away under the pressure of modernization.



DREAMS OF FOUNDING FATHERS

Dr. Kwame Nkrumah,

1. envisioned a country that would serve as the guiding light of African independence and solidarity.

“Our independence is meaningless unless it is linked up with the total liberation of the African continent.”

2. Total African control & not negotiated co-existence in leadership (African Elite), and

3. A Pan African movement uniting all of Africa;

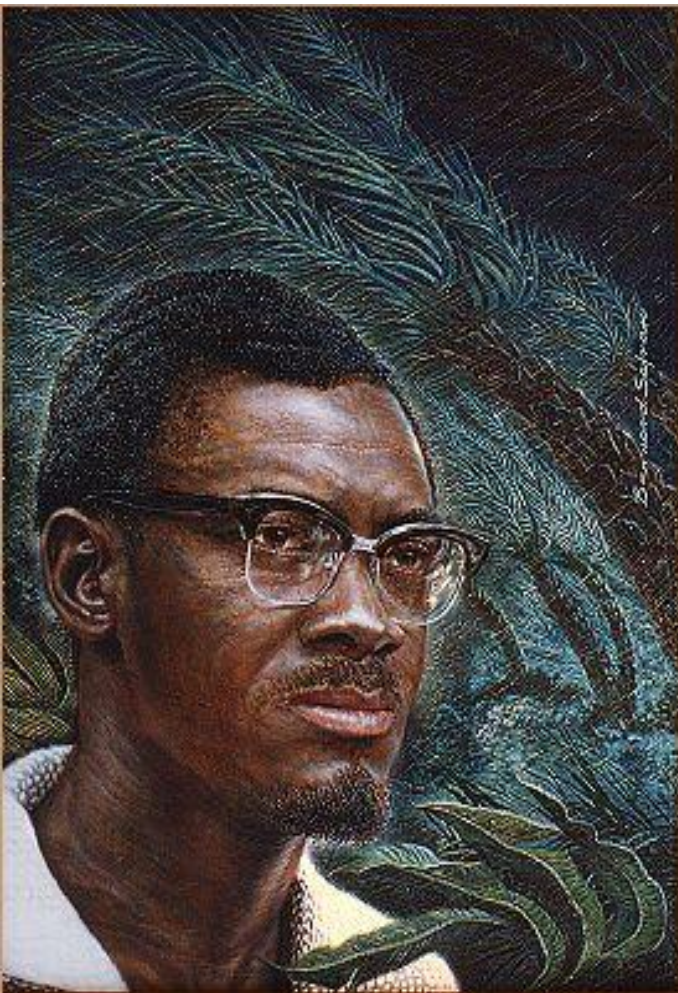


A DREAM ...TURNS TO NIGHTMARE

Patrice Lumumba's dream:

1. Africans to be in control of the destiny of their nation, free from Belgian rule (which had been oppressive);
2. Management of resources in the hands of the people
3. UN to support /keep the peace in the place of the Belgians

There was an assumption that once the white man relinquished control things would be OK.





DREAMS OF OUR FATHERS

- 1. Tanzania:** African Socialism, where everybody would be equal; support one another, move towards prosperity together; Policy of Ujaama, Villagisation;
- 2. Egypt:** Freedom from Kingdom, removal/control of the Elite.. A popular movement pro masses;
- 3. Senegal:** Prosperity for the nationals, protection of the French interests (at loggerheads with National needs); Senghor



The dreams were mixed..!!

A Francophone observation:

- Our dream was to become like the white man, we were to be like Black Frenchmen (pp 59 para #3)
- Paradoxically, it was the French who taught us first to seek, then to reveal ourselves to ourselves.. (para #4).. ...
Senghor
- Serving in the French army was a wakeup call



The dreams were mixed..!!

- ... “Nigeria is not a nation, there are no Nigerians as you would have English, Welsh, or French” .. Balewa (pp 8, para#2)..
- Our desire was to be free, free like the rest of Africa, we had heard of the defeats in many a country, we were energised... (**Nelson Mandela** Auto Biography)..- Visit to Ethiopia was an anti climax though.



The dreams were mixed...!! 2/3

- **Overarching Dreams:**
- Egalitarian society; wealth creation through industrialisation, access to services – education and health; development of infrastructure, access to land (Kenya, Zimbabwe), peace, freedom ...
- Management of National resources proved a challenge though...
- The realities of having to balance varying interest groups; securing of power/authority; being leader



HOPE IN NATIONAL SYMBOLS...

Sir Abubaka Tafawa Balewa

Former Prime Minister, Nigeria

(During 1959 debate for a motion for
independence)

“I am confident that when we have our own citizenship, our own national flag, our own national anthem, we shall find the flame of national unity burning bright and strong.”

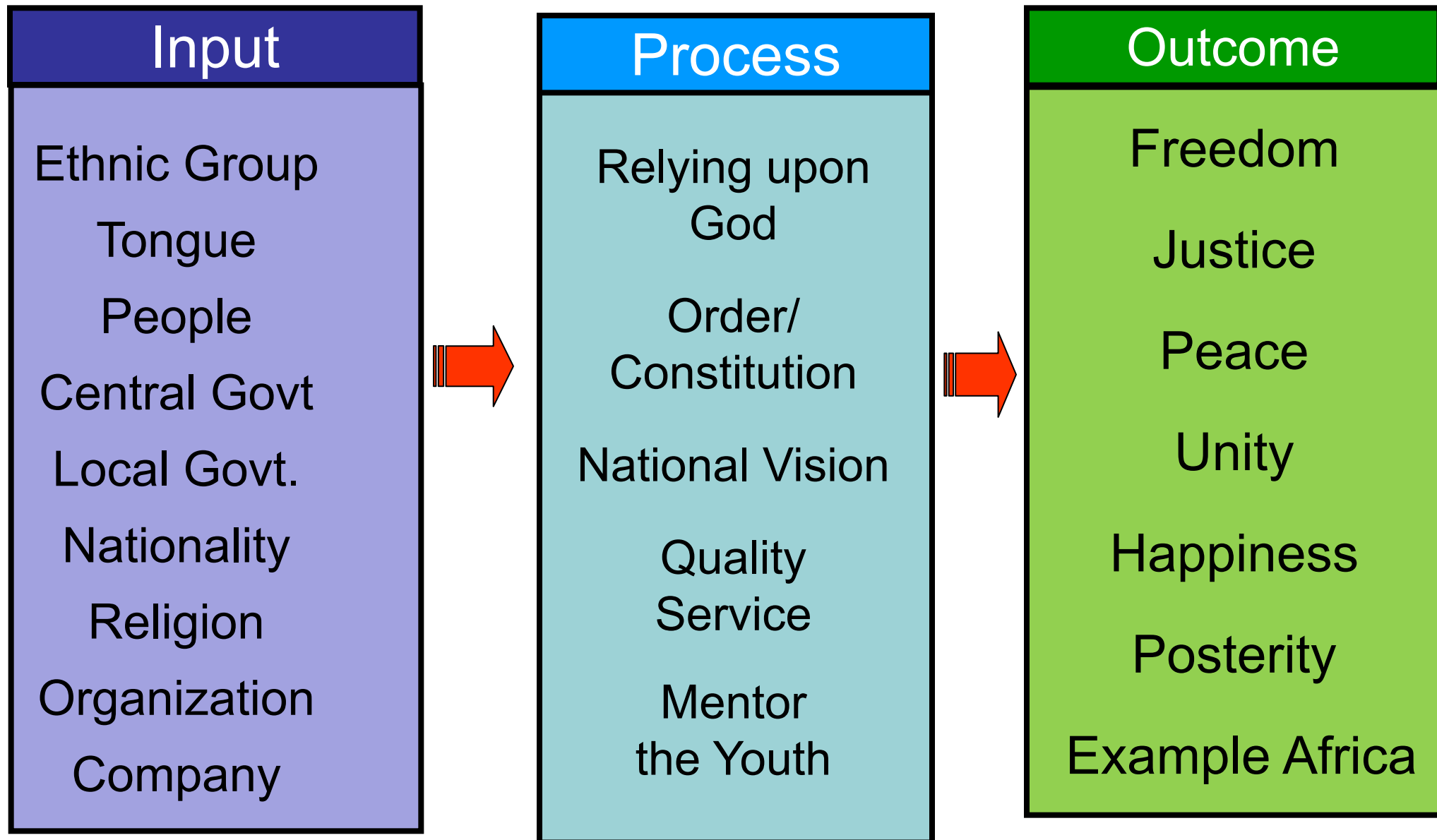


Nations

Nation Building principles ...



God's Purpose for Uganda



The Future of a Nation

- The quality of a nation depends on the moral character of their people and the principles upon which they built their lives. This truth has been proven throughout the history of humanity. Israel, Babylon, Persia and the Roman Empire are illustrations of this truth.
- African countries will never be great or be truly developed until the Africans decides to champion a moral crusade that will establish in every strata of the society the principles and virtues of integrity and righteousness.

SUMMARY:

The Future of a Nation

- Some things are more important than life and these things are: values, principles, character, dignity etc.
- Money and mineral resources are not true measure of real wealth. The real wealth of a nation is the moral fabric and the value system of her people – as revealed in the streets of their market places.
- Men and nations are not great by the virtue of their wealth, **but by the wealth of their virtues**. (e.g. Switzerland, Sweden as against Africa, Uganda etc.)
- **Whatever dictates your value is your God** – money or God's standards.

SUMMARY:

The Future of a Nation

- The virtues of character, behavioral patterns and moral systems determine how great the nation and its people are going to become.
- The societal value system are thought and reinforced at three places: **The Family, Religious Institutions, and the existing Educational systems.**



CONCLUSIONS...

What are
your
dreams for
this Nation?



Consider this ...

Reflect

Ask not what your nation will do for you, rather ask.. 'what can I do for my country?'

Reflect

The Entitlement mentality...
(blame, passive, powerless)

Reflect

Successful people are those that look for circumstances they need (like), if they don't find them – they create them

Challenge, reflection...

- Our deepest fear is not that we are inadequate. Our deepest fear is that we are powerful beyond measure. It is our light, not our darkness, that most frightens us. Your playing small does not serve the world. There is nothing enlightened about shrinking so that other people won't feel insecure around you.
- We are all meant to shine as children do. It's not just in some of us; it is in everyone. And as we let our own lights shine, we unconsciously give other people permission to do the same. As we are liberated from our own fear, our presence automatically liberates others.
- Marianne Williamson
Author, Lecturer

Leadership: definitions

Leadership is influence, nothing more nothing less ...

John C Maxwell

Leadership is communicating a persons worth to them so clearly that that are able to see it...

Dr Steve R Covey

Leadership: definitions

Leadership is the capacity to influence others through inspiration; that inspiration is generated by passion; the passion is motivated by a vision which is birthed from a conviction, conviction is produced by a purpose...

Dr Myles Monroe

Thank you.

END