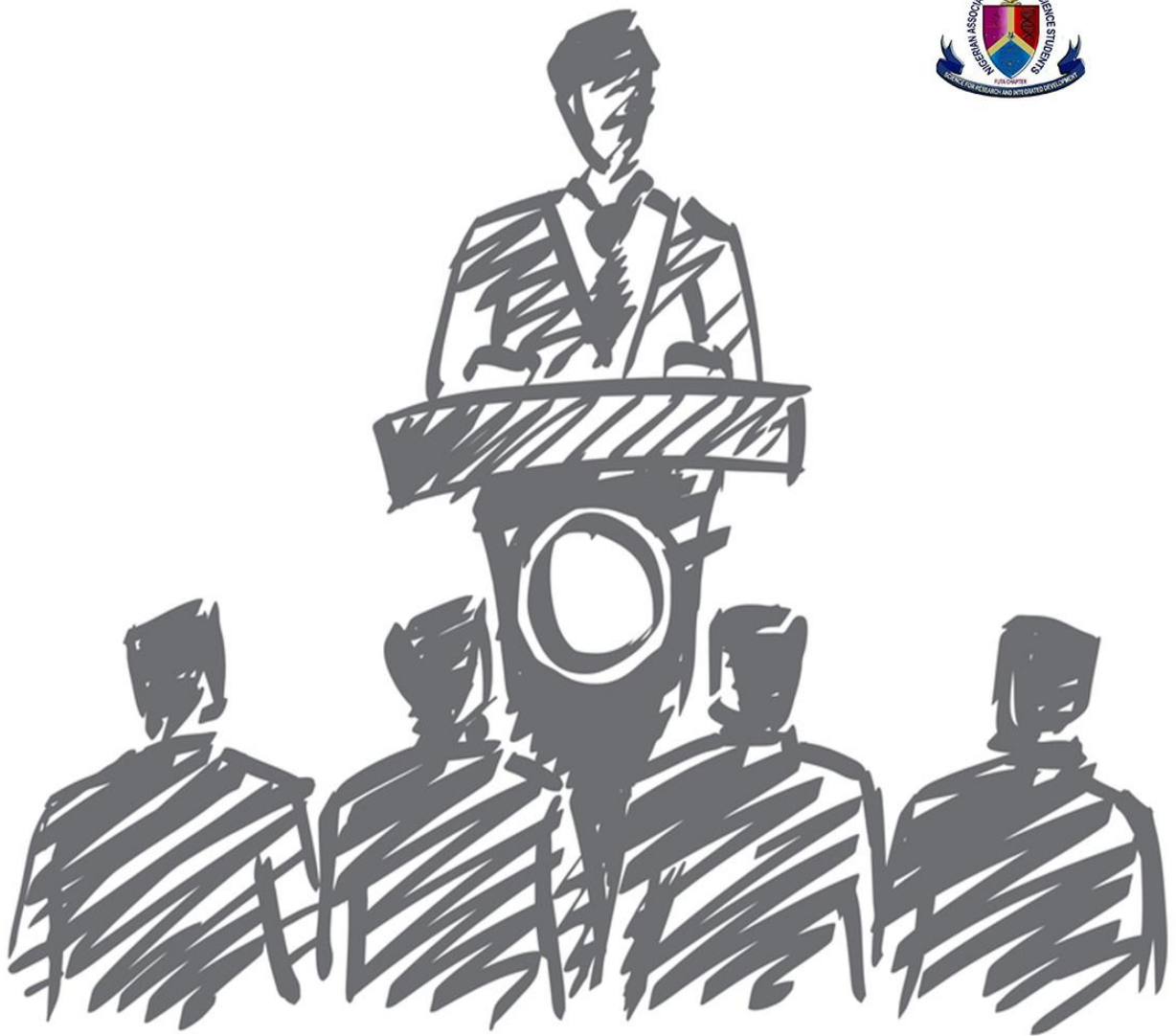


# DEAR COMRADE



written by

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### ACKNOWLEDEMENT

My sincere appreciation goes to Nwaezide Okechukwu for taking his time to carefully correct this piece and Suru David a.k.a Kida for his professional touch on the designs.

## MY EXPERIENCE

***“Don’t cry because it is over, smile because it happened”***

I always believed that a political office like the “NASS presidency” isn’t a testing ground; so I prepared well for the challenges knowing that I can’t solve all problems, at least not in a year.

I campaigned with a 7-point agenda which includes a new secretariat, food/relaxation center, and unity. So you can imagine I had it all planned.

My popular saying that “I became president at a time when little success will be noticed but not a largely failed effort”. Upon my assumption of office, I wanted to change many things, including the process of dues collection, the staff adviser reducing our budget. I disagreed with more than 70% of dues being used for incentives, the executives will understand when I say I disagree with the bus.

The year 2016 was a tough year in Futa to become an executive (more than enough crisis and it affected so many things).

## SECOND SEMESTER

Going against the popular tradition of doing less during the second semester due to unavailability of funds, we (executives) strategized to change the narrative. Any administration that wants to record tangible achievement must focus more on the second semester as the first semester has lots of activities including elections, due collections, and dinner.

We started the semester with free course registration – sponsored by the executives – the cleaning of the SOS building (then we differentiated the entrance door from the notice board). We organized a welcome-back party to cover for the dinner not organized by the previous administration. We also organized sport related activities. Everything was sponsored by the executives because the adviser said: “we can’t spend the money we haven’t made.” At this point, I was already draining myself for the association. Then we had to meet the adviser again and after much deliberations, he agreed to release funds for an improved viewing system (GOTV), refund us for the money we spent for our swearing-in ceremony and provide support for a sick Nassite.

I knew I was going to sacrifice a lot, but I never expected that much financially. Many projects had to be canceled.

## THE NASS SECRETARIAT

This was one of our second-semester achievements.

You would have thought the executives and me, in particular, were sharing an office with the Dean (Prof O.K Koriko) at that time. Almost every day, I would go to him with new suggestions or complaints. For

instance, I will say some faculties' associations have air-conditioned offices and NASS, the largest association, was still under the stairs and he would reply "should I send a lecturer out for you?"

Truly we have more staffs than any faculty and some lecturers had to share the office. So obviously, we can't get an office.

I thought about having a new structure in front of LT1 close to the stairs where the café is located, but the association could not afford it. At that time, the new attached building had just been completed and I met the dean to see if we could get one of the rooms. But no, they have been shared.

At this point, the dean was already tired and it showed in his responses to new suggestions. "Does it affect the school?" I always reply, "NO." Even though it does affect the school. And he will say "no problem, go and use it." That was his exact reply when I told him I saw a free room downstairs close to the abandoned toilet. The Sheriffs already claimed the room. We, the executives, checked the room and we picked a day for cleaning but we had to let go due to some reasons. The stuff in the room belonged to a dead person and we would be held responsible if the family report any missing thing.

I thought, "Maybe this is the right time to give up on a new secretariat." But our staff adviser was very supportive in this struggle for a new secretariat. I had just left the dean's office when I noticed a place where cleaners stored plastics and some laboratory stuff. I kept on thinking about the place. I was hoping it was spacious enough because that would be the only reason we wouldn't use it.

Things did not change much when I met the dean and that was how we came about the secretariat. It cost ₦48,000 from the association's account

A similar issue was that of NASS EATERY/RELAXATION CENTRE. Twice the effort on the secretariat was applied on the relaxation center, from meeting the SAC (space allocation committee), Mr. Blackwell, and the Dean. But we were not successful because the only way it was possible was to attach a building to the school and that contradicts the school law.

## PART V SENT-FORTH

Another big issue was the part v dinner, it disturbed me so much. After much deliberation and begging, ₦50,000 was released for the sent-forth. DJ fee that time was ₦15,000, T.I Francis cost ₦28,000 to rent and we were left with ₦7,000 to cover for refreshment.

It would take a miracle for ₦7,000 to be enough for the rest of the program. I had to look for other means of getting money. I remember following the Nass bus conductor from Akure to Benin, the bus was booked for an event in Benin for 2 days and I followed the driver, dropped the people on our way back, we had to start picking passengers and everything was upside down when the adviser called me that the bus shouldn't move unless the sum for two days has been deposited and the receipt be showed on Monday, it was a weekend. The bus had moved already, I won't tell if the receipt was shown, but you have to do what you have to do.

You might believe the stress is unnecessary but even you wouldn't care the story behind the failure, all everyone would say is, "they failed to organize Part V sent-forth"

The food cost ₦40,000 and few hours to the program, we were still preparing. Thanks to Comrade Alfred that night for helping out with water for the invited guests.

I had emptied my account for the program and the executives were cooperative, they gave their best. (I want to use this medium to thank the executives once again **DIVINE, DEEWHY, SHUGAR, BIGGY, OMO-AKIN, BALOTOPSY, LETOCIE, WIZDAM, DIRAN**)

The adviser claimed we happened to be the first who collected that much second semester and it will be deducted after due collection.

### FIRST SEMESTER

I was carried away with association activities including due collection – the process can be so exhaustive, meeting with registration officers and so on – Futasu election, Nass election and Dinner.

### UNITY

The election margin was a glimpse of how hard it will be to unite the departments, there are some things I wish I had done and some I wish I didn't do.

Somehow, I was working to put the association in place and I assumed everyone knew what I was doing. Should I blame that on Mathematics? I got it wrong the moment I taught we – Comrades across all departments – were united.

Some haven't healed from the last election while some predicted that my next political move wouldn't be in favor of them so everyone was trying to take advantage of every opportunity just to have a different outcome in the next election.

Hence my conclusion: "Election is the major cause of disunity in NASS."

If we are all allowed to choose, we can't have the same interest, **the solution is for us to have a system that we all believe in to choose for us, as long we remain loyal to this unbiased system, we are a step closer to being united.**

### INCENTIVE

I remember the meeting with all NASS presidents in Ondo State, we wanted to have a system that helps each Chapter. We shared our due collection process, how much we collect, and what we do with it.

I agree that NASS shouldn't be a burden to the students. I have also come to the conclusion that our due collection process affects the expression of ideas from the executives. A President of a particular University in Ondo doesn't even spend a full week in school, he has the time to check out ideas from different schools, and meet dignitaries simply because he doesn't have to worry about the due collection since it is paid alongside the school fees and the school management pays directly into the association's account. This allows the association to focus energy on other activities.

I saw how a student compared the book Com. Afoo gave us as an incentive to that of another school. The truth is, that school pays N8,000 as faculty due and about N900 which is about 12% was given back as an incentive (that big book) and they have N7,100 to run the association

Just because NASS FUTA doesn't put much burden on students, it's underappreciated. I strongly disagree with more than 20% being used as an incentive since more than 60% will be used for projects and programs that benefit the students.

You can disagree with me, that's what makes us different. The incentive is a way of saying thank you for paying not returning back the money.

## **NB**

I would like to add this for comrades who would like to continue the struggle.

We use to have a committee of presidents (COP) then, great guys like Worldwide, Walexynon, Luminous, Dwon, Midas and myself. We wanted to change the due collection system, we held meetings with Futasu excos and the dean but there were lots of crisis in school then and bringing up a new system would be the least to be considered at that time.

## MAGAZINE

I write this with regrets, it is a yet to be concluded project and I have to make it clear that a penny from it isn't with me though you don't need to believe that. Lots of stories surrounding the magazines and I can only apologize because it happened under my watch. For more information, meet the adviser.

## POLITICS

I laugh at most intending comrades who don't want to learn. John Adams said: "I must study politics and war that my sons may have the liberty to study Mathematics and Philosophy." You have to take your time to understand that which you don't and it's not all about holding a political position.

How can you even hold a political position without learning politics? You will only end up being controlled by people who know.

## **L E A R N**

I also need to warn you about Propaganda, it is very important in politics but please be honest.

"For propaganda to be effective, it must be believed; for it to be believed, it must be credible and to be credible, it must be true" Please don't be blinded by power that you have to destroy one of those you will have to protect when you get to power.

In addition, **"Always vote for principle, though you may vote alone, and you may cherish the sweetest reflection that your vote is never lost"**

## LEGISLATIVE ARM

***Just as the spiritual controls the physical, the legislative arm is meant to control the executive arm.***

NASS needs a legislative arm whose main aim isn't to punish the executives but to support. A house that understands both the executive arm and the legislative arm should be held responsible for any failure.

Most importantly, a house who can stand its ground on budget issues. It is the function of the house to slash budgets appropriately and to scrap irrelevant activities. I disregard any house whose duties are performed by the staff adviser. The executive arm cannot be accountable to two legislative arms. It can be stressful to defend the budget twice, those precious time can be spent on other issues.

I wish to share my personal experience with the house, but I just want to give you what you need, anything more isn't needed.

I must confess the title "honorable" is too cheap in NASS that an honorable might not even attend a single sitting, how can they represent their constituencies?

Just as the spiritual controls the physical, the legislative arm is meant to control the executive arm.

So Dear Honorable, please strive to make this arm strong; take your time to observe the FUTASU legislative arm, the National Assembly, and watch live sittings. Don't just carry the title.

You have to take full responsibility of NASS.

## EXECUTIVE ARM

***“A good leader takes a little more than his share of the blame, a little less than his share of the credit”***

There is a reason why everyone cannot be an executive, it is meant for the best brains: people who know how to work as a team, people of great ideas and people excellent at developing the idea of others. I see no reason why you have to be forced to perform in a position you campaigned for, spending your time and money just for the title. Even if you are given, why can't you reject it. If you know you can't handle pressure, why be an executive? Please don't be useless!

Don't be an executive who is only interested in his personal projects too. Also, don't be an online executive, the association has a Secretariat, be readily available.

NASS needs an executive for the struggle (All struggle), it doesn't have to be a constitutional duty.

You have to merit that “leader” you are being called. You have to sacrifice for the success of the association, you have to be sure that there is nothing more you could have done.

And know well that ***“A good leader takes a little more than his share of the blame, a little less than his share of the credit”***

***DON'T JUST BE A LEADER, BE A GOOD LEADER***

## 5.0 LETTER TO INTENDING COMRADES

**“A tree that does not want to be stoned, should not bear fruit”**

I want to give you an opportunity to consider your decisions again, the truth is after everything, it will be of more advantage to you not to have served.

I really don't want to scare you; I wish to give you all the motivation you need but I must prepare you for what is coming. Have you ever been accused wrongly? Can you live your whole life been accused wrongly? You must be sincere in answering these questions.

“Dear comrade, you are a thief.” Yes, you are. You became a thief the moment you became an aspirant and if it is hard to accept, then you should just stay an aspirant.

This letter to intending comrades isn't for all, it is for aspirants who have real plans – not power freaked, not the “real thieves” – people who are always ready to learn, contribute their quota for the development of the association. People who are ready to pay the price without expecting the prize.

I wish I could also write a letter to clueless aspirants – the title freaks – but I will be wasting my time cause he or she won't even read. People who feel the title would fit them, they want to explore the opportunities that come with the position to make money, to become more influential when in the real sense, they have no influence. They want the reward of service without serving. I BEG YOU, PLEASE DO NOT STEAL PUBLIC FUNDS.

How well have you structured your plans?

Firstly, if 80 percent of your plans involve funds from the association's account, then you must restructure it. Go back to your table. Be sure you can achieve 40 percent without the association's funds because you would be lucky to receive 20 percent of what you ask for excluding traditional activities. I can attest to the fact that those plans that do not need you to spend much have more effect on the life of Nassites (e.g. collating where the previous sets did their IT, skill acquisition program, etc). You just have to think about it and until you have such a plan, the position isn't for you.

Are you satisfied with your academic standing? The statistics are all the proof you need, the best you can do is to maintain your class. Most students drop by two classes; from first class or second class upper to second class lower or pass. I know very much that without a good academic standing, you are not eligible to contest but be sure you can maintain it. I seriously don't fancy the grade but save NASS the insults

Did I tell you there are more pros than cons to not serving? It depends on how much you value experience. The experience you are going to gain; your colleagues might never have it. You will soon be ready to face the world and no one will give anyone an opportunity to fail. You don't need another testing ground if you truly serve NASS.

Dear Comrade, I have to prepare for convocation now, I did not write this for the fun of it, it took out of my busy time, I had to stay up to write, please make good use of it.

Once again, I want to appreciate gallant class 18 comrades, I am already missing you all. The times we yell at each other, the times we agree

I love you all

BCH	BIO	CHE	CSC	PHY	MTS	STA/MCB
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Dr. Ramirez	Deewhy	Oloye	Hon. Adefe	Wale	Hon. Ayajo	Beejay
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