**Name: Amos David Ovie**

**Department: MBBS**

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**TOPIC: TRIBALISM AND NEPOTISM.**

Nepotism and tribalism are two poisonous diseases at large in our society and nation.

**Nepotism** is "favouritism shown to relatives or close friends by those with power or influence". **Tribalism** is positively "loyalty to a tribe or tribal values. Negatively, tribalism is "a way of thinking or behavior in which people are more loyal to their tribe than to their friends, country or any other social group.

Before the independence of our country, those who ruled us dis not care about what tribe or section of community we came from. They were only interested in our qualifications and allegiance to the British rule and government. As soon as the country gained its independence, the whole system started changing. Jobs were misused by a minority clique and given to people who came from one particular region. As a result of this, other parts of the country started rebelling against the post-independence marginalization of it's post-independence. The rebellion was as a result of tribalism, sectionalism and nepotism. These are the causes of many problems nationwide.

People from other tribes need to understand that every tribe reflect big differences between one another. For instance, in Southern Sudan, every visitor can easily identify some sort of difference among the people simply by the way they appear in public. Many people from different ethnic groups see the markings as one of the divides among the Sudanese people and feel they should be abolished. One of the problem brought by these face markings occurs during rioting between ethnic groups. People who join the fight will just have to look at the faces to know the tribes involved in the fight and on whose side they are. As tribalism and nepotism feed on themselves, they become destructive to both social and political aspects of our society.

While poverty increases, people mag choose to put their close relatives in key positions rather than better qualified people. Due to discriminatory nepotism, many young men and women who have better certificates and degrees than others are turned away while people who have relatives responsible for employment are taken in and employed. In our public institutions, tribalism and nepotism are obviously becoming more widespread. Bosses would prefer to have supporting staffs come from their own tribe. If such practice is not abandoned in the society, it will create more unfortunate spirit of negative tribalism and hatred.

Nepotism and tribalism can also be seen in our national government. Most people in higher positions are from the same tribe. This act increases the hatred and tribalism for that particular tribe. An elite person is generally believed to be a peacemaker, but this belief turns out to be false, then hope for reconciliation and peace becomes remote.

In conclusion, the spread of poison can be deadly serious. All leaders of various organizations and societies need to help develop genuine future peace in our society. We need to act now in order to remove these political poisons, negative tribalism and nepotism wherever they are found in the society. For the Bible says in Proverbs 15:34, "Righteousness exalts a nation, but sin is a disgrace to any people".