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**TOPIC: TRIBALISM AND NEPOTISM.**

Tribalism and Nepotism are two deadly menaces that has affected our society at large. The case of tribalism and nepotism go way back.

**Nepotism** is "favoritism shown to relatives or close friends by those with power or influence". In that case people take advantage of friends and family relatives to get what they want. **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. In other words, they are ignorant to other factors around them.

Before Nigeria gained independence, those who ruled us (our leaders) back then did 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 its 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 may 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. It is highly influenced there. Nowadays offices and positions are no longer given to those who deserve them, the people who hold power now all come from the same race or tribe or family members. It is also seen in the APC government. Also, in banks and companies, people pass down offices and power to family members. Those not even qualified to handle the job right. This is one of the major causes of unemployment in the society. Most qualified people go around looking for jobs meanwhile most of the vacancies have been given off to those who don't deserve them. It also results to conflict or hatred to a particular race or tribe.

In conclusion, the spread of these acts are severely 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. It is better to act now than to wait for this menace to rule the society.