



Persecution of Professor Atuguba only proves his point.

A people that persecutes those that caution them against possible harm are frightened of their own shadows.

Otherwise how does a caution like “hey! watch out for that hole ahead of you before you fall in it” become a threat like, “hey! I will push you into that hole ahead of you”.

How can a caution be construed as a threat? Where is the difficulty in this simple language?

The fact that so many commentators are emerging from their cubicles to impugn the stellar integrity of Professor Atuguba suggests that they have other motives than an honest critique of his electric presentation. Prof Atuguba shone a light of hope amid the gathering clouds of economic despair by proffering solutions to our dire circumstances that he aptly described with clinical precision.

My suspicion is that many of those trying to tag him with coup mongering are indeed only smarting from his dissection of the economy that exposed their arguments that all is well except for some “legitimate concerns that the country has no money”. In pidgin English they say, “country broke!”.

Indeed, all is not well in “kojo krom” and now we all know it.

The desperate attempt to distract us from these facts that were insightfully analysed by Prof Atuguba are just that, desperate attempts.

We are not going to waste our time defending Prof Atuguba from something he never said, clearly did not intend and he certainly would not endorse a coup in Ghana.

So let us get to the point.

What is the state of the economy? Ghana is broke!.

What should we do about it? Rally together as one to make hard choices that will demand sacrifices from all of us. We must claw our way out of the depth of the economic pit that we have been plunged into.

However, no one should expect a cheap bailout to continue business as usual. The preconditions for our collective effort must be demonstrable acceptance of the facts as they stand, no more denial and self-delusion, let us call a spade a spade.

There must also be demonstrable mechanisms put in place to ensure that funds mobilized are spent in more secure airtight mechanisms that ensure specificity of allocations and better accountability than before.

We must achieve the objective of climbing out of our hole of debt by investing in production areas of economic growth. That is the cure for adding real growth that keeps ahead of inflation and also buffers our currency against depreciation.

Such measures will boost confidence that our suffering will not be in vain. We certainly can't allow others to feed fat from our additional sacrifices and suffering. Lastly, to ensure that such initiatives are not just a temporary quick fix band aid, we must couch the needed initiatives against a background of fundamental constitutional reforms that will guard against future misjudgements, misappropriations and mismanagement.

In this regard, some fundamental constitutional reforms are needed to ensure deconcentration of power of the executive to eliminate conflict of interests in many areas and also strengthen constitutionally independent bodies to act more autonomously without fear or favour.

The reform agenda must also institute compulsory adherence to national long term development plans. Reforms are also needed to ensure efficient and viable decentralization that is downwardly accountable to the people, through direct non-partisan election of local government leaders at metropolitan, municipal and district levels.

We must also include electoral reforms to permit formation of coalition governments in the first round of national general elections to get broader inclusion. Additionally, reforms must include stricter regulation of political parties to guard against elite capture so that parties are more accountable to the electorate. Procedures and rules for party funding and accountability will also ensure greater equity in national competition between candidates for public office.

To proceed without reforms into the 2024 elections is to assume that we have learned nothing and have nothing to correct in our thirty years of democracy during the fourth republic.

Such an assumption will be careless and reckless fool-hardy neglect of our duty to future generations. We owe it to them to bequeath a healthier fourth republic that is free from exclusion, gross imbalance of power, embedded conflict of interest and a deliberate lack of continuity for national development. We must find a way to douse the flames of excessive partisan adversarial contest that seek to sacrifice the national interest in the face of partisan contest of wills.

It is the solemn duty of the generation that began the fourth republic to hand it over to the next generation without any of its in-built flaws.

May God preserve the likes of Prof Atuguba who will boldly alert us to the dangers of the wolves of adventurism that are lurking at our door. May God preserve the patriots that have laid down their lives for the rule of law in our dear nation. May God raise up a younger generation of true leaders that expect to serve and not be served. We must seek to be cleansed of the sense of entitlement that plagues leadership in our society.

God bless our homeland Ghana and make our nation great and strong.

Dr Abu Sakara Foster

Founder, National Interest Movement.