



# WORK MATTERS

COLUMN

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# The Importance of Credentials

Sparrow once warned us that we should educate ourselves because if we don't, we would be better off dead. But I did! Then why am I not employed and I feel like I'm dead. Had it not been for the grace and mercies of almighty God then I would really have been dead. Could it be politics, nepotism, age, gender, exclusion, racism or other obstacles? What about every creed and race finds an equal place? Then where is my place in the world of work? Yes, I do have the right work ethic, knowledge, skills, and ability to get the job done. And yes, I am willing to work yest I have had serious constraints in finding employment in recent times, so I often ask myself 'why it is that I have all these credentials and still can't get employment?'

Learn, learn, learn, as much as I can, he said; but I did and still I am learning. To increase my opportunities, I have even learned mandarin. For many years I have engaged in activities to make myself more employable, and while this has been lauded by potential employers, it has not translated to employment as yet.

When would I really be employed with all these credentials? Education is supposed to be saving me much distress but it's doing quite the opposite, it was supposed to provide an opportunity for me to excess and enhance my standard of living, but that is yet to materialize. Another issue that I need to address, is that fact that I am competing with others with the same level of credentials, and in some cases, they have the experience that these organizations require, thus they are more attractive to the employer, as they may require less training. Further, I am also concerned with the fact that many positions are being occupied by post-retirement contacts which reduces the changes of us younger people gaining meaningful employment int this country. Having said that, I do acknowledge the service and expertise that they people have, and I know that they are contributing. However, I am suggesting that in many cases, it is time to make room for others and pass on their knowledge to help both the employees and the organizations develop and achieve its strategic goals.

"Success or failure now it is up to me", and I have made every effort to ensure that my life would be most comfortable without additional hardships. Although I have the keys to success, it didn't really make me recognizable anywhere I went for employment. The success of me owning my own home, car and all the other necessities of life that are essential, are the failures of the system and not myself. Governments on the other hand are not doing enough to ensure that they provide its citizens with sustainable employment, but only created an environment of dependency through CEPEP, URP, food cards and its social assistance programs.

It is said that illiteracy is man's greatest enemy, but I now challenge that statement. Man's greatest enemy is himself and another man. It's our duty to stamp out illiteracy completely but what about stamping out clientelism, nepotism, discrimination, exclusion, racism, corruption, constructive dismissal, unethical behavior, and crime? Since the power is in our hands to right the wrongs by implementing and enforcing the laws, ensuring we educate ourselves and provide opportunities for members of society to contribute, I think we have to reevaluate our national priorities.

Again, I have ensured that all learning was done yesterday for me to be able to earn today. What do I do with all my leanings if I am unable to secure employment? Should I change course and attempt to be self-employed? With this wealth of knowledge that has actually become a treasure beyond my measure; would I have to actually chase it to the end of the rainbow? If education really makes one free and offers a better life, then why not me?

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