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Disentangling Governance And The Operational Role Of State Decision Makers

Many people around the world are still somewhat unclear about the location and purpose of the State in facilitating the comfort and happiness of its citizens who reside within its geographical space. This article is intended to analytically explore the purpose and the presence of the State in the lives of individuals who occupy such space.

In reviewing the existence of mankind (generically applied) it is incumbent to explore a fundamental question. What constitutes a balanced and fair code of survival? In order to unravel this deep philosophical enigma it is necessary to understand the relationship between the governed and the governing; the State and citizens. Unless we arrive at some basic understanding of the concepts of rights, freedoms, responsibilities and duties within the context of State governance, the entities of the governed and the governing will remain locked within an abyss of distrust, resentment, competition, and negative co-existence. It therefore becomes imperative to explore the philosophical relationship between State and society which is located within an unwritten social contract.

While it is understood that all human beings are born with their natural rights intact, it is difficult for them to protect such natural rights given the inclination of man to compete and therefore transform any society into a battlefield of the strong overpowering the weak. Recognizing this, human beings come together in groups (nations) and agree to deposit such natural rights to an entity called the State. These groups are operational through a commonality of thought, purpose, and action. The State in turn acts as a receptacle, collecting all these natural rights and freedoms of the citizens and packaging them in a collective wrapping called laws (constitution). This can be called structured standardized social existence.

In this regard the State must assume responsibilities for the following: a sociological commitment to avoid class preferentialism, see themselves as servants of the people, the rule of law must be absolutely and comprehensively practiced, financially corrupt practice

must be seen as a major indictment, act of neglect of any citizen will redound to a weakening of the spirit of State patriotism, any criminal acts of its agents must be treated with prompt action in accordance with the law, uphold mechanisms to facilitate total input of the societal collective in decision making, no deprivation, obstruction or negative interference of state officials in accommodating equal opportunity of all citizenry to access means of legitimate advancement, the education system must reflect motor and cognitive respect and not exclusively emphasize academic elitism, and the citizenry must feel safe, secure and proud of their location within the ambit of State identity.

Similarly, for society to progress, the citizens also have responsibilities, such as absolute respect for the rights and freedoms of others, understanding that employment undertaken through the State must be treated with the requisite transactional respect, funds of the State must be treated with stringency as that of personal or corporate funds, honoring of the sanctity of life of all citizens, an unconditional law-abiding approach to existence, and the neutralization of the presence of monetary greed and an emphasis on monetary need, in order to avoid white colour crime

As a result of the aforementioned, it can be argued that while as a people, we are aware of the blueprint for progressive and modernized existence, the question remains: Can we do it? The application of the approach on the part of the State is not idealistic. Those who sit in the seats of the State governance must always concentrate on three pivotal watchwords; accountability, responsiveness and trustworthiness. The State decision-makers must remove their egotistic and utilitarian biases and recognize that to effectively address the scourges of corruption, crime and other societal ills, a resolute conviction must occupy their cognitive space. The citizenry must also embrace the fact that unless there is an adjustment to their law-breaking tendencies, societal improvement will remain an elusive dream. Both the governed and the governing

should adhere to the admonition: we must stop saying “one day” and immediately start with “day one”.

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