

Politics of Insults, Especially In Covid-19 Pandemic, Threaten Modern Democracy and Peace, Please Stop; A Review

PART ONE: UNDERSTANDING WHAT POLITICS IS

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I. INTRODUCTION TO POLITICS OF INSULTS

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Life on earth is becoming too violence, especially “political violence” (Majumdar, 2020) that; the World Health Organization (WHO) declares it as a world-wide public health challenge (Dahlberg & Krug, 2006; WHO, 2002) that needs solution. Insult or verbal abuse is one of the major causes of violence, that has found its way into our modern-day democracy and politics! It is defined as when one: “insulted you, called you names, or swore at you; threatened you; undermined or belittled what you do; excluded you or repeatedly ignored you; threatened to harm others that you care about; prevented you from seeing others that you care about” at a frequency of at least “10 or more instances in the past year” (Cooper *et al.*, 2008).

This means that an insult can be either verbal (Nii-Dortey, 2020; ScottCDunn, 2019; Conley, 2010), non-verbal (Nii-Dortey, 2020; Conley, 2010) or both. Though Sustainable Development Goals Sixteen (SDGs 16) of the United Nations (UN) is for: “Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions” (UN U. N., 2020; de Coning, 2018); the UN in the last four (4) years has exposed her worry about the growing global instability (Muggah, 2016).

Politics was identified amongst the first two leading causes of these instabilities as revealed by (Niriwa a., 2020; Muggah, 2016). Politics is even identified to be amongst the hidden causes of most religious violence (Wibisono, 2019). The consequences of violence are unpleasant where women (Daw, 2019) and children (Kadir, 2019) are always the most affected. We can reduce the increasing politics of insults through understanding what politics really is.

UNDERSTANDING WHAT POLITICS IS USING ITS DEFINITION AND GENETICS

Under this heading, you will understand politics using its definition and conception/pregnancy. Politics as its name implies, has many definitions from various writers too (Bambra *et al.*, 2007; Bambra b *et al.*, 2008; Leftwich & Callinicos, 1984). Politics is: “The art or science concerned with guiding or influencing governmental policy” (Merriam-Webster.com, 1828). Though this definition makes it look like politics is all about governance, it can be found in everything that we do on earth; and there is no mention of insult in defining politics (Bambra b, 2008). Like it or not, genetically, every human on earth is a “political animal” (Tsakiris, 2020; Petersen & Aarøe, 2012; Pecknold, 2012) and we must learn to respect each other as we do decent politics as partners, but not enemies.

Politics are practiced by politicians from the same or different political parties. “Any political group that presents at elections, and is capable of placing through elections, candidates in public office” (Falkenbach, 2018) is a political party. Just as there are many definitions for politics, so are there many definitions for who a

politician is! A politician is someone who influences public policies and “Decision making” or anyone who actively does politics (Definition.net, 2020). Hating (PAO, 1965; Sorokowski *et al.*, 2020) any political party on earth is the worst thing that anyone can do! A political is like a river! No matter how you hate a river, you can never stop “drinking water” (Edokpayi *et al.*, 2018). That is exactly how every political party is. Whether you like that party or not, once they are in power, you are going to either enjoy or suffer from their “policies” (Greer *et al.*, 2017; Mugwagwa *et al.*, 2015).

Three Hundred Million (300, 000, 000) spermatozoa are released during sexual intercourse, only 200 of them get to the uterus/womb, but it is only one that fertilizes an ovum for fertilization and conception to take place (Oliver & Basit, 2020; Trebichalská & Holubcova, 2020; Alberts *et al.*, 2002). This alone proves that even our conception is political (Millions of spermatozoa competing to fertilize only one ovum)! Our fathers have to do everything possible (even to the extent that some of them lie, just like most politicians do) to win the love of our mothers from other interested and competing men.

Politics is amongst “the oldest professions” (Sitzman, 1999) on earth, in fact it is even the first oldest profession that has been forgotten and “Prostitution” (Wickman, 2012) is always referred to as the first! Some writers even still question whether politics is a profession? (Schneier, 1987). But the first democratic Politician is God Himself and He demonstrated this during the creation of man where He said: “Let us make man in our image, after our likeness ...” (Genesis, 1:26, KJV 1611). This means that politics existed even before man is created, since God is the first Political Leader! “Let us make man in our image, after our likeness” is a prove that God is democratic.

We should understand that politics is “Democratic” (Kelly, 2017) - it is about free, respectable, reasonable, and responsible responses to or expression of ideas that you believe will help make the lives of human kind better. The Mentor of all politicians (God) never insulted his opponent or anyone! Insulting opponents does not sell your ideas: it sells your dirty mentality to followers and secrete admirers. Anyone who is involved in dirty politics (Degirmenci, 2016) or politics of insults is not doing politics but he/she is doing nothing but discrimination or “sabotage” (Sarwar *et al.*, 2020; Sriram *et al.*, 2018; Chowdhury & Gurtler, 2015).

Doing politics is like children from the same parent who are thinking about how best they can clear their parent’s land for farming – they are all having good plans about how to best clear the land. For the father or mother, all that he/she wants is that the land should be cleared within “season” (Qjan *et al.*, 2016; Arsenaault *et al.*, 2014) for farming (Gornall *et al.*, 2010). If your other siblings are giving different suggestions/ideas from what you are suggesting, that does not make them your enemies.

They may suggest that you should hire a tractor to clear the land, because that one is faster. You may also argue that it is expensive, instead of spending plenty money to hire a tractor, you should rather hire laborers to clear it. This is what makes politics democratic: not hatred and insults (Bacon, 2020)! You are all trying to influence your other siblings to agree with you, but not by insulting them. You are also all still children of the same parent: disagreeing with each other does not take away your genetic belongingness as family members!

II. UNDERSTANDING POLITICAL VIOLENCE/INSULTS USING DISEASES, LETTERS, WORDS, AND NUMEROLOGY

The Disease Nature of Politics: Political violence is like any infectious disease COVID-19, that is no respecter of person (Niriwa, 2020)! But it is dangerous than COVID-19 or any infectious disease (Fig. 1A), because of its unpleasant or negative impacts (FGVP, 2011; Kesternich *et al.*, 2014). It can kill (Hargarten, 2018; Wilson, 2014) and make thousands homeless (Oppenheimer *et al.*, 2016; Riley *et al.*, 2014) within just a blink of an eye than being infected with SARS-CoV-2 (Meyerowitz *et al.*, 2020). COVID-19 can give you about three to five days to write your will before death, political violence will not give you even five (5) minutes to do that; as seen in places that were/are hit by violence (Amao, 2020; Reques *et al.*, 2020; Oosterveld & Torossian, 2018). Though it is good to be continuously observing the COVID-19 protocols, its consequences cannot be compared to that of political violence in any affected country (Amao, 2020; Daw *et al.*, 2019; Oosterveld & Torossian, 2018). (FGVP, Health, Mediine, & Council, 2011).



Figure 1: Political Violence Is Dangerous than Any Disease

For COVID-19 we need to continuously maintain social distance; practice personal hygiene like washing our hands under clean running water or sanitizing them with 70% alcohol-based hand sanitizers; wear clean and face mask that is not torn (Tartari *et al.*, 2020; CDC, 2020). We need to also eat (Draver, 2020) and rest or sleep (Draver, 2020; Watson, 2015) well to build strong immunities to save ourselves and others. COVID-19 Prevention Protocols were mostly ignored (Fig. 1B) during political campaigns in Ghana as revealed by (Agyei, 2020; HotNewsgh., 2020) which is a very big mistake in “our physical preparation to prevent COVID-19 transmission” (Niriwa b., 2020). Ignoring it COVID-19 prevention protocols during jubilation or celebration of victory would be more dangerous! Violating these protocols as revealed by this pandemic, add up to the bad practices in politics that put people lives at risk.

Celebration of any victory is not wrong! The question is how do we celebrate our victories? Some few minutes after Ghana’s General Elections are over; some supporters started jubilating and, in the process, two (2) of them joined the heavenly choir (Modernghana.com., 2020). After the elections results were declared, a Head Teacher also passed on whilst jubilating (Awa9., 2020). As you celebrate, you should know that COVID-19 is now our close friend who is always read to mingle with us – whether invited or uninvited. This is one of the reasons why we have to be careful with how we celebrate. Celebration of victory does not mean disregard to COVID-19 Prevention Protocols like social or physical distancing.

Celebration of political victory does not mean being irresponsible with your life, word(s), action(s) or inaction(s), intolerance, and disrespectful to political opponents. In the celebration of Americans’ elections’ victory, some words that are not supposed to have been used were used (Staff, 2020). Statements like: “Trump just made OK to be racist” (Staff, 2020) were not necessary as they can create division amongst the citizens and even the world. Once an election is over and the winner won through fair means and has been genuinely declared, the next thing that we should think about is how to forgive each other and be united. This cannot be possible without patriotism or love of our country and colleague citizens.

The Opinion Nature of Politics Using Letters and Words: David Lipe is known for saying that: “Opinions are like noses – everybody’s got one and they’re all different!” (Sproule, 2014), but opinions are educational tools too. The political experiences that people go through in their lives mostly influence how they also see or understand politics (Casanova-Burgess, 2011). Opinions from our daily life realities are true and cannot be disputed, though they differ from how everyone see them. The existence of God or prayers which almost all religions accept (Andrade & Radharkrishnan, 2009) is an excellent example; though we have different

believes/opinions about who He is or how we should worship or pray to Him (Nicholson, 2017). These different believes or opinions about God rather confirm the fact that He exists – not that He does not.

Politics is like opinions that can be likened to the letters or words, “p” (pee) or “d” (dee), “NO” or “ON” (Dictionary.com., 2020; Dictionary.com(b)., 2020), “SOW” or “WOS” (Landau, 2018) as seen in (Fig. 2.). The way we turn or look at each of them; determines how it looks, what it means, and its value! The letters “p” or “d” can begin words related to peace or violence like: People, Peace, Pieces (Word.tips, 2020) and Demeanor, Dance, Death. The demeanor of people is what will tell whether there is going to peace for us to dance (celebrate), or violence that would lead to death (Modernghana.com., 2020) or tearing ourselves into pieces. Let us say NO to pieces or death and welcome peace and dance by tolerating each other.

NO, though is an exclamation (Dictionary.com., 2020) that we use to reveal how negatively we feel; through our responses or actions and inactions, can also be a positive reply that opposes intolerances or violence. When this same word is turned upside down, it becomes “ON”. To promote tolerance during celebration of any victory, let us turn off the negative “NO” (Vinkers *et al.*, 2015) that opposes good things. We should turn “ON” the positive “NO” (Vinkers *et al.*, 2015), that opposes bad things and agrees with good things, to say “NO” to any actions/inactions that would make us intolerant to our opponents or others. (Vinkers *et al.*, 2015)

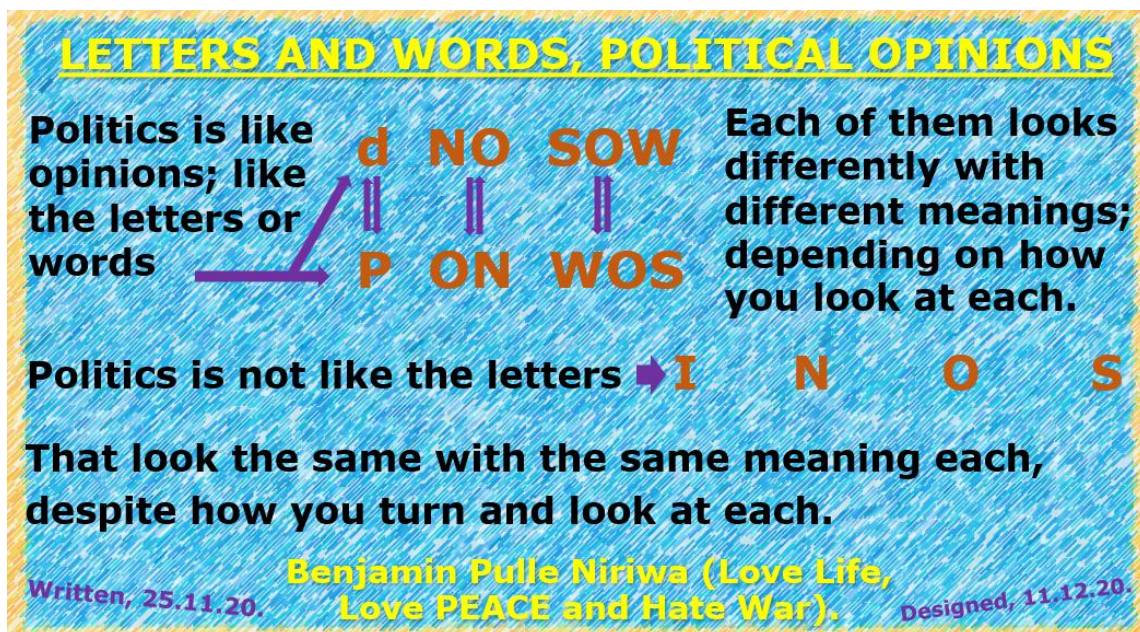


Figure 1: The Opinion Nature of Politics Using Letters and Words

Using the word “SOW” would mean differently depending on how it is used, such as: “Statement of Work” (Landau, 2018) or with a literal meaning, to: “Plant (seed) by scattering it on or in the earth”. The kind of seed that we “SOW” and how well we take care of that seed determines whether the end result would be a positive or negative “WOS” (Web of Knowledge”, “SOW” (Statement of Work) or “NO”. Politics is not like the letters “I”, “N”, “O” and “S” that look the same with the same meaning (Fig. 2.), irrespective of how you turn and look at them!

Numerological Understanding of Politics and Violence: As we are now in a digital world, numbers are not only important in politics; but in every aspect of humans’ life (Armstrong, 2019; Ayonrinde, 2020). Any time politics is mentioned, most people always perceive it as complex, sacrificial, gruesome, plotting and conspiring against opponents (Moonastro.com). To understand why politics is mostly associated with these negative perceptions, one needs the application of numerology. For example, using numerology would let one understand why most politicians are referred to as “liars” (Lewandowsky, 2019; Celse, 2019). The numbers 1, 3, 5, and 8 are very important and influential in politics with 2 as the most influencer of most violence (Azad, 2019).

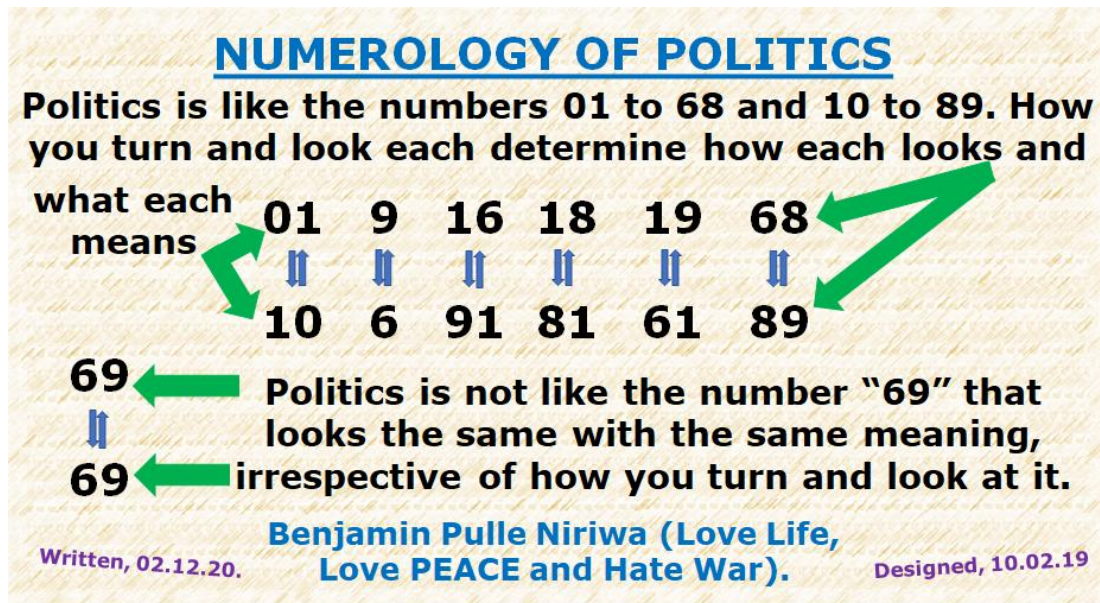


Figure 2: The Numerological Understanding of Politics

The Number 1 – Anyone who is borne on day 1, 10, 19, or 28 of every month has “1” as his/her “Life-pan number” (Team, 2017). This makes him/her highly ambitious, assertive, optimistic about life, successful or powerful; because they are inherently patience, self-motivated and enthusiastic to achieve even in difficult situations (Team, 2017; Azad, 2019). Number “1” also gives fame to politics who are associated with it, because it is representing the “SUN” but majority of humans are worshipping the SUN God (Azad, 2019; Team, 2017). Number 1 and number 2 individuals differ in character but vibrate harmoniously and therefore make very good combination (Saini, 2017). Their disadvantage is that they are mostly weak, lazy and afraid (Team, 2017), so; such politicians may not achieve much in their first team as they may fear to make certain critical decisions.

The Number, 2 – This is controlled by the planet, Moon that has the zodiac’s sign “Cancer”; and it includes those delivered on day 2, 11, 20 or 29 of every month (Team, 2017; Saini, 2017). People or politicians in this group have dual “Eye” characters of positivity and negativity or loss and gain at the same times (Ayonrinde, 2020; Saini, 2017). For example, despite the fact that they are very forgiving which is very good in promoting peace, they are easily offended (Saini, 2017). She added that, celebrities are group of people who are mostly borne as number 2. Though this is not amongst the four most important numbers in politics, it is the major cause of most violence (especially political violence) and crimes; since it is easy for others to influence them and they also allow their emotions to mostly mislead them (Team, 2017; Saini, 2017). Still, with respect to violence behaviors, they are also mostly too sensitive; and because of that they can easily be angry (Saini, 2017).

The Number, 3 – This number is made up of people given birth to on days like 3, 12, 21, and 30 of each month. They are very attractive people full of fame who are very responsible, but are ruthless, lavish, idle and easily have enemies (Team, 2017; Azad, 2019). The number “3” which is a symbol of ‘perfection’ – representing “the Holy Trinity” in Christianity, is numerologically attributable to men and 4 for females (Ayonrinde, 2020). Since they are ruthless and easily hated, they also become triggers of political violence like those in number 2.

The numerological number “5” – This is the most important political number (Moonastro.com) that makes politicians very good communicators who are successful, famous, liked by many or are able to draw big crowds (Azad, 2019; Astronlogia.com; Moonastro.com). Now, most politicians are liars because they mostly have the number 5 which stands for lies (Team, 2017). This is revealed in Americans’ Politics, where one of the politicians is said to have lied a lot unlike his other (Lewandowsky, 2019). This is true reflection in most nations like Ghana! Aside the above, 32, 41, 50, 59, 68, 77, 86, 95, 104, and 108 which belong to the numerological family of “5” are also numbers that can favor one’s political ambition (Moonastro.com). The falsehood associated with this group of people or politicians and the irresponsible utterances of some of them (Team, 2017) make them triggers of political violence like those in numbers 2 and 3. Apart from the fact that politicians are mostly of number 5 and liars, they also use statistical lies to manipulate data to cheat the ordinary citizens who voted them into office (Norman, 2018; Shelley II., 2019).

The Number, 8 – This is the second most important number in politics after number 5, as seen in (Azad, 2019). The number “8” is the only single digit numbers from 0 to 9 that when it is cut horizontally opens, gives “two equal halves” (Azad, 2019).

Likened politics or violence to the numbers: “9” or “6” “10” or “01”, “68” or “89” and “19” or “16” (Fig. 3.). The way you view or look at any of them is how you see it (or how it looks), thereby determining how you react

to your opponents or others, and the value(s) (Hurts, 2013-2020) that you attach to it. Using all single digit numbers from zero “0” to nine “9” (Augestad, 2015), the most valuable is 9; that is “9 tenths or 9/10” (Hurts, 2013-2020; David, 2015). Politics or life, in general, is not like the number 69 that always look the same irrespective of how you look at it!

When you SOW good seeds, it turns off the negative “NO” and turns “ON” the positive “NO” or “ON” to make Politics more valuable “9”: but not less valueless “6”! From life’s experience, the magical words of peace to avoid any violence are: Love, Patriotism, Tolerance, Respect, Responsibility and Forgiveness. These are the same words that we can use to make politics valuable “9”. The moment we make a mistake and replace them with hatred, unpatriotic, intolerance, disrespect, irresponsibility, and unforgiveness; we are going to make politics less valuable “6”. They are the words that we are supposed to put in our minds and use them to water the seed(s) that we have sown, if we are having ONE COMMON INTEREST – the development of Mother Ghana in PEACE. This will make Mother Ghana a Woman of Substance “WOS” and avoid us from being surrounded by a Wall of Shame “WOS” that will lead us to Walks of Shame “WOS”.



Figure 3: The 6 Interconnected Magical Words of Peace

There are also six (6) magical words or oils of peace that can help us have a peaceful celebration: “Love” (Matthew, 22: 34-40, KJV. 1611), “Patriotism” (Gangl *et al.*, 2016), “Responsibility” (Levy, 2019), “Respect” (Beach *et al.*, 2017), “Forgiveness” (VanderWeele, 2018), and “Tolerance” (Verkuyeten *et al.*, 2019) as shown in (Fig. 4.). A politician that enters into politics to serve his/her nation is loving and tolerant by nature; the one who is in to for personal political fame or wealth is intolerant (Crawford & Pilanski, 2013). All the remaining words five (5) are borne from love: they also lead to love! Born at the days when the celebration of political victory is always full of “insults” or teasing of the “loosing” opponent(s), our modern democracy should view it with a different eye (Sharma, 2020). To be able to do this easily, all the six (6) magical of words or oils of peace must be used or applied; this help promote quality health delivery too (Bekker, 2018). For more understanding of politics using numerology, visit figure 3.

Understanding Politics Using Citizenship and the Magical Words of Peace

Tolerance (Verkuyeten *et al.*, 2019) and Love (Zeng, 2016; Jin, 2017) are like the blood and water in our bodies: one without the other is very difficult! Anyone who wants to be loved must be able to tolerate his/her neighbor, and vice versa. Whilst intolerance is a fruit of discrimination or sabotage, insults, hatred, violence: tolerance is a fruit of PEACE and LOVE (Fig. 1A; Fig. 4; Fig. 6). So, that is why Jesus in his answer to the Pharisees lawyer, said that love (Fig. 5.) is the GREATEST of all the Commandments (Matthew 22:34-40). A politician who is able to tolerate his/her opponents can rule a united nation: an intolerant and insulting politician rules a divided nation. The reward of ruling a united nation are love, peace and development; whilst the punishments of ruling a divided nation are discrimination or sabotage, hatred, politics of insults, violence,

and economic crisis. Remove the intolerance clothings the intolerance that makes you insult your political opponents and wear the tolerance clothings that let you accept your political opponents as friends and partners in nation's building.

Politicians who are doing politics to serve their nation (patriotic) would naturally be tolerant towards their opponents and opposing ideas. Such politicians are mostly God fearing, love unconditionally, respect everyone, reasonably responsible with what they say and are forgiving. Apart from using God who is the chief politician as our mentor, these types of politicians can also be mentors for political peace. Ghana for example is blessed with many politicians like Ex-President John Evans Atta Mills, Former President John Agyekum Kufuor, Former President John Dramani Mahama, Hon. Kyei Mensah Bonsu, Hon. Samuel Okudzeto Ablakwa, Hon. Dr. Benjamin Kumbuor, Hon. Haruna Iddrisu, Hon. Alan Kyeremanteng and so on who are good mentors that up and coming politicians can use.

III. CONCLUSION

Politics is not only good in our lives as humans, but a world with a good political system where our various presidents are God-fearing, can also be used as a vital tool for wining souls for God's Kingdom. This is why everyone of us must be very worried about the increasing nature of insults in our political discourse (Allotey, 2018; Ofori b, 2018; Ofori c., 2014). Politics, though a good thing is gradually losing its value because of the increasing politics of insults and disrespect for political, religious and traditional leaders. The greatest commandment "Love" (Matthew, 22: 34-40, KJV. 1611) is almost fading away from our modern democracy and politics (Fig. 4; Fig. 5): politicians in power always seem to forget that they would also become opponents or join the public one day.



Figure 4: The Save Others Mentality Using Love

The "Our government is in power" mentality is not healthy in politics, since this mentality makes some members of the ruling government tend to molest or bully those suspected to be their opponents. Our politicians should learn how to share, by saying no the practice of a winning party taking all (Manning *et al.*, 2018); it is one of the major problems that make most politicians intolerant to their opponents. This winning and taking all in politics (Ijon, 2019; Manning *et al.*, 2018) is one of the fundamental causes (Stewart, 2002) of politics of insults in most parts of the world.

How Can We Stop Politics of Insults: Recommendations or Suggestions!

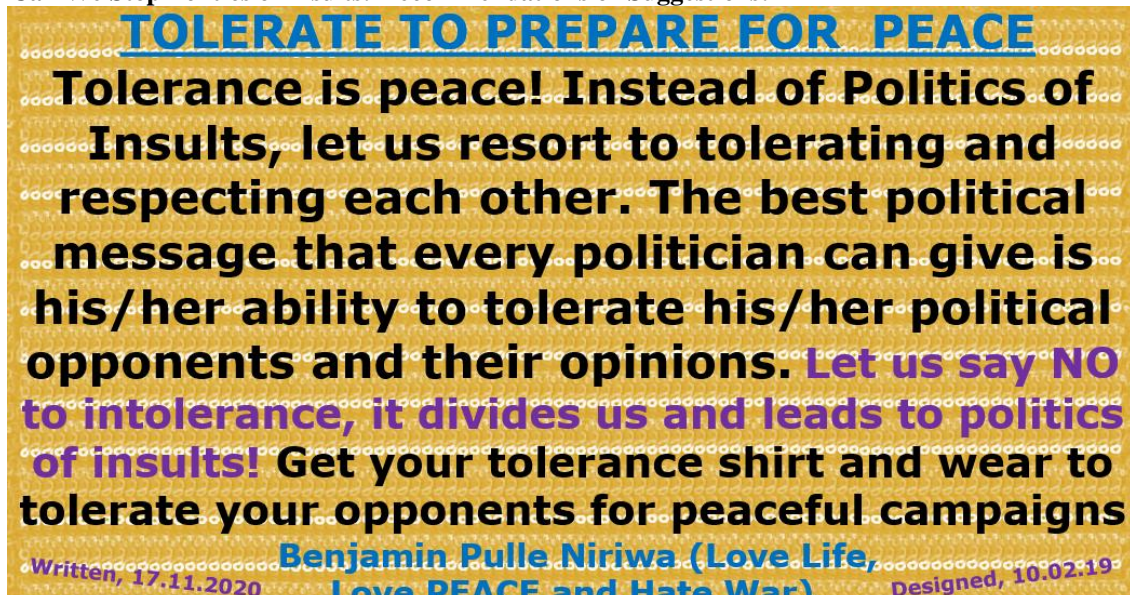


Figure 5: Tolerance Is Peace: Tolerate for Peace

Apart from genuine Fear of God; we can make politics dignified, valuable and respectful by applying six (6) magical words of peace: Love (Matthew, 22: 34-40, KJV; Jin *et al.*, 2017; Zeng *et al.*, 2016), Patriotism (Gangl, 2016), Tolerance (Verkuyeten *et al.*, 2019), Respect (Beach, 2017), Responsibility (Levy, 2019) and Forgiveness (Lichtenfeld, 2019). All these 6 words and good political mentors/role models share interconnected similarities as oils of peace of our 21st century's democracy (Fig. 4). The other remaining five are all fruits of the first one, Love. It takes a loving heart to tolerate, respect, or forgive others, and to be patriotic or responsible; they also contribute to love (Fig. 4). With these, especially love and patriotism, all politicians will always put the interests of their nation first before any other interest; this prevent the temptation of political opponents trying to sabotage a ruling government and take away "winner-takes-all" (Chen, 2017) in politics.

Though patriotism is born out of the love ones has for his/her nation (Gangl, 2016), this same patriotism help people to love their colleague citizens too. As Jesus said, it is easy for a camel to pass through the hole of a needle (Matthewc, 19:24, KJV, 1611) than for someone who does not love to be able to tolerate, respect, responsibly speak or forgive others. Failure to any of these in politics leads to political hatred which has been identified as one of the problems of public health (Abuelaish, 2017; Bekker, 2018); that creates a bad image about politics. To help solve the problem of politics of insults, let us use the following suggestions:

- ❖ To be able to overcome any biggest virus called political violence, we must put these magical words of peace: Love, Patriotism, Responsibility, Respect, Forgiveness, and Tolerance in our minds and apply them during any celebration or gathering.
- ❖ For internal peace within any party, a win by any party member as party's presidential candidate, should be seen as a win for the party, if that candidate wins genuinely.
- ❖ Behaviors (actions/inactions) like hate speeches, insults, carrying of coffin branded by a particular political party or candidate, names calling, and so on must be avoided.
- ❖ Most people drink alcohol excessively or take in hard narcotics like cocaine, heroin, Indian herbs, and so on. All these can have negative effects on your behavior and must be avoided during celebration.
- ❖ Avoid bad peer influence! Most people insult or use abusive words because they have been negatively influenced by friends, colleagues or family members.
- ❖ Flee anyone who tries to use abusive words on or insults anyone!
- ❖ The politics of winner takes all which makes it look as if losing is death sentence is one of the reasons that trigger intolerance and insults amongst opponents. As our world becomes more democratic, politicians should start thinking of how best they can include opponents in public officers.
- ❖ To help reduce politics of insults or political hate speeches, we must say NO to politics of deceptions and lies that put anger in opponents.
- ❖ All national general elections' victory should be celebrated as a national victory, but not a political party or the winning presidential candidate's victory. (ACEYE., 2020)

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