VUCA LEADERSHIP: A REFLECTION

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“A leader is one who knows the way, goes the way, and shows the way.”

This has been a standard to all leaders posed by John Maxwell which entails prior responsibilities and roles that someone who leads must incline with. In a world too complex where everything seems to be tangled like a set of wires left unfixed, leadership is a wall where everyone can lean on to. Leadership is becoming a necessity in setting and attaining a goal especially on things that may require group effort such as business expansion and economical improvement, things which are very critical in the sense that failure to comply with one among the agencies handling might cause a big trouble.

From a Supreme Student Government (SSG) officer to leaders voted for the Faculty Club, leadership can be proven that it is indeed an innate capacity of individuals. Sometimes, SSG Officers and classroom officers were voted based on popularity or by students' tripping which ends up to a context as if there are no leaders at all. Leadership capacity can be easily seen in an individual. As the United States (US) Military-made term Volatile Uncertain Complex Ambiguous (VUCA) World emphasized, leaders are born and not made; however, not all leaders with this innate capacity come out in an instant. Some take time to realize they could lead, some rush it just to find out they are not into managing and leading. Leadership in VUCA World as cited by Rimita (2019), indicated the flow of leadership: context, capabilities, and commitment. After understanding the context of this very serious and critical concept, determining one's capabilities must follow and lastly, commitment begins. These three would be the foundation of an excellent leader who can hammer nails and make multiple home runs.
(1) Context. It is a must to understand that everyone has the ability to lead but not all of them can lead. This statement is open for multiple interpretations since it ignites sets of questions such as who can lead and how can they be the only ones to lead? Leadership is something that you can work at and develop over time (Wilson, n.d.) and this is applicable to some politicians. It can be that they want to continue holding the throne or they have personal interests involved but absolutely, not all of them have the capacity to lead people, the nation, and the economy. Since the world is becoming a hanging ball with suspended ropes of volatility, uncertainty, complexity and ambiguity, a leadership tested by time and experience must be the greatest requirement for someone to be able to lead. In years of teaching, the author could conclude that not all educators can lead as well as not all officials can do the job without causing huge trouble. Some do it just lightly, but leadership must always result in making a felt impact in the field and to the people concerned. Some do it just for fun, but leadership is never a joke. A leader must take it seriously so everyone must follow. As they said, lead and everyone will follow, but this is only if such an individual is an effective leader. With goals to achieve such as becoming a cadet in the Maritime Academy of Asia and the Pacific (MAAP), Lamao National High School (LNHS) offering Pre-baccalaureate Maritime must have leaders in the teaching guild and in the team of learners. Educators would lead them academically and in terms of discipline while student officials would pave the way that shows how a maritime learner must be distinguishable from others.

(2) Capabilities. Leadership has changed its rules when it comes to how a leader must act and how capable he or she must be when it comes to taking the throne. It is as if leadership has gained a new skin but this time, it is seriously a better one that is more technical and does not just focus on the personality. Often, people do conclude that someone could lead because they have a strong and authoritative aura but that does not count in today’s avenue of leadership. Leaders are definitely different from bosses by definition and by actions (Miller, n.d.). An example that leadership rules have changed entails that before, a leader must have the personality and style of a leader, prim and
proper to name a few. But now, someone's critical thinking and problem-solving skills are the real gauge of becoming a leader. True enough since it is not just that someone is authoritative that he can lead. Some misinterpret being arrogant as being authoritative and that could end up to a leadership full of unsolved issues. In Faculty Club elections, some officials are doing the job but not in a way that they solve problems. Sometimes, meetings just evolve in senseless talk about small matters. Big issues are not being addressed. This is a normal scene even in businesses if leaders are not fit to lead at all.

Another rule that has changed is the conventional thinking that leaders lead organization and function. Today, leaders lead teams, projects, and networks of teams. It may seem somehow, still the same but this time, leaders are expected to own the team and lead them not just during meetings but even when doing the projects. Leaders are also expected to bring out the best in a team and to lead not just a single group but channels of them. Technically, the expectation becomes higher. Aside from the mentioned matters, in today's centerstage, leaders are also expected to be directive, understanding, reliable and trustworthy, all of which are necessary abilities to analyze situations and provide a better and appropriate solution to a problem.

(3) Commitment. With achievements to unlock and goals to achieve, leadership can be very difficult if one is not committed to it at all. Commitment to being a leader is like being faithful and loyal to one's partner, it must be for the long-term and must not be altered just because an unexpected, yet very serious problem has arisen. Leading through today's VUCA world may require someone to invest full self in order to lead the team fully. He or she must have what they termed as L.E.A.P. which stands for Liberal to be open for new and unfamiliar matters, Exuberant to show activeness, Agility to enable everyone to be cognitively competent and Partnership inside and outside the team or building rapport. These challenges are too hard, yet it would be easy for effective leaders. To lead a team is never easy and so attaining this L.E.A.P. matter thus, strong mind and will are needed (North, 2020).
Becoming a leader in the digital age requires uniqueness and one must be genius enough to think, act and react differently to be a significant and well-deserving leader. It is not one's personality that matters anymore. What poses validity are his or her skills, thinking, actions and decision-making. The VUCA world, as cited by Army Chief of Staff and Commanding General of the Multinational Force in Iraq General George Casey, is becoming invitations for inaction; however, everyone must see this as a motivation to come together and act together to achieve long-term goals and tangible success. In this era where most of the people tend to live in a low key, leaders are needed to rise amidst plain and bland business, organizational and economic flow.

References:


