

MADE IT AND RETURNED HOME WITH TRIUMPH

The Structural Adjustment Program introduced by International Monetary fund (IMF) during Babagida administration in the late 80s and early 90s, drove Nigeria youths particularly Edo Youths to Europe, where there are no single Industries in the State, today no longer a fad due to the dividends of democracy in Nigeria. The mass movement to some of the countries to Europe namely Italy, Spain, Netherland and Germany but to mention a few appears to have been considerably dropped in the past few years.

The Migrants thought they will return home as soon as possible if they “made it”. Number of them illegal, especially the girls ended up mainly doing Prostitution, while the men engage in menial Jobs and illegal drugs Business. Living in Europe were a things of pride to those who are in Europe and members of their families.

It was an era of when Dollar, Pounds, Deutschmark and later Euro flowed in, and the sender of these foreign currencies and members of their families and friends well- wisher get the pleasure. Any families which did not have anyone (Woman or Man) abroad become a laughing stock. To avoid not being laugh at, most families encourage their children to go to School or learn trade of their choices.

The Sex trade got to a stage; it became organized business with sponsor and recruiters who will promises of better opportunities of making quick money lured Jung women for reason ranging from poverty and Illiteracy, and Bandwagon effect to greed to Europe without having any other thought at all. It was a tale of success, of quick money.

The Women are been referred to as Italos and the Men are been referred to as Jandos , “made it and returned home with triumph “ is the prayer been offer to them anytime they visited home. But before they visit home they will build modern houses and send exotic cars home, give a lot of foreign currencies to their families to have a good life.

Indeed little did they understand that they are gradually integrating into European culture not as they thought “made it and returned home with triumph”. The consequences, without being noticed, did not matter then, what mattered was the success of that moment, some travelled with the consent of their families, just as others either by themselves, or through other means by selling Properties, like parcels of land or building to sponsor their trips to Europe. In Edo state, Igueben Local government area, one family set one of their daughters blazed because she refused to travelled to Europe for Prostitution in order to elevate their poverty.

It was as a case of if one comes back home with money, even if they are commercial workers or drug dealers, they were been honored and respected, no stigma been attached to them, but if they are deported or come back home poorly such people are been isolated or treated as a failure in life and being laughed at.

However, what was thought to be success started taking its toll, many have legalized their stay, got their Children with Europe women, integrating into Europe way of life. “Made it and returned home with triumph was now in question. Some who thought they have made it and returned home with triumph came back to Europe after only 4 years left nothing behind, while those who are still contemplating had already spent 20 to 30years

unknowingly. Any time they travelled home, they will be asking of the dead people in their localities they left behind, they now become a stranger in their own homeland. The Sex Workers have problem of marriage or getting children, settle down with their husband to plan their future becomes a big Problem. The life of prostitution has affected their way of life.

If one happens to have these problems, confused, don't know what to do or has language barrier, the African People Convention based in Kassel-Germany, can counsel you and also assist you on how to integrate into the European culture as well as your home land too.

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