

The Russia 2018 World Cup title was clinched by France, one of the greatest countries in Europe. The FIFA champions are currently ruled by Emmanuel Macron, who won the presidential election at a very youthful age of 39, and it is arguably clear that the nation has moved to another level of greatness. A popular saying claims that: ‘The youths are the leaders of tomorrow,’ but the question remains ‘When will the tomorrow of the youths come when the old Nigerian barons, who governed 30 years ago, are still presiding today?’

According to the National Bureau of Statistics in 2012, youths (18-34) constituted 50% of the Nigerian populace. This meant that out of the then approximately, 167million Nigerians, the youths were about 83 million. If these numbers can imitate the doggedness of the likes of Emmanuel Macron, the present alliance of septuagenarians, octogenarians, and nonagenarians in positions of power can be retired. The ‘NotTooYoungToRun’ bill which was signed into law has given Nigerian youths the pillar to support them when they hope to step into governance. The bill saw the reduction of the age to vie for the presidential, senate, and governorship positions to 30 years. The minimum age for the national and state assembly lawmakers was also set to 25 years. This is a well-laid platform for Nigerian youths to participate in governance.

Today, there are now series of influential youth organizations that spur interest in young minds on the need to take charge of the society, e.g. National Association of University Students (NAUS), Student Union Government (SUG), National Association of Nigerian Students (NANS), etc. There are also little but powerful platforms for us to make our influence evident in politics, such as active involvement in the above-mentioned organizations; leading them will be a nice platform, participating in rallies, campaigns, voting processes, town meetings, etc., and belonging and attending political parties and meetings.

To crown it all, as we approach the 2023 general elections, we the youths need to critically reflect on the past and learn our mistakes. The election will be another time to mark history again and any fault will connote another four years of maladministration. In Graca Machel-Mandela's words: *"Preventing the conflicts of tomorrow means changing the mind-set of youths today."* We should all get our PVCs, vote who is right, and participate actively in the democracy of our country. The 2023 general elections are around the corner, how are we planning to cause a revolution in our generation? Some youths have already risen to the call of this nation, but just a few titans are fighting all. Let us not be deceived: 'We are the leaders of today, not tomorrow.'