Welcome to the Federal Rape-ublic of Nigeria?

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Two strong depictions underscored the collective chauvinistic reaction of the Nigerian society to the rape scourge which has beleaguered, crippled and overwhelmed whatever decency we thought we had as a nation.  
  
The first depiction showed pictures of three pieces of women clothing, the Skirt, the Saree and the Burqah, all having an inquisition after the women who wore them had been sexually violated by men.  
  
“Was is it really my fault? asked the Skirt.  
  
“No it happened with me too,” replied the Saree.  
  
“No it happened with me too,” also replied the Burqah.  
  
However, the last image in the quadrant of pictures, was that of a Diaper around the waist of a baby, which was captioned; “The diaper in the corner couldn’t even speak.”  
  
The second strong depiction was of a video of a group of young ladies protesting against the recent surge in rape in the Nigerian society, somewhere in Lagos. Suddenly, a man who appeared to be in his fifties, jumped into the scene and started intimidating the young women, blaming them for the rise in rape scourge. His argument? Young ladies, dress, “indecently” and solicit money from men. He even shamelessly said he had girlfriends of the same age as the young protesters. Right there before our very eyes, the man had successfully used his position as a “man” in Nigerian society, as an elder of Nigerian society and perhaps as a successful Nigerian, to body check, derail and demoralize a harmless protest, through an archaic and jaundiced opinion, rooted in the very Stone Age.  
  
Without much of ado, the two depictions doesn’t require further breakdown by any means because they are both the straightforward attitudinal reflection of how the Nigerian male dominated society want to explain away sexual violence against women and children. The unfortunate thing about the whole episode is that, the entire process of criminalizing rape culture in Nigeria have been ambushed by entrenched patriarchy, stigmatization of victims; and a non-commitment of people in government towards eradicating rape from the Nigerian society.  
  
Consequentially, men have now made women and even in extreme cases, children, nothing but endangered species in our testosterone dominated spaces. One thing is very certain, like everything which has gone bad in Nigeria, the culture of rape will not go away if the attitude of men towards rape crimes and violence against women remain the same. That attitude of blaming everything else, but men is one of the chief combustor of the recent rape binge culture in Nigeria today. There is a guarantee that, if that attitude is re-worked to take responsibility and protect women and children, the culture of rape will be drastically reduced.  
  
Like the American singer and songwriter, Kurt Cobain said; “Rape is one of the most terrible crimes on earth and it happens every few minutes. The problem with groups who deal with rape is that they try to educate women about how to defend themselves. What really needs to be done is teaching men not to rape. Go to the source and start there.”  
  
The responsibility lies in the hands of men. From religious centers to schools, to artisan workshops, to police stations, men are the ones saddled with all of the leadership positions. Even in families, men are often the leaders. Therefore, men have to set the tone for atonement and the correction agenda against rape and sexual violence against women and children in the Nigerian society.  
  
The shame should be with the men, not our women, not our children.  
  
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