

## Part 2: They Sold Our House

The Orphans' Department, as PAMA was called back then, was established in 1938. I will not discuss the reasons it was establishment or mention why it's an important institution, but I'll summarize the vision and systems under which it operated in both the old era and its new one. With a vision of being a financial institution that would invest the orphans' assets by making loans, trading stock, and establishing companies, PAMA has held a lot of funds in hand. In old times, since it was established until the year 1983, it was common for the Orphan's Department to sell the houses and real estate of the minors and convert those assets into cash. This caused the minors many great financial losses since properties were sold immediately without considering the rising market value of those assets. I always wondered how this money was then invested. Prior to traveling for my studies, I made a personal request to the Orphan's Department to buy housing plots and income generating buildings for my siblings instead of keeping cash in their hands. My request was denied, however, and I was told to "mind your studies and let us do our job." Doing their job the way they did led to minors losing their valuable assets. That which had a value of a thousand had become one hundred thousand only a few years later. I remember a customer from one of the banks I worked at for over twenty years. He was complaining about the bank's lending terms when he said, "May God protect us from those who changed the rules of the Orphan's Department. We were much happier dealing with them!" This caught my attention and I asked him what he meant by that. "Their lending terms were better than yours," he replied angrily before storming off. This conversation stayed with me for more than two decades and I never quite understood what he meant until I started