Mater Dei College

Tubigon, Bohol

INSTI 104: MDCian as SERVANT LEADER

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**Lesson 2: Leadership and its Characteristics**

**Intended Learning Outcomes:**

At the end of the lesson, the students should be able to:

1. Understand and appreciate what leadership is and its characteristics
2. Be challenged to start discovering their potentials of leadership

What is a **LEADER**? ♣ A leader is a person who influences a group of people towards the achievement of a goal".

A mnemonic for this definition would be 3P's - Person, People and Purpose.

1. Person - Is leadership a position of office or authority? Or, is leadership ability in the sense that he is a leader because he leads? We all may know or hear of people who are in positions of leadership but who are not providing leadership. A position of office is no guarantee of leadership but it helps in the sense that a leadership position usually commands a listening ear from its people and that is a good starting point for anyone who desires to be a leader. A leader by its meaning is one who goes first and leads by example, so that others are motivated to follow him. This is a basic requirement. To be a leader, a person must have a deep-rooted commitment to the goal that he will strive to achieve it even if nobody follows him!

2. Purpose - A requirement for leadership is personal vision - the ability to visualize your goal as an accomplished fact; a thing already achieved. In communicating your goal (AIMS), bear in mind that it should meet the following criteria:

a. Achievable ... realistic yet faith stretching

b. Inspiring ... challenging your people to give of their best

c. Measurable ... quantifiable

d. Shared ... declaring your conviction in and commitment to the goal

3. People - The next requirement is the realization that the goal cannot be achieved alone, without the help of others. Is there a natural grouping of people from whom you can elicit help? Or do you have to recruit your followers? In the latter, you face a greater challenge. But whatever the situation, the leader must integrate his goal with his followers’ personal goals and then communicates this goal in such a way that they embrace it too and the goal becomes a common goal. To be a leader, one must have followers. To have followers, one must have their trust. How do you win their trust? Why would others trust you? Most important, are you worthy of their trust?

**Characteristics of a Leader:** 1. Having a vision that is grounded with truth and willingness to work for a solution. A leader who lives up by the truth and is willing to fight against a lie which hinders the realization of the people’s aspiration. And further fights against all forms of poverty, the root cause of injustices, militarization, etc.

2. Persistently working through mind, words and actions. A leader of the people entails acceptance of responsibility that is evident in his/her thought, words and actions. That he/she is willing to commit despite atrocities, suffering and even willing to lay down one’s life if necessary.

3. Being critical. A good leader is not only contented with what is seen and experience but continuously seeks for what is more appropriate and what can be done to help the majority attain the total human development. He/she teaches people to stand on their own and decides what is best for them. And above all, train people to become leaders themselves.

4. Has positive outlook and unceasingly works for success and is always open to learn new things

5. Inspiring and knows how to praise others

6. Has the ability to be with others or always extend to others

7. Principled. A leader is formed through being sincere and honest and persistent not only to oneself but a model for others, true to being Filipino, and above all truthful to God.

8. Has the ability to share and welcome ideas from others

9. Stands for what is good to the community

For the sharing in the VC: 8 sharers

We often hear of some leaders are task or goal-oriented and others are person-oriented. As a leader, if you have to choose between people or purpose, what will you choose? Of course, real-life leadership is not so clearly defined in terms either or and in reality, a compromise is possible. But for the sake of discussion, what will you choose? Why?

To facilitate the discussion, maybe 4 of you can share the advantages of a goal/task-oriented leader and the other four the advantages of a person-oriented leader.