

## COMPETENT LEADERSHIP

What is Leadership?

1. John C Maxwell a renowned motivational speaker once said that 'it's influence nothing more and nothing less'
2. Napoleon Bonaparte said that a 'Leader is a dealer in hope'.
3. John Quincy Adams exhorted 'If your actions inspire others to dream more, learn more, do more and become more, you are a leader
4. Our Founder Ralph Smedley once said it's the ability to influence other people to go ahead on the plan.

When I was growing up I was taught that a Leader especially in Jamaica had to be a raging bull. As a raging bull if you did not charge at and buck employees, no one would do anything". That if you didn't cuss and swear nobody would do anything. What a frustrating time that was. I was taught that you could have a drink with the people or workers but don't stay too long. Then I wondered why people were stealing from my Dad's business which later became the Uniform Centre and why silence defeated conversation and became their method of dealing with me. Sometimes it was really lonely being a leader. That's like doing a solo on the dance floor.

It took me a few years then I began to realize that to build a really great business you have to have great systems and a great team. You have to trust the people around you and not be afraid to get close to them.

Andrew Carnegie had inscribed on his gravestone words to the effect that he employed people who knew more than he did. I finally realized that leadership is not only about self development it's also about developing and inspiring others around you with a mission or a dream that is bigger than you are.

That is why Martin Luther King was able to inspire an entire generation with the simple words 'I have a dream'.

One of the things I also learned is that if you can't communicate you can't lead and if you can't lead you can't sell. Can you imagine a world in which Richard Branson, Steve Jobs, Barack Obama, Mahatma Gandhi, Norman Manley and Bustamante never said a word. Unimaginable!!! That is why Toastmasters teaches both communication and leadership skills. People with good communication skills are more likely to be promoted to leadership positions, and good leaders need communication skills to be effective. Our Distinguished Toastmaster and IPP Godfrey has often said that a Toastmaster that does not speak is like a Bird that does not fly. I say that a TM

that does not develop his leadership skills is like a ship that does not have a captain. It's going nowhere.

And that is why you and I are here today to become better speakers and better leaders.

The Pacesetters Toastmasters Club is **heaven-sent!**

Our mission is to provide a mutually supportive and positive learning environment in which every individual member has the opportunity to develop oral communication and leadership skills, which in turn fosters self-confidence and personal growth.

There are two tracks to grow our skills: The Communication Track and the Leadership Track and each has ten projects. The ten projects in the Leadership Track take us through Listening to Team Building. Each stage requires participation as a Grammarian or Evaluator or being involved in one the Committees of Club. On achievement of the Competent Leader Award you will receive a Certificate and most importantly you can request that TI sends a letter to your employer advising them of your accomplishment. **Why Not Get Started Now.** But that is only the beginning as after you have achieved Competent Leader status you can **journey to your purpose** with the Advanced Leader Bronze and Advanced Leader Silver. **So let's Act now**

This year under the Leadership of President Coleen the club has very clear goals two of which are to have two CL's and two Advanced Leaders so that as a Club we can achieve Distinguished Club Status long before June of next year. **So let's Act now.**

In front of you is a sheet of blank paper. **Be bold, brave, brilliant!** Volunteer for the committee you wish to serve on or the role you wish to perform.

**Let's become the leaders we want to be!**

### **Speech Objectives**

Select the right words and sentence structure to communicate your ideas clearly, accurately and vividly.

Use rhetorical devices to enhance and emphasize ideas.

Eliminate jargon and unnecessary words. Use correct grammar