

Building and Reviving Core Moral and Ethical Values in our Academic and Professional Institutions

Felix Tetteh

Volta River Authority, Ghana
frimote@yahoo.com

Abstract

Over the years concerns over unethical conduct within the Ghanaian society in general and the engineering profession, in particular, have led to the resurgence of the debate on the need, and how to improve national values and ethics in professional practice. Although, there are national and organizational systems and structures in place aimed at preventing or mitigating the effects of unethical behaviours such as bribery, corruption, substandard work, misuse of national resources and confidential information in public service organizations, these societal ills persist. There is therefore an urgent need to examine the underlying factors and root causes of such development-limiting tendencies, and help institutions, trainees, entrusted officials and professionals to uphold standards and ethical values in their execution of duties. Referring to the central theme of the Ghanaian national anthem, “God bless our homeland,” this paper empirically examines key lessons that can be drawn in advocating for overhauling the various educational curricula to focus on developing strong moral and nationalistic values in professional training and practice. Conceptually, the paper highlights how humane and godly values can be integrated into the entire educational system, professional standards, the engineer's codes of practice, wider organisational culture and national consciousness. Key challenges and actionable recommendations are put forward for consideration by institutional leaders and policy makers to help realise the sacred ideals of the national anthem and pledge.

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