

Lagos Life

Not published.

BY  
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I always want to read articles and interviews that relate to past politics and politicians in Nigeria.

The one written by Bgbile Oshadipe in "Lagos Life" issue of October 9, 1986, page 8, under the caption "GREAT AFRICANS OF ALL TIME" is of great interest. This relates to Herbert Macaulay.

I will reproduce a chapter from the article to bring out my points. "But Macaulay was a bitter critic of the other educated elite in Lagos". He lashed out in the press against his rivals and his friends who were indifferent to the plight of the ordinary people. He was really in touch with the masses and especially the market women who admired him. To the socially unimportant groups, he was their hero".

After the colonial government did not succeed in alienating him from the masses by his imprisonment on trumped-up charges, the educated Lagos elite, who were the socially accepted groups to the colonial government were let loose against him in a typical local hooligan campaign in which some common people were paid to deride him in the streets of Lagos in the mid-thirties. Some sang in Lagos streets thus:

Ena fun leja mo

Macaulay di yeye

Ena fun lepo mo

Macaulay di yeye

The translation is:

Don't give him fish again

Macaulay has become a clown

Don't give him oil again

Macaulay has become a clown



These were "instruments" of the colonial government to run Macaulay down altogether.

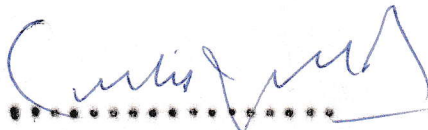
But as Mr. Oshadipe observed in his article "the self-satisfied conservatism of the 1920s gave way in the 1940s to a new political game".

Thus the combined forces of the market women, the common people workers, and the new political awakening by Zik through the West African pilot rescued Herbert Macaulay from the groups of Lagos educated elite, the social darlings of the colonial power, whom Zik later called quislings, uncle Toms and auntie Jemimas.

How these groups "resurrected" in the forties in another form to bring confusion into Nigerian politics and led us into permanent instability is being studied by some groups.

The facts will come out, and Nigerians will see how history has been falsified.

It will also be revealed how imperialist forces had used our own people to set us against ourselves so that they can always plunder our economy.



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8th December, 1986.