



Chaplain General (CG) Trust Mashingaidze from Zimparks brings you Counselling Nugget number 11 of 2021 with focus on Leadership. This publication may be useful to all body because firstly you are the leader of your life before you lead others. Secondly, all those who supervise anyone are a leader because there is a sphere of influence to those you lead at whatever level.

I will start with quotes

The Socratic paradox states "I know that I know nothing" this was derived from Plato's account of the great Greek Philosopher Socrates.

"The unexamined Life is not worth living" The words were supposedly spoken by Socrates at his trial after he chose death rather than exile.

The above were leaders in their field of Philosophy Its good for us to appreciate the difference between leadership and management... Leadership is about getting people to understand and believe in your vision and to work with you to achieve your goals while managing is more about administering and making sure the day-to-day things are happening, as they should. In these processes, you as the supervisor will find challenges in the form of criticism like the above philosophers faced. Nonmatter the roles you lead you will always face criticism. Criticism is good as long as it is constructive, truthful, and has good intentions. Appreciate this kind of criticism in your work life. However, there is destructive criticism, which is bad and not based on full truth but bad intentions.

Prepare yourself for this kind of criticism whether you are a Senior Ranger or any other supervisor. Whether it is a critique of your leadership style, or a critique of an event or project that stopped when you were leading it, or a personal attack on you, your family, or your organisation this criticism can pull one into the depths of despair.

Did you know there are positive ways to respond to negative criticism?

Here are 3 suggested positive ways to respond to negative criticism:

Find the Hidden Truth

This is a difficult task, but much criticism; yes, even destructive criticism can be traced to a constructive or truthful nugget of information. Examples maybe the criticism was “Chaplain General your homily would have been so much better if it was 5 minutes shorter.” Now, there is nothing constructive about this criticism about the preached sermon, but maybe the nugget of truth is the CG need to understand a way to cut some content from his sermon. Alternatively, Senior Ranger the way you distributed the ration (zviwanikwa) was unfair you just need to correct that aspect period.

Find the Disgruntled Person

A lot of destructive criticism comes from a broken and lethal person. Maybe they are disgruntled because they are poisonous, or they are poisonous because they are disgruntled. Either way extend grace in situations of unexpected or bad criticism.

Defend yourself...Kindly

Maybe you casually brush o_ bad criticism and never confront those who do it to you. This might not be the best path to take. Obviously, a shouting match or heated discussion in the corridors or pathways might not be the best place to defend yourself. But maybe offer to take the person to lunch or offer them 5 minutes on a convenient day to discuss their criticism, why it hurts, and why it is unnecessary.

Negative criticism is something none of us looks forward to as it is frustrating, disheartening and discouraging yet useful. Let us find a way to help ourselves and those giving the criticism.

FOOD FOR THOUGHT! this applies to many facets of life, what is your take?

I end with this observation

“Socrates wrote nothing. All that is known about him has been inferred from accounts by members of his circle - primarily Plato as well as by Plato's student Aristotle, who acquired his knowledge of Socrates through his teacher”. A leader can influence his followers to greatness do you recognise how Socrates influenced those who came after

him but they had to use negative and constructive criticism to achieve all the scientific discoveries that came...

References: Philosophical facts Socrates, Plato, and Aristotle

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