**Module 8**

**Assignment Item 3**

1. **Conflicting Ideas**

Politician vs Statesman

1. **The Problem**

The problem that exists because of the conflict between politician and statesman is that ordinary people tend to have high expectations on politicians that they have made custodians of their rights and freedoms through democracy and they get highly disappointed when their expectations are not met because they expected a politician to conduct himself as a statesman.

1. **Important Point**

It is my belief that the democracy advocacy groups and institutions should put in place programmes that seek to educate the electorate about the importance of identifying and men and women of high morals and integrity when they elect their representatives in government.

1. **Elaboration**

In most parts of the world, democracy is seen as a noble form of government as it is the government of the people, elected by the people to carry out the will of the same people who elected them. However, on the contrary most democratic societies are not the happiest of people as their elected officials tend to abuse power and engage in unethical conduct that do not benefit the people. At the centre of the problem is the person who leads government, whether he/she choose to lead as a politician or as a statesman. While there is nothing wrong with being a politician because by definition a politician is said to be a person who through his/her political beliefs is elected to a position in government and therefore participates in policy making processes of the government. Politicians represent the people who elected them, make decisions and influence the formulation of public policy.

A politician who is elected to be a leader of government should endeavour to become and behave like a statesman as he/she becomes the representative of all people regardless of political affiliation. A stateman is describes as a leaders of government with a long respected career as a man/woman of integrity who leads the government officials towards performing their functions for the common good of the people in general. The problems in most democracies is that, leaders of government usually fail to transcend from the role of a politician into role of a stateman. They allow themselves to be biased towards their political parties when they make government decisions through such things as appointing friends and supporters who are not properly qualifies in strategic position in government institutions and this leads to more nepotism, corruption and mismanagement of state coffers.

1. **Exemplification**

A good example of transcending from politician to a stateman was seen in South Africa, a country that produced a renown leader and statesman ie. Nelson Mandela who was and still is revered by millions of people across the world. Nelson Mandela was a politician representing his political party (the ANC) but he transcended into a remarkable statesman through his humility, integrity and sincere focus on humanity in general.

1. **Illustration**

To illustrate the possibility and the ability to transcend between these conflicting ideas: Nelson Mandela was incarcerated for 27 years for his political beliefs and when he came out of prison, he became the country’s first democratically elected president.

1. **Opposing View**

There are indeed people with opposing views who question that Stateman as he was seen to be….but how did he buy a house in Houghton suburbs coming out of jail after 27 years. Some believe that it was unethical of him to accept a house bought for him by some wealthy business family as it was for them to be able to leverage their business interest hence they believe he was just like any other politician with devious motives.

1. **Response to Opposing View**

Opposing views are always welcome as all people have rights to their opinions. My take is that he received a lot of donations even from foreign countries. Workers at the Mercedes plant in PE donated their time at work in order to build him a brand-new Mercedes Benz. I view such donations as humane gestures of good will made by people who genuinely in his steadfast belief in humanity, freedom and peace. People with opposing views do not provide evidence or proof of donors having benefited from him at any stage. Nobody is perfect but did try his best to walk the talk during his remaining years.