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Host : CESA

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Topic : What it means to be a leader in such a time as this!

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My 3 declarations

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What it means to be a leader in such a time as this means having the extra-ordinary ability to distinguish between who you are and what you are called to do.

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What it means to be a leader in such a time as this means having the extra-ordinary ability to read the times we are in and have more than a vision – having a cause.

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What it means to be a leader in such a time as this means being in tune with original mandate of human beings – replenish and subdue the things that have been created by the hand of God.

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What it means to be a leader in such a time as this means understanding the key characteristics of leadership. These for me are.....

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Having a Cause – a vision is not enough
A vision is simply for making people see, but
A cause is when a leader sees something no-one else sees...the extra-ordinary ability to create something from nothing.....often with nothing..

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Courage is a characteristic of a leader for such a time as this.....standing alone.....resilient against the relentless power of greed that has permeated your industry in both the public and private sector – which leader has stood up to correct the corruption in the top construction and implicated engineering companies?

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Character is everything to a leader – alignment between what I say and what I do whether people see me or not- in public and in private. Such a leader lives an extra-ordinary life, policed by a high level moral compass, social and economic justice.

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Perseverance – the power of a completed assignment

What it means to a leader in such a time as this means that you deliver on the promises you have made.

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Perseverance – means that you reach a time when you have completed a task – first day you get into a job you write your resignation with the list of all the things you will achieve. Leaders who have been born for such a time as this live in the future.....and work their way back.....

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Perspective – to be a leader in such a time as this means not being sucked in by a system that cares less.....only about feeding the current animal- it is about Transformation.

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Perspective – Transformational leadership is not about replacing black with white, it is a fundamental review of the total belief system that governs the company, or institution you are in.....very few leaders ever reach this level.....

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Perspective – Transformational leadership is about the ability to mobilise people from very diverse background for a particular purpose.....how diverse are the leaders in the engineering companies? They call it loyalty....

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Perspective – Transformational leadership is about re-thinking what you have been taught for years – people close to you trying to contain you- people you report to contain your destiny.....mmmmm....then we wonder why how we got here..... look at your leader.....but also look at you!

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What does it mean then for you individually to be a leader for such a time as this, on this continent and in South Africa? – what will you do?

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True leaders are not passive participators – they are change agents at home, in their companies, in their communities, in their country.

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What does it mean to be a leader in such a time as this? The continent, is crying out for people who will step out of their comfort zones and redesign a just economic and social system that will benefit all. You are professionals – what have you done lately?

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If each and everyone of us could in our current position, improve things, correct things, advance things, develop things, succeed in things – we will have incremental change at least there will be movement.

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I believe that incremental change is no longer an option is such a time as this. We need leaders who will shake industries upside down to bring the necessary economic and social justice to the people. You are the generation of the future – refuse to be a footnote in history – live for a cause greater than the defeat of the apartheid system – fight for social and economic justice.

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