Twitter Thread by Sam Adeyemi

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His nickname was “Sholay”, derived from Sola, a Yoruba name. He was two years ahead of me in high school. He did something that shifted my paradigm and that has stayed with me for four decades. #NewNigeria

The Inter-House Sports Competition was one of the most prominent highlights of the school year back then. But long before the competition that particular year, I observed something unusual. #NewNigeria

Very early in the morning, Sholay would put on his yellow track suit pants and white t-shirt, and run all by himself on the tracks. It did not make sense. The inter-house competition was still several months away. #NewNigeria

The months passed, and it was time for the competition. Sholay came first at the heats and eventually won the gold medals for the 100m, 200m and 4X100m races. I was stunned. My mind made the connection between his preparation and his success. #NewNigeria

That experience made me realise that God gives all opportunities, but most are just not prepared for them. I learned that today was created yesterday. If you’re trying to be ready when you should be ready already, you’re already late. #NewNigeria

Apparently, Sholay’s success at the competition was created not only buy his efforts during the competition, but also by his preparation. The next 10, 20 or 30 years are also being shaped by right now. #NewNigeria

Dear young Nigerian and African, the decades ahead present unprecedented opportunities to change the fortunes of our countries and our continent in all sectors. Are you prepared or preparing? #NewNigeria

Political parties are beginning to validate and register members in Nigeria. Does that mean anything to you? Now is the time to cultivate skills in politics, policy, governance, leadership, etc., and to rise above factors that divide us, like ethnicity and religion. #NewNigeria

You now have some clarity on the reasons for the slow pace of development despite our enormous human and material resources: the use of violence by state and non-state actors feeding off the oppressive status quo to frustrate change efforts. #NewNigeria

Pray and think deeply to get strategies to develop Nigeria/Africa. Then act fast. Build your influence from your local government by building relationships and by serving. Also build financial stability. Hurry, the next decade is taking shape already. Let’s build the #NewNigeria.