

PANTY-LESS ME!

I had been combing almost all the companies and schools in Accra for a job after university. As long as three years on, there was still none. My hallowed, hard-earned undergraduate certificate was becoming nothing more than an ornamental memorabilia with little or no use.

These were times my breakfasts were intentionally delayed, and either my lunch or supper kept on diminishing by a morsel day after day. “Get a job like your friends!” I was indirectly being told.

One morning, thankfully, I had a call to come teach in an all-girls’ school the next day. My goodness! The enthusiasm was great. First, I would be able to own a radio set at long last, and second, I would meet girls; a lot of them.

Exactly 6am I was at the bus terminal. There were scores of several others who had one important schedule or another to attend to; all of us anxiously waiting for a *trotro*.

The first came. As expected, only a few strong ones made it; no place for neither the gentle nor weak. Second *trotro*; same story.

It was obvious my gentleness was only going to get me standing there till another eclipse occurred in Ghana. Those in tuxedos even joined in this ‘survival of the fittest’ (which looked nothing new to even the ladies), how much less yours truly dressed in an ‘*oburoniweewu*’ long sleeves and trousers, and of course... panty-less.

Walking about *antipé*, panty-less to wit, wasn’t anything new. It went far back to my high school days and was one enjoyable legacy my single sex alma mater had successfully ingrained in me.

Third *trotro* came. I forcefully made my way amidst battering and insults from some aggrieved co-passengers. I hastened to the headmistress’ office and then sped off to the class I had been assigned to.

The students unusually giggled on seeing me.

“I look that good?” I wondered. “Maybe I look like another Idris Elba.”

I poured on and on all that I had ‘chewed’ some years ago. The class even giggled the more. To my bewilderment, all those from behind had suddenly moved to the front seats... whispering to each other.

