

## PARKINSON LAW AT WORK

Have you noticed that the more time you spend in the office, the more work you will find to do? This is **Parkinson law** at work, it states: **Work expands to fill the available time!**

Work has capacity to expand depending on the time we commit to it. If I decide to come to work 6.30am and leave 8.00pm daily I might end up doing same work as when I come to work 7.30am and leave 6pm under same conditions! Sometimes we might easily deduce that the longer our work hours, the higher our productivity. This is not true because when people have been at work for up to nine hours, concentration begins to fade.

Come to think of it, those of us that come very early to work are unproductive (most times) before the real work begins. Those periods are used for social gatherings, sleeping on our desks or in our cars, keeping ourselves warm with cups of coffee, discussing soccer or our plans for the weekend!

And for those of us that stay late in the office, the latter periods are filled with non value adding activities (to our work) like making phone calls, reading magazines/ dailies, doing school assignments, chatting with colleagues.

Supervisors/ Team leads should place emphasis on performance and results, rewarding achievement of specific goals that contribute to the organization's bottom line. They should let their staff go home after they have finished their work. Staying unnecessarily late in the office will amount to waste of time and perhaps create problems for everyone.

Agreed, there are genuine reasons why staff have to resume in the office very early or close late (e.g. avoiding traffic), let us invest a small amount of time for solitary thinking, reflecting and planning. Use these periods to consider the important goals of your job and how you intend to use the time you have to achieve them. This will make you better organized, achieving more from each day and greatly reduce needless work.

*The key to working smarter is knowing the difference between motion and direction.*

- Abiodun Adetula