
NATIONAL SECURITY AND DEVELOPMENT: THE ROLE OF MUSIC EDUCATION

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Abstract

National security has been recognized as the basis for development of any society. Any nation that is faced with enormous security challenges does not record meaningful development. In the presence of insecurity in a nation, the leader focuses interest on finding ways of fostering sustainable peace and security in the country instead of harnessing the country's resources toward overall development. In Nigeria therefore, the issue of national security especially that of the Boko Haram sect is the major challenge facing the present administration. The present leadership instead of focusing interest on overall development is putting the country's resources toward fighting the menace of insecurity by the Boko Haram sect. This menace needs to be promptly addressed because it might escalate to the disintegration of Nigeria. Therefore, to achieve national security and development in Nigeria, there is need to instill in Nigerians especially the youths the spirit of peace, tolerance and national consciousness. Music offers ready solution to the national security and development challenges. This paper therefore, examined some national security challenges and concluded that music education plays a very important role in achieving national security and development.

Education is a process of training and instruction especially of children and young people in schools, colleges etc, which is designed to give knowledge and develop skills (Hornby, 1998). According to Ocho (2005), the ability of a nation to grow and develop depends on the quality and emphasis in its educational system, and not on the amount of natural wealth available in the country. In view of this, Yolaye (1980), describes education as the tool for elimination of ignorance, poverty and disease.

Education represents the thought of people who are continually caught in the whirl wind of a changing society. It teaches people the value system that shapes their perception and beliefs. Generations upon generation were fed with value the system that comes to influence their perception, behaviours, attitudes and characters. However, any nation that lays much emphasis on the quality of her education system experiences high development and disciplined group of people, while the nation that neglects it, will experience chaos and under development. In fact, the transition of a nation from one

generation to another is critical to the formative and developmental aspiration of such nation. That is why nations that have the progress and development of their people at heart, prepare their youths for such future aspiration. Hence, the most important resources in development are the human resources of the children and youth. They are the potential leaders of tomorrow, and so will be guided in their thinking and development by the way they feel. The nation's preparation of her youth for future aspiration will not only secure her future development, but will prepare her next leaders for the challenges of national security and development. According to Arase and Iwuofor (2007), it is well recognized all over the world that peace and security of life and property are the primary condition for progress and development of any society.

Music education is the most potent instrument for the overall development of the individual in particular and the country in general (Nwonyeh, 2007). There are moral, spiritual, aesthetic, and human values in music which makes it a vital force in our national security and development. It influences the spirit of man. The challenges of present day civilization are becoming increasingly complex for the youth. Newspaper, television, internet, and radio reporting can put the burden of national and international challenges on the shoulders of our young people, which if not properly handled may lead to outbreak of violence. The youths are confused by conflicting values in our society. For example, they may be taught citizenship education from a civics books, but they may see those very same principles abused in many areas of human relationships in everyday life. The question is, what then are they to believe in? What they were taught or what seems to be practiced? Personal discipline therefore has to be learned as an essential of personal development and life adjustment.

Conceptual Clarification

Music Education

Music education has as one of its cardinal objectives, the provision of experience and training of the learner, such experiences, when acquired would help learners to live and contribute positively towards the progress and development of their society (Uzoma, 2001). Okafor (2005), sees music as an integral part of the African's life-long educational system. According to Agu (2009), music studies are not just effective and expressive, they are also deeply cognitive. They develop the tools of thinking itself; careful observation of the world, mental representation of what is observed or imagined, abstraction from complexity, pattern recognition and development etc.

National Security

There is no single universally accepted definition of national security. However, national security is referred to as protection of a nation and its citizens from threats. Bello (2012) states that the main essence of national security is the protection of the national interest/value of a state and upholding what the state believes to be valuable to it and its people. Onuoha (2008) sees national security as the capacity of a state to promote the pursuit and the realization of the fundamental needs and vital interests of

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man and society and to protect them from threats which may be economic, social, environment, political, military or epidemiological. The philosophy of national security is encapsulated in the maxim: the safety of the nation is the supreme law. This is because all the rights of the individuals depend for their very existence upon the continuance of organized political society. The continuance of that society, itself depends upon national security, for without national security any society is in danger of collapse or overthrow (Nwabueze, 1995). Brown (1983) defines national security as the ability to preserve the nation's physical integrity and territory, to maintain its economic relations with the rest of the world on reasonable terms, to preserve its nature, institution, and governance from disruption from outside, and to control its borders.

Development

Like national security, there is no single universally accepted definition of development since there are some differences in describing development by various authors. The passage from poor to rich, from traditional rural economy to a sophisticated urban one. It carries with it not only the idea of economic betterment, but also of greater human dignity, security, justice and equity (Udabah, 1994). Onah (2001) sees development as the product of investment and manpower planning at the macro level, which manifests in the quality of governance, especially the extent to which it was transparent, accountable and democratic. Development requires the removal of major sources of lack of freedom: poverty as well as tyranny, poor economic opportunities as well as systematic social deprivation, neglect of public facilities as well as intolerance or over activity of repressive states (Sen, 2008).

In this conceptualization, growth is central to the process of development. According to Eze (2001), national development connotes all the ability of a nation to grow larger, fuller, to become more mature and organized in all spheres, politically, economically, socially, technologically etc, in a bid to improve the living standards of its citizenry. The achievement of development is dependent on freedom of the people such as political, economic facilities, social and religious freedoms, transparency, accountability, justice and equity, democratic guarantees, protective security etc.

National security challenge

Security is defined as the state of being or feeling secure, freedom from fear, anxiety, danger, or doubt. According to Gurama (2010), Security is the backbone of any society, and it is tied to its social, political, economic and cultural growth. She further states that Negligence of this vital ingredient of development has led to all manner of social ills, including violent crimes such as armed robbery, ritual killings, child trafficking and other crimes. Safeguarding the sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity of the state was the central pillar of Nigeria national security policy.

According to the former president of Nigeria Obasanjo (2001), the primary objective of Nigeria's national security policy shall be to strengthen the Federal Republic of Nigeria, to advance her interest and objectives to contain instability, control crime, eliminate corruption, enhance genuine development, progress and growth, and

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improve the welfare and well being and quality of life of every citizen. In confirmation of the above statements, the fundamental objectives and directive principles of state policy as provided in chapter II of the 2011 amended Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria among other provisions in section 14(2) states that:

- a. Sovereignty belongs to the people of Nigeria from whom government through this constitution derives all its power and authority.
- b. The security and welfare of the people shall be the primary purpose of government;
- c. The participation by the people in their government shall be ensured in accordance with the provisions of this constitution (p.16).

In section 15

1. The motto of the Federal Republic of Nigeria shall be unity, Faith, Peace and Progress.
2. National integration shall be actively encouraged, whilst discrimination on the grounds of place of origin, sex, religion, status, ethnic/linguistic association or ties shall be prohibited.
3. The state shall foster a feeling of belonging and of involvement among the various people of the Federation, to the end that loyalty to the nation shall over ride sectional loyalties.
4. The state shall abolish all corrupt practices and abuse of power (p.17-18).

Since independence, Nigeria has witnessed many security challenges which can be grouped into (a), External and (b) Internal or Domestic. The challenges are caused mainly by political, social and religious factors. However, since the return of civil rule in 1999, Nigeria has not enjoyed relative peace instead; her democracy has been faced with enormous security challenges. Some of the major security challenges currently confronting the nation have been identified to include electoral/political conflicts, economic crime, religious conflicts, ethnic clashes and resource-based conflicts, spread of cultism etc.

Economic Crime

According to Ribadu (2004), economic crimes are human activities that involve breaking economic laws of Nigeria or illegal and immoral acts of persons adversely affecting the economy of Nigeria that can be punished by the law. The economic crimes include –corruption, fraud, embezzlement, oil bunkering, and illegal mining, bribery, stealing, money laundering, kidnapping etc. Economic crimes refer to illegal acts committed by an individual or group of individuals to obtain a financial or professional advantage. In such crimes, the offenders’ principal motive is economic gain. Cyber crimes, tax evasion, robbery, selling of controlled substances, and abuses of economic aid are all examples of economic crimes.

Political/Electoral Conflicts: It is any conflict or violence perpetuated in the course of political activities. The causes of electoral conflicts among others include thuggery, electoral abuses, snatching of ballot boxes, rigging of election, falsification of election results etc.

Ethnic clashes and Resources Based Conflicts: This is inter and intra ethnic conflicts caused by the declining economic fortunes of many communities, the growing availability of light weapons and boundary disputes, movement of Fulani based on trade records etc.

Ethno-religious Conflicts: It is known as ethnic and religious conflicts. The religious violence has been a recurring issue in Nigeria since after the civil war in 1970. For example the Maitatsini riots in Kano in 1980. Recently, a major national security challenge is the terrorists attack by a religious sect known as the Boko Haram. For about six years now when the group started their terrorists attack in Nigeria, more than one million people have lost their lives and property worth millions of naira destroyed. These challenges collectively and individually constitute threats to the peace, security and development of the country.

National Development

The above listed challenges have the following consequences in national development:

1. It leads to conflict or violence which causes insecurity
2. Movement of people from the warring areas to a more secured place
3. Business and other activities in the nation are paralyzed.
4. Lives and property are lost.
5. It brings instability in government
6. In the case of electoral conflict, people lose interest in joining political parties and in the electorates.
7. Economic crimes cause hardship to individuals and government and create unemployment to our teeming youths etc.
8. It increases the budget for defense and reduces expenditure on social amenities
9. Foreign and indigenous investors are discouraged from investing in the country.
10. Movements of goods are affected
11. Folding of some already established companies owned by both indigenous and foreign investors in the warring zone.
12. It creates tension even in the non warring zones.
13. It increases our poverty level etc.

The increased number of security challenges and development constitute threats to the maintenance and survival of its democratic system. Therefore, human security is very vital for the attainment of national security, peace and development in Nigeria.

The Role of Music Education in National Development

The Nigerian government has adopted education as an instrument “par excellence” for effecting national development (FRN, 2004). According to Federal Republic of Nigeria in national policy on education (2004) the overall philosophy of Nigeria is to live in unity and harmony as one indivisible, indissoluble, democratic and sovereign nation founded on the principles of freedom, equality and justice. On the other hand, the national education goals derived from the philosophy are therefore:

- a. the inculcation of national consciousness and national unity;

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- b. the inculcation of the right values and attitudes for the survival of the individual and the Nigerian society.
- c. the training of the mind in the understanding of the world around; and
- d. the acquisition of appropriate skills and the development of mental, physical and social abilities and competencies as equipment for the individual to live in and contribute to the development of the society (p. 7-8).

Acknowledging the relative importance of music education in the society, the Federal Government of Nigeria, in her National Policy on Education (2004) included music in the curriculum as one of the core subjects to be taught in schools at various levels of education. At the primary education level, the goals include to:

- a. Mould the character and develop sound attitude and morals in the child;
- b. Develop in the child the ability to adapt to the child's changing environment
- c. Give the child opportunity for developing manipulative skills that will enable the child function effectively in the society within the limits of the child's capacity (p.14)

While at the secondary education level, the secondary education among other things shall:

- a. Develop and promote Nigeria languages, arts and culture in the context of world's cultural heritage.
- b. Foster national unity with an emphasis on the common ties that unite us in our diversity
- c. Raise a generation of people who can think for themselves respect the dignity of labour, appreciate those values specified under the broad national goals and live as good citizens. (p.18).

Music is included in the system of education in Nigeria because of its significant importance to life. Music as a Creative Art in the Curriculum is designed to achieve the overall Nigeria's philosophy of education and the national goals which will help to keep the nation secure thereby foster national development. Music is exploited in the process of educating the people on the prevalent issues on socio-economic, political, religious and cultural life of the people. In fact, musical activities are means of presenting both the security challenges and the solutions of these challenges for effective development of the country. However, participation in music offers unlimited opportunities for developing desirable social qualities in the people, thereby reducing the rate of conflicts and violence prevalent now in Nigeria.

Conclusion

In our heterodox and materialistic age, that is; an age when people are too materialistic and do not conform to accepted standards, human relationship has become the all-important and most pressing challenge confronting our nation. Music is therefore, one of the most intimate and personal forms of communion man has with others which can be used to bridge the gap of human relationship and also help people to conform with the accepted standards of living in the country. All over the world, peace and

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security of life and property are the primary condition for progress and development of any society.

Recommendation

The following are recommended:

- National traditional music festival should be held biannually to promote national integration and cohesion.
- Nigeria traditional music representing the six geo-political zones should be imbedded in the music curriculum to be taught in primary and secondary schools to promote love for one another and unity amongst the youths.
- Jingles on consequences of national security challenges should be composed in the indigenous Nigerian languages to help disseminate the message to the grassroots.

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