

MUSIC AND NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

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Abstract

Every nation and people must have well-designed tools and system geared towards the acquisition of national development. The Federal Government of Nigeria has adopted education as *an* instrument par excellence for effecting national development (NPE: 5). Music education is among the recommended tools needed for effecting and achieving this goals. Music has broad-spectrum application-capable of being used for emotional expression, entertainment, communication, education, correction, social integration, aesthetic 'expression and vocational enterprises. Music therefore, serves as an efficient vehicle in promoting socio-economic activities capable of inducing national development, (hits, (he role of music in National development, contribution lo nation development, problems facing (he music sector, recommendations and Conclusion would form the bulk of this write up.

Introduction

Though rarely spoken of the music sector is also a very serious and important contributor to the social-economic development of any nation.

Not¹ many element of culture afford the opportunity for emotional expression, entertain, communicate, educate and so forth, to the extent allowed in music. Music is in a sense a summation of activities for the expression of values, a means, whereby the heart of the psychology of culture is exposed without many of the protective mechanisms, which surrounds other cultural activities. In this sense, it shares its function with other aspects of arts. Further, as a vehicle of history, myth and legend. it points up the 'continuity' of culture through the transmission of education, control of erring members of the society and stress upon what is right, it contributes to the stability of culture. And its own existence provides a normal and solid activity which assures the members of the society that the world continues in its proper path (Merriam, 1964: 2550).

We often speak of the manufacturing sector, the retail sector and the tourism sector for instance, as contributors to the economy but music with all its attributes is undergoing the sound of silence. Obviously, it would be extremely difficult for government and the population to appreciate the true value of the music sector if we are unable to indicate its contribution to the economy and more so, if we are unable to assess its worth as a sector which produces employment for Nigerians. Therefore, this write up is an attempt to bring to the fore, the role of music in national development, contribution to national development, problems facing the music sector, recommendation and finally, conclusion.

The Role of Music in National Development

Music whether Traditional or Western, could be likened to the 'Prophet' or 'Teacher' who directs the people to the path of Truth and Light. Furthermore, music could also be the 'mouth-piece' of the nation because; music does not only educate, entertain and inform, it also does the following:

- Music preaches Freedom and Need for a democratic society.
- Music preaches Justice and Equality in our society.
- Music preaches Unity in our society.
- Music preaches the need to be strong and self-reliant individuality and as a nation in general.
- Individuals who studied music formally/informally pay tax directly or indirectly to stipulated authorities who in-turn, use this money for one project or the other.
- Music must be recognized for its value as retardant of social decay.
- Music promotes a balanced mental and emotional health to the people thereby helping to cure stress.

From the points highlighted above, one could conclude that music plays both intrinsic and explicit role in the development of a nation, which is imperative to our country Nigeria.

This role of music in national development is of course in line with Section 1. paragraph 2, of the National Policy on Education which stated that, the five (5) main national objectives of Nigeria as stated in the second National

Development plan, and endorsed as the necessary foundation for the National Policy on Education are the building of;

1. A free and democratic society.
2. A just and egalitarian society.
3. A united and self-reliant nation.
4. A great and dynamic economy.
5. A land of bright and full opportunities for all citizens (NPE, 1981:7).

Contribution to National Development

Generally, the society and young men in particular look up to music as an avenue for creative expression, an escape from potential self-destruction, a way of caring a living, and a vehicle for achieving a feeling of some sense of self-worth. Specifically, the music sector is a major foreign exchange earner. It contributes to the perception of the country in the tourism sector and also serves the tourism sector. In support of the above, the chairman of the Local Organizing Committee (LOG) of the World Music Day, Mr. Benson Idonije, stated that, its objectives among others are:

To entertain, inform and educate Nigerian, mostly, through music. It also aimed at uniting the Nigerian family, foster cultural re-development in-Nigeria by bringing about a re-birth and repositioning of the moral and spiritual essence of our rich cultural heritage, and to create an annual event that will boost the tourism potential and industry in Nigeria. (The Guardian, June 2nd, 2003: 63).

Almost every sector in this country (and elsewhere) has at some time or another used music for one purpose or the other because music is accessible to all. To

- In the legal field application of copy right laws and royalty agreements.
- Sound engineering and recording.
- Instrument building, including piano tunings and instrument repairs and the making of traditional instruments.
- Music therapy.
- Teaching.
- Music school proprietor.
- Media Artist in Broadcasting Stations.
- Ethnomusicologist in Council for Arts and Culture.
- Promoter.
- Music instructor in Nigerian Army Band, Police Band, Navy etc.

If the end product of any educational pursuit (formal or informal) is to become self-reliant and to and the individual in contributing his quota to the economy in the development of his community and the society at large, it therefore, behoves one to say that the music sector or industry has in no measure contributed to the development of our country Nigeria.

With the foregoing analysis, one can see the importance of music and how far it can go to promote and foster national development. The frontier before us therefore, is how to exploit this tool and maximize its use. To do this, the factor delimiting its use would be ere highlighted and discussed.

Problems Facing Music Sector

Over the years, successive governments appear to display love for musicians only when '•>• services are needed either at a State banquet, during a visit by Presidents of other countries and course on occasion such as the last POP (Peoples Democratic Party) National Convention.

That is the only time they need us (Artistes), it is only then that they feel we are needed. When we need government's assistance, we have to fill forms, write proposals that are never replied and at the end of the day, we have to wait for another function when they will require us to come and jump and dance before them puppets (The Guardian, January 15th, 2003: 53).

The statement above was made by Terry Jackson, chairman of the Performing Musici; Association in Nigeria (PMAN). In collaboration, Shaibu Husseinj, the coordinating chairman of Guild of Nigerian Dancers (GOND), reported thus,

We (dancers) are made (o dance on hard floors, on tarmacs, to entertain government functionaries. We are made-to stand endlessly under the sun most times, (o entertain State visitors. But what do we get as compensation? Nothing. No improved condition for dancers, no provision of dancing studios, government should realize that we don't have any other means of livelihood... (Shaibu, 2003:52).

In addition, a renowned Music and Film director, Dr. Ola Balogun, asked why artistes are grossly abused and neglected in Nigeria. He wondered why artistes who are suffering to add value to the nation through arts and tourism promotion should still be asked to perform for a stipend. The answer is not farfetched. It is because, many musicians do not demand that they be treated as professionals - the music industry of sector like any other, involves trading relationships for which professionalism and integrity are key ingredients for effectiveness.

Nigeria has a rich heritage of artistic culture (literature, music, dance and drama) which was used during the anti-colonial and democratization struggles. It is unfortunate that the country that produced a Fela Anikpola Kuti, Soyinka and other art icons, should today deploy their cable television and video film facilities, including radio, an effective medium for promoting music, for the dissemination of Western pop music, pop pornographic literature and video films. Since the mass media (Press, radio, television, cinema etc), continue to be powerful that these should be able to set standards, lead and guide opinion of the Nigerian populace through Nigerian music.

One of the severe cultural handicaps hindering people in Nigeria is the lack of formal education. A large percentage of the adult is still illiterate. A large percentage of the youths never go to school or fall out of school before they have completed the equivalent of Primary and Junior Secondary education. Such youth who are virtually illiterate, remain stranded very early in their lives. Therefore, their vital contribution to national development is lost because they are underdeveloped.

The above assertion is true of the music sector. Young men and women who dropped out school for one reason or the other have taken up the profession. The sector is inundated with graduates who failed to get jobs in their disciplines - most of them having no previous knowledge of music, who claimed to be gifted but don't have skill, can barely explain the meaning of a 'Triad' or differentiate between a 'crochet and a minim note'. As a result, musical standard continues to fall generally. Musicians continue to labour in vain and futility because their products are usually shortlived in terms of life span as a result of worthlessness. In the long run, the country continues to lose her valuable foreign exchange that should have been attracted to it.

In addition, it has been observed in a research carried out by the writer on Music Education at the Primary School Level - An Appraisal (Olowofasa, 2003), that formal music education is still struggling to gain recognition societal and academically. If all the Colleges of Education and Universities in the Federation turn out music graduate every year, there would be enough music professionals and manpower to man the various aspects of the music sector.

Recommendation

1. A strong music sector cannot emerge without strong leadership and management. The need for management skills permeate all aspects of the music industry, management of events, management of image, management of money (cash flow), management of investments (in new equipment and materials), management of production and projects are all part of the landscape of the industry. The music industry is a business sector in which its participants unfortunately, do not necessarily view it that way. In much the same way that other private sector, institutions, run workshops, hire people to manage operations, and train their staff, the music industry must follow suit.
2. Also, musicians could have their creative projects partially or fully funded depending on the marketability of the project. The government could guarantee loans for production of recording projects (expert product), through meaningful dialogue with the industry to determine how best it could be of assistance.
3. Another move that a developing country like Nigeria ought to make to help the music industry is the reduction of tariff from imported musical instruments. If this is done, and almost everyone is able to acquire the instrument of his choice, it would make life easier for musicians.
4. In addition, the government needs to enforce regulations that bind the media especially Radio Stations in terms of promoting Nigerian musical culture since radio happen to be one of the most effective medium for promoting music. Furthermore, the problem of copyright and piracy could be solved if Nigerian musicians try to be original in their works and integrity is upheld within and outside the music industry. Performing

Musicians Association (PMAN). Association of Recording Company, individuals and _ government could come together and reach a decision on how to curb the menace of piracy probably by bringing culprit to law.

5. It is axiomatic that 'if you have nothing good to sell, then no one would buy'. Producing marketable product requires a strong creative culture. To achieve that, first and foremost, our musicians, performers and teachers in all aspect of the music industry must be skillful. We must also have access to affordable technology, which would allow for the production of quality product.
6. Finally, to curb the menace of mediocrity, the government, policy makers and implementers should censure that music is made compulsory in schools as a subject right from the Elementary to the University level so that those opting to venture into music on graduation would do so from a position of knowledge and professional know-how.

Conclusion

To contribute to the development of the country, there has to be a level of responsibility that is taken by the people in the countries themselves. For this purpose, the government has stated that for the benefit of all citizens, the country's educational goals in terms of its relevance and needs of the individual as well as in terms of the kind of society desired in relation to the environment and the realities of the modern world and rapid social changes should be clearly set out (NPE, 1981:510). It should be noted that for any nation to develop in all ramification, she must have an education that is broad spectrum and not parochial or narrow. With this arrangement, individuals could easily fit into the society without much problem, especially in an era where the country is experiencing economic decline, and opportunities for creating new employment opportunities are indeed slim.

We must as a nation broaden our focus to explore the nurturing of growth in all potentially viable economic sectors. As a developing country, Nigeria needs to have all its economic sectors strengthened and working effectively. The music industry is one potentially viable sector that uses not enjoy the recognition as such. Therefore, she must actively lobby for recognition, the same as fishermen, garment manufacturers, small businesses, farmers, retailers and so forth; all lobby for better legislation to facilitate their interests.

It is my hope that our government *would* do what is within its capability to facilitate = renewal in (he music thereby providing opportunities for her citizens to make meaningful contribution. to our social and economic development.

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