

# **ENHANCING NATIONAL SECURITY AND GOVERNANCE THROUGH MUSIC: NIGERIA IN PERSPECTIVE**

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## **Introduction**

Nigeria as a nation has been experiencing a lot of security challenges for so many years in almost every facet of life, which threatens Nigeria's peace and development. These challenges manifest in areas such as economy, education, politics, infrastructure and many others just to mention but a few. Despite all the plans and strategies being put in place by the government through security agencies and other measures, to combat these anomalies, little or no headway is being made to really make the nation attain an appreciable level of development. Instead, the state of the nation is being characterized by all sorts of structural challenges, insecurity, poverty, and short-fall in monthly allocations, unemployment, kidnapping, killings and many other forms of abnormalities. These have also brought about damages, loss of innocent lives and properties, weakness in internal security and national insecurity.

In recent times, greater attention is being paid to the roles and activities of educational institutions in training good citizens in the nation. This is because education is considered a powerful instrument for change and development. In line with this ideology, Iyewarun (1989) submitted that education is an instrument by which young members of the society are brought up and socialized so as to secure useful and active members of society. To achieve this, various forms of educational programmes for the young ones in schools are put in place with the intention of making the youths more useful and active members of their societies.

Therefore, education curriculum was diversified to embraced areas such as music education, civic education, citizenship education, peace and conflict resolution, and many others. Through these forms of education, an individual can imbibe the spirit of national patriotism, cooperation, fulfill their statutory obligations and civic duties, and also shun all forms of social vices in society that are inimical to national security. However, there is need for government to provide enabling environment, provision of human and material resources that would enhance effective impartation of knowledge to the younger ones at our institutions of learning.

Many people consider music as just a means of entertainment or enjoyment. It is also important to note that music is an important aspect of culture, education, as well as a medium of communication among others. Many musicians engage in music production, performance, music conducting, composition and arrangement, and many other areas of music practices. Beyond all the aforementioned areas, this paper sets out to examine how music can be used to promote national security and good governance as well as other challenges in Nigeria.

### **Conceptual Clarifications**

**Security:** The word security in its simple term means the degree of protection from harm. However, it also has diverse meanings and interpretations. For instance, Oxford Advance Learner's Dictionary (2013) defines security as activities involved in protecting a country, building or person against attack, danger and so on. Arnord (1960) defines security as objectively the absence of threats to acquire values and subjectively the absence of fear that those values will be attacked. Nwankwo (2013) views security as freedom from financial cares, from want or poverty in any form. Security, therefore, can be defined as steps taken to security safety or lives, properties and wealth of the people living in an environment.

**National security:** The concept of national security does not have a generally acceptable definition; rather, it depends on the individual's perspective, ideology and experience. Muhammed (2007) defines national security as a condition whereby a country is free from any form of fear of threat to its peace, stability and progress. To Ekolo (2014), national security transcends territorial defense and should be on the physical, social and psychological quality of life of society and its

members, both in the domestic setting and within the larger regional and global setting.

In a nutshell, national security can be viewed as defence and protection of a nation against internal and external attacks as well as maintaining peace, stability and progress. It is therefore suffice to say that for a nation not to be intimidated by security threats, there must be good governance where “right people” are governing the affairs of the nation, they must be people who are ready to defend, secure and maintain the integrity as well as the security of the nation at all costs. It is worthy of note that when people are less confident about the security of the nation, they tend to resort to malevolent behaviours (Nwankwo, 2013).

**Governance:** Oxford Advanced Learner’s Dictionary defines governance as the activities of governing a country or controlling a company or an organization. It is the way in which a country is governed or a company or a company or institution is controlled. Emelonye (2000) refers to governance as the ability to provide the basic necessities of life to the populace. Governance can therefore be defined as a way or method of managing the affairs or resources of a state, nation or society for the benefit of the entire populace. It can also be described as a way in which the political power is being exercised to control or manage the affairs of an organization or a nation.

**Good governance:** Olukoshin (2001) described good governance as the war against corrupt practices, a predictable political system, participatory decision making process, auditing of governance transactions curbing or bureaucratic bottle necks, decentralization of governance, judicial autonomy, fundamental human rights and rule of law. In the same vein, Larry Diamond (2004) describes good governance as the willingness on the part of government to effectively and frugally manage wealth and resources of a state to generate public goods for the benefit of all. Good governance can therefore be seen as sincere or proper way by which a government meets the essential needs of its citizenry.

The foregoing submissions point to the fact that good governance pave way for the betterment of the people in accordance with the stipulated constitution

guiding a nation. To this end, when the essential needs of the people are met by the government, the security of the nation will also be guaranteed.

The concept of good governance cannot be separated from national security. In fact, it can be regarded as the bedrock of peace and security of the people and their properties. Expressing the importance of good governance in the anal of a nation, Kofi Annan (2003) stressed that:

*Good governance is a means of creating well-functioning and accountable institutions-political, judicial and administrative which citizens regard as legitimacy, in which they participate in decisions that affect their daily lives and which they are empowered.*

Considering the above assertion, it therefore implies that good governance allows people to participate in decision making, most especially in matters that concern their daily life. Government is also accountable to the people that elected or voted them into offices.

**Music:** The definition of music varies according to culture and social context. For instance, Idolo (2002) quoting Apel (1973) states that music is derived from the Greek word 'Music' which originally meant the art of technique of all cultural endeavours. Hoffer (1985) defines music as combination of sounds that are organized and meaningful, occurring in a prescribed span of time and usually having pitch. Olopade (1988) sees music as one of the verbal arts that enrich the individual in understanding nature around him. Considering all these submissions, we can therefore say that music is the combination of sounds of different pitches, made by man which, is to be sung or played on instruments in order to please the emotions and stimulate the intellect in accordance with the society's theoretical framework. Music is also a medium by which ideas are fixed in the minds of the audience.

These essential attributes of music according to Ibekwe (2009) are to communicate ideas, portray culture, symbolize event, socialize people, stimulate emotion and other related functions. Hence, each of these put together is capable or promoting national security and good governance.

**Education:** Education is a tool by which societies prosper and flourish. It covers a wide range of experience from formal learning to the building of intellect. It entails understanding and gathering of knowledge through the day-to-day experiences and activity.

Fafunwa (1995) opines that education is a tool of all due process by which a child or a young adult develops the abilities, attitudes and other forms of behaviour which are of good and positive values to the society in which they live. Oladejo (2003) perceives education as a process through which an individual, a group or a society can be developed by transmitting the societal cultural heritage from one generation to another. Hence, education can be seen as a process of transmitting what is worthwhile from one generation to another in order to bring positive permanent change in behaviour in the life of an individual.

**Music education:** It is an aspect of education that deals with teaching and learning or musical knowledge or training based on the organization of sounds in acquiring of musical skills by the students apart from academic aspects of their study that enables its products to be self-reliant. Orford (2001) quoting Suzuki (1983) stressed the importance of music education and development of a young person's mind and learning abilities that research has shown that music enhances a young person's development and creates good citizens. He explained further that even in United States of America music has, for the most part, been identified as a core subject in the education system.

Storr (1992) believes in music education for all children at an early age. He maintains that music gives life meaning and remains a fixed point of reference in an unpredictable world. He is of the opinion that those who have been lucky enough to receive adequate musical education in early life are better integrated in every way when they reach maturity. The philosophy of music education as stated in Nigeria Certificate in Education minimum standard (2012 edition) stresses the role of music in the general growth and development of a child. Section 3 and 4 further state that:

- It (music) has the potential of being one of the most valuable subjects for enhancing human personality. It is a kingpin among the various facets of

culture which fashions and mobilizes a people to attain all that is best in their lives, whether as individuals or as corporate entities.

- Music is used in achieving ends which are both musical and non-musical e.g. doing various types of work, wrestling, in the expression of nationalism, group solidarity, as propanganda machinery etc

Music education programme therefore enables an individual to be connected to his or her society, inner self and all other arts. More so, it promotes cultural continuity and makes its product to acquire skills in music for self-reliance (Section 6.2, v and vi).

Furthermore, Reiner (1970) in Omibiyi (1983) while writing on the importance of music education states that music education has dual obligation in society. First, to develop the talents of those who are gifted musically for their own personal benefits, and for the benefit of the society which they will serve. Second, to develop the aesthetic sensitivity to music of all people, regardless of their individual levels of musical talents, for their own benefits and that of the society which needs an active cultural life for the benefits of the art of music, which depends on a continuing supply of sympathetic sensitive consumers. This implies that music education is capable of enhancing and promoting individual musical talents which will then make the individual to be useful and not becoming liability to the society. As the saying goes that “an idle hand is the devil’s workshop” and a threat to national security.

### **Enhancing National Security and good governance through Music Education**

Placing the philosophy of Nigerian education to fall in accordance with the country’s national objectives, most especially as it relates to music education programme, it has to be tailored towards self-realization, national consciousness, national unity, scientific and technological advancement, good human relationships, cultural and political development. Having examined the concepts of good governance and music education as well as the justifications for both in our learning institutions, the following are means by which music education could be used in enhancing national security and good governance.

First and foremost, music education helps in the training of mind of an individual in the understanding of the world around him. In line with this statement Afolabi (2003) posited that:

*Music is an art which specifically seeks to involve the learner's in perceiving the world they live in reacting to songs they hear and they feel, and interpreting their emotions, feelings and insights through a variety of musical activities. It becomes imperative that opportunity for music education should be available to all students without discrimination of any kind.*

The foregone assertion indicates that through music education, children's minds and attitudes are trained in the right manner and ways of behaving in society. This would also help them to shun evil practices that could lead to crises and insecurity in the nation. In addition, when the minds of the youths are rightly trained, they would be able to govern the nation properly by the time they grow up and assume leadership positions. Through the songs they hear, sing and react to, learners are better informed, educated and transformed. In addition, they are able to know what is going on around them.

Moreover, music education could be employed to sensitize people on their legitimate rights and duties to participate in the process of good governance. The processes include the rights to vote and be voted for during elections, freedom of expression on national issues and many others. When people are allowed to exercise these rights and their views are respected, they would be able to participate in governance and there would be mutual cooperation and understanding between the governed and the government. In other words, music thereby serves as machinery to canvass for massive support and continuity of good governance. When this is done, there would be no room for crises hence, national security would be promoted. This could be done through recorded music jingles on radio, television programmes, Compac Disks (CD) in audio and video, and music concerts.

Furthermore, through music education, the resources and affairs of the nation could be controlled and checked. Musicians by the nature of their work serve as mouth-piece for the masses. When the resources of a nation are not well

managed, it would definitely reflect in the economic lives of the people. In such situations, musicians therefore serve as agents of check. Through music, government is able to know and feel the impulse of their subjects and how their governance affects the life of the people. This there by gives signals to the government to adjust for better administration in order to avoid crises.

## **Recommendations**

For music education to adequately enhance national security and good governance, the following recommendations are proffered:

- Government should identify and promote our cultural value systems that are going into extinction for national exploration and propagation.
- Music education curriculum should be geared towards inculcating the right and expected national virtues in our younger ones. This would improve the area of cultural development for the enhancement of peaceful society.
- Adequate musical instruments, instructional materials and facilities should be provided by the government to enhance effective teaching and learning of music in schools.
- Government should have access to the required financial and human resources to carry out its mandate and shun corrupt practices in all its ramifications.

## **Conclusion**

Looking at the present state of our nation, there is no doubt that the level of unemployment, killing, robbery, kidnapping and insurgency have constituted great threat to national security. Music education therefore has potential of eradicating or minimizing these and enhancing national security and good governance. It is also believed that when government at all levels create enabling environment for the development of creative works such as music, plays, drama and poems, national integrity will be promoted.

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