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PEAN 2021 Lead Paper:

Education and National Security: Implications for Nigeria's Transformation

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Preamble

All protocols observed.

I feel delighted to be given the privilege and honour as the lead paper presenter for the 41st Annual National Conference/40th Anniversary of Philosophers of Education Association of Nigeria (PEAN), being held at the University of Nigeria Nsukka (UNN). The Premier University South of the Sahara and North of the Limpopo (permit me please!). The theme of this year's conference: "Education, Security, Economy and Viability of Digital Response" is *adrem* regarding the situation of our dear country Nigeria. The key variables of the theme are interlinked as one can hardly flourish when the other is deteriorating. It is only when there is a good educational system in a country that the security network and economy of a nation can thrive. Education is the base or the "german floor" for shaping the politics and culture of the people, their security system and economy. It is this idea that formed and informed the rationale of my paper presentation as "Education and National Security: Implications for Nigeria's Transformation".

Concept of Education

Education is an instrument for national development and social change. Throughout history, education has always been considered as the path of human progress. It is the process through which members of a given society (men, women and children) acquire knowledge, experience, skill and the attitude that enable them live useful lives in the society. The concept of education embraces and encompasses all those human experiences through which knowledge is acquired. For Fafunwa (1971), education is that which each generation gives to its younger ones for their developmental attitude, abilities, skills and other behaviours which are the positive values to the society in which they live. Corroboratively, Peters (1999) maintained that education is a process of socialization, enculturation and transmission of what is worthwhile to those who are committed to it; be it children or adults. This conception implies that those who go through it intend or desire to improve themselves. The learner or the child is enabled with appropriate ways of life and directions to build up his competencies, for his own advantage and to promote the general good. Education from the perspective of Okeke (2003) is developing the individuals to live effectively, efficiently and to contribute to the advancement and upliftment of the society.

Analytically, the supra stated conceptions of education are by no way different from others rather they concurred to portray that through education, the behaviour patterns of the citizens could be changed in the desired direction. It was in the same frame of thought that Orikpe (2013) alleged that with sound education, people will begin to understand, and appreciate one

another as well as to restore the dignity of man in our day to day mortal experiences. To this end, Matawal (2007) in his study: "Teacher Preparation for National Education Reforms," acknowledged successive Nigerian government who evolved different policies and programmes to promote education and develop the nation's economy as well as human resources. Arguably, the Nigerian government recognized the importance of education to the overall growth of the nation and "as instrument for effecting national development" to the extent that Nigerian philosophy of education is based on the following set of beliefs:

- Education is an instrument for national development and social change.
- Education is vital for the promotion of a progressive and united Nigeria.
- Education maximizes the creative potentials and skills of the individual for self fulfillment and general development of the society.
- Education is compulsory and a right of every Nigerian irrespective of gender, social status, religion, colour, ethnic background and any peculiar individual challenges.
- Education is to be qualitative, comprehensive, functional and relevant to the needs of the society (FRN, 2004:1).

Suffice it here to state that, if the above educational set of goals fail to transform our national security and economy, then they will be regarded as mere inspired guesses of the poet who lives in the oasis of self imagination. There is nexus between education and national security. It is meaningless to address education and national transformation in the absence of national security. In other words insecurity in a nation is a threat to national transformation; but what is insecurity?

State of Insecurity in Nigeria

Today the whole world is insecure, the society has no peace, and people cannot sleep with their eyes closed. Here nearer and there a far, acts of wanton killings and sacrilegious vandalism have enveloped the entire society. The society has descended abysmally to the Hobbesian state of nature where life is brutish, nasty and easily wasted. Regrettably, lack of confidence towards insecurity in Nigeria has discouraged international investors from investing in the nation's economy. To address this challenge that has threatened the socio-cultural fabric of our Nigerian unity and democracy, it is relevant to consider our security issues, ambiguities and inconsistency in our national constitution, which are responsible for our envenomed tribal hostility, acrid disagreement and political disequilibrium.

Within the purview (scope) of our state of insecurity one is to consider the term security as a state of being protected from threat or anxiety. In every nation, security represents conditions of peace, firmness, order and development. Notably, Adams (2016) submitted that national security is a state of absence of everything and anything that could be a threat to peace, progress, development and peace of mind within a society. Internationally, viability of digital response through the use of information technology has been adopted in the western countries to fight the problem of chaos and insecurity. Interestingly one of the moves towards addressing the problem of insecurity and nation's economic growth is through education and the use of

cyber security, which is the modern means of viability response to emergency security issues in the society. A nation that is incapable of protecting its citizens from harm equally lacks immense capacity for desirable sustainable transformation. Nigerians have reached a crucial juncture in their national life, therefore they must pause and articulate why the nation is like a volcano of many craters.

Fundamental Causes of National Insecurity in Nigeria

Nigerians have certainly reached a stage of suffering and near desperation where as citizens, they cannot bear their ills. The future of the nation at worst is uncertain, at best compoundedly problematic. Inferring from the above situation, Ebeh (2015) and Adeniran (2016) identified injustice and corruption as two major factors which can undermine the security of any nation. These elements manifest absolute in the actions or inaction of the government (i.e. the executive, the legislature and the judiciary) in their relationship with the governed, and such undue actions have great capacity to generate shocking move effects that include:

Social Injustice: Injustice in the area of resource allocation and environmental humiliation that led to violent outbreak particularly in the Niger Delta. From Warri in Delta State to Akwa Ibom State where there have been clashes, which River State is not spared either? For instance, in Rivers state, peace has taken the back seat as menacing youths wielding AK-47 rifles, hand grenades and other sophisticated weapons to sack the police at will and raid communities. Amadi-ama, Buguma, Okirika, Tombia, Okurama, and Ogu/Bolo have been scenes of some of the deadliest cutlass battles in the state which has ever been known. All these actions were in protests against perceived injustices.

Corruption: Corruption is perceived as dishonest or illegal behaviour especially of people in authority. Akinseye (2000) described corruption as 'mother of all crimes', and identified four forms of corruption as bribery, prebendalism, graft and nepotism. Economic and financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) is a commission that deals with economic issue. Ngwakwe (2009) treated corruption from economic perspective as follows: the non-violent criminal and illicit activity committed with objectives of earning wealth illegally, either individually or in a group or organised manner thereby violating existing legislation governing the economic activities of government and its administration.

When there is corruption in the land, it easily ignites the embers of revolt and insecurity. Accordingly, when society begins to honour and recognize people who became rich through dubious and questionable means as Nigeria has been doing, such society sends signal that crime pays rich dividend. This way of life discourages hard work, honesty and encourages others to take crime as a way of life. In other words, Nigerian value-system has deteriorated so remarkably that people now celebrate corruption. A fraudster is more likely to be rewarded with a traditional title than a hard working member of the community. Notably, there are other issues that have caused national insecurity, these include:

Poverty, which the presenter viewed as lack of basic needs for survival in the society. Poverty is a major moderator of human life. It moderates the type of food one eats, type of clothes one wears, type of house one builds or lives in and so on. From the perspective of Badley and Jaja (2011) poverty is manifested by the number of beggars that roam about the cities and the

suburbs, constant cases of armed robbery in the society, poor or lack of development in the country which is as a result of mismanagement which is accompanied by other social vices like injustice and corruption. In the research study of Oladunni (1999), he maintained that poverty affects the supply of basic social amenities such as clean water, health or medical care, education, social justice, and what have you. Today as a result of poverty, many Nigerians do not have enough to eat, they have poor drinking water, poor sanitation, poor nutrition, high infant mortality rates and low educational opportunities. Poverty results in increasing fragility and vulnerability of members of society in external influences. This is manifested in people involving themselves in all kinds of social vices like kidnapping, cyber thefts, and prostitution. The fundamental problem remains that the Nigerian government lacks the political will to eradicate poverty in the country.

Health Issues: Health care is also important in the equation of national security. These explain why Chen, Weng and Su (2003) posited that there is a link between global health and human security. They further pointed out that one quarter of deaths in the world is due to infectious diseases. To this end, the impact of HIV/AIDS on national security is also enormous, for it creates political tension, social tension, and it reduces the effectiveness of the military. Thus, when a nation's hat is dominated by the sick or hungry majority such nation is already an incapacitated one, what a pity! Food security, health security and ideation security are therefore aspects of national security.

Religious Issues: Religion has been described by Karl Marx (1818-1883) as the "Opium of the masses". Interpretatively, it is only doctrines that are at inconsistency with the principles of nationhood are likely to be a source of insecurity to the nation. Religion is a powerful instrument for good. The hollowness of our age has served to accentuate the need for religion even if our age appears covered over by an appealing life-style. Most of the places of worship either church or mosques became a soft target centre for killings and bombing. As a result, people no longer feel free to worship in the worshiping centers. Similarly, at a point, those with bearded who left them as a religious symbol more especially the muslims got harassed by the military on suspicion of being a Boko-Haram member. Many innocent people got detained and some even killed on faulty suspicion. The civilians were left in the centre between the Boko-Haram and the military forces.

A lot of crises experienced in this country have traces of religious implications. Examples include, the Maitasine riots, the Sharia in early 2000, the uproar that greeted Nigeria's admission as the 46th member of the Organization of Islamic Conference (OIC) and now it is Boko-Haram. Religious crisis of this nature tends to constitute security issues to a nation. They are consequences of accumulated negligence and apathy, non-challant attitude and "it does not concern me attitude" of the government and the people.

Collapsed Infrastructures:

The evidence of the miserable state of national security is also in line with the thought of Onyegbula (2000) who posited that the diminishing standard of living deterioration of educational system and social infrastructures such as roads, electricity, refineries, hospitals and learning institutions are the indices of collapsed state. In the same line of thought Egwu (2003) postulated that the security calculus of Nigeria has failed for not including the vital dimension

of social and national transformation aspects, such as provision of basic and social enmities. Thus, Nigeria as a nation could not meet the social, economic or even the military conditions for national security which are clear indication that the core social values and physical infrastructures for sustaining national security of the people are not there. The porous nature of Nigerian borders has given rise to the illegal proliferation of arms and ammunition such as rocket propelled grenades, AK-47 rifles and even locally manufactured guns of assorted types. When these arms enter into the hands of miscreants they use them for nothing other than the destruction of lives and property.

From the point of departure of Segun, Jide and Dominic (2016), as well as Seji, Philip and John (2020), they critically outlined other variables that define the nexus of the causes militating against national security in Nigeria. The author cited mass inequality and unemployment, armed robbery, terrorism, kidnapping, marginalization, ethnicity, loss of value system, bad leadership, falling standard of education, poor judiciary system, cultism and cult activities, high value for material things, manipulation of electoral processes by political parties, lack of trust on security agents, human right abuses, injustice and lack of transparency. These social analysts postulated on how to achieve proper education and Nigeria's national security. Regrettably they lamented that the practice of structural politics of exclusion and discriminating social system in which an individual could never realize his potentials without a "godfather" who provides the canon fire of social tension, conflict, violence, and the ultimate breakdown of law and order as presently being witnessed in the country, is barbaric and aberration against the fatherland.

The discussion has so far portrayed most of the issues that constituted the vagaries and vicissitude of our Nigerian environmental antagonism, such issues have as well polluted the nation's education environment, and thereby resulting into unsustainable national economy and transformation. Since the nation's terrorism index with its concomitant costs are like "dirty pitch that cannot feed a frog", and our economy is in a state of comatose, while our political leadership is under siege in the cocoon of social club barracudas and desperadoes, how then do we achieve national security that will ensure our national transformation?

National Security and Transformation

Insecurity in a nation is a threat to national transformation. A nation that is perforated with insecurity can hardly make progress. National security can be achieved through cyber security. From the point of view of Sharon, Alexander and Casey (2021) cyber security is the body of technologies, processes and devices designed to protect networks, inter-connected systems such as hardware, software, programmes and data from attack, damage or unauthorized access. This type of device is used by individuals, institutions and enterprises to protect against unauthorized access to data centers and other computerized systems of emergency viability digital response. Cyber security devices can be used to ensure business and data protection. Such devices effectuate or accomplish improved confidence in the nation's economy, trust for stakeholders and employees.

For instance, the Global Positioning System (GPS) which is a tracking system is one of the most rapidly growing information technologies around the world. Presently, most developed countries such as America, Britain, France, China, Japan and others have focused on the GPS

technologies in resolving some of their inherent security problems. The Global Positioning System is increasingly being adopted by private and public sectors to track and monitor humans for location-based services. A location-Based Service is information service, accessible with mobile devices through mobile network.

Location –Based Services (LBS) can also be used in a variety of contexts, such as health, indoor object search, entertainment work, personal life, etc., LBS include services to identify a location of a person or object, such as discovering the nearest banking cash machine or the where about of a friend or employee. LBS include parcel tracking and vehicle tracking services. LBS can include mobile commerce when taking the form of advertising directed at customers based on their current location. They include personalized weather services and even location-based games.

As portrayed by Michael, McNamee and Michael (2006) the Global Positioning System (GPS) has the ability to calculate the position, time, and velocity of any GPS receiver. It does this by using a process of triangulation, which works or reacts on the premises one can find any position if the distance from three other locations is also known. Today, GPS is used for both civil and military purposes and is controlled by military executive board of the United States Government. The system is maintained by the U.S Air Force on behalf of all users. Satellite tracking according to Kamppi, Rajamaki and Guinness (2009) is one of the most rapidly growing business areas in the world. Tracking devices have become quite cheap, and they are available to nearly everybody, but how could it serve as a way forward in Nigeria for national transformation?

The Way Forward for National Transformation

There is a significant relationship between education and national security. Quality education is the primary agents of national security and transformation for bringing the vision of the entire society into reality. For example, if the militants, IPOB, Boko-Haram Armed Robbers and kidnappers were properly nurtured with quality formal, informal and indigenous education from the grassroot level, all these security threats/challenges such as terrorism, riots/civil unrest, demonstrations, intolerance, cult-related criminal acts, religious intolerance, armed robbery, drug trafficking, kidnapping, hijacks and many other vices threatening lives and property would not have been in existence. The above implies that through education, the moral personality of man is built up as it equips the learner with skills of moral judgement that in turn guides actions and behaviours. To this end, quality education promotes the spirit of nationalism, nation's transformation and patriotism among youths.

For Nigeria to be effectively transformed, strong and good administrative structure is to be instituted in all elements of the economy. What is more, since crime wave has risen in an increasing differentiation and hierarchic integration, there is urgent need to re-organize the country's intelligence system through the use of cyber security. This will add more values in checking incessant violent crimes/crises generated by hoodlums, buccaneers, and marauders.

With the use of cyber security, the government can easily monitor our epileptic economy, which is continuously endangered by dangerous political somersaults and social conditions that approximate the ingredients for pervasive anarchy. Be that as it may, there should be death

sentence for whoever is involved in facilitating terrorist acts either in supply, in financing or in overall logistics.

Conclusion

The present situation of security challenges in Nigeria, will not in any way enhance or optimize academic activities in the society, it will rather slow down the pendulum of education practice and constitute hazard to means of national transformation. This paper's *argumentum pontum ponti* (main reasoning) is that the government, civil society groups, institutions of higher learning and individuals must fight insecurity, so as to build an enabling environment where educational system and the nation's economy will be free and secured to achieve their full prospective, and the nation will itself be safe to attain sustainable national transformation.

Thanks a lot, and remain blessed
for granting me audience.

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