

CHAPTER TWENTY-TWO

MUSIC AND POLITICS IN THE NATION'S SECURITY AND GOOD GOVERNANCE

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Abstract

The work examined the role of music in National security and good governance stressing the fact that music has an important part to play. Governance is a process by which the government or political leaders exercise administrative authority over the control or management of a particular body or motion while god governance is the ability to use the available resources of a nation judiciously for the benefit of its citizen. The paper outlined the benefits of music both in the traditional and formal setting stressing that music education possesses the potentials that will help in the eradication of security threats in the society thereby fostering, peace, harmony and good governance.

Keywords: Music, Politics, Nation's security and Good governance

Introduction

Among the various needs of man, security as one of the basic needs of man is of great importance. Human beings want to live without constant fear, freedom from oppression, injustice and dehumanization. However, the reverse is the case as a lot of nations and societies have been witnessing sorts of security challenges almost in every aspect of life. Such an ugly experience contributes in no small measure against national peace and development.

The various measures and agencies established by the government to fight this menace, has made little or no progress and such has led to their inability to attain a very high and appreciable level of national development. The issue of insecurity has been the headache of both the government and the church as all facets of life, as a matter of fact, is seriously been affected hence the challenge cuts across both national and international. These security challenges manifest themselves in form poverty, unemployment, kidnapping, killings, herdsmen attack, *Boko haram*, bombings, arm robbery, internet fraud, rape, pipeline vandalization, political violence etc, thereby constantly threatening the peace and development of Nigeria. The loss of lives and properties of the citizens has been on the increase due to the weakness in national security.

The role of educational institution in training and retraining of the citizens should not be underestimated. Also, the activities of schools right from the kindergarten stage to inculcate a high level of national patriotism and good citizenship requires greater and serious attention. This is because education is seen as a very powerful instrument in that it has the ability to shape human minds and foster societal change and development.

According to Ukhurebor & Nnajieta (2005), they stated that:

Education acts as an instrument of change as a result of the fact that the education

received by students help to change their wrong attitudes to life and then conform to the norms, values and habits of the society where they live in.

Children are sent to school not only to learn how to read and write but also to inculcate in them good morals where they come to appreciate the highly cherished values and norms of the society and how to respect constituted authorities. This is achieved through the form of discipline so that the child will become sound in character and learning. This really necessitated the diversification of our curriculum which include music education, civic education, citizenship education, peace and conflict resolution, criminology etc. Michael, Nwagu&Oriaku supporting said,“music education in its general form is believed to constitute a powerful instrument in the development of the child and the society”. The government, therefore, should make available both human and materials resources in order to ensure that there are an effective transmission and impartation of knowledge to the learners in various institutions. Music is not only limited to entertainment as most people think, rather, music is also very important in that it plays major roles in politics, education, religion, communication, socialization, cohabitation, emotions, morality, culture and others.

Definitions

National Security

The Oxford Advanced Learner's dictionary (new 9th edition) Procter (1981) defined security as the activities involved in protecting a country, building or person against attack or danger. Arnord in Adesola& Blessing (2017) also defined security as objectively the absence of threats to acquire values and subjectively the absence of fear that those values will be attacked. In his own view, Nwankwo (2013) defined security as freedom from financial cares, form want or poverty in any form. According to the United Nations Development (UNDP, 1994), human security may be defined to include such chronic threats as hunger, disease and repression. Security means protection from hidden and hurtful disruptions in the patterns of daily life in homes, offices or communities.

Security can, therefore, be said to mean adequate measures put in place to safeguard and protect the lives and properties of citizens of a particular country or nation. Going by the definitions, security can also mean the absence of fear of harm of any sort. Ekolo in Adesola& Blessing (2017) said that national security transcends territorial defence 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, therefore, suffice it 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 integrity as well as security of the nation at all costs. It is worthy to note that when people are less confident about the security of the nation, they tend to resort to more violent behaviours (Nwankwo in Adesola& Blessing

2017).

For Caleb (2019), the security of life and property is very paramount to the growth and development of any nation; hence, it is the responsibility of the state to work for the motion and maintenance of a safe society for all and sundry. He further stressed that it is a common knowledge today that Nigeria is regarded as one of the most unsafe nations in the world where heinous crimes, violence and corruption have become the order of the day.

Good governance

Governance has been from time immemorial hence the concept is not a new one. The Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary Procter (1981) defines governance as the activities of governing a country or controlling a company or an organization, the way in which a country is governed or a company or institution is controlled. Adesola& Blessing (2017) defined governance as a way or method of managing the affairs or resources of a state, nation or society for the benefit of the entire populace.

Good governance on the other hand consists of such major characteristics like participatory, consensus-oriented, accountability, transparency, responsiveness, effectiveness and efficiency, equity and inclusiveness as well as the rule of law. It assures that corruption is minimized, the views of minorities are taken into account and that the voices of the most vulnerable in society are heard in decision-making. It is also responsive to the present and future needs of society.

Good governance was initially expressed in a 1989 World Bank publication. Later in 1992, the Bank published a report entitled, *Governance and Development*, which explored the concept further and its application. In 1997, the Bank redefined the concept of “good governance” as a necessary pre-condition for development. Good governance is to promote and sustain holistic and integrated human development. The central focus is to see how the government enables, simplifies and authorizes its people, regardless of differences of caste, creed, class, and political ideology and social origin to think, and take certain decisions which will be in their best interest, and which will enable them to lead a clean, decent, happy, and autonomous existence. (www.unescap.org/pdd). Governance, therefore, is a process by which the government or political leaders exercise administrative authority over the control or management of a particular body or nation while good governance is the ability to use the available resources of a given nation judiciously for the betterment of the citizens. It is therefore proper to say that good governance brings about national development. According to Ohanele (2009), the economy of a country will be better if there will be responsible and skilful people handling and holding important positions of the economy and social affairs of the nation.

It is the duty of the government to provide security hence the issue of national security and good governance cannot be separated: The latter is measured by the level of application of the former in any nation. Highlighting the importance of good governance in the annals of a

nation, Kofi Annan in Adesola & Blessing (2017) 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.

Music

Music as a phenomenon is universal; the word, according to Apel in Idolor (2002) is derived from the Greek word "muse" which originally meant the art or technique of all cultural endeavours. Music is found in every culture whether traditional or civilized. The Encyclopedia Americana in Nnamani (2016) sees it as:

The art by which a composer through performer as an intermediary, communicates to a listener, certain ideas, feelings or state of mind. Music makes use of tones singly and in combination with various rhythmic configurations may be subjective or objective, appealing to human intellect.

According to Agu (2006), "music is an aesthetic art of combining or putting together sounds that are pleasant to the ear". He continued by saying that, "music fills a basic human desire in that it satisfies the need to comprehend tonal beauty that man hears". Ekezie (2009) saw music as a cultural expression determined, moulded, interpreted and dressed or coloured by culture and the cultural environment of people. According to him, music is, therefore, the product of culture. Ahanotu (2009) quoting the Webster's New World Dictionary defined music as the art and science of combining vocal or instrumental sounds or tones in varying melody, harmony, rhythm, and timbre so as to form structurally complete and emotionally expressive compositions. Music, therefore, is defined as sounds are put together either melodiously or harmoniously to be sung or played in an instrument.

Politics

Various scholars and authorities in the field of politics cannot agree on a common definition of politics. Some defined *politics as the science of government*. As a science, it is a systematic body of knowledge that deals with the government and regulation, maintenance and development, and defence and augmentation of the state. It also deals with the protection of the rights of its citizens, safeguarding and enhancement of morals, and harmony and peace of human relations.

However, other political scientists prefer to define politics as the *art*, rather than the science, of government because it involves the exercise of control or authority within the society through the creation and enforcement of consensus arrived at by the leaders. It involves the process through which the government skillfully addresses the needs of the society by carefully allocating benefits, rewards, and penalties.

The word "politics" comes from the Greek word "*polis*" which means "city-state." In the ancient world, city-states are small countries regarded as centres of culture and civilization where people interact under a unified government. The origin of the word, therefore,

suggests that politics is a term encompassing the totality of human activities transpiring within the city-state. As it is applied now, it denotes everything that transpires in the state as well as among states.

Politics denotes *social activity*. It is, in essence, the interaction of individuals. As the Greek philosopher, Aristotle explains, it is the master science through which individuals collectively set structure, purpose, and ideals in their lives. Politics, therefore, does not emerge from the activities of a single individual but from that of many. (<https://tamayaosbc.wordpress.com/introduction-to-politics-2>)

The role of Music Education in National Security and good governance

Music is an integral aspect of the culture hence music education has been integrated into the child in traditional society through informal education. According to Uruakpa (2007), various scholars have argued that before the arrival of the colonial masters and the missionaries, the traditional child had been undergoing a system of education known as African traditional education which has no planned curriculum but always takes place in an informal setting. Continuing, he stated that “this said African Traditional education is informal in nature in that it has no stated curriculum, or defined classroom nor even a trained teacher of the western European type. In support of this, Okafor in Aninwene (2009) stated that music education started with folklore, which embraced early knowledge of the traditional folk stories, mythologies, the learning of language in riddles. From childhood, children learnt through folktales the dos and don'ts of their communities.

Earlier on, Aninwene quoting Okafor (2002) stated that Music education in Nigeria rests or is founded on a tri-level structure-the traditional society, the popular music industry and the formal schools; primary, post-primary and tertiary. Nnamani (2009) stated that music is used in educating children both formally and informally because music education is important to every child who passes through the formal and informal educational set up. He continued by saying that music education aims at the vocational, intellectual, emotional, physical and social development of the learner with the aid of musical equipment and materials.

In accordance with the country's national objectives and the philosophy of education (NPE 2004) especially as it relates to music education, attention should be paid towards self-realization, national consciousness, and national unity, scientific and technological advancement. In order to achieve this, these are some of the roles which music education play in National Security and good governance.

Nnamani (2004), said that education is generally aimed at the social, cultural, physical, intellectual, emotional and aesthetic development of the individual for his satisfaction and the society as well. Continuing, he pointed out that music is humanly engineered, effects conceptual and auditory senses and is heard conspicuously by means of radio, film, television and the music theatre. In support of this and to further buttress this point, he quoted Ifemesie (1987) saying,

In ancient Greece, all education was divided into two major fields, music and gymnastics which were designed to cater for the mind and the body respectively. Plato assigned to music education role of developing good character and good citizenship among Athenians.

Going by the above assertions, it is worthy to note the indispensable role that music education play on the training and upbringing of the child. The world is awash with music so the child hears the sound of music every day, everywhere and every time. By so doing, the minds and character of the children are therefore trained in the right ways and manners of how to behave within the society. When this is done, some evil practices that promote insecurity and can lead to the loss of life and property of citizens are shunned and reduced to the barest minimum. Secondly, when the minds and attitudes of these growing youths and children are rightfully trained, they being the leaders of tomorrow who will occupy various political and administrative positions of the nation would then be able to govern the state properly in future and shun bribery, corruption and looting of the public treasury. Through the songs they sing, hear, rehearse and listen to, learners of music education can be transformed to become sound in character and learning.

In community life and administration, the role of music cannot be underestimated hence the folk music of various communities serve many purposes of social organization and reformation. Observing this, Nnamani in Nzewi(2004) stated that:

Folk music is a ubiquitous social organizer. It supervises the operation of established Government; assists in the maintenance of the laws of the land; safeguards and perpetuates tradition, discourages the degeneration of personal or corporate morals; promotes social equity and fights injustice; crowns rulers, welcome births, bury the dead, enforces public health programmes, generally organizes and enlivens all purposes of communal get-together.

This is to say that music consciously and unconsciously assists the government in the maintenance of law and order thereby enhancing security in the land as well as checkmating the operation of established government. Music plays the role of mass conscientization thereby checkmating the activities of leaders whether religious, social, political and others. Therefore, carefully crafted out music is a means of enlightenment of the masses hence music is a tool for consciencizing the masses. Eboh (2009) thus stated that;

Many musicians of this 21st century are posed to conscientise their people in all forms. Some create religious awareness in forms of songs that inform evil people that 'Jesus is coming soon', others criticize the government in power or praise philanthropists. Hence, no matter how sweet or entertaining a musician's poetic lyrics may tend to sound, there is always that conscientization approach and this is widely available in all forms of music.

According to Nnamani (2016), there are a lot of popular and traditional musicians who had developed their skills of composing and performing in a way that they had changed the cause of injustice in the society. Their messages had changed the trend of events in the political

arena and for those in the corridors of power. One of the great popular musicians in this category was Fela Anikulapo Kuti. On this note Eboh (2009) observed that Fela sang to create consciousness on the part of the government and the masses so that they could retrace their steps and follow a more transparent means of life. Politicians never have a successful campaign rally and make their political programmes reach the grassroots level without setting them to music. Furthermore, musicians use their music to preach peaceful political programmes devoid of election fraud, political thuggery, character assassination and the likes. When such songs are aired either on radio or television stations or even during live performances, the preaching of peaceful co-existence and love is done, thus promoting the security of the land. On the other hand, songs that criticize the corrupt practices of government and other related political evils tend to awaken the conscience of the public officeholders; indirectly music for the enhancement of good governance and emancipation of the poor masses.

Another role music education has played in contributing to good governance and national security is by the provision of self-employment. As a career, music education has the potentials and ability to develop the musical skills inherent in an individual and by so doing makes the individual become self-reliant, self-sustaining and self-employed. In agreement with the above, Nnamani (2002) quoting Ademefun observed that:

Music education is highly useful because of the occupational content it offers the students the opportunity to acquire skills, attitudes, interests and knowledge to perform educational, socio-political and economic activities that are beneficial not only to themselves but to the society in general.

Through the learning of music, one acquires the skills to enhance and enrich himself thereby making him a useful individual in the society. Going by this, music, therefore, engages the practitioner in activities that are profit-oriented and financially rewarding instead of staying idle doing nothing but constituting nuisance and societal terrors as a popular saying has it that an idle man is the devil's workshop. So instead of engaging in internet fraud like yahoo-yahoo and other illicit activities that threaten the security of the nation and makes governance difficult because of unemployment, rather, through music one becomes beneficial to himself and the society in general. X-raying the various job opportunities in music, Idolor (2002) observed that:

A well-trained music practitioner has many job opportunities. His services could be needed in any of the Nation's arts' councils/cultural centres, electronic and print media houses, religious institutions such as churches and gospel centres, music recording studios, private music establishments, bands and music advisory bodies to record companies, schools, colleges, and other tertiary institutions and the armed forces. He can also set up a music company which might make him an employer of labour. He could be a commentator on music and musical events.

Conclusion

Conclusively it is not in doubt that the present security situation of our dear nation is under

serious threat as each day passes with new dimensions of security challenges. The rate of killing, robbery, unemployment, kidnapping, insurgency and other societal vices that threaten the peace and unity of Nigeria as a nation constitutes the major security challenge facing the land generally. Music education, therefore, possesses the potentials towards the eradication of or minimizing these and foster peace, harmony, security and good governance.

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