

CREATING AN ENDURING NATIONAL SECURITY PLATFORM IN NIGERIA THROUGH CURRICULUM REPACKAGING FOR SCHOOLS.

By

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Abstract

This paper principally seeks to address the question of national security creation through curriculum repackaging. Every individual in Nigeria wants to be educated and to this end the curriculum has to be repackaged to suit all aspects of educational system in order to enlighten and create more awareness in the security areas to make learning more solution oriented. This paper further examined the problems of poor funding, admission challenges and examination malpractices as inhibiting factors with facts and figures to the benefits of education. Admission challenges can distort plans of individuals leading to involvement of youths in armed robbery, terrorism, bombing, advanced free fraud and examination malpractice amongst the vices. In view of such discussions, some recommendations were made amongst such are uprightness in delivering educational services in a professional manner by academic and administrative staff of schools, expansion of school structure to accommodate the needs of the growing students' population, introduction of peace education or conflict resolution education and civics beyond the secondary level, the repackaging of vocational and technological courses, science, moral and value education and the linkage between schools, industries and establishment to meet the challenges of the society at large.

Keywords: *Education, creating, curriculum, enduring, secondary, post-secondary, national security.*

Introduction

Education, for any nation should be in the best position in putting an end to the many challenges that affect the nation. Education is an indispensable instrument for national development. For education to be useful and active, it must have to be fashioned according to the prevailing needs of that particular society. It is an instrument par excellence for effecting national development (FRN, 2004). Nigeria Educational system has gone through series of revitalization because we live in a plural society and equally for it to indigenize to meet the needs of that particular society. In the globalization age, an era that is chiefly characterized by access to massive amounts of information, the main functions of education are not limited to the teaching of fixed, old knowledge. Education is now a dynamic process whose main target is to help humankind cultivate new principles that adapt to the modern world, so that human kind can learn to adjust to the rapid changes of their surroundings. This functional adaptation of education will have great impact on the peace and stability of the world.

Curriculum is a systematic and intended packaging of competencies (i.e. knowledge, skills and attitudes that are underpinned by values) that learners should acquire through organized learning experiences both in formal and non-formal settings. Good curriculum plays an important role in finding life long learning competencies, as well as social attitudes and skills, such as tolerance and respect, constructive management of diversity, peaceful conflict management, promotion and respect of Human Rights, gender equality, justice and inclusiveness. The first attempt at reforming the educational programme of the country was that of the

National Curriculum Conference in 1969 that was held in Lagos and all deliberations and outcome was geared at meeting the local needs of the nation. The National Policy in Education that was formulated to serve as the 'laws of power' had been reviewed for more than two times - 1977 draft, 1981, 1998 and 2004. The revision shows that our educational system is yet to meet the needs of the society as expected. There are cases of underdevelopment due to lack of technological advancement, unemployment low/erratic electricity supply as well as inadequate infrastructural provisions. Insecurity is also a mantra through corruption, kidnapping, terrorism, ethno-religious conflicts, political violence and arson with Boko Haram killings. What more could be spoken of the militants from the Niger Delta who felt neglected over exploration of oil deposits in their area. Today's Nigeria is bedeviled with multiple problems.

The country had been described variously by people who are grossly disenchanted with happenings in the country as a slowcoach personified, a giant snail on a time-bound race, a cocoon of absurdness defined by violence, killing, kidnapping, poverty etc while some use kind words to describe her as the most populous black nation on earth with a land flowing with milk and honey yet in the cave of mismanagement and poverty, a country that has full capacity to develop but has entangled itself with bloodshed, emergence of 'kangaroo' democratic political system that caters for her pocket which make its people transform to agent of light widening the economic gap between it and the people it claims to represent, the continued infrastructural decay such as 'killers pot holes' on our roads dilapidated school buildings, hospitals, water and electricity to mention a few are becoming luxuries available only to the affluent. The Minister of Defense as well as the security adviser to the President were relieved of their appointments because of the inflow of terrorism attack without much ado from the federal government military opposition. The youths who are our leaders of tomorrow are partakers of the destruction of the society. If education indeed is to be the saviour that will deliver the nation out of its problems, how can Nigeria educational system become a pathway to help this great and dynamic country solve her problems? This paper examines some problems that affect the educational system of the country, their implications as well as the aftermath of the curriculum repackaging of secondary and post secondary levels on national security.

Problems Affecting Nigeria Educational System and Its Implications on National Security

The Nigerian secondary schools are faced with some challenges herein discussed:

Poor Funding

Schools cannot expand to accommodate candidates seeking admission on yearly basis. It is obvious that some secondary schools and tertiary institutions admit more than their carrying capacity to boost their internally generated revenue. What do they use the revenue for? Facilities for teaching and learning seems to be inadequate due to overcrowding which often times lead to social crimes like examination malpractice, prostitution, cult activities, kidnapping to mention just a few. If school is a unit of the larger society, and the input that are processed and transformed to output stay right in the society then one can say that the behaviours are dumped back into the society where many get recruited as political thugs, hired assassins as well as armed robbers causing tears to flow in the eyes of the masses.

Federal Government Expenditure on Education (1960-2013)

The First National Development Plan (1962-1968), according to Samuel (2003) allocated 69,763 million pounds to education sector out of a total expenditure of 676,800 million pounds. This amount represented 10.3 percent of the total expenditure during the period. In the Second National Development Plan (1970-1974), out of a total capital expenditure of 1,025,369 billion naira, 138,893 million naira representing 13.3 percent was allocated to education. In the Third National Development Plan (1975-1980), 2,464 billion naira out of 32,855 billion naira was allocated to education. This amount represented 7.5 percent of the total capital investment for the plan period. This pattern of financing has not changed, not even in contemporary or recent history of financing education in Nigeria as can be seen below.

Table 1: Proportion of Federal Government Budget Allocated to Education (1960-2013)

<i>Year</i>	<i>Allocation as Percentage of Total Budget</i>	<i>Year</i>	<i>Allocation as Percentage of Total Budget</i>
1960	6.02	1987	1.93
1961	6.15	1988	2.40
1962	5.19	1989	3.55
1963	3.43	1990	2.83
1964	3.65	1991	1.09
1965	3.57	1992	3.86
1966	4.23	1993	5.62
1967	4.88	1994	7.13
1968	2.84	1995	7.20
1969	2.20	1996	12.32
1970	0.69	1997	17.59
1971	0.53	1998	10.27
1972	0.62	1999	11.12
1973	0.88	2000	8.36
1974	2.96	2001	7.00
1975	4.57	2002	12.20
1976	8.71	2003	11.30
1977	3.12	2004	10.50
1978	11.44	2005	11.30
1979	3.70	2006	11.00
1980	4.95	2007	8.09
1981	6.45	2008	13.00
1982	8.09	2009	6.54
1983	4.04	2010	6.40
1984	4.49	2011	1.69
1985	3.79	2012	10.00
1986	2.69	2013	8.70

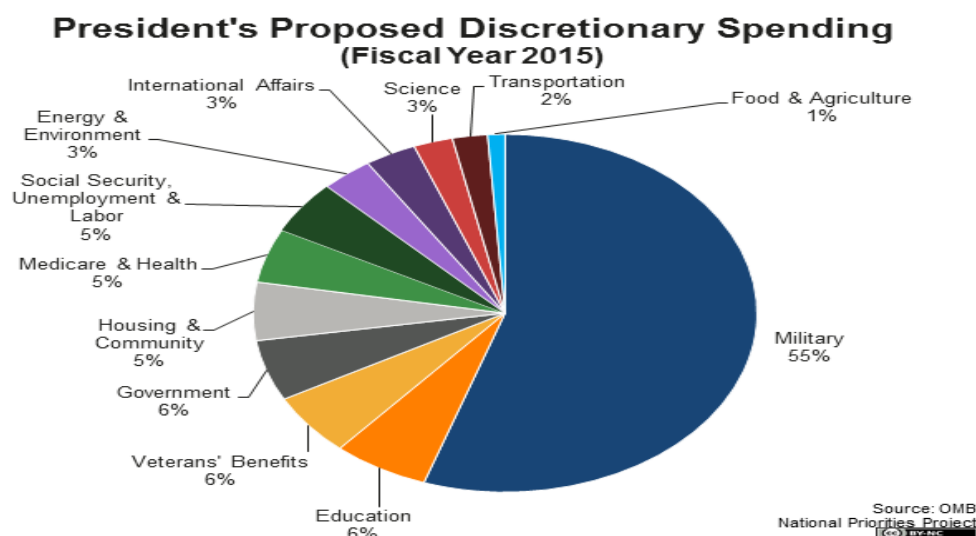
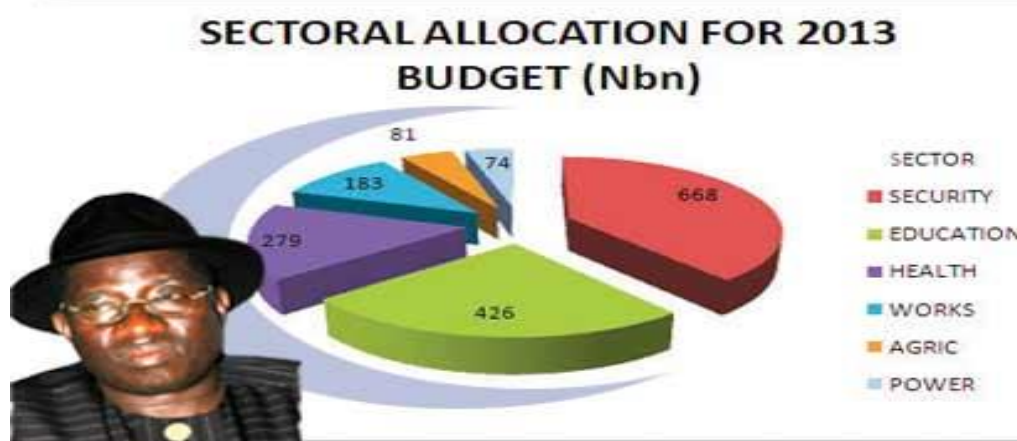
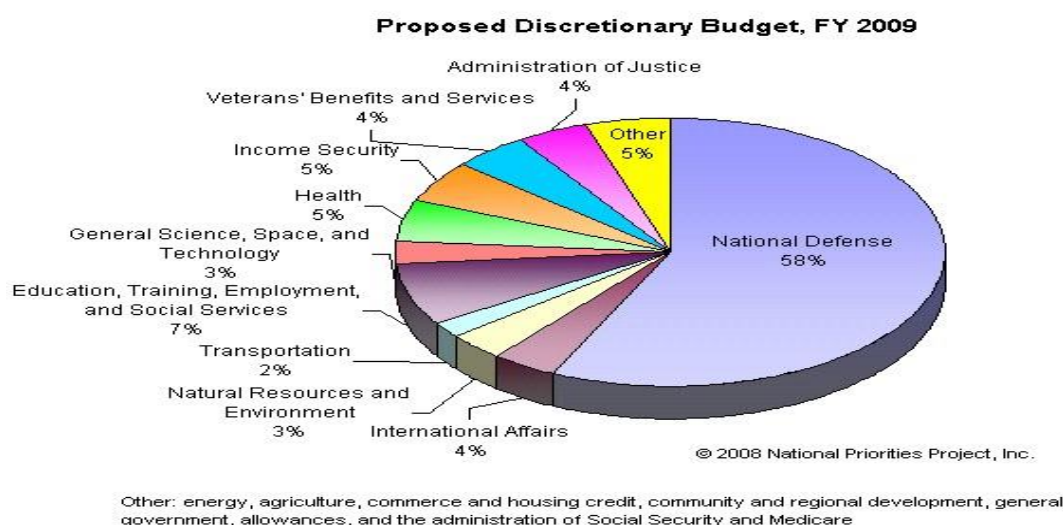
Source: Federal Government Budgetary Allocation to the Education Sector (1960-2013)

From table 1 above, it can be obviously inferred that there is no time when allocation came close to the 26 percent minimum recommended by UNESCO. If this recommendation of 26% allocation of the annual budget of any country to education is anything to go by, we could rightly conclude, based on available statistics, that the education sector in Nigeria has always and still remains grossly underfunded. It is thus, clear why educational institutions have been incessantly shut in the two decades and over now Odekunle (2001). Okuwa (2008), in a comparative analysis involving some African countries expenditure on education vis-à-vis their Gross National Product concluding that, for Nigeria, the facts are embarrassing. The abysmal nature of fund allocation to the education sector in comparison to some other countries on the African continent is further illustrated in the table below.

Table 2: Comparative Proportion of Annual budgetary Allocation of 20 World Bank sampled countries of education (World Bank, 2012).

<i>Countries</i>	<i>% of Allocation to Education</i>	<i>Countries</i>	<i>% of Allocation to Education</i>
Ghana	31.0	Iran	17.7
Cote d'Ivoire	30.0	USA	17.1
Uganda	27.0	Tunisia	17.0
Morocco	26.4	Lesotho	17.0
South Africa	25.8	Burkina Faso	16.8
Swaziland	24.6	Norway	16.2
Mexico	24.3	Colombia	15.6
Kenya	23.0	Nicaragua	15.0
United Arab Emirates	22.5	India	12.7
Botswana	19.0	Nigeria	8.4

The above table reveals that education in Nigeria, when compared with what obtains in other countries, is grossly under-funded. Whereas central government allocation to the total annual budgetary allocation in Ghana, Cote d'Ivoire and Uganda, averaged 31%, 30% and 27% respectively, while that of Nigeria was 8.4%. The spending ratio of Nigerian government on education in proportion to its GNP in relation to other African countries shows that the funding of this sector of the economy is very poor.



Financing University Education in Nigeria: Implications for Staff Students' Management in the South West Geo-Political Zone

Table 3: Funds made available to Federal Universities in the South West Geo-Political Zone (2001-2005)

<i>Institutions</i>	<i>2001</i>	<i>2002</i>	<i>2003</i>	<i>2004</i>	<i>2005</i>
University of Ibadan	766,905,911	815,302,791	913,008,464	1,092,196,247	1,751,808,224
Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife	3,303,389,646	4,359,713,922	4,609,846,701	5,951,377,870	6,209,070,465
University of Lagos	4,259,181,233	6,557,382,324	6,194,855,446	9,203,836,971	7,864,356,077
Federal University of Technology, Akure	1,105,097,338	1,951,898,104	2,045,120,036	2,527,405,352	2,358,304,591
University of Agriculture, Abeokuta	1,739,408,239	2,713,794,383	2,649,482,237	3,517,443,646	4,079,254,604
NUC Secretariat	3,763,487,809	3,047,817,127	3,008,927,827	3,040,715,443	2,670,833,015

Source: Federal Government of Nigeria, Annual Budget (various years).

Table 3 depicts the allocation to Nigerian federal universities including NUC Secretariat 2001 and 2005. It can be inferred from this table that even NUC Secretariat which is a regulatory body shares from the allocation to the universities thereby depleting further the paltry sum of money allocated to the universities compared to the enormity of the task they are to expend such funds on.

Table 4: ETF Intervention in the Selected Federal Universities in the South West (2001-2006) (in Million-Naira)

<i>Universities</i>	<i>Total Allocation</i>	<i>Total Disbursement</i>
Federal University of Technology, Akure.	393,277,776.67	352,557,776.67
Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife	418,348,776.67	346,348,776.67
University of Agriculture, Abeokuta	468,277,776.67	413,777,776.67
University of Ibadan	418,277,776.67	274,952,776.67
University of Lagos	419,308,776.67	281,308,776.67

Source: ETF Disbursement Intervention as at 1/8/2008 in Universities (2001-2006)

Table 4 reveals the ETF intervention in the selected federal universities in the South West, Geo- Political Zone in the allocation and total disbursement from 2001-2006. A total allocation for Federal University of Technology Akure was 393,277,776.67 while total disbursement was 352,557,776.67. Universities of Ibadan and Lagos were allocated 418,277,776.67 and 419,308,776.67 respectively. The total disbursement for University of Agriculture, Abeokuta and Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife was 413,777,776.67 and 346,348,776.67 respectively. Relatively speaking, the above disheartening statistics show how insufficient Nigeria's allocation to the education sector has been. Nigeria has to change her value system and invest on education, which is the intellectual laboratory of any nation and the engine that propels the economy.

Further increase in student enrolment and staff distribution in the selected federal universities, without corresponding basic amenities to cope with this increase is another problem facing university education in the South-West Geo Political Zone. Available data show that students' enrolments in Nigerian universities have continued to increase by 200% while the budgetary allocations continued to decline rapidly annually. It is therefore clear that the Nigerian government has placed least priority on education over the years. Tables 5 and 6 below show the distribution of students' enrolments and academic staff distribution from 2001-2006 academic sessions respectively.

Table 5: Total Student Enrolment in the Selected Federal Universities in the South West (2001-2006)

<i>Universities</i>	<i>2001/2002</i>	<i>2002/2003</i>	<i>2003/2004</i>	<i>2004/2005</i>	<i>2005/2006</i>
Federal University of Technology, Akure.	10,121	8,086	6,960	8,029	7,556
Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife	18,723	22,742	20,236	25,156	24,628
University of Agriculture, Abeokuta	4,507	5,195	5,097	7,200	7,460
University of Ibadan	20,026	20,026	12,523	18,957	14,023
University of Lagos	20,312	24,206	38,902	27,532	34,253

Source: National Bureau of Statistics (2007).

Table 6: Academic Staff Distribution in the Selected Federal Universities in the South West (2001-2006)

<i>Universities</i>	<i>2001/2002</i>	<i>2002/2003</i>	<i>2003/2004</i>	<i>2004/2005</i>	<i>2005/2006</i>
Federal University of Technology, Akure.	385	375	375	439	439
Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife	1259	1279	1343	1343	1066
University of Agriculture, Abeokuta	252	334	334	570	374
University of Ibadan	1238	1238	1238	1146	1243
University of Lagos	1062	1104	904	904	1024

Source: National Bureau of Statistics (2007).

Financing University Education in Nigeria: Implications for Staff and Students' Management in the South West Geo-Political Zone

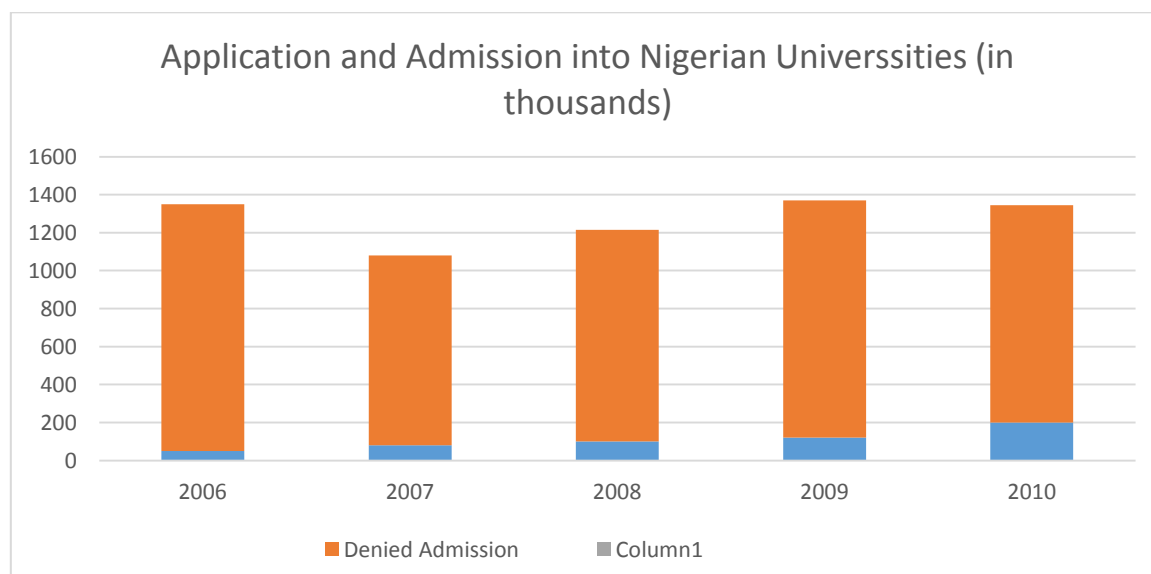
Students demonstrate peacefully or violently to register their displeasure and disagreement Odekunle, (2001). The chief executives of universities he continued end up managing students and staff crises and more importantly, the financial crises they must put up with. However, in order for Nigeria to reap the benefits of its investment in human capital, university education must have financing to provide quality training and sound professional prospects for their students Akintayo, (2004). For meaningful development to take place in the university system, the government must be ready to address the issue of financing the education sector adequately. Education sector should be given a high priority in budgetary allocations because it produces the skilled manpower for other sectors of the economy. If smaller nations like Ghana and Cote d'Ivoire could fund education better, there is no reason why Nigeria cannot do better. Universities should embark on fund-generating activities such as consultancy services in the area of research and other professional disciplines, large-scale farming and breeding industries, hiring of university facilities, establishment of community banks, water producing factories, bakery and setting up of viable filling stations. Satellite campuses of part-time programmes should be made to thrive in the country as they go a long way to provide additional sources of income to the universities. The government should as a matter of national importance review upward the pay package for academics to prevent brain drain. Genuine efforts should be made to improve the living standard of the Nigerian citizens for peace to reign. By so doing, less money would be spent on defence and internal security. Disbursement of grants to universities should be implemented as stipulated in the National Policy on Education: recurrent should be based on enrolment, grants for capital projects to be based on approved expansion plans; and special grants for specific projects to be given as at when necessary.

Admission Challenge

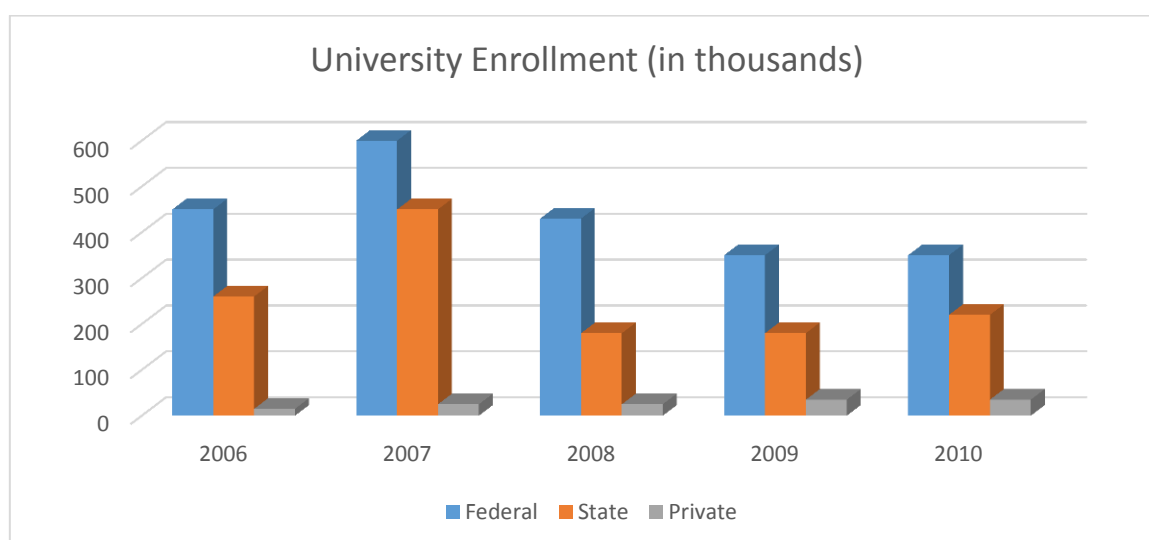
The outputs of education with quality certificate and scores that are supposed to be admitted directly into tertiary institutions are at home doing nothing while many graduates are roaming the streets seeking for employment because the curriculum is full of courses that produce and reproduce products that are job seekers rather than job creators due to lack of creativity. Tertiary education is expected to have a strong impact to drive the engine of development and social reforms (Eke, 2010). With so many of our graduates and yet to be admitted into schools are roaming the streets it is a signal that they are not adequately prepared

to face the world of work neither can yet stand up completely to international competition meaning that Nigeria as a nation will not enjoy peace.

Application and Admission into Nigerian Universities (in thousands)



- The average enrolment into Nigerian Universities was 37.65 for women, compared to 62.4% for men, in the years 2008-2010



Examination Malpractice

This results from lack of seriousness on the part of the students. Students who are desperate at passing qualifying examinations had on several instances fought, stabbed, kidnap or even assassinate some invigilators. When they eventually become leaders, they could sponsor fraud who loot public properties. Over the years, the conduct of examinations by WAEC, NECO, and JAMB have been trailed with complaints of examination malpractices and various organizational, administrative and bureaucratic irregularities. These problems have become perennial and institutionalized and reflect a gradual decline on the quality of Nigeria's educational system. In fact examination malpractice has attained a frightening, sophisticated proportion and has become so widespread that there is virtually no examination anywhere at all levels within and outside the formal school system that has not experienced one form of malpractice or the other. The incidences of

examination malpractice are common everywhere and every examination season witnesses the emergence of new ingenious way of cheating.

Table 1: Examination Malpractice recorded by WAEC SSCE Examination (2000 – 2002)

<i>Type of Examination Malpractice</i>	<i>2000</i>		<i>2001</i>		<i>2002</i>	
	<i>No. of Candidates Involved</i>	<i>% of Total Registered Candidates</i>	<i>No. of Candidates Involved</i>	<i>% of Total Registered Candidates</i>	<i>No. of Candidates Involved</i>	<i>% of Total Registered Candidates</i>
Bringing in foreign materials	1,3064	1.274	244,864	2.83	13,014	1.430
Irregular activities inside the examination hall	14,898	1.453	10,909	1.24	16,479	1.811
Leakages	-	-	-	-	-	-
Mass Cheating	-	-	1,568	0.18	-	-
Insult/Assault or supervisor	359	0.035	1,049	0.12	263	0.028
Miscellaneous	445	0.082	1,676	0.19	700	0.076

The former Minister of Education, Prof. Ruqqayatu Ahmed Rufa'i, at her keynote address delivered at the National Examination Summit held in Abuja on the 24th May, 2010 presented an increasing trend in cases of examination malpractice in WAEC SSCE from 2005-2009 (Table 2). In addition, she reported that NECO in its 2009 Nov/Dec. Examination recorded malpractice cases of over 263,000 and over one million cases in the 2009 June/July schools examination

Table 2: Candidates involved in malpractice cases in WAEC SSCE (2005-2009) (Ruqqayatu, 2010)

<i>Year</i>	<i>No. Of Candidates Involved</i>	<i>%</i>
2005	73,050	6.86
2006	82,941	7.19
2007	74,734	5.97
2008	100,428	7.88
2009	118,608	8.74

Furthermore, WAEC in 2011 withheld 39,066 results of candidates who wrote November/December West African Senior School Certificate Examination (WASSCE) while in 2012, 47,289 results were withheld as a result of malpractices.

In 2006, the Federal Ministry of Education (FME) blacklisted and derecognized 324 secondary schools across the nation as centres for conducting public examination from 2007 to 2010 (Table 2).

Table 3: Examination Malpractice in Nigerian Secondary Schools (Weekend Times, 2007)

<i>Geo-Political Zone</i>	<i>No. Of Schools Involved</i>	<i>%</i>
North-Central	54	16.6
North –East	08	2.5
North –West	12	3.6
South-East	48	14.8
South-South	116	36.0
South-West	86	26.5
Total	324	100.00

Poor Quality of Instructions

Inadequate teaching and learning materials, inadequate qualified personnel especially the academic staff, incessant and drag on (prolonged) strike between staff of institutions of learning and their employees e.g. ASUU versus Federal Government, COEASU versus Management of their institutions, poor remunerations leading to brain drain, lack of monitoring, supervision, control and discipline. All these happen as a result of

poor technological development, under-utilization and exploitation of natural resources, corrupt leaders. A society with this kind of educational traits can never be free of violence and insecurity.

Perfect Finish (Cash-Flow) Examination Centers

Illegal creation in rural school for candidates sitting for WAEC and NECO Results obtained from these two national examination bodies are used as entry requirements to tertiary institutions of learning. Candidates with the aid of some parents pay exorbitant fees to obtain certificate in exchange. The advantage of the centers is their location that is not easily accessible to external invigilators because of their bad roads and terrains. Is this a tenable excuse for paid invigilators? Implication of this is that the candidates even if admitted find pleasure in destructive act and get rejected and frustrated for their inability to pass successfully through tertiary schools.

Is there any Need to Repackage the Curriculum in the Educational System?

Since independence till now, the country's education is yet to meet the aspirations of its people. The educational system right from the secondary through to tertiary is not problem oriented and therefore not very functional because they are too theoretical not sufficient in moral and value education. Curriculum as a term has never had a precise definition and in several ways been used loosely as being synonymous with course of study, syllabus, scheme of work, lesson note and equally as time table. Tanner and Tanner (1975) defines it as the planned and guided learning experiences and intended learning outcomes, formulated through the systematic reconstruction of knowledge and experience, under the auspices of the school, for the learners continuous and wilful growth in personal and social competence. From the author's perspective Curriculum can be the guideline stated in order to gain experience through constant practice and advice given by different contacts made in and around the school environment which stands to benefit the learners, teachers and the society at large.

In short, the curriculum should be able to provide reasonable answers to why it must be repackaged, what is to be, how to go about it and how to know if it is done and what it is meant to do in individual's life. It must involve the programme of studies, activities and guidance helping to develop behaviours, solving divers psychological problems and helping to build up the spirit of entrepreneurship skill acquisition through various curriculum development agencies nationally and internationally amongst such are: West African Examinations Council (WAEC), National Examinations Council (NECO), National Curriculum for Colleges of Education (NCCE), Nigeria Universities Commission (NUC), Nigeria Educational Research and Development Council (NERDC) and a host of others.

According to Achor (2010), the best in higher education cannot come out of the present crop of tertiary institutions in Nigeria because the necessary tools that will facilitate teaching and learning that could make Nigerians brace up with global challenges are not there. In fact, the high rate of graduate unemployment in Nigeria shows very largely that the certificates available in their hands are not in areas of needs and so are irrelevant. Eriba (2008) noted that the curriculum does not adequately prepare the learners for the kind of job the society would offer them today. Child trafficking, drug addiction, terrorism, pipeline vandalism, armed robbery, arson and various other forms of political violence that are master minded by youths of this country suggest that our educational system would need a repackaging.

What Level of Education should the Repackaging of Curriculum come from?

The curricular of the nation's education need repackaging from the Secondary School level (3 – 3) that is, the junior and the senior Secondary school level as well as the Tertiary Institution.

Secondary education in Nigeria places much emphasis on academic subjects than science, vocational and technology oriented subjects. According to Omede (2005), going by the National Policy on Education, the Junior Secondary School is supposed to be distributaries for students going to senior secondary schools, or those who displayed aptitude for technical/vocational or teacher training institutions, or those for

apprenticeship scheme or those that want to take paid up jobs. This distribution is important and crucial to a nation as ours that is making efforts to plan and develop her economy. The implication of this is that, graduates of Junior Secondary Schools would have been provided with some basic skills and training for woodworks like carpentry, sculptures and other forms of constructions that will require the use of woods, knowledge of some practices in agriculture, equipped with some basic electrical and mechanical skills as well as textiles and designs. This would have helped greatly to reduce youth unemployment in the country. Regrettably, this good intention was dumped into the bin. Secondary grammar is preferred to science, vocational and technical education. In fact, some Technical Colleges in Kogi were structurally changed to government secondary grammar (Omede, 2005) because of lack of patronage of students as well as demands from the communities where the students were located.

If Nigeria must advance technologically, she must revert to this model. According to Gusua (2008) this model had worked for America, Japan borrowed it from them and it worked for them. Nigerians, brace up and work with it as it will surely work for you. In addition, moral and value education as it is taught in our current education system is insufficient in scope and content to meet the current moral challenges. Vocational and academic subjects should be combined to make our education more pragmatic and result-oriented. Education without good moral, appreciation of and respect for cherished societal values is disastrous. Moral instructions are only taught at the Primary and Junior Secondary School levels in this country. The teaching should go beyond the secondary schools and tertiary institutions.

At post secondary school level, the curriculum and course disciplines should be made more problem-solving oriented, moral and value education should be included in the curriculum of whatever discipline of study. Linkages between schools and industries for practical demonstration of subjects taught in the class (industrial attachments) not just for weeks or months but at least for one year.

Challenges of Insecurity in Nigeria

There are diverse sectors experiencing insecurity in Nigeria and it ranges from transport through road crashes, health due to lack of commitment, ignorance, infant mortality, illiteracy and poverty. Deaths of many Nigerians are caused by government directly and indirectly, mostly as a result of massive and unchecked corruption, greed, selfishness, lack of political will and conscience and of course, lack of vision and purpose. Internal insecurity is a daily challenge in US and UK and many other countries but not unique to Nigeria. The difference between them and Nigeria is how they manage the threats; how knowledgeable and prepared they are; how they deploy resources against the threats; how effective they are; how patriotic and united these people are against threats of insecurity. The 1999 Constitution, Chapter 12, Section 14. Fundamental objectives and directive principles of State Policy that:

- 13 - It shall be the duty and responsibility of all organs of government, and of all authorities and persons, exercising legislative, executive or judicial powers, to conform to, observe and apply the provisions of this chapter of this constitution.
- 14 - (1) The Federal Republic of Nigeria shall be a state based on the principles of democracy and social justice.
 - (2) It is hereby accordingly, declared that:
 - (a) Sovereignty belongs to the people of Nigeria from whom government through this Constitution derives all its powers and authority.
 - (b) The security and welfare of the people shall be the primary purpose of government and
 - (c) The participation by the people in their government shall be ensured in accordance with the provision of the constitution.

From these, we see that it is expressly stated in our constitution that the Government(s) is ultimately responsible for the security of lives, property etc of the people of Nigeria.

Governmental responsibility for internal security will generally rest with an interior ministry, as opposed to a defense ministry. Depending on the state, a state's internal security will be maintained by either the ordinary police or law enforcement agencies. Other specialized internal security agencies may exist to augment these main forces, such as border guards, special police units, or aspects of the state's list of intelligence agencies. In some states, internal security may be the primary responsibility of a secret police force. The level of authorized forces used by agencies and forces responsible for maintaining internal security might range from unarmed police to fully armed paramilitary organizations, or employ some level of less-lethal weaponry in between. For violent situations, internal security forces may contain some element of military type equipment such as non-military armoured vehicles.

When the CIA report of 2005 predicted the collapse of Nigeria in about 15 years time, patriots and critics alike reacted differently to the report. The events in Nigeria seemed to suggest that, because while other countries in the sub-region were developing, Nigeria was retrogressing despite its claims to democracy. The CIA did not get it right to prevent September 11, 2011 brutal occurrence. People expected the then Government of Obasanjo to heed to the warning in order to look inwards, engage his cabinet with the report, and work on those predictive indices that could lead to the predicted failure. Unfortunately, the report was dismissed in totality because our leaders are prone to shielding the truth from their people, not caring as long as it does not happen in their time, very ignorant of what is going on around them and are obstinate and tyrannical in their nature. The current general state of insecurity in Nigeria has lent weight to this report. It must be recalled that while the report was released at the advent of the so-called Niger Delta crisis, since the several acts of bombings and killings by the extremist Islamic sect, Boko Haram, the carriage between ethnic Birom and the Hausa/Fulani in Jos, and the political violence that followed immediately after the 2011 Election results, mostly in the Northern part of the country have further cemented the insecure state of the country. The Boko Haram's demand for the jettisoning of a western behavioural pattern and the imposition of strict Sharia law can be described as absurd to say the least, we should equally view it with all the seriousness it deserves.

How do we Create an Enduring National Security?

A United Nations study defined 'security' as a condition that prevent unauthorized persons from having access to official information that is safeguarded in the interest of national security or it can be a measure taken by military unit, activity or installation to protect itself against all acts designed to impart its effectiveness.

Security: It is every body's business; the condition or feeling safe from harm or dangers, the defense, protection and preservation of core values and the absence of threats to acquired values. For Francis (2006), security is about the survival and conditions of human existence, about peace, development, justice, whose absence create the condition for conflict and insecurity. In Nigeria, today, we are faced with many security challenges which has led to all manners of social ills, including violent crimes such as armed robbery, ritual killings, child trafficking, kidnapping, terrorism, militancy, religious sectarianism, advanced free frauds, piracy etc.

Some people see national security in terms of nation's military capabilities or the struggle to overcome internal and external aggression, others consider a nation as secure once it is free from military threats or political coercion. The issues that constitute security threats also may vary across nations. The major security threats to some powerful nations like US and its allies may be how to defeat international terrorism and to promote their economic interest and democratic values, the developing countries like Nigeria may have their peculiar security challenges determined by our socio-economic and political circumstances.

Nigeria national security has two meanings, in a military regime – it means the maintenance and protection of the person of the current despot from harm or embarrassment – be it physical, sexual, spiritual,

verbal or written. During a civilian regime as we now have, it is defined as the assurance and maintenance of the political and economic power of the ruling class within the two most dominant nationalities. In our context therefore, we may consider National security not only as the physical protection and defense of our citizen and our territorial integrity of which it is a part, but also the promotion of the economic well being and prosperity of Nigerians in a safe and secure environment that promotes the attainment of our national interests and those of our foreign partners. While national security is intertwined with national interest, we may identify the latter as the pursuit of high standard of living for Nigerians, the promotion and protection of our core values, our dignity, our pride as Nigerians and our fundamental rights, as well as the entrenchment of social justice to engender peace, unity and development in our nation.

Without repackaging of the curriculum at various levels of educational sectors there cannot be proper monitoring of the economy and without the economic stability and social justice at individual and societal levels, there will not be sustainable peace and without sustainable peace national security will be undermined. For instance, in other nations certain standards of living have been attained to the extent that certain things are now taken for granted – food sufficiency, water supply, power supply, good roads, good hospitals, goods schools, functional infrastructure, decent housing and effective public transportation system etc. Hence, security concerns in those nations may not be the same as ours where majority of our people go through enormous stress and psychological tension for daily livelihood. National security should be seen as a national venture/investment, hence a collective national responsibility of all citizens of adult age working hand in hand with the law enforcement or security agencies to enhance peace, unity and prosperity of our nation, our people and our foreign partners, especially in an interdependent globalized world within the context of vision 20- 2020.

Agreed, we have security challenges. Every nation does have. However, it does not mean that Nigeria is on the brink of collapse because of the challenges as it is being insinuated in some quarters. Why do we think that some nations like China, Japan, India and the European countries are stable and flourishing despite their huge population and challenge? It is because they can feed their population and at the same time grow their economy to foster their national security. Nigeria can also do the same if there is food on the table of every Nigerian this will reduce the tension and scrambling across the nation. What we are going through is a phase in our socio-political development process, marked by a new international political and security order that brings forth significant challenges for every nation the developed, the developing and the transiting (and even the stagnating) in vary proportions and still find relevant mechanisms to overcome them. The issues of Niger Delta, Bakassi Boys, OPC or Boko Haram are the manifestations of inequalities, poverty and failure of a proper appreciation of what constitutes National Security.

Challenges to National Security

i. *Corruption*

The judiciary is not helping matters at all and the institution got to really sit-up. Cases of corruption are not meant to be compromised at all, let alone adjourning them endlessly. The judiciary ought to have, at this stage in our development, evolved time scales for cases. There ought to have been a time to determine a case; time to close that case; and time to deliver judgment and pass sentences. In Nigeria, cases that bother on corruption and insecurity have most often been compromised thus the law is no longer acting as a deterrent. What actually happened in Jos is too gory to narrate. The endless killing going on in different regions especially in the North-East and its environs points to the fact that Nigerians do not value human lives because they debase them. Most have become conditioned to act of carnages, brigandage, looting, massacre, butchery and bestiality. The country cannot just continue to toe the line of extinction. Corruption creates an unending vicious circle of poverty, deprivation, greed, exploitation and general underdevelopment, thereby weakening the capacity of government to provide social services and ultimately undermining national security.

v. ***Crisis among the Elite***

Those privileged few with considerable education, having the opportunity to hold positions in high places, with affluence and influence on who gets what, how and where, continue to pose great challenge to national security with the attendant “noise” and distraction to socio-political stability. Hence, elite fragmentation poses a serious challenge to national security because of the inordinate ambitions and competition within the elite. The elite in the security agencies or the public service for instance, are known to be in competition for promotion and ‘lucrative (juicy)’ postings which breeds corruption and poses a major threat to national security in Nigeria. The elites are unfortunately engaged in endless competition and the pursuit of narrow selfish interests, at the expense of national unity and integration.

vi. ***Ethnicity/Criminal Activities***

Individually and collectively create insecurity and breach of the peace that are likely to or indeed affect legitimate social and economic activities in the country. These have the very damaging consequence of giving the signal to the rest of the international community that Nigeria is not a safe and secure place and as such not suitable for economic investment and activities.

Widespread discontent and loss of confidence in the system have ways of affecting national political stability. Invariably continuing escalation of violence and crises across the country will impinge on the survival of our democracy. Securing Nigeria is not merely about physical protections or strategies that reinforce fear and isolation. Nigeria is not made more secure merely by anti-bomb or anti-terrorist barriers by subjecting the people to checks that curtail their freedoms or violate their fundamental rights. Neither are we made more secure by curtailing movement of visitors, investors, lawful migrants or too many check points in different parts of our country. In addition, securing Nigeria requires holistic approach to issues of fighting corruption and indiscipline to enhance social security, economic security, environmental security, and social justice, it is also inextricably linked to our national defense policy, our foreign policy, as well as our trade and economic relations in the new international order. Posting of Foreign Service officers, especially Ambassadors/High Commissioner should be taken seriously and not left to the whims and caprices of politicians. Most importantly, national security effort should reflect the economic transformation agenda of government and backed by effective leadership.

We need to have pro-poor policies that address the fundamental social problems directly affecting the people-free education at all levels, free healthcare, agricultural subsidies and abolition of food importation to boost local food production, affordable housing for all citizens, good roads, stable electricity to boost small businesses among others. We would entrench equity, fairness and justice in our relationships at personal, inter-governmental and societal levels, as the absence of social justice is invitation to chaos and violence, which threatens national security. Closely related is the imperative for us to have mutual respect for one another regardless of our religious, ethnic and cultural difference to engender peace, unity and harmony. We should institutionalize policies and programmes that foster national integration and citizenship, and avoid pitfalls that undermine our unity and patriotism as Nigerians. Every Nigerians should find a home anywhere they live and enjoy the full rights and privileges of citizenship, as well as the responsibilities thereto, without discrimination.

A process of legislative and constitutional review should be initiated to assess the country’s constitution and amend or expunge as necessary areas that have been found to give rise to conflicts and security problems. The process should also introduce new provisions and legislations that will ensure better and more effective interplay of interests among all groups and stakeholders in Nigeria. Ways of making the country’s democratic space more open, free, fair and tolerant as exists in other democracies around the world should be embraced. Political issues such as laws relating to political parties and their activities; the establishment, funding and activities of the electoral body; local and state government relationship; allocation

of national resources and revenue; citizenship rights; devolution of security powers to states and local government should be addressed.

Suggestions

- Civics and peace education should be introduced in schools (secondary and post-secondary) to inculcate patriotism and the culture of peaceful methods of managing crisis in Nigeria. A curriculum on security and moral education based on the fear of God and spiritual development be incorporated.
- The Government (Federal or State) should generate jobs as a matter of priority to settle the idle and hungry youths in the country, a strategic step to restore the national security.
- Nigerians should tolerate and accept one another as members of one nation, as the most critical step in national integration, unity and nation building
- Nigerian politicians should stop using religion and ethnicity to divide the citizenry; rather work for national unity, peace and stability.
- Nigerians in Government (Federal Government) should demonstrate good governance, and provide the people with the basic needs of life-water, electricity, health care, food and functional education for the youths.
- Repackaging of vocational and technological courses in order to help our defense and military forces to be more professional in their security operations and the final is that;
- Nigerians should stop worshipping corrupt people and support the anti-corruption institutions to combat corruption. Money should also be dethroned while favour of honesty hard work and good name are fully enthroned.
- Allocation of more funds into the education sector to address the current dreadful decadence in the school system
- Search for better ways of generating revenue to supplement government efforts because there has never been a time when adequate money is sent to march the wage bill.
- Government should professionally select personnel to look into the construction, custodianship, administration, marking and release of examination results to prevent examination malpractice.

Conclusion

Enhanced education will increase the quality of citizens, and in turn increase the national quality which will not only guarantee the rational thinking of the populace over the issues like national security and world peace but also eliminate blindness and fanaticism. Only through education, can the public possess high principles, form a reasonable value system, make sound judgment and minimize disputes through peaceful talks. A nation cannot make progress or achieve peace and security in the face of deceit from those saddled with the running of the system. Poor funding has its manifestation in dearth of library books and journals, decline of reading culture among students, dilapidated buildings, outdated equipment usage, the desire to obtain degrees by unusual means and academic staff shortage. Education is a social service and government should allocate a sizeable proportion of their annual budgets to its provision of and financing of education

Fight against corruption and the realization of effective leadership that Nigerians will trust and rely upon. We must resist and defeat corruption under whatever guise, expose the corrupt and reward those who live above board. We must be courageous and patriotic to review the structure of our nation – our federalism, rationalization of some public institutions to cut wastages and leakages, and by and large a review of the national revenue formula to engender equity, fairness and justice in our collective national interest and national security.

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