PROFILE

Name: Ngwu, Tochukwu Emmanuel

University: University of Nigeria, Nsukka

Level of Study: 400 Level

Registration Number: 2013/189676

Email Address: tochukwu.ngwu.189676@unn.edu.ng

Phone Number: 08130264806

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REFERENCE LETTER FROM THE REGISTRAR

UNIVERSITY OF NIGERIA
OFFICE OF THE REGISTRAR

Registrar: Christopher Chukwudi Igbokwe, Esq; MNIM, FCAI, FCPA   **Phone:** (+234) 08033182107/08059010019

Our Ref: UN/CSSR/17/Vol.1   July 31, 2017

The Registrar
Chartered Institute of Personnel Management
of Nigeria (CIPM)
Lagos.

Sir,

LETTER OF IDENTIFICATION
RE: NGWU, TOCHUKWU EMMANUEL (2013/189676)

The above-named requested for a letter of identification from the Registrar to enable him participate in the 2017 Annual Essay Competition organized by the Chartered Institute of Personnel Management of Nigeria.

This is to certify that Ngwu, Tochukwu Emmanuel is a bona-fide Student of University of Nigeria. He is a fourth year student in the Department of English and Literary Studies, Faculty of Arts and Humanities.

Please accord him the necessary assistance he may require from you.

Yours faithfully,

Dr. (Mrs.) A.S.E. Akpan, *MNIM, FIIA*
Principal Assistant Registrar
Careers & Students' Services Unit
For: Registrar

Correspondence: University of Nigeria, Nsukka.   **Website:** www.unn.edu.ng.   **Email:** registrar@unn.edu.ng

ADMISSION LETTER FROM JAMB REGISTRAR

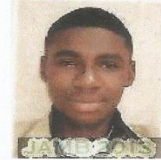# JOINT ADMISSIONS AND MATRICULATION BOARD

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Unified Tertiary Matriculation Examination (UTME)

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Nsukka, Nsukka, Enugu State.

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Faculty: ARTS/HUMANITIES   *Degree: B.A.*

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Accept my congratulations on your admission.

'DIBU OJERINDE
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LIST OF ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

CNDA   The Coalition of Niger Delta Agitators

FFS   Federal Fire Service

FRSC   Federal Road Safety Commission

INEC   Independent National Electoral Commission

NPF   Nigerian Police Force

NSRP   Nigeria Stability and Reconciliation Programme

NUC   National Universities Commission

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Stemming the Surge of Security Challenges in Nigeria: The Need for Collective Effort

Abstract

Security challenges in Nigeria do not only have their roots in the multi-faceted dimensions of violent conflicts- political, economic, ethno-religious etc but also in the dimensions of environmental and infrastructural degradation. These various dimensions of security challenges have resulted in the insecurity of lives and property in the country. Blames have always been laid on the government for security challenges given that the 1999 constitution recognizes the provision of security as the obligatory responsibility of the government when it stipulates, in the second chapter, that "the security and welfare of the people shall be the primary purpose of government." In spite of the fact that this responsibility has been bestowed on the government, the citizens have a crucial role to play in the installation and maintenance of peace and secure co-existence in the multi-ethnic state, Nigeria. Given the recent trend in the surge of security challenges, the delimitation of the role of granting the security of the citizenry to the government seems to be unworkable, as the government has been, in many cases, deficient in fulfilling this obligation; hence, the participation of the people in achieving the enervation of the security challenges in the country is needed. Therefore, in this essay, we are going to present the nature of the security challenges that face Nigeria and suggest solutions, largely located in what other bodies, individuals, and agents of socialisation, other than the government, have to do, as participatory contributions in the goal of stifling the breath of the incessant manifestations of security challenges that have been bedeviling the country.

Keywords: Security, Insecurity, Agents of Socialisation, Environment, Collective Efforts, Nigeria

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1.0   Introduction

Insecurity in different spheres of existence in Nigeria has been the crux of different researches in the social sciences that have presented the debilitating surge of threats to security in the country, how they affect the country's development in those different spheres and remedial recommendations to the government. These testify to the pertinence of the subject of security. In short, among the three functions of a nation-state Elaigwu identifies, which are "security (law and order); welfare of its citizens; and the pursuit of national interest in the global setting," security is the most important given that without it, "peace and/or law and order, [and] all other functions of the State cannot be effectively carried out". Therefore, the importance of security in our country and the relevance of seeking sustainable means of restoring and retaining it in our country cannot be overemphasised.

To stem the surge of the security challenges in the country, collective efforts have to be invested by individuals and entities other than the government. In this essay, we are going propose the sources of these efforts and what are needed of them. Efforts are primarily expected from the agents of socialisation, given that they have within the compass of their responsibility, the moulding of the citizens in the image of a community's conventional patterns of behaviour. Before we embark on achieving the solution-driven target of this essay, it is necessary to briefly present the nature of the security challenges faced in Nigeria.

2.0   Comprehending the Nature of Security Challenges in Nigeria

There are too many manifestations of security challenges which can be comprehended in terms of their nature or source. These security challenges may be generated from politics, ethno-religious conflicts, economic issues and environmental/infrastructural degradation. These categorizations are not exhaustive but are adopted for the expository convenience.

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2.1   The Political Sources of Security Challenges in Nigeria

Power tussle has been one of the major sources of insecurity in Nigeria. During elections, kidnapping and assassinations are rampant and these affect the level of response from the electorate who are to elect the leaders. In most cases, political apathy on the part of citizens is less the reason for poor participation in the electioneering processes than the fear of safety especially in zones where violence reigns. For instance, out of the 67,422,005 registered voters, in the summary results of the 2015 presidential election given by INEC, only 29,432,083 voters cast their votes.

Corruption and misappropriation of funds among leaders are generous sources of insecurity. When corrupt government officials ceaselessly loot the money which ought to be used in the development of the country, human security becomes threatened by different challenges like poor health care system, economic challenges, poor security services, poor education etc. which are parts of the causal descendants to acts that generate insecurity. Security agencies are not unaffected by these corrupt practices. When the allocated funds which are supposed to be appropriated in upgrading the security might of the security agencies are misappropriated, one expects nothing less than the intensification of security challenges in the country.

2.2   Ethno-Religious Violent Conflicts as Sources of Insecurity

Some violent conflicts that have claimed the lives of many Nigerians have their sources in the interplay of ethnic and religious concerns. According to the latest NSRP report on violence (2016), religious violence ranks third after crime and political conflict having claimed about 3,361 lives in 2016. The prominent religious strife in the country is between the Christians and Muslims in the northern part of Nigeria. Christians are always at the receiving end given that their religious practice recommends their silence and internal joy while being persecuted.

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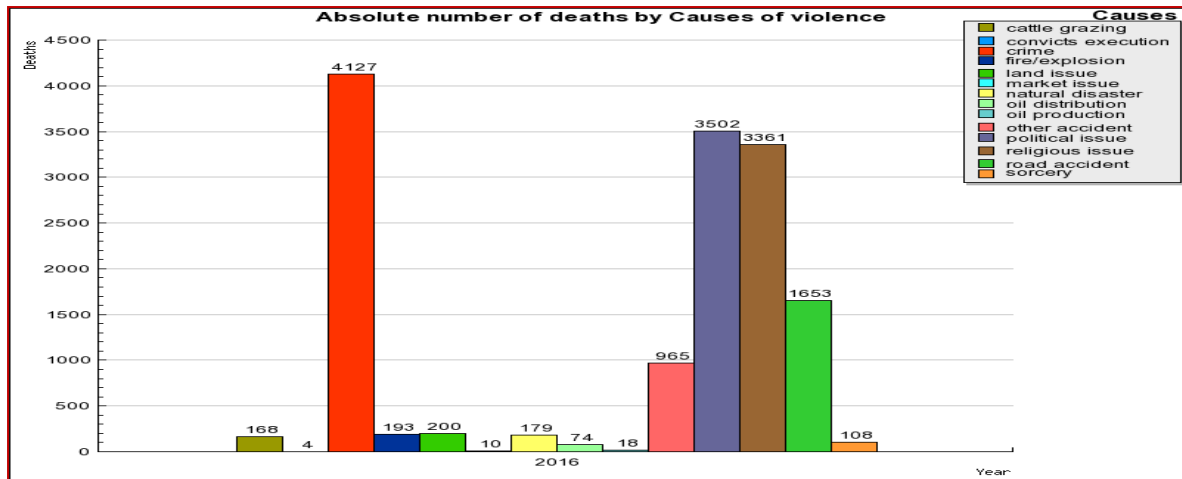
2.3   Economic Insecurity

Economic challenges seem to be the bedrock of most of the actions that generate security challenges in Nigeria. Economic challenges caused by unemployment; unequal distribution of the country's wealth; high cost of living; poor salaries paid to workers; poverty or destitution etc. are conditions which may constitute the formative basis for the rise in corruption and crime, the escalation of ethnic violence. Economic sidling, among other issues, is currently threatening the co-existence of the peoples of Nigeria. We gather from the interview *The Punch* had with John Duku, the leader of CNDA, that 5,000 fighters have been prepared to evict Hausa and Yoruba people from the Niger Delta region given the economic marginalization the people of the Niger Delta region, from which the mainstay of Nigeria's economy, oil, comes, suffer. Another reason for the proposed eviction is the notice to quit before October 1st served to Igbos in the northern parts of Nigeria by the Arewa Youths. These economic issues challenge the security of lives and property in the country.

2.4   Environmental/Infrastructural Insecurity

Environmental and infrastructural degeneration is one of the causes of insecurity in Nigeria. Infrastructural dilapidation- bad roads, poor drainage systems etc poses risks to human security. Road accidents rank fourth in the causes of violent deaths, having claimed about 1,653 lives in 2016. In most cases, these accidents are occasioned by bad and unmaintained roads. Sometimes they are the result of environmental degradation. Most Nigerians carry out waste disposal improperly and this bad practice poses health challenges and possibilities of road accidents. A fatal accident was caused by a woman on a moving bus who flung out the empty wraps of the *okpa* she consumed through the window. The wraps were blown to the windscreen (on the driver's side) of the preceding vehicle and the driver lost control and an accident that claimed lives occurred.

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Another environmental condition that promotes sources of insecurity such as armed robbery, kidnapping etc. is the presence of uncompleted buildings around an area which may function as the hideouts of criminals and where they keep their kidnapped victims. Even the Bible has it that when one wants to build a house let him calculate the cost before starting; so that what was begun would be completed. The presence of such buildings promotes crime.

Source: Nigeria Watch 2016 **Figure I:** Number of Violent Deaths Caused by Sources of Insecurity (2016)

In **figure I**, we have the representation of deaths caused by violence in 2016. The causes are a part of the security challenges. From the statistical representation, it is evident that crime is the highest source of insecurity followed others.

3.0   Appropriable Stemming Strategies for Combating the Surge of Security Challenges in Nigeria

In this section, having presented the nature of the of security challenges in Nigeria, we are going to suggest some useful strategies for combating their surge. It is already a given that these security challenges would ever be present but the value of our research lies in seeking sustainable ways of keeping them at the barest minimum of operation. We are going to demonstrate how the participatory roles of the agents of socialisation and citizens can orchestrate the stemming of the surge of security challenges in our country, Nigeria.

3.1 The Participatory Roles of the Agents of Socialisation in the Forestalling of Security Challenges in Nigeria

There have been many definitions of socialisation. But in this essay, we are going to follow Bogardu in comprehending "socialisation as the process whereby persons learn to behave dependably together on behalf of human welfare and by so doing experience social self control, social responsibility and balanced personality" (Daramola 2006). The security challenges faced in Nigeria are mainly orchestrated through the agency human actions. Therefore to stem the surge of the security challenges, we have to resort to the agents of socialisation that have a great degree of control over the behavioural patterns of the humans in society. Interestingly, to a great extent, these agents of socialisation, at some points, create enabling conditions for the functioning of one another.

3.1.1 The Family: The family, no doubts, is the basic unity of society. Foundational patterns of behaviour are formed in a child at the family level. Therefore, the family can forestall potential security challenges by inculcating positive conventional values in its members. Deterring punishments ought to be administered by adult members of the family to children who exhibit acts of misdemeanour. If children are not attitudinally, behaviourally and morally shaped the right way, they grow to be threats to the security of people around them.

The family can prevent security challenges by providing basic security education to children. This would enhance domestic security in particular and national security at large. Lessons of this sought can be achieved through folktales whose moral ends boarder different security precautions. Other strategies of transferring basic security education can be instructive. For instance children and teenagers may be taught about how to answer questions

from strangers who are asking after someone in an area. The question may be "Is Emmanuel around?" the response to this question ought to be "Emmanuel?" (which gives room for the stranger to give further descriptions) *not* "Which Emmanuel? Is it the one who imports goods or the one who is a lecturer or the one that drives a red jeep?" If the stranger were a spying accomplice to armed robbers or kidnappers, the latter answer will reveal the rich people in the area and endanger their lives and property.

3.1.2   Institutions of Formal Learning: Socialisation takes place at institutions of formal learning in a great degree. At different levels of education- primary, secondary and tertiary, the participants can be taught good conduct and punished for misconduct. The disciplinary role of these institutions can be of great relevance in producing pupils/students of positive value to society. Education, being a great medium of individual development, imparts "intellectual and moral virtues" (Hummel 1999) which would form productive and morally virtuous citizens of the country.

These institutions can also help in destabilising the surge of security challenges in Nigeria by either introducing subjects/courses on security and the cultures and histories of the peoples of Nigeria or expanding existing subjects like civic education, history and government to include these topics. To a great extent, this will help in developing the ethical reasoning of the students, weaken the prejudice of ethnocentricity and inculcate the culture of religious and ethnic tolerance in them. The result will be that ethno-religious conflicts which are sources of insecurity in Nigeria will be controlled.

In Nigerian Universities, the NUC has recommended among other courses "Peace Studies and Conflict Resolution," "Nigerian Peoples and Cultures" and "Introduction to Entrepreneurial Skills" as compulsory courses to be offered in universities. However, these

courses are done for the sake of passing by some students, especially science students, because in high school, they did no subjects related to those. Therefore our recommendation is that secondary schools make these subjects that are relevant to the students as members of society compulsory.

Entrepreneurial courses in most Nigerian universities are more theoretical than practical. Such courses ought to enable students to develop one skill or the other outside the students' disciplines. When such courses are made more practical than theoretical, the school will have promoted productivity, as Audu, Lukman and Muhammed (2014) recommend, by enabling individuals to discover the creative genius in them and applying it to the improvement of existing skills and technique of performing specific tasks. This would curtail the economic challenges which may offer the option of criminal activities (which constitute security challenges) to graduates who may not be offered employment by the government.

3.1.3 The Mass Media: The media has a lot of roles to play in surmounting the trending security challenges. They can sensitize the people on security values by organizing, on the television and/or the radio, steady series of programmes on the areas that pose challenges to human security. The media can organise interactive programs on environmental, domestic, health or national security where issues concerning the challenges facing these dimensions of security would be discussed by invited professionals from different sectors like the FRSC, FFS, NPF, and the Ministry of health. This will contribute a great deal in forestalling occurrences like fire accidents, road accidents, crime and man-caused sickness that pose challenges to human security and the security of property. Those programmes can be the source of the security values parents or adult members can imbibe and teach children.

3.1.4   Religious Institutions: Religious institutions have important roles to perform in the stifling of the breath of insecurity in Nigeria. One of the socialising functions expected of them is the maintenance of marriages. These religious institutions can help in giving marriage courses which have to be taken seriously by those about to get married and constant marriage seminars that help in maintaining homes. This will reduce the rate of divorce and separation which create broken homes that make children susceptible to juvenile delinquency. This will stabilise the training of children as good citizens of Nigeria.

Rich men of God in Nigeria can help in stemming the surge of security challenges by helping in the development of the country by investing in it. Their investments can reduce the alarming rate of unemployment in the country through the jobs their investments will create. They can financially invest in lives by philanthropism just like Prophet T.B Joshua, in spite of being termed a controversial clergyman, information about his financial achievements has it that he has given over $20 million to "causes of education, healthcare and rehabilitation programs for former Niger Delta Militant" (Nsehe, 2011). Crime rate will be reduced by the acts of philanthropism from these men of God and job creation through investments.

3.1.5   The Entertainment Industry: The entertainment industries in Nigeria can help in the movement of stemming the security challenges in the country by investing creative efforts in producing movies, short plays, comedy skits, etc. that relay the values that improve the health of security in our country. Given that people's attention is sustained longer while been entertained than when they are listening to a speaker at a serious programme. Comedy skits go viral on the internet these days and can carry the positive socialising message within its laughter-inducing genre. The lessons contained in such videos would have durable imprints in the mind of the viewers. The positive values learned can be appropriated by the individual.

4.0   Recommendation to the Government

Some of the recommendations we have made will be a fireplace in summer if the government does not do its part in the goal of steming the surge of security challenges in Nigeria.

The policy makers can reduce the security challenges that are generated during electioneering process by adequately funding the security agencies and supervising the utilization of the funds properly to ensure reliable secure conditions during electioneering processes. The political tussle between the north and the southern parts of Nigeria can be minimized by recognising the six geo-political zones in the constitution and making adequate provision for the rotational leadership of the country among the six geo-political zones under the North and South Terwase, Abdul-Talib, Zengeni (2015).

Finally, the government should diversify the economy of Nigeria so that it will defy Ewetan's and Urhie's (2014) description of it as "a poor country in the midst of abundant human and natural resources". If this is done the rate of development, which Adegbami (2013) identifies as one of major solutions to the problem of insecurity in Nigeria, will accelerate.

5.0   Conclusion

Conflict is innate in man. Attempts even made to stop conflict are also "conflicts" themselves given that the attempts combat *conflict*. Insecurity is a bound to be a possibility where conflict is present. In a multi-ethnic state like Nigeria, insecurity takes a complicated outlook but its increase can be drastically stunted through the efforts of agencies responsible for shaping the minds of the citizens of the state. If these collective efforts are invested by the government, agents of socialisation, security agencies and the citizens, the surge of security challenges is bound to be stemmed. Security should be the concern of every Nigerian.

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tochukwu.ngwu.189676@unn.edu.ng */ +2348130264806*