

CIVIC EDUCATION

NATIONAL SECURITY (PEACE AND CONFLICT)

DEFINITION:

National Security means all the requirement to maintain the survival of the state through the use of economic power, diplomacy, power projection and political power.

To achieve this noble goal, the government uses its lawful security agencies such as army, police, state security services, immigration, arm forces, etc. They work collectively to ensure harmonious co-existence among citizens devoid of threat, abuse of human rights by the environment peaceful for all citizens.

There are many internal threats in Nigeria. They include:

1. Terrorism.
2. Operation of militant in Niger Delta (mend).
3. Religious conflicts between Christians and Muslims.
4. Menace of Boko Haram fanatical sects with introduction of suicide bombing.
5. Ethnic rivalries, most especially among the people of Ebonyi state.
6. Menace of Fulani herdsmen or herdsmen attack on farmers.
7. Kidnapping.
8. These threats to national security has led to displacement of people from their habitation, loss of innocent lives, riot and economic instability in Nigeria.

Roles of Citizens in Maintaining National Security

Every citizen of a country should be security conscious. We should all be patriotic and loyal and join the government to protect our own lives and property, and our country in general.

1. **By vigilance:** To be vigilant means to be very watchful, not sleeping but being very awake and always on alert, people who are surrounded by national threat are supposed to be vigilant.
2. **Supplying of information to the security agencies:** Any information that is a threat to the peace and stability of a nation must be made available to the security agencies to unveil criminal actives around their domains. Agencies Like: The Police, NAFDAC, EFCC, SSS, etc.
3. **Remaining law abiding:** A law abiding citizen is a citizen that tries to obey the law, rules and regulations of the land. Being law abiding also means doing what the law states.
4. **Displaying of patriotism:** Patriotism is the love of one's country. It is veritable tool of development. Countries cannot progress if citizens are unpatriotic. A patriotic citizen pays his taxes and other levies, respects the national symbols, reveals every criminality around him, upholds the name of his country in foreign land.
5. **Parental responsibility:** Nigerian parents have a God given duty to bring up their children as responsible citizens.

6. **Public enlightenment:** The media is a good outlet for the fight against national security threat. This includes radio, television, newspaper which are easily available to citizens.
7. **Adequate intelligent gathering:** The Nigerian law enforcement agencies respond only when citizens are killed or government properties bombed by criminals, more emphasis should be laid underground intelligent works that could help smoke these evil perpetrators out of their hide out.

NATIONAL SECURITY AGENCIES

National security agencies are formed by the government to help ensure security of lives and properties of its citizens. They are also responsible for protecting the territorial integrity and boundaries of the country. The national security includes:

1. Para military service.
2. Nigerian air force.
3. Nigerian Navy.
4. Nigerian police force {NPF}.
5. State security service {SSS}.
6. Nigerian immigration service {NIS}.

1. **The Military:** The armed forces of Nigeria are the largest in the sub Saharan Africa. The Nigerian military force are made up of the army, air force, and the Navy. Nigerian constitution provides that the president shall be the commander in chief of armed force. He is responsible for appointing the chief of defense, the head of army, head of navy, head of air force and head of other branches of armed force of the federation as may be established by an act of national assembly.

Functions of Nigerian Army

1. Protecting Nigerians from external aggression.
2. Defending its territory integrity.
3. Protecting its border from violations on land.
4. Offering assistance to police and other civil authorities in curbing civil unrest, youth restiveness and other internal insurrections.

2. **The Nigerian Air Force:** The Nigerian air force was created in April 1964, by a statutory act of parliament. Its responsibility involves flying transportation planes, training of air force cadres, flying of helicopters and flying of jet war plane.

Functions of Air Force Include:

1. To help the army in wars against the nation in aerial defense and attack.
2. To train air force recruits: It has air force training school in Kaduna {Northern part of Nigeria}.
3. To fly top military officers, the president and other high echelon individuals in the government.
4. The Nigerian Navy: The Nigerian Navy was established on June 1st, 1956 as a component of pre-independence demand by the nationalist.

Functions of Nigerian Navy

1. To defend the territorial maritime of Nigerian.
2. To protect and pressure the nation territorial sea, maritime security, peace.
3. To complement the civil authorities in curbing internal at coastal riverside area.

3. **The Para-Military Services:** The Nigerian Security and Civil Defense Corps {NSCDC} was established as a voluntarily organization, initially called the Lagos Civil Defense Committee {LCDC}. It was created in 1967, during the beginning of the Nigerian civil war to help Ordinary citizen and ensure the safety of life and property. The Nigerian Security and Civil Defense Corps are statutory organization set up in June 2003, by the National Assembly.

Functions of Nigerian Security and Civil Defense Corps Include:

- i. To protect and rescue the citizen in case of any emergency situation.
- ii. To help in maintaining peace and order in the country.
- iii. To inspect the training facilities of private guard companies and ensure that the training is up to the standard required.

4. **The Nigerian Police Force (NPF):** The Nigerian Police Force was established by an act of parliament in 1960, under independence constitution of 1960. The Nigerian police force is under the inspector general of police and army contingent of Nigerian police stationed in state is subject to authority of the inspector general of police who assisted by the deputy inspector general.

The commissioner of police headed the (NPF) in all states of the federation and is accountable to the inspector general who in turn is accountable to the minister of police affairs.

Functions of Police Include:

- i. Maintaining law and order.
- ii. Protection of lives and properties.
- iii. Arresting and prosecution of criminals in a constituted court of law.
- iv. Detaining of suspected criminals in police cells.
- v. Maintaining of internal security through intelligence works and investigations.
- vi. Management of crisis, strikes, riots, and such unrest.
- vii. Documentation of data collection of immigrants in the country.

The State Security Services (SSS).

This replaced the former National Security Organization (NSO). It was abolished in 1986 by military leader general Ibrahim Badamosi Babangida under degree number 19 and reconstituted as state security and law enforcement. The agency works are mainly in charge of internal policy and security.

Function of States Security Service

- i. To protect and defend the federal republic of Nigeria against internal aggression.
- ii. To provide underground criminal information to both federal and states of Nigeria police stationed is subject to authority of the inspector general of police who assisted by the deputy inspector general.

- iii. To serve as aiders to the presidents, governors, members of house of assembly, ministers and other top government including their families.
- iv. To investigate criminals like treasonable felonies, drug traffickers, espionage and other criminals that are inimical to substance of national integrity.

The Nigeria Immigration Services (N. I. S)

Nigerian immigration services are primarily charged with the responsibility of securing all the nation's border. It was carved out of Nigerian police force in August 1963 by the act of parliament.

It is primarily responsible for the definition of Nigerian citizenships requirement and has the sole responsibility of issuance of passport.

It is under the board of immigration and prison service.

Functions of Immigration Services

- i. To issue international passport to those who are qualified to have them after scrutinizing the application for the passport.
- ii. To check those who are migrating into a country to settle and ensure that they are not threat to the nation.
- iii. Borders patrol and surveillance.
- iv. Monitoring and registration of ECOWAS citizen in Nigeria.
- v. Registration and supervision of aliens.
- vi. Offering of visas to foreigners on entry into a country.
- vii. Documentation data collection in the country.
- viii. Deportation of illegal immigrants and criminals who committed treasured felonies.

NATIONAL ECONOMIC LIFE (SELF EMPLOYMENT)

Self-employment: This is the process and act of being independence as an individual as it concerns doing a legal business or working for a living without being dependent. It may involve the actual practice of one's profession, vocational skills, trade, farming or any such engagement with total independence. Self-employment involves courage and a lot of determination to achieve something through personal effort.

Nigerian government in a bid to solve the enormous problems of employment has put in place several programmes such as:

- i. **NEEDS:** National Economic Empowerment and Development Strategy.
- ii. **NDDC:** Niger Delta Development Commission.
- iii. **SEEDS:** State Economic Empowerment and Development Strategy.
- iv. **LEEDS:** Local Economic Empowerment and Development Strategy.
- v. **NAPED:** National Agency for Poverty Eradication Programmes.
- vi. **NDE:** National Directorate for Employment and other self-employment programmes to help the teeming university graduates.

There are multiple examples of self-employment projects which include: fashioning designing, welding, carpentry, trading, hair dressing(salon) fishery.

Self-employment Projects

There are numerous self-employment in Nigeria today. But the economy of the country does not favour the extreme masses who lack their initial capital to become self-employed. People can still engage in these projects to earn a living:

1. **Fashion Designing:** The old name for fashion designing is tailoring. It does not require much money to begin. Before engaging into fashion designing, one needs to go through apprenticeship with a professional fashion designer at least the length of six months to one year depending on the creative ability of the learner.
2. **Carpentry:** This belongs to the general name Artisans. Every town in Nigeria has artisan shade where these self-employed workers gather to seek for daily employment. The Artisans include: the Mason, plumber, carpenters, painters, mechanics, electricians etc. These are self-employed that require a short period of time.
3. **Trading:** This is the most lucrative self-employment in south east part of the country. The Igbos are known to be good traders. No wonder they have the biggest market in the west Africa located at the bank of River Niger called "Main Market", it involves buying and selling of goods and services. Trading is a great means of self-employment with maximum success.
4. **Farming:** This includes fishery, piggery, poultry, animal husbandry, crop farming, honey comb, snail farming, and rabbit rearing and other ways of rearing for good and commercial purposes.

Crop farming is most populous in Nigeria especially in the middle of south-East, some part of the in crop farming does not require skills. Farming is a veritable tool for the growth of any nation. A country which cannot feed her nation is sterile without independence.

1. **Mushroom Industries:** This is a small scale industry that offers self-employment to hard working individual. It is a project that requires special skill. Many states in Nigeria today have skill acquisition centres where these industrial skills are taught. Some of them equip individuals with initial loan or give them materials to start off business/project. Some of these mushroom industries include; soap making, pomade making, food storage and packaging food and drink processing, furniture industry, etc.
2. **Professional Services:** These professional services involve the medical doctors, lawyers, pharmacists, journalists, Nurses, Bloggers. These groups are regarded as independent self-employed people. Most of them have private offices where they attend to their clients, patients, etc, just a minimal number of them in government or act as legal advisers to companies and organizations. Some journalists are freelance selling their reports to the newspaper houses. Architects become self-employed even when they are still in the universities. They make money by drawing building plan for people and helping out in construction.

THE NEED FOR EMPLOYMENT

People who are self-employment derive many benefits from it. These benefits include:

- i. Self-reliance: Not to be idle
- ii. Job creation / Wealth creation
- iii. Sources of revenue
- iv. Crime reduction
- v. Specialization
- vi. To have worth or respectability.

Sources of funding for self-employment

1. Family help
2. Personal saving
3. Loans from bankers
4. Co-operative society
5. Contributions among friends
6. Sales of property
7. Local contribution called daily saving or Isusu.

SKILLS ACQUISITION TRAINING CENTRES.

The federal government has established skills acquisition centres to help train the teeming unemployed youths in Nigeria.

Various Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) have joined hands with government to sponsor skills acquisition centres in various states. All these efforts are towards alleviating unemployment which is rife in Nigeria and causes youth restiveness in country.

NAPEP: National Agency for Poverty Eradication Programmes.

NDE: National Directorate of Employment are government efforts to empower the youths of Nigeria by making them acquire skills of their choices. The government assists the participants in establishments of choices of skills at the end of the programme, through giving them money or equipment needed.

National Directorate of Employment (NDE): was established during major general Ibrahim Badamosi Babangida regime. It was commissioned with the responsibility of fighting mass unemployment as recommended by Chukwuma's committee.

The main aim and objectives of the National Directorate of Employment (NDE):

1. To establish and implement programme to tackle mass unemployment in Nigeria.
2. To recommend policies aimed at improving employment opportunities.
3. To document and supervise all data concerning vacancies and unemployment in Nigeria.

The target of National Directorate for Employment are as follows:

- i. Retired pensioner
- ii. Women
- iii. Unemployed youths especially graduates
- iv. Artisans
- v. Destitute
- vi. Illiterates.

Achievements of NDE.

- i. It had helped many unemployed youths especially graduates to acquire knowledge and experience.
- ii. It had created skills acquisition centres that had helped many youths to become employed.
- iii. It had established skills training institutions.
- iv. It had established vocational skills reached into the grass root
- v. It had organized training and workshop to help people without formal education.

National Agency for Poverty Eradication Programmes (NAPEP): This was established by president Olusegun Obasanjo during his regime.

Agencies that have worked under NAPEP are as follow:

- i. **SMEDAN:** Small and medium scale enterprises development Agency.
- ii. **COMESSES:** Community Economic Sensitization Schemes.
- iii. **DT:** Dangote Training
- iv. **TP:** Telecom Programme
- v. **NASSI:** National Association of Small Scale Industries.