

Corruption Reduction in Nigerian: Appraisal of the Role of Music

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Abstract

Corruption, also known as dishonesty has been the major hindrance to the development of a nation. The resultant effect of this deceit to any country is backwardness and underdevelopment. The root of corruption grows from the heart of a dissatisfied person. Such an individual does not find happiness from within and thus hankers for fulfillment in wealth, power and fame. He is hungry spiritually, so he gets his temporary pleasures from the world. It is a deep problem that can only be purged by strength more superior than political power. Music as one of the most common means by which man expresses his emotions, feelings and sentiments has the ability and the power to shape and reshape the character of human beings since it performs innumerable functions from birth through adolescence to adulthood and at death in African setting. Similarly, it plays important roles in daily activities of man and its relevance in curbing social vices in the society cannot be over emphasized since corruption is a behavioural pattern than ordinary occurrence. An effort is made in this article to examine the concept of corruption, its effect on the nation economy, Music attributes to humanity and its roles to control this social device called dishonesty are the key motivator for this paper.

1. Introduction

Nigerian societies have to be carefully and thoroughly educated on the need to eradicate corruption out of its system in order to promote appropriate and rapid development of the country for the present generation and future generation. Discontentment leads to covetousness, while covetousness results to corruption. Corrupt practices are not a new phenomenon; but its history is as old as the world (Lipset and Lenz, 2000). Corruption remains one of the many unresolved problems that have critically hobbled and skewed development in Nigeria (Ayobolu, 2006). It remains a long-term major political and economic challenge for Nigeria. It is seen as a canker worm that has eaten deep into the fabric of the country and had stunted growth in all sectors. The bane behind the country slow pace of development stemmed from corruption. This fact could be attested to in Transparent International's consistent rating of Nigeria as one of the top three most corrupt countries in the world (Ribadu, 2003).

Conversely, a country with diverse ethnic groups with cultural diversities, different languages, distance from one another within the same nation, topographical and geographical demarcations like Nigeria needs to exploit a formidable machineries to combat and wrestle the endemic menace of corruption out of its system. However, Music is one of the salient tools to accomplish this end because it is a worldwide occurrence accepted to every culture of the globe, an indispensable part of the fabric of our society. A perfect medium of expressing the experience and activities of man in relation to his environment is a universal phenomenon. Ogunrinade (2007) explicates, "Music is the life wire of the nation's social life and therefore should be well accommodated in the nation's education policy". Besides, the natural indispensable value of music to individual is widely recognized in many cultures that make up Nigeria. Undeniably, every culture of the globe uses music to promote its ideas and ideals. Akpabot (1986) attests to the usefulness of music in shaping individual abilities and characters when he elucidates the fact that music is a tradition that affects the behavioural pattern of African. It has positive effects on our moods, which can make learning easier if properly used. It is a living treasure capable of bringing transformation to the public when its idiom is properly understood and positively utilized.

Music is extremely helpful in the process of corruption reduction when properly use, in view of the fact that it is a medium of communication. Communication is one of the underlying problems in almost all dysfunctional groups. Music is also predominantly useful because it uses visual, auditory, and kinesthetic cues all at the same time. Thou shall not steal. Thou shall not kill, thou shall not commit anomalies, and thou shall not subject other people to misery, if you enjoy a certain position, don't use it to exploit others. Despite the fact that the law of karma is always at work, it seems this untruthfulness of our country is escalating everyday. Honest and pious men possess real wealth that no one can steal. They have peace, happiness and joy. Music as an integral part of life to every society plays significant roles in the daily

activities of man, which can stimulate and soothe the mind and help toward a wider education and wider mental perspective.

Omojola (1994:117) corroborates this view when he explicates the serious relationship between life and music thus:

An integral part of life, music is used in such day - to - day activities as disseminating information of societal interest and arousing emotion; and for important occasional events like initiation, rituals and coronation ceremonies. In its various forms, traditional music is rich in historical and philosophical issues, validating communally binding, social value, warning erring member of society, praising people to whom honour is due, reminiscing on the achievement of the past leader as well as reinforcing the legitimacy of present ones.

Looking at the above assertion, music is seen as a strong branch of learning that affects human character in numerous ways either bad or good, this depend on the type of music available to the listener that will determine their character. The influence of music in the lives of human being is more compelling and potent. Good music affects favourably both in the intellectual and emotional lives of people due to the power in it that tone up the mind which increase quickness of perception. It has a potency to socialize with possibility to prepare an individual for a worthy leisure time and immeasurable increase in human happiness. Man could hardly exist without it, in view of the fact that it is available to man at work, play, home and everywhere. However, if the tool is rightly employed, it has capacity and potential to reduce, shrink and wipe out corruption out of the nations system. The anticipation of this paper therefore, is to bring into conviction that music can be favorably employed to transform and equally exploit to control the endemic spread of corruption in Nigeria .

2. Concept of Corruption

The mutilation of integrity, virtue, or moral principle is Corruption; it also means depravity, decay, decomposition and inducement to any wrong thing by improper or unlawful means (as bribery) a departure from the original or from what is pure or correct. Corruption threatens people and their governments. It makes societies unfair (Dike, 2007). For instance, it is argued that bribery is a negotiated rent, as the beginning of all illegalities and tyranny. There is no more powerful engine of injustice and cruelty, for bribery destroys both faith and state. The serious consequence of corruption thus is not only State Capture but also Mind Capture. Rent-seeking behavior occupies the human mind and removes it from useful task. (Mauro, P. 2000, Nwabuzor, A. 2005, Ribadu, M.N. 2003 and VOA 2007).

Sachs, G. (2007) elucidates that corruption is the negative and indiscriminate embezzlement and misappropriation of public fund to one's selfish interest. It is an abuse of office of public office for private gains that include fraud, bribery, fixing of public money in private accounts, outright embezzlement and presentation of forged cheques. Corruption is universal; it is present in developed and developing countries in the bureaus of public or private sectors and in charitable organizations. Shift from governance to management only changes its residence. Consequences of rent seeking and rent giving can be seen on income distribution, consumption patterns (in each social stratification), and rise of an underground economy. Rent seeking and rent giving are major obstacles in the process of planned change of economic layers. A promise of democracy remains undone. However, it does allow selective change in economic-cycle of an individual, an individual household and a business.

Corruption is usually a kept secret and therefore the behavior of the corrupt agent near impossible to observe in real life. The character of rent-seeking has all the qualities one can ask for such as charm and acting talent to create a mirror image of the truth like that of an actor or an accountant; to understand and manipulate rules and regulations, and ability to protect. It makes distinction between "need driven" and "greed driven" necessity harder. Campaigns against corruption have not met with much success. It is a worrisome development. When the majority of people operate under such a system, individuals have no incentive to try to change it or to refrain from taking part in it. Corruption is a strategy in which two or more actors undertake an exchange relation by way of a successful transfer of money (material) or power (political or status) or promoting gene (genetic), which sidesteps legality, morality or civility to regulate the relation. (Lipset, S. M., and Lenz G. S. 2000); (Eigen P. (2001). It is a strategic interaction or an art of nonviolent negotiation. As mentioned before, social action is strategic when it is aimed at the successful realisation of personally defined goals.

3. Effect of Corruption in Nigeria

Corruption should be approached from the point of view of the effects it has on development, it is one of the major obstacles to progress, and that its effects on development are disastrous. Looking at some of the effects that corruption

has on development, it increases the cost of goods and services, and not insignificantly either. It is therefore the national economy that ultimately suffers the consequences of an unjustified surcharge on the goods or services, with the difference being pocketed by some government official or politician who has abused power for his own personal gain. However, the damaging effects of such practices do not stop there, the corrupt decision-maker may well be tempted to accept a substandard quality of service which will make his personal profit all the greater. Thus, with a road building project for example, complicity between government departments and contractors undeniably result in corner cutting with regard to agreed on substandard of quality so that the savings made may be shared out between the two parties. At their very worst, the disastrous effects of corruption mean that the conception of a project, and ultimately its very choice, are determined by corruption. As far as conception is concerned, a good example would be the purchase of a technology which is wholly unsuited to the particular needs of a country or the choice of a capital-intensive project - more lucrative in terms of corruption - rather than a labour-intensive one which would nevertheless be far more beneficial to that nation's development.

Moreover, Corruption kills enterprise, it kills professionalism and it kills hard work. Nobody wants to work hard where corruption is prevalent. For example, some students, rather than study hard to pass the Examination (JAMB), relax and patronise the so-called "Special Centers". The philosophical question, which comes to mind in this kind of situation, is "Why should I work hard when I can always get what I want through other easier means?" Because of corruption, many things today are wrong in Nigeria . Other countries use money collected from tolls to maintain their roads, but when we had tolls in this country, nothing came out of it. Additionally, a typical university has about 10 faculties and it takes about N300 million to build a faculty, translating into N3 billion, yet people steal more than that and we do not still have enough universities. With a population of about 47 million, South Africa generates 32,400 megawatts of power, while Nigeria , with about 140 million people, does not generate up to 1,000 megawatts all because of corruption. Corruption also undermines democracy and good governance by subverting due process. It makes the cost of doing business to skyrocket, which ultimately affects the cost of goods. When contractors pay kickbacks on demand, it affects compliance with government's specifications. It makes officials to contrive new rules and delay the performance of their legitimate duties.

It is worthwhile mentioning at this point that a country which borrows money to finance projects that do not satisfy its real needs, and which may indeed be considered economically futile or absurd, will see its debt burden increased in terms of the cost of the unproductive investment to its national economy. In most cases, they become unserviceable on account of the ineffective use of overseas aid - the sort of bad management to which corruption contributes considerably. Likewise, by deflecting the sparse resources that do exist towards non-priority or low-priority areas, corruption contributes to a large extent to ensuring that fundamental needs such as food, health and education, are not met. This is therefore one of the major causes of underdevelopment and of poverty in general.

Undeniably, Dike (2007) rightly examines that corruption has done Nigeria exorbitant impairments both within and outside. Some of the damage of this hazard according to him are stated below:

The menace of corruption leads to slow movement of files in offices, Police extortion at toll gates and slow traffics on the high ways, port congestion, queues at passport offices and gas stations, ghost workers syndrome, election irregularities...even the mad people on the street recognize the havoc caused by corruption, the funds allocated for their welfare disappear into the thin air.

Corruption generates economic distortions in the public sector by diverting public investment into capital project where bribes and kickback are more plentiful. In addition, corruption destroys countries and is the chief vice that has destroyed Nigeria . Though a corrupt country has legislations to protect and guard against corruption, but when these become subverted, the aim is to a large extent defeated. The rigging of elections is the worst form of political indiscipline and ethical corruption. It has devastating consequences because it creates instability in the polity and negates the march of development.

A country that needs development must place itself at the cutting edge of the war against electoral fraud. Any society that places premium on proper election and genuine leaders has chances to lead their people out of backwardness, fear, disease and political stupor. Nigeria should borrow a leaf from other lands. What this means is that the war against indiscipline and corruption must be prosecuted by all of us. A state governor who upholds justice will wage a war on indiscipline and corruption, just as the committed Bishop working in the Lord's Vineyard. The same goes for the school teacher, the doctor, the pilot and the rest. In fact, irrespective of our walk of life should continue with the good fight that brings the good life that ultimately brings life everlasting.

The absolute peak of perversion, however, is when the very choice of priorities - and therefore of projects - is determined by corruption. These are situations where the real development priorities of a country are neglected in favour

of operations that generate the greatest personal gain for the decision-makers. Nigeria is littered with vast deserted motorways, a nation with fully functional but empty factories which have been left to fall into ruin only a few years after they were opened, with railway lines which are now impassable through a lack of maintenance to mention few. These 'follies of development' are to be found in many developing countries and in Nigeria in particular. Some have never produced, others have failed to reach full production capacity while others still face such prohibitive costs that big state subsidies are needed to keep them going.

4. Attributes of Music to Humanity

Music is a general phenomenon that cut across racial, cultural, social, educational, and economic barriers, which enhances cultural appreciation and awareness. Its symbol systems are important as letters and numbers. Music integrates mind, body, and spirit as well as provides opportunities for self-expression, bringing the inner world into the outer world of concrete reality, which in turn offer the avenue to "flow states" and peak experiences. It also creates a seamless connection between motivation, instruction, assessment, and practical application - leading to "deep understanding." Nothing is inspirational like music. It has an intellectual mission and makes intellectual activities graceful and refreshing. Rhythm is the best mental action and music is one of the rhythmic arts.

Also, Music makes it possible to experience processes from beginning to end, develop both independence and collaboration and thereby provide immediate feedback and opportunities for reflection. It makes it possible to use personal strengths in meaningful ways and to bridge into understanding sometimes-difficult abstractions through these strengths. It merges the learning of process and content thus improve academic achievement which results in enhancing test scores, attitudes, social skills, critical and creative thinking. Music exercises and develops higher order thinking skills including analysis, synthesis, evaluation, and "problem-finding." It is essential components of any alternative assessment program which provide the means for every student to learn

5. Roles of Music in Human Life

The issue of music role in human life has something to do with the listeners. It is a sound that is arranged in a way that is pleasant or exciting to listen to. To start with, it serves as an entertainment tool. For instance, in an occasion and event, it plays a vital role that makes the event to be lively for the people. Similarly, it creates cordial relationship among the people, a vehicle for both propaganda and an agent of comfort in wartime; it produces a complex web of pleasure, power, and identity. Music social function during wartime presents an intersection between two significant social experiences, musicality and conflict. It serves as a meeting point of two seemingly disparate practices that work powerfully to promote political goals. Correspondingly, the social role of music in violent conflicts is multifaceted; it serves as tool for settling dispute between two or more people as a result of disagreement. It can be played to bring harmony between the aggrieved citizens, active involvement in music making enhance self-esteem and promote the development of a range of social and transferable skills

Moreover, Music serves as a tool for corrective measure, that is, it informs the people of the habit that is uncultured so that such behavior can be spurned. Furthermore, People not only listen to music, they actively take part in making it. It is an agent that can be used to educate people on several things that will develop and advance the society at large. In addition, it serves as a source of income to human life, a profession for particular class of people. It also serves as a message or symbol that indicates occurrence going on in a particular place or within a society such as bad occurrence in a particular place; the type of music played will show the audience or listeners the happenings in such place. Example of such can be clearly seen in an Africa setting during naming, wedding ceremonies and so on. Music is being used by individuals to enhance the quality of live. The increased availability of music encouraging people to use music to manipulate their own moods, reduce stress, alleviate boredom while undertaking tedious or repetitive tasks, and create environments appropriate for particular kinds of social occasion.

6. Music as a Tool of Corruption Reduction

Music has charms to soothe the savage breast and it goes along with the inspiration that can be more effectively used to spread the anti-corruption message through song. It is a useful tool for promulgating the anti-corruption message. The lyrics of a song could be designed to promote integrity and discourage corruption. Music, being popular forms of entertainment, is also powerful media for getting information and messages across. Through music, singers are able to relate stories and ideas on a wide range of topics, based on this concept, they are able to spice up their lyrics by infusing

a lot of entertainment into the message. Above view is supported by *Zoltán Kodály in Dickinson* (2001) when he expounds that

Music is the manifestation of the human spirit, similar to language. Its greatest practitioners have conveyed to mankind things not possible to say in any other language.

In pursuing the goal of promoting integrity and eradicating corruption in Nigeria, which made up of different ethnic groups with varieties of religious beliefs and ideologies. Some, for whatever reason, when speaking to an audience on corruption may conceal a misconception that represents trouble, for this reason, it is good to set their minds at ease through tender and soft music. The power of music in this regard can be very effective by lightening the atmosphere and make populace to be more easily persuaded to consent anti-corruption message. Ebo (2009;107) was so optimistic when he clarifies the aptitude of music as stated below;

Music carry messages, signals and awareness, creating information communicated to the audience with the help of various musical instruments. There is always some sensation or emotion stimulating attributes of music, which its listener react to music has communicative and didactic values, to agitate, to please, to energize and to conscientize ardent listener.

Additionally, Music can be used to spread sometimes both good and evil messages to the point that people often touched by the experience and moved to the point of tears. Through music, we can go on to build a successful nation by persuading more people of the need to combat corruption and the misuse of power. Conversely, the development of the electronic media in the latter part of the 20th Century revolutionized access to and use of music in our everyday lives. We can turn on the radio, play a CD or tape, or listen to music on video or TV with very little effort. This has not always been the case prior to these developments, then music was only accessible to people mostly when they made it themselves or attended particular religious or social events. The effects of these changes have been dramatic. Accessibility of various types of music make it possible for us to use music to manipulate personal moods, arousal and feelings, and create environments which may manipulate the ways that other people feel and behave. Individuals can use music as an aid to relaxation, to overcome powerful emotions, to generate the right mood, to stimulate concentration, in a nutshell, to promote their well being. It has become a tool to be used to enhance our self presentation and promote our development.

In the words of William Shakespeare: "If music be the food of love, play on." It is an effective and pervasive medium for the dissemination of values, attitudes, and messages. As mentioned above that in African setting and Nigeria in particular, people not only listen to music, they actively take part in making it, which enable them to digest the full understanding of its content. Aristotle in his politics expounds how music influences the will of human being - through the principle of imitation. Music directly imitates the passion and state of the soul -mildness, anger, courage, temperance, the opposite and other quality, hence, listening to music imitates a certain passion, one becomes permeated with the same passion; and if over a long time he habitually listens to the kind of music that arouses aristocratic passions his whole will be shaped to an noble form."(Grout,1973)

Alternatively, listening to wrong type of music with abnormal wording would lead a man to erroneous thoughts, which turn out to fabricate wrong character in the live of the listeners. In contrast, listening to the right variety of music leads to moral character and refine taste since music has the potential to regulate the emotion of man. The question then is, how to identify the right kind of music from wrong kind of music? Any music that teaches good morals, patriotism, and solidarity can be said to be the right kind of music that can positively affect the character of man. Listening to music can be for several reasons at various time and places. The choice of the kind of music to be listening to may be as a result of a particular occurrence. In view of the fact that music affects an individual's character, and that character could be affected in different ways by different kinds of music. Therefore, for the nation to be corruption free and to enable her citizen to be patriotic, the right type of music to be played must be patriotic and stimulating in nature, this implies that, certain type of music with wrong wordings must be completely stopped.

Music performs several functions in the society, which include: "emotional expression, aesthetic enjoyment, entertainment, communication, symbolic representation (as found in the texts of songs, cultural meaning of the sounds, and deep symbolism related to human experience), physical response (the use of music for dancing to accompany physical activities), enforcement of conformity to social norms (the use of music in providing instruction and warnings), validation of social institutions and religious rituals (the use of music for religious services and state occasions), contribution to the continuity and stability of culture, and integration of society (music is often used to draw people together)".

An additional functions of music include: "the perception of the societal group and its solidarity to meet the need and satisfaction of individuals, social responsibility, moral values and skills; as an instrument of unity in binding members

of the society together, used in the community as a way of mobilizing people for communal labour as a means of communicating to people during political transition on the radio, as an effective means of communication in the educational system, a tool for bringing positive change in the moral activities of children in schools and colleges". (Adesokan 2002) All these demonstrate the importance of music in the daily activities of people in any given society and that such influential tool could be significantly utilised to reduce and trim down the spread of menace of dishonesty in Nigeria .

In recent time, several agencies of government akin to Economics and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC), National Agency for Food and Drug Administration and Control (NAFDAC), National Drug Law Enforcement Agency (NDLEA), Independent Corrupt Practices and other Related Offences Commission (ICPC) and many others have tried and are still trying in their brawl against corruption in the Nigerian society. The use of music as a precious ingredient to advertisement on Radio and Television stations, encompassing both the mayhem of the menace to the nation's economy and consequence of such act to an individual that perpetrated in the court of law has done so much in getting the message across the board in a refined and pleasing manner. This has contributed genuinely to the reduction and thereby curbing the menace in the society. This is to show that music has been known from the time immemorial to be a powerful tool in regulating the morals of people in the society, especially in African setting.

Akpabot (1986) while writing on the music meant for social control notes that songs of social control are usually newsworthy and appropriate to a given community; they are either of praise or abuse designed to regulate the social order. To him, sometimes being philosophical and humorous should constitute the bulk of the wording of such song in view of the fact that Africa 's sense of humour is best expressed in song and proverbs. He accentuates that songs of social control with their cautiously and carefully worded texts, which often serve as community broadcasting medium, intensifying on important happenings in the daily life of the society such as the prominent man in the village who is an elite by day but an armed robber at night, the beautiful girl in the village who is promiscuous, bribery and some other social vices of corrupt practices that can hindered the development of the community. This could be done during the festive period of a particular deity.

He pointed out, fourteen categories of songs text that are easily recognizable in African music, which embrace historical, social control, insult, obscene, praise, children, funeral, work, war, humorous, communication, women's, philosophical and ritual. These were recapitulating into three headings, Songs of praise, song of insult and songs for entertainment. Out of these classifications, songs of praise are used to praise good leaders and good deeds in the society while the songs of insult are used to reprimand, condemn and correct harmful deportment of people in the society. There are historical songs where the stories of past leaders are authenticated with their past actions and reactions during their days. These songs are utilized to refresh the memories of the listeners and inspire others to live up to expectation".

Currently, there are various jingles by musicians on how to trim down and control corruption in the society but only the few ones are heard on the Radio and Television, more music that teaches morals and ethics should be used at various occasions, its evil effect on the society, what an individual in the society is expected to do in staying away from various corrupt practices in the society and the consequent of such attitude when taking to the court of law. Failure to adhere to this, individuals concerned should be allow to face the music. The extract of the jingles are cited below:

Let's Just Build a Nation

Let's just build a nation, with just and fair play.

Let's just build a nation, where corruption has no place.

We deserve the better way to live our lives

Throw corruption away, from our lives (ICPC Jingle)

Late Sunny Okosun of blessed memory contributed his own quota when he sang this song:

War against corruption

Let us break down the walls of corruption in Nigeria

Let us break down the walls of apartheid,

When we do these, our nation will progress,

Reformation will not stop.(Sunny Okosun)

The above songs are serving the entertainment, educative and communicative roles of music in the society. Adherence to the wordings of the songs and many others, which are not cited here, will help in reducing and curbing corrupt practices in the society. It will make individuals in the society have a change of heart on how best to handle the various resources

that are available to the society for the betterment of the people instead of acquiring the same for personal selfish interest.

The Nigerian national anthem
Arise, O compatriots
Nigeria's call obey;
To serve our father land
With love and strength and faith.
The labour of our heroes past
Shall never be in vain;
To serve with heart and might
One nation bound in freedom,
Peace and unity

O God of creation
Direct our noble cause;
Guide our leaders right,
Help our youth that truth to know
In love and honesty to grow
And living just and true;
Great lofty height attain
To build a nation where peace,
And justice shall reign.

7. Conclusion

Corruption reduction is an enormous task that requires combined efforts for its realization. Its effects on the society are underdevelopment. This paper underscores the concept of corruption and its effects on national economy, attributes of music to humanity, the role of music to life and music as a tool of corruption reduction. It was fronted in this discussion several methods in which Music can be meaningfully curbed the widespread of dishonesty. Compliance and obedience to the text of the Nigeria national anthem –our identity, is considered to be a good starting point. To the virtuous citizens of our noble country, Nigeria, it is imperative to hold fast genuinely, devotedly and honestly to the text and meaning of each line of Nigeria national anthem, if this is done aptly, corruption in its various forms will no longer have a place to stay in our society and Nigeria will develop. Leaders are charged to live up to expectation in whatever position of authority they occupy. There is need for transparency and accountability in all the dealings of the government, with a view to eradicate corruption in the Nigerian society.

8. Recommendation

The citizens of this noble country need to develop the spirit of patriotism in order to salvage our country from the bondage of perpetual dishonesty. The down side to the easy availability of music is that there is a tendency for it to be taken for granted. At the same time, as music is becoming a more integral part of every day life, the place of music in formal education of Nigeria is consistently being questioned. Music already plays an important role in promoting human well being. In view of the fact that positive benefits of music are increasingly demonstrated in health, psychology and other fields demand will increase. If this is to be met, society will need appropriately educated musicians who are morally trained with integrity to teach and promote appropriate types of music that will instill truthfulness and honesty to the mind of the public especially in all level of Nigerian educational system. Such music that will promote honesty in the mind of the people should only be encouraged for public consumption while numerous kinds of music with filthy and muddy wording that can influence people to act unenthusiastically, corrupt and misleading music should be completely stopped and spurn by the government and throw out from public consumption especially to the adolescent age group who are the leaders of tomorrow.

Lastly, the various broadcast and electronic medias industries in the country are implored to play more of Nigerian Music that teach good morals and the spirit of patriotism, loyalty, unity, hope, peace and love, on the radio and television stations across the country. Rendition of Nigerian national anthem and national pledge at public functions should be re-awakened and enforced even to the Nigerian schools and institutions of higher learning.

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