MUSIC FOR SELF RELIANCE AND NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Rita Eyiuche Modeme

Abstract
The paper generally discussed about Music and national development. Specifically, it x-rayed the concepts of music and national development. The paper argued that music will equip its beneficiaries with the necessary skills with which to be self-reliant. It also argued that such skills will reduce unemployment. The paper examined also the philosophy of self-reliance. The various roles which music play in the development of our nation were highlighted as follows: achievement of national objectives of education, national unity, transmission of knowledge and culture. The impediments on music’s contribution to national development were also discussed. These include lack of formal education, fund, unity and bad system of government and governance. Music has also been found to be a veritable instrument for national development. Recommendations were put forward which were that the government should give loans for the production of recording projects (experts products) and also the government policy makers and implementers should ensure that music is made compulsory in schools as a subject right from the elementary to the university level.

Introduction
Every nation and people must have well-designed tools and system geared towards the acquisition of national development. The Federal Government of Nigeria has adopted education as an instrument par excellence for effecting national development (FGN, 2004:6). Music education is among the recommended tools needed for effecting and achieving these national goals of education. In recognition of its usefulness in the effective documentation and sustenance of human past and present, music has been regarded and approved as one of the various subject to be taught in the Nigeria Schools. Supporting this idea, Ukpanah (2004) stated that the need to include music as one of the viable teaching subjects in the general school curriculum is that it helps to stimulate the brain and discipline the mind thereby serving as incentive for the learning of other subjects.

Obbeng (1984) in consonance with the several African music educators, sees music as forming an integral part of the day to day activities of the African community from birth to death. According to him “the African is born, named, initiated, nurtured, betrothed, married and buried with music”. Culturally, speaking, music helps in the shaping of an individual into an acceptable member of his/her society. Besides, music is a profession which helps one to earn a meaningful living out of it depending on the level of involvement in its study an practice.

Music has broad-spectrum application – capable of being used for emotional-expression, entertainment, communication, education, correction, societal integration, aesthetic expression and vocational enterprises. It therefore, serves as an efficient vehicle in promoting socio-economic activities that are capable of inducing national development. The rest of this paper focuses attention on the role and impediments of music to national development.

Concept of Music
Music is the most widely practiced and accessible of all the arts. Supporting this idea, Enoh (2006) opined that in almost every sector in this country (and elsewhere) has at same time or another used music for one purpose or the other because music is accessible to all. Music has been defined as a universal language because everybody in every culture recognizes music when he/she sees one or needs it. Another thing is that music is culture-bound, Okafor (2001). According to him “it doesn’t have a single answer. Every culture decides on what is music. It is culture that gives music its definition”. Music is a very important means of expressing culture. It is used in every aspect of human activity. Supporting this idea, Namani (2004) stated that music therefore is an integral part of the traditional culture of the people of Nigeria. It plays very significant roles in every aspect of traditional and modern societal lives from birth to death.
The framework for deciding what is music had been laid by many people but Blackings (1973) appears to be very appealing. He defined music as “humanly organized sound”. That means that in our universe, we have music everywhere. You can even recognizes music in the sound of the dawn chorus; sometimes in the bleating of sheep, in the cow horns. But, it is only when the sounds have been organized by man so as to achieve certain effects or express certain ideas of emotions that we call that music. Expression of certain ideas or emotion is very important in the definition of music because man must have an objective for organizing the sound in the first place (Okafor, 2005) Grolier (1997), agreed in the direction that, “music is born of emotion”.

Hornby (200:766) defined music as “the arrangement of sounds in a pleasing sequence or combination to be sung or played on instruments”. The language of music however, is not too straight forward as the language of some other disciplines. Besides expressing purely musical thoughts, it is able to suggest definite emotions. With a little help from works, it can even be made to paint picture and it is capable of awakening in the listen, strong emotions.

Looking at the views of scholars on the definitions of what music is, one discovers that there is commonality in their views, that is, music is the expression of certain ideas or emotion. However, the author’s definition of music is that music is an organized sound which man uses to express or communicate an idea or emotion.

What is National Development?
According to the American Heritage Dictionary of the English Language, a nation is the aggregation of people organized under a single government. Further, it described it as a body of people united under a particular organization and usually occupying a defined territory. According to Eke (1990) development pre-supposes a starting point and movement towards a final state, which presumably is more mature, stable and better. Development can be seen as a process of transforming the physical, economic, political and social environment of a nation into a more viable stable polity. It depicts the creation society in which certain conditions prevail for human beings. These conditions include safety, sufficiency, satisfaction and stimulus.

National development, according to Richard (1980), is the “ability and willingness of an individual in a society to contribute his best in any form to the collective output of service from those things that enrich him materially and culturally”. It included such things as education, health, medical services, social security as well as developing an appropriate value system that will last among children, youths and adults. Actually, a nation’s development is seen as the process of continuous positive change in the quality and span of life of a person or persons. From all these expositions therefore, one can regard a developed nation as one in which there is a high percentage of literacy, self-discipline, greater freedom, political stability, buoyant economy, all kinds of material goods and modern social justice.

Various Roles of Music in National Development
No society can thrive well and function effectively without music, and to develop a strong and visible society, the role of music as a binding force must be taken into cognizance. The role of music in National Development will be discussed under the following headings.

1. Music contributions to the achievement of National Objectives of Education
The role of music in national development is of course in line with section I, page 6 of the national Policy on Education which stated that the (5) main national objectives of Nigeria, which have been endorsed as the necessary foundation for the National Policy on Education (FRN, 2004:60) are the building of:
1. a free and democratic society
2. a just and egalitarian society
3. a united and self-reliant nation
4. a great and dynamic economy
5. a land of bright and full opportunities for all citizens.
Music For Self Reliance And National Development

- Music does not only educate, entertain, and inform, it also does the following:
  a. Music preaches Freedom and need for a Democratic society
  b. Music preaches Justice and Equality in our society
  c. Music preaches Unity in our society
  d. Music preaches the need to strong and self-reliant individually and as a nation
  e. Individuals who studied music formally/informally pay tax directly or indirectly to stipulated authorities who in-turn, use this money for national development
  f. Music promotes a balanced mental and emotional health of the people thereby helping to cure stress related illness.

Music is a discipline that makes it easy for the inculcation of the said values, habits and attitudes.

(2) Transmission of Culture

Music is very important element of cultures. It features in festivals and in ceremonies, which are ancient in origin. As long as music is used in those ceremonies, the whole old ceremonies are passing down from one generation to another. And so, music becomes a vital instrument for the transmission and continuity of the culture. People who celebrate their yam festivals, their festivals of homecoming, commemoration, and other festivals are continuing the culture and, in addition, improving the economic sector of culture. Without music, those ceremonies, ritual sand festivals will not be complete. And without music, there will be no easy way of passing on the dances and history of the people.

(3) Music and People

Music can claim to be the expression or art that is most accessible to human beings in any situation in their lives-crises or calm, work or worship, play or war, recreation or reflection. Music is implicated in life, and people go all out to use music to communicate, to move, to express emotions and ideas, and to mobilize people or rally them to solidarity. The national music of any people is a point, a marshalling point for expression of solidarity.

It takes place not only in the larger countries which have national anthems but also in the smaller communities of schools with their school songs, churches with their characteristic hymns, occupational groups with their occupational music, age groups with their personality music and communities that have certain music and dances for which they are known and which express their personality and identity. Whenever the music typical of that group sounds, people rally round it for it expresses their solidarity. Music is therefore taken seriously in religious communities, social groups, occupational groups, the military and the disciplined forces.

(4) Music and Social Entertainment

Entertainment takes away the mind from the stress inherent in the society or just means of relaxation, to provide holiday and happiness, not often sheer hedonism. Entertainment is very much recognized as the value of music in any society. Music tends to set the mind free from problems. It has a therapeutic effect on the troubled mind. It is a true route to escapism. If well channelled, it is of immense benefit to society by refreshing the soul and body leading to improved productivity.

(5) Transmission of Knowledge

Education is a veritable instrument for social change and music is, of course, very acceptable as an instrument of change because people digest and consume it as entertainment while it leaves a mark on their psyche that re-directs them towards a new personality, and new activity. It is a very good tool of education for the short cuts to education or the difficult lessons in education can always be cast in the form of music. There are mnemonics for remembering many mathematical and music formulae, the colours of the rainbow, English alphabets (A-Z), and Calendar months. There are some that deal with health problem like anit-aids campaign, immunization campaign, family planning messages and there are others that deal with political problems like encouraging people to vote during election and care of our currency. Jingles have always been composed so that people will absorb the message while listening to the music. Consequently what is taught through music should convey
eternal truth to learners and equally influence people’s character for better. Music therefore, promotes easy assimilation of a difficult matter.

Music educators have then, added advantages to use their skills and potentials to impart this awareness to learners who will in turn use such knowledge acquired to make the society a better place.

(6) Transmission of Values
One of the most important roles of music is to transfer social, societal and moral values. Parents use folktales and didactic songs to transmit moral lessons to the young. Folktales and moonlight games are very rich sources of materials for character development. Even in adult life, people are still interested in what the musician said. The musicians of any community pour out some of the values of the people. They condemn bad values like corruption and extol good ones like patriotism. They give the sign posts, which guides the people on their pilgrimage of life. Such values which music transmits, often stick and pass from generation to generation and enter into the group consciousness, and often producing the required results.

(7) National Unity
The rendering of the National Anthem is a way of educating the populace musically which in a large dimension is a tool for national unity. People cooperate when singing the anthem by standing at attention and meditating on the text of the anthem which says: “Arise O compatriot, 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 mind, One nation bound in freedom Peace and Unity”.

The anthem is a binding force for Nigerians, no matter which tribe one comes from, it must be obeyed. It reminds us of our sovereignty as a nation, which should be guarded no matter what. The anthem is usually rendered during such occasion as Presidential visit to any state of the nation and outside the country. Governor’s visit/presence at functions and all other political functionaries, during national festivals, sporting events, school’s assemblies and so on. All these occasions call for the rendering of the Anthem as a symbol of national unity.

Nevertheless, the contributions of music to national development notwithstanding, there are some impediments to music contributions for national development.

Impediments of Music to Effective Contributions to National Development
1. Literacy level of musicians
One of the severe cultural handicaps hindering musicians is illiteracy. A large percentage of them did not go school. They remain stranded in their lives. Therefore, their vital contribution to national development is grossly reduced because they are underdeveloped.

The music sector is inundated with people who failed to get jobs in their areas of formal training and education and having no previous knowledge of music claimed to be gifted but do not have requisite skill. As a result, musical standard continues to fall generally. Musicians continue to labour in vain and futility because their products are usually short-lived in terms of life span as a result of worthlessness, in the long run, the country continues to lose her valuable foreign exchange that should have been attracted to it. Supporting this idea, Ohwofasa (2003) stated that formal music education is still struggling to gain recognition societally and academically.

2. Bad System of Government and Governance
Over the years, successive Nigerian governments appear to display love for musicians only when their services are needed either at a state banquet, during a visit by presidents of other countries or national convention.

Jackson (2003) who was chairman of the performing Musicians association in Nigeria (PMAN) stated:
That is the only time they need us (Aristes), it is only then that they feel we are needed. When we need governments assistance, we have to fill forms, write proposals that are never replied and at
Music For Self Reliance And National Development

the end of the day, we have to wait for another function when they will require us to come and jump and dance before them as puppets.

3. **Lack of Fund**
   Most musically talented people seem not to have enough funds for purchasing necessary instruments for their music due to lack of funds and high tariff payable on the musical instruments. This hinders their rate of production and also contribute to National Development.

4. **Lack of Unity Amongst the Musicians**
   Observations have shown that most musicians fight one another. They seem not to be united, as one would have taught. For instance, the American Musicians were able to come together and made a uniform song, which they titled, “We are the World” – such a thing has never seem among the Nigerian Musicians- which does not give way to national development.

5. **Piracy**
   Piracy is one of the major setback musicians used to have in the music industry. It brings serious setback to musicians which hinders their success and meaningful contributions to national development.

**Implications of Music for Self Reliance**

Writing on self-reliance, Ndan (2005) in Nwangwu (2007) noted that the concept of self-reliance hinges on collective and individual feelings or the urge for self-preservation through the independent use of available human and material resources to meet individual and group needs. According to him, self-reliance involves a set of activities geared towards self-realization through the organization of the general activities geared towards self-realization of the people into definite sets of preferences and priorities in which one set may be admitted when other more important alternatives are not pressed. It is expected that music has the capability of not only creating the awareness of self-reliance in its beneficiaries but also equip them with the necessary tools with which to be self-reliant and become useful and productive members of the society.

Oderinde and Ekpes (2005:59) cited in Nwangwu (2007) outlined the following as being the philosophy of self-reliance:

1. Creating a new cultural and productive environment which will promote pride in primitive work and self-discipline.
2. General awakening to the rights and obligations of citizens to the nation;
3. Encouraging people to take part actively and freely in discussions and decisions affecting their general welfare;
4. Promoting new sets of attitudes and culture for the attainment of the goals and objectives of the Nigerian states and
5. Acquiring new sets of universal values for global citizenship

The above philosophy has serious implications as they portray the hallmark of self-actualization. Music prepares its beneficiaries with the necessary skills and attitudes to be self employed. When music has prepared people for self-reliance, their contributions to the growth and economic development of Nigeria are assured and unemployed will be drastically reduced. However, to achieve our dreams of using music for self-reliance, all hands should be on deck to elevate the status of music in Nigeria. No doubt, this will be to the benefit of all Nigerian citizenry.

**Conclusion**

In summary, music has been found to be a contributing factor in development and affects man in all ramifications of life, cultural, religious, academic, emotional, economic, socio-political life and these contributes in no small measure to national development.

To crown it all, music is the greatest level of achieving the National objectives of Education as earlier stated which makes for national reconciliation, national unity and development. It is not in doubt that music has the capacity of equipping it’s beneficiaries with the necessary skills and attitude
with which to be self-reliance. When people are self-reliant, they will contribute in no small measure to the country national development.

**Recommendations**

1. A strong music sector cannot emerge without strong leadership and management. The need for management skills permeates all aspects of the music industry. The music industry is a business sector and should hire people like other private sector.
2. Good governance based on a sound economic and political programme is the recipe to keep Nigeria one. Leadership based on love and not force will contribute tremendously in keeping the nation united.
3. To curb the menace of mediocrity, the government, policy makers and implementers should ensure that music is made compulsory in schools as a subject right from the elementary to the university level so that those opting to venture into music on graduation would do so from a position of knowledge, skillful and professional know-how.
4. The government should guarantee loans for production of recording projects (expert product), through meaningful dialogue with industry to determine how best it could be of assistance. They should also help the music industry in the reduction of tariff for imported musical instruments. If this is done, and almost everyone is able to acquire the instrument of his choice, it could make life easier for musicians.
5. In addition, the government needs to enforce regulations that bind the media especially radio stations in terms of promoting Nigerian musical culture since radio happen to be one of the most effective medium for promoting music. Furthermore, the problem of copyright and piracy could be solved if Nigerian Musicians try to be original in their works and integrity is upheld within and outside the music industry. Performing Musicians Association (PMA), Association of Recording company, individuals and government could come together and reach a decision on how to curb the menace of piracy probably bringing culprits to lay.
6. Instead of showing mostly foreign films on our television, government should make it mandatory on T.V stations to show more musical clips that talk about national unity.
7. National honours should be given to nationalist composers on a regular basis. This will ginger them up the more to compose more.
8. Our museum nationwide should have music documentary room where various nationalist composers’ pictures and works on tapes/video cassettes are kept for posterity for the coming generation to learn from.
9. Nigeria as a country is mature enough to own a college or university of music as it is in the developed countries.

**References**


**Music For Self Reliance And National Development**


