A PRESENTATION ON

COMBATING SECURITY CHALLENGES IN THE UNIVERSITY SYSTEM

ATTHE

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NIGERIA

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INTRODUCTION

From the Sub-theme on this aspect of the conference i.e. "Combating Security Challenges in the University System" we seem to agree abinitio that there is a war situation, hence the "combat". The war is that of insecurity and the war theatre is the University space while the environment is of a Nation State in economic recession.

Our focus in the combat is to develop the workable strategies to degrade, decimate and ultimately root out the "insurgents" from the Universities.

The University is a highly developed community. The University of Lagos Strategic Planning Committee 2002, described the University as "a community of scholars all of whom are in continuous learning process". Such is the sophistication of the University.

At the best of times, in Nigeria, even when we had the windfalls from the oil revenue, the educational sector had only a maximum of 13% of the appropriated Annual National Budget contrary to the UNESCO advocate that at least 26% appropriation should be dedicated to the educational sector in developing economies like our own.

Prof. Peter Okebukola, the former Executive Secretary of the National Universities Commission in a recent public discourse, disclosed that even at the 13% appropriation, the gap between the appropriated and the actual gradually widened, over the years from 5% to 35%.

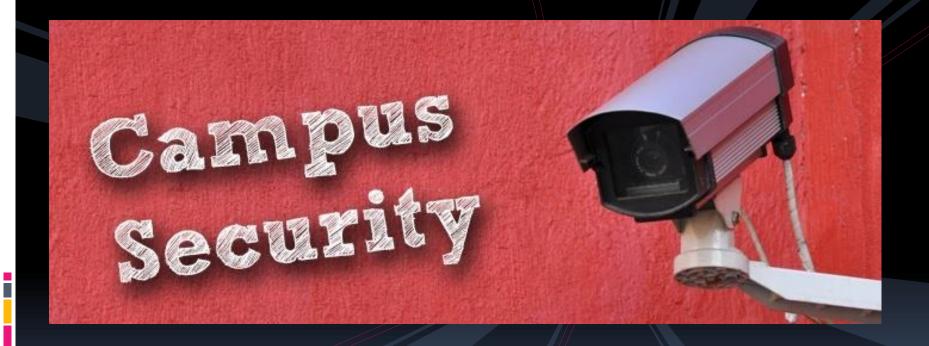
The University Administrators certainly deserve to be praised for their survival strategies over the years.

Ladies and gentlemen, survival they say is the first law of existence. Recession is a double edged sword. We all react differently to external stimulus! While economic recession may motivate some persons to come up with brilliant ideas and prudent management of personal and corporate resources, it may serve as catalyst for crime and criminal activities, bringing out the very worst in others, depending on personal inner maturity, resilience and recognitions.

The basis of crime and criminality is motivation accorded expression by opportunity. Motivation plus opportunity is equal to crime -M + O = C.

The University has an inalienable right, indeed a responsibility, to protect itself, the numerous students entrusted in its care, staff and other internal and external customers who visit the universities from all forms of dangers that assail the institutions daily as a matter of course. This is where security comes into play!

SECURITY



SECURITY

According to Alemika 2015:

Security can be conceived as the absence of threats to

- (a) the sovereign powers and territorial integrity of a nation;
- (b) the capability of a country's government
- (c) safety of the person and property of citizens from oppressive rule, economic exploitation, discrimination and exclusion, diseases, homelessness, starvation, ignorance and illiteracy, environmental degradation and all forms of structural and criminal violence.

SECURITY

Ibrahim 2013 brings security nearer home when he defines it as "an encompassing phenomenon that is paramount to individuals, entities, communities and even nations. Security has to do with self-preservation which is the first law of existence. To him "Security implies a stable, relatively predictable environment in which an individual or a group may pursue its aims or objectives without disruption, harm, danger and without fear of disturbance or injury". He further justifies his submission by alluding to the section 14 (2) (b) of the Nigerian constitution of 1999 stating inter alia "The Security and welfare of the people should be the primary purpose of government"

SECURITY - MY DEFINITION

Distinguished ladies and gentlemen, I wish to propose a definition, simpler, but probably encompassing enough for our discourse today.

Security in a university system connotes the protection of tangible and intangible assets of the institution from all forms of danger.

By tangible assets, I refer to physical structures, the books in the libraries, the electronic gadgets in the departments, all the stake holders and the players, the regular and occasional visitors to the University.

Intangible assets, I submit to include intellectual property, research data, classified information, integrity, Peace of mind, order and above all, the image!

SECURITY cont'd

The quintessence of security is in prevention as security is conceived as a pre-police action. An effective security in a university must be ahead of others in developing countermeasures to all possible threats in the environment, whether real or perceived!

The security department of the University must be relevant to the university itself. From the security leadership to the field operatives, their knowledge and understanding of the nature of the university must be far above the average. For the type of security challenges on our campuses nowadays, cutting-edge technological aids in security operations are no longer negotiable.

SECURITY cont'd

In preparing for this interface, I surveyed some of our universities and their security departments and I am amazed at the huge financial commitments already made by the various Universities in the procurement of security equipment, particularly in the area of access control, a critical aspect of security coverage. But I say, with due sense of responsibility and commitment that a huge gap still exists particularly in the areas of deterrence and detection. We are far from adequacy! And the extent of this inadequacy can be the extent of our exposure to security challenges. A chain is as strong as its weakest point.

PERSPECTIVES ON SECURITY CHALLENGES ON OUR CAMPUSES

Security challenges in an <u>On-campus</u> University (as different from an <u>On-Line</u> University) can be grouped into two broad categories namely:

- "Home Grown" and
- "Incursive"

Call it Internally Induced and Externally motivated respectively.

HOME GROWN CHALLENGES

- Student-student dishonesty
- Student-lecturers relationship
- Elections into faculty-based associations
- Student union politics
- Infrastructural Amenities
- Religion
- Cultism

CULTISM

The repulsive role of cultism in the security challenges in Nigerians Universities is worth devoting a large space to in this presentation. Historically, secret cults have always existed in some Nigerian Adults Societies long before the colonial masters came. Their aims were essentially to maintain law and order in the societies. They were like Elders Forum to complement the strength of the paramount rulers. Ogunade 2002 in his treatise on cultic activities in Nigeria grouped them into three categories namely:

- Religious secret societies
- Semi religious secret societies
- Anti-social secret societies

He traced their manifestation in Nigerian Universities firstly as Fraternities with the primary aim to maintain law and order in the campuses, similar to the aims of the traditional Secret Cults in the pre-colonial adult societies.

As far back as 1952, the Pirates Confraternity was formed at the University of Ibadan. Records show that it dominated the University Scene in the country for about twenty years, fighting against all forms of injustice on campus particularly check-mating the students' union tendencies. It was a pride at that time to belong to the Pirates, such that the University of Ibadan registered them as a Student Confraternity.

Then in 1960 another group known as "Eiye Confraternity" emerged in the same University of Ibadan and was consequently registered by the University Authority as a cultural association to preserve the Yoruba culture as regards the traditional ways of healing and making things happen spiritually.

Then came the Buccaneers Confraternity again registered at the University of Ibadan. They all set very high academic and social standards for their members. Failure in one course meant automatic expulsion from the Confraternities. Ibrahim borrowing facts from Adigwu's research publication on Cultism in Nigerian University disclosed that from the records at the University of Ibadan, "the bulk of First Class and Second Class Upper Honors students were usually found among these groups of students. He claimed that all the first seven founders of Buccaneers rounded up as Ph.D. holders, seventeen more members hold Ph.D. in their various fields while two hundred and fifty hold Master's degrees and about seven hundred and ninety First degree holders and 78 lawyers".

It is on records that both Pirates and Eiye Confraternities existed peacefully in the Universities. There were no records of violence as they socialized freely with fellow students and maintained respectable "Partnership" with the authorities in matters relating to students welfare. But, already, at that time, there was the aura of fear about the confraternities' members, maybe, because their meetings were

held deep in the nights. With time, the confraternities became emboldened to the extent that they posted notices on University notice boards alerting the community of their nocturnal meetings and warning students to remain indoors for a given time that their meeting would last. And behold, students obeyed!

Then came the student's government election of 1975/76 session earlier mentioned. The contestants for the stool of the students union President were very strong candidates who each controlled large followership. The campus became very heated and charged. Looming fracas was palpable in the atmosphere. Then, a notice came out for all students to assemble at a Hall of the University for a crucial meeting on the state of the campus. The hall was full to the brim. Suddenly, for the first time in broad day light Pirate Confraternity members came out in their very fearful red regalia, surrounded the hall and brought out the two contestants. They ordered election right there on the spot by show of hands as opposed to the usual ballot box process. A president emerged and the candidates signed the result sheet to indicate their acceptance.

Naturally, the primary concern of the students at that moment could no longer be who would win the elections but how to escape from the hall! Elections over, the self-imposed umpires, the Pirates ordered a peaceful filing out of the hall, each student straight to the hostel. Thus, the Pirates helped to douse the campus tension but also, in a way took over the responsibility for security and order on campus right before the University Administration! But things have since changed! Jekayinfa (2008) submitted that there are many types of cults in Nigeria tertiary Institutions nowadays.

The Black Axe Movement emerged from the University of Benin in 1982. The Maphites aka Seafarers from the University of Ife, The Vikings from the University of Jos also started as Seafarers but with no proper definition or character. Other cult groups in the Universities now include Family Mafia, the Dragon, the Belf Boys, the Red Fox, the Klaman, the Jurists, etc. Offiong (1999) claimed that there are about thirty six different cult groups now in the Nigerian campuses. The females are not left behind, they have Daughters of Jazebel, the Black Bra, The Virgins and the Amazon. Unlike the earlier Confraternities, the cults in the campuses now are always in fierce conflict with rival groups and they always strive to undo each other. From the works of Ibrahim, some of the recorded evils unleashed on the Universities' Campuses by the Cults are:

- Illegal Possession of fire arms
- Drug Abuse
- Violent crimes like armed robbery
- Illicit Sexual Escapades
- Killing of innocent students, academic and non-academic staff,
- Arson, rape, extortion, threats, physical attacks, kidnapping, blackmail and other inhuman practices.
- Factional struggle as war of supremacy culminating in bloody clashes among the cult groups.
- -Inter cult clashes involving Black Axe, Vicking, Buccaneers, The Pirates Confraternity (PC) and the Mafia etc. Thus, the Universities, created for the acquisition of knowledge and development of minds have become war zones where cult groups unleash terror in the University Community. Fajana (1999) enumerated some of the menace of the secret cults in our institutions of higher learning thus:

- In 1997, at the University of Benin, the Secretary General of the Student's Union was killed by cult members when the students gathered to discuss on commercialization and rationalization of courses.
 - 2. The Principal Assistant Registrar of the Delta State University. Mr. Peter Otobo was murdered in cold blood by cultists over issues bordering on school administration.
 - 3. Mr. Ileoje, the head of dept. at the Institute of Technology (IMT) Enugu, was shot in his office by a female cult member early in 1997.
 - 4. Again in 1997, a final year Banking and Finance Student of Ondo state University, Ado Ekiti(OSOA) was killed for defection. He was murdered in his hostel after renouncing cultism.

- 5. On July 10, 1999 seven undergraduates of the Obafemi Awolowo University (OAU) Ife, were murdered in cold blood in their sleep by several cult members from within and outside the campus.
- 6. At the University of Ibadan, the Chief Security Officer was brutally killed by Cult members in the presence of his wife and children.
- 7. In the past few years, the University of Ilorin, Olabisi Onabanjo University, University of Calabar have witnessed serious conflagration as a result of cultism.
- 8. On 18th December 2013, some suspected cultists attacked and killed Dr. Segun Onabanjo, a Senior Lecturer in the Dept. of Sociology of Olabisi Onabanjo (OOU), Ago Iwoye, Ogun State in his house.

MORE RECENT INCIDENTS

In recent times, death resulting from kidnapping and demands for ransom has crawled into the University Campuses.

- •In September 2011, Dr. Tunji Akinlabi a lecturer in the Dept. of Meteorology of the Federal University of Technology, Akure was kidnapped. N15 million ransom was demanded.
- •On 16th march 2013, Dr. Ime Udotons a female lecturer in the Dept. of Biochemistry was kidnapped by gunmen. She was later released but records did not show if ransom was paid.
- •Prof. James Bolarinwa Olowo of Nuclear Physics Dept. OAU, Ile Ife lodged into Hotel Farlem in Eket, Akwa-Ibom State on 17th October 2013, and three days after, he was kidnapped. Ironically, he was kidnapped ten years earlier and later released. His surname "Olowo" in Yoruba Language means "Rich Man"!

MORE RECENT INCIDENTS

- cont'd

- •On 3rd of March 2015, Mrs. Awala George a lecturer in the University of Port Harcourt was kidnapped but later freed by police operation eight days after the abduction.
- •On 3rd of April 2015 Mrs. Hamdallah Ettu, wife of a lecturer in the Dept. of Biology Tai Solarin University of Education, Ijebu Ode was kidnapped. She regained her freedom after a N20 million ransom was paid.
- •On Saturday 9th of May 2015, Dr. Femi Omisore, a lecturer in the Dept. of Environmental Design of Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile Ife was kidnapped at Oye Ekiti in a violent circumstance that left his driver dead and his car bullet-riddled. Dr. Omisore was lucky as he was later rescued by Vigilantes at Esure, Ekiti State along with nine other captives.
- •On 16th June 2015, Dr. Paul Erie an Associate Professor in the Dept. of Agric Economics and extension of Ambrose Alli University, Ekpoma Edo State was kidnapped. A N50 million ransom was demanded by the abductors which was later reduced into N12 million. Ransom was paid but Dr. Erie never made it back home alive. His decomposing body was later exhumed by the police detectives from a shallow grave in a forest at Orhionwon in Edo State after 105 days that he was abducted.
- •On 18th May 2016, five lecturers of Ekiti State University were rounded up and abducted at gun point by kidnappers. They demanded for N210 million ransom. Two of the lecturers were later released to go and source funds.
- Distinguished ladies and gentlemen, the list is endless!

INCURSIVE THREATS

The Universities don't exist in isolation! From the ownership of the University to the staff, the students, and even those who benefit from the location of the Institutions such as traders, transporters, food vendors, photocopier operators, book sellers and book binders, they are part of the Nigerian Society. The Universities themselves have neighboring communities that are members of the public.

INCURSIVETHREATS

This goes to justify the concept of "the gown and the town" which simply implies that the university is an integral part of the larger society, as such it should not be a surprise that every good thing or every bad thing in the society will try to manifest in the university as well.

INCURSIVE THREATS

cont'd

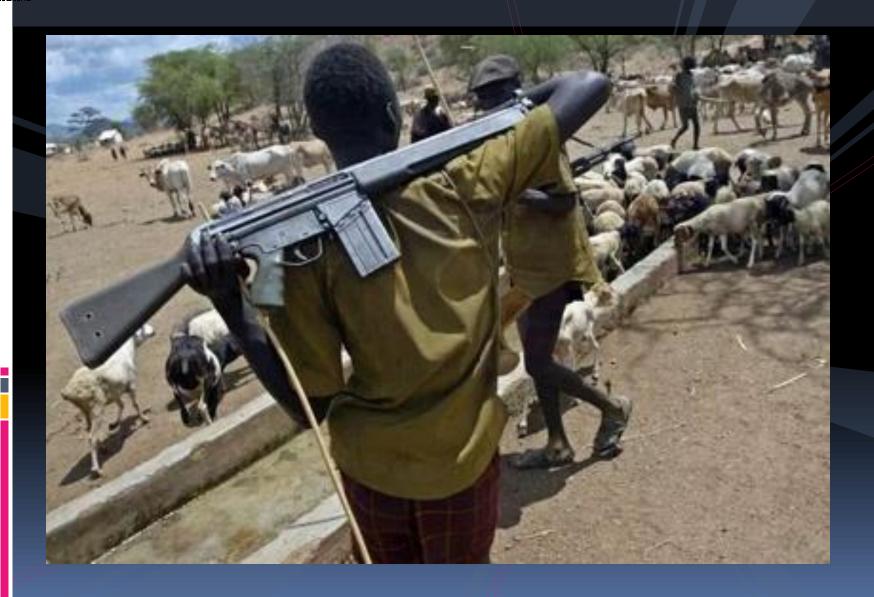
Thus, security challenges that are externally induced have to do with how the institution's security is affected by neighbours, local communities, politics, students-transport-workers relationship, police and other security agencies relationship with the institutions, government policies, availability of public utilities (water, light, roads, etc).

- Student-community clashes
- Police-student clashes
- Non-fulfillment of agreements between government and universities
- Attempts by politicians to use students during electioneering
- Terrorism
 - Boko Haram
 - Herdsmen
 - Kidnappers
 - General state of insecurity in our society

BOKO HARAM



HERDSMEN



KIDNAPPERS



GENERAL STATE OF INSECURITY



HOUSE OF HORROR: PHOTOS (1): One of the rescued victims kidnapped from Edo State since 2008.

(2) Another victim in the throes of death. (3) Some of the recovered skulls (4) The house of horror, an abandoned warehouse at Soka, Ibadan, on Saturday. PHOTOS: TOMMY ADEGBITE

GENERAL STATE OF INSECURITY



18 Human Heads In Possession Of Man Arrested By Police In Ogun State

GENERAL STATE OF INSECURITY



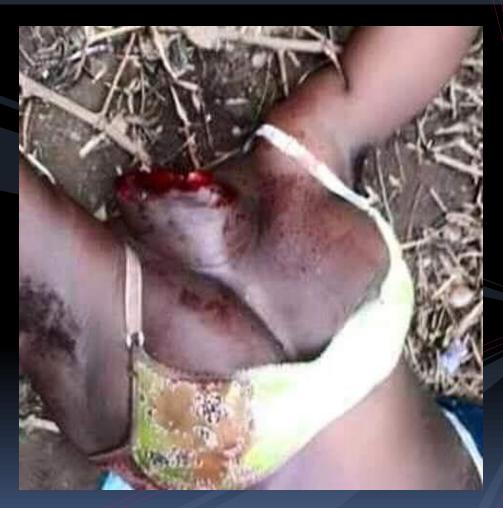
A decomposing human body at the "Dungeon of death", Soka Site, Ibadan

GENERAL STATE OF INSECURITY



Election Ritual Killing: Girl Beheaded at Akwa Ibom State (Very Disturbing Photo)

GENERAL STATE OF INSECURITY





WHERE DID WE MISS IT?

- Too much students' involvement in the administration of the universities
- 2. Lack of Security Awareness Education
- 3. Unbridled Human Traffic on Campus
- 4. Lack of Sufficient Financial Support
- 5. Non- Professionalization of the Security Department
- 6. The Open Gaps

A veritable concept of security is "Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design, (CPTED). The Security Consultant and the architect are meant to work together at the drawing board of a project, building together the preventive strategies to delay, deter and detect challenges into the physical structures up to the offices occupied by Top Executives.

This is quickly followed by the Security Policy, in the cases of large estates, public offices and big organizations like the Universities.

The Security Policy is a wisdom futuristic document that envisages far ahead of time, the various types of risk that could possibly manifest in an organization taking into consideration,

the nature of business and its environment of operation and develop roles ab-initio for both the players and the stake holders to mitigate the attendant risks. In this document, the university will clearly spell out how it wants to relate with the neighboring communities and the immediate larger society, the students, the workers, the traders, and all those who seek opportunities within the University daily.

Preparing a security policy is not a function of one man or one department alone. The consequent policy affects everybody and as such everybody has to be taken into consideration and be carried along. For example, in a university setting, all the unions have a role to play, all residents in the staff quarters have to be taken into confidence, and the University Administration must firmly take its stand on certain matters. Once decisions are made, the security policy becomes supreme to which all must then submit.

Distinguished ladies and gentlemen, again, in the course of preparing for this interface, I searched for, and I didn't find 'many' security policies in our Universities. I have used the word 'many' most cautiously, for the fear of being immodest. The absence of Security Policy in a University portends some chaos in the waiting.

For example, every Chief Security Officer that comes into the university falls back to the background from where he was employed in executing his roles. I remember the case of a CSO in a University who came from the background of command structure. He had a face-off with the students barely one week after he was employed. With the aid of his team of operatives, he managed to grab five of the offensive students. And to him, they needed to be disciplined. He subjected them to "frog jump". The students who managed to escape ran to the Students' Union Executive to tell the story of how their colleagues were being

subjected to frog jump at the front of the security office and in no time, a multitude of students descended on the security office, not only to rescue their colleagues but also to subject the CSO himself to frog jump for about 20 minutes before the Students Affairs Officer was alerted and he consequently rescued the CSO and contained the potential danger. Of course, the CSO having done "Frog Jump" at the command of the students instantly lost his authority on the campus and he had to resign five days after. There is a feeling in security circle that if he had been handed a Security Policy, when he assumed duty, he probably would have known that the University Administration has an inclusive disposition towards the students and "frog jump" could not have been part of it.

THE NARRATIVE SO FAR

Ladies and gentlemen, from all the narratives so far, I dare say that, specifically, all we need to do, to keep the threats in the Universities away, or at least, keep them at minimal level are:

- 1. Prevent the undesirable elements from coming into our campuses either as students, staff, traders or visitors in any form.
- 2. Where they are already inside and amongst us, then, prevent them from manifesting their nefarious and deadly tendencies before they are detected.
- 3. Again, where they are already with us, we must identify them and flush them out with punitive measures. FINISH!!!

But these specific tasks, though not insurmountable, are not easy to achieve especially when the bad elements have come in and manifesting.



OUR ENEMIES

OUR OPERATIVES





Chairman Mao, the great Chinese leader of blessed memory was categorical in his submission that war is a continuation of peace, he who wants peace must be fully prepared for war ... People leave you in peace when they know that you are capable of prosecuting your own war.

Best practice in security connotes best staffing, best operational rules, best technological aids, best funding and best management which combined together will give best results.

RECOMMENDATIONS cont'd













RECOMMENDATIONS Cont'd

Much as the economic recession will affect the funding programmes in the university, security should still be given some priorities. It is in view of this that I wish to recommend that:

- 1. Each University should develop its own Security Policy to which all should submit, as far as security on campus is concerned.
- 2. Each university should endeavor to professionalize its security department by appropriate staffing and equipment.

Cont'd

3. Much as students are being encouraged to acquire sound leadership skills by

inclusion in the affairs of the universities, the time to redefine the extent of student's position seems to be overdue.

4. The security department should organize regular security awareness programmes for all stakeholders and players alike who live or work in the university, even up to the domestic servants as they also have vital roles to play in the security of residential areas.

Cont'd

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Cont'd

5. The letters of the Federal Government White Paper on religious activities on

university campus should be respected and strictly observed.

6. Efforts should be stepped up in the acquisition of more modern security

technological aids to support the performance of the security department.

7. The governments (Federal & State), other owners of the Universities and the industries should show more economic concern in matters of campus security as the universities alone cannot possibly fund all the emerging demands this regard.

Cont'd

8. As part of the requirements for establishing new Universities in Nigeria, Promoters should show acceptable evidence of how they intend to protect the Universities right from the beginning. Of course, Security Policy should be one of the prime documents. It is easier to establish Security Order right from the beginning than to cope with Security Challenges in the future. It is noteworthy here that many of the new Universities now acquire big expanse of land far away from the township where they can receive immediate help from the public security in the hour of need especially at night.

RECOMMENDATIONS Cont'd

9. As members of one family, The University, we tell ourselves the truth. Most unnecessarily, in many of our institutions, there appears to be issues of emotional intelligence between the security leaderships on one hand and the University Administrators on the other. Truly, it may appear that a Security Chief, worth his salt, whether in the Military, in the Public Service, in the Corporate World or in the University services, will naturally get attention at the existing corridors in the system. But that should end there! Prudence dictates that the best result of the Head of Security still remains a Work In Progress (WIP) for the University Administration. Let us connect emotionally and close the gaps in the overall interest of Security.

IN CONCLUSION

Distinguished ladies and gentlemen, please permit me to borrow the words of Hillary Clinton when she was chosen as the First Female Flag Bearer for the Democratic Party of America. Fighting tears, she said "What a great honour you have done onto me".

THANK YOU



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