PEACE AND SECURITY: CATALYST FOR DEVELOPMENT IN UNIVERSITIES

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Introduction

Within the ecosystem of universities, peace and security are important and needed variables towards driving development. Peace and Security should be adequately provided to ensure the students and the com unities have the sense of safety and therefore enhances learning and the needed development can come to bear in universities in Nigeria. Peace, security and development act as tripod because development in universities will be a mirage without peace and security.

Operationalisation of concepts

Peace, security, and development are independent yet interdependent concepts that are often dynamic. **Peace** in its simplest sense is the absence of structural conflict and insecurity. **Security** on the other hand is the absence of social, economic, political, psychological and environmental threats while **development** is the improvement in a country's economic, political and social conditions of living. **Development** is perceived as the result of the social relationship between peace and security

Operationalisation Cont'd

Peace is a state of harmony in the absence of hostility and violence. Socially, peace is used as absence of conflict and freedom from fear of attack between individual or groups. **Security** is the act of securing lives and properties from harm or potential danger. **Development** is a process of qualitative and quantitative growth, progress, positive change or the additive of physical, economic, environmental, social and demographic components

Relationship between peace security and development

 Peace and Security Enable Development

 Development Fosters Peace and Security

 Conflict Impedes Development

 Development Enhances Resilience to Conflict

Dimension to Peace, Security and Development

- National Security
- Human security
- Cyber security
- Institutional security

- Social peace
- Political peace
- Economic peace
- Environmental peace
- Psychological peace

- Economic development
- Social development
- Human development
- Sustainable development

Theoretical framework

One theory that cuts across peace and security in the development of universities is the concept of "positive peace" and its relationship to sustainable development by Johan Galtung 1964. Positive peace refers to the absence of structural violence and the presence of justice, equality, and well-being within a society. Universities plays several roles in ensuring positive peace such as

❑ Education and Research,

❑ Capacity building

❑ Policy and advocacy

❑ Community engagement

❑ Cross-cultural exchange

Towards ensuring peace, security, and development in Nigerian universities

Universities are thriving hubs of knowledge, creativity, and intellectual development. Prioritizing peace, security, and development within these institutions is crucial if one is to create a supportive and forward-thinking academic atmosphere.

Students from all backgrounds come together in the learning environment of the educational institution to gather knowledge for progress. Every pupil must be able to learn in such an environment free from intimidation, threats, terror, and other negative elements

Towards ensuring peace, security, and development in Nigerian universities cont'd

❑ Safety measures
❑ Mental health and well-being
❑ Gender-based violence prevention
❑ Conflict resolution and mediation
❑ Community engagement
❑ Cultural diversity and inclusivity:
❑ Student involvement
❑ Emergency preparedness:
❑ Monitoring and Evaluation of policies for possible review

Conclusion

Universities play an important role in the development of society at large. Universities can become walls of good change, fostering tolerance, sustainability, and social justice, by cultivating a culture of peace and security. Universities that place a strong emphasis on the principles of peace and security provide students with a better educational experience while also advancing knowledge, creativity, and responsible citizenship which are the ingredients to driving development in any society.

Recommendations

❏ Proper orientation on the importance of peace and the need to embrace peace in academic, social, religious areas of life to bring about the needed development.

❏ Life should attract sacred emphasis while religious, political, ethnic intolerance should be discouraged to foster unity and ensue development

❏ The culture of paying attention to ones environment should be promoted. Suspicious movement should be reported to university authority for immediate attention

❏ Emergency apparatus should be put in place to immediately arrest impending crisis. Apparatus such as fire extinguisher, ambulance and so on

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