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**SECURITY IN NIGERIA**

Security is a very important concept in our lives which we can’t do without; even God in heaven knows this because, He protects his children from every form of evil that wants to harm them. Without security, humanity is finished because, there are lots of human beings who are out there looking for who to devour. Security mostly refers to protection from hostile forces, but it has a wide range of other senses: For example, as the absence of harm (e.g. freedom from want); as the presence of an essential good (e.g. food security); as resilience against potential damage or harm (e.g. secure foundations); as containment (e.g. emotional security). The term is also used to refer to acts and systems whose purpose may be to provide security (e.g. security companies, security forces or security guard). Some of the areas that I am going to lay emphasis on are the meaning of security, the importance of security, the importance of security, their disadvantages, some security agencies and what they do.

However, defining security is not an easy matter, since the term has had many different meanings to people in different places and different times over the course of human history. As my topic entails, security in terms of protection of lives and property by the help of ourselves and other specialized agents of security who help to protect the country. Basically, security in a simple sense means safety, as well as the measures taken to be safe or protected. This definition above is very simple to understand, but let me shed more light on it. In Nigeria today, a lot of us all think that it is the government that has all the responsibility in the role of security, but that’s not true. We must all take part in security because that’s how it is meant to be. Although the Nigerian government provides security, there can’t be hundred percent of security in the country because we as citizens of the country have to participate in our own security.

We have lots of importance of security in the country. One of them is for survival because an insecure country can’t survive as a free and self – respecting member of the comity of Nation: A nation that can’t secure its borders and vital national interest will always feel threatened, exploited, dominated or worse. A nation that can’t secure itself against internal security threats will have no peace, law and order, unity integrity or development. In Nigeria, we also have internal enemies too. Take for example, Bokoharam. The Nigerian government through its security has been trying its best to hold down the Bokoharam. Without this security provided, we all would have been dead by now in this country.

Everything that has an advantage or importance, must also have an adverse effect or disadvantage. Now, this security of a thing has few disadvantages in Nigeria. Take for example, the Nigerian Police officer is given authority by the Nigerian government over citizens of Nigeria to arrest or punish the offenders of the law. Now, these Nigerian Police officers, can use this authority for their selfish and greedy interest. What I’m trying to say is that they collect bribes from the offenders and nonoffenders. If the citizens don’t want to give them the bribe, the Police officer can shoot them or even portray violent behaviors on them and this is a very horrible thing to do. This doesn’t only happen in Nigeria, but the whole world as a whole. There are series of news that have been popping on in the news.

There are different major Government security Agencies in Nigeria and their functions will be explained as they are listed. The State Security Service (SSS), also known as the Department of State Service (DSS) is the primary domestic intelligence agency of Nigeria. Its primary function is intelligence gathering within the country and protecting senior government officials such as the President and state Governors. The Nigeria Security and Civil Defense (NSCDC) is also a security agency which has the mandate to maintain peace and order and to safe the civil society during period of emergency such as war and terrorism. They check mate vandalism of facilities owned by government such as Power Holding Company of Nigeria (PHCN) electric wire cable. We also have Nigerian Police Force (NPF) which is saddled with the responsibility of maintaining laws and order in the society. They ensure that the laws of the government are implemented and defaulters arrested and prosecuted. A lot of persons call them “men in black”. They patrol in cases of burglary or armed robbery attacks. They are part of national securities that investigates and ensure that criminals are clamped down. They also perform some military duties mostly during the period of civil unrest and war when they are sent for peace keeping in affected areas.

The Defense Intelligence Agency (DIA) operates as the country’s military intelligence agency. It was founded in 1986 and the Defense Intelligence Agency is responsible for providing the necessary means of obtaining military intelligence on behalf of the Ministry of Defense. Apart from the security agencies mentioned above, we also have another one called the Nigerian Army. The Nigerian Army are the ground or better still, the land division of the Nigerian Armed Forces. They have the highest population and operate based on orders, discipline and hierarchy.

In conclusion, we have all seen the importance of security in our country. Without security, the country will be in chaos. We have also learnt that we have a role in the playing of security, in order to make the work of the government simpler.