

# **Sports, Emotional Security, Integration and Peace: A Cue from the Non-Participation of Nigerian National Football Teams at Mundials**

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*The importance of sports is yet again emphasized as a factor in national peace and security as emotions rise at the non-qualification of the national football teams' for international competitions. The qualitative research done by observation and oral interview in three cities of Nigeria, - Ibadan, Ijebu-ode and Lagos among football viewers in pay-per-view centers (PPC), examined emotion towards the sport (football), as the citizens' valued object and its relations with peace and national integration. It was revealed that due to the government's failure to prompt development and social stability, emotional insecurity, distrust, discontent and loss of confidence on national government was generated. The study identified four types of emotional expressions in the viewers of PPC - the most vocal, tagged the "hyper-plosive", the "vocal-plosive", the quiet, docile, and the most-quiet - the docile-plosive. These expressions stressed the possibility of emotion against the government and its leadership. The pain of the national team's absence served as the citizens' emotion elicitor and a reminder of discontentment over the Government's failure in other spheres of national development. The grudge conceived against the government was observed to be hidden in a silent conflict. The sport was however recommended as a veritable mean for "emotion building" and peace building, which at the end leads to national integration and peace.*

## **Introduction**

Sport has been emphasized as a positive strategy in realizing economic development, nation building and post-conflict peacebuilding (Lyras 2007, Thibault 2009, UN 2005, 2003). It had been used as a means for providing a contact-platform for interaction between divergent ethnic groups (Asagba and Majaro-Majesty 2008). It is also a strategy (essentially for popular sports) for youth development and integration into a new cultural consciousness for peace (Concernusa.Org 2007, Diallo 2007, UN 2007, Macfalena 1985). What determines the popularity of a particular kind of sport is not known. What is known is that it raises emotions, and inspires people of diverse groups to sit together, view, cheer and interact (Asagba 2003). These matches draw the attention of citizens (of all ages and gender) to the stadium and television, public places, bars, viewing centers and living rooms of neighbours, to cheer their national teams not minding existing ethnic differences. Conversely, not qualifying for international competitions means nothing to cheer about and less contact created (at that platform) for citizens to sit together to share hope in one

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nation and one "peoplehood" (Gordon 1964). When national teams are featured in international competitions, the importance of sportsmanship and fair play are often overloaded with national interest and ego. National support and international politics are often brought to the fore of the game at mundials, which indicates to individual citizens, their national pride, ego and emotional security. This means that popular sports will have more influence in post-conflict peace building than less popular sports. In Africa, the world and indeed Nigeria, football or soccer is the most popular of all other sports. Earlier, research on the influence of European football support in Nigeria revealed football's capacity to integrate divergent people, considering the avenue created for members of different ethnic groups to meet and develop new friendships across culture, class and politics at pay-per-view cafes (PPC) (Majaro-Majesty 2010). The emotion towards fellow club supporters not minding what ethnic group one belonged to signified a new kind of ethnicity. Evidence from this showed that Nigerians may be influenced greatly by football/sports.

The year, 2012, (The time of this study) presented the right situation required to assess the significance of football/sport in a multi-ethnic nation like Nigeria with ethno-communal and religious crises. This period coincided with the Boko Haram Islamic militant attack on government facilities, ethnic conflicts in Jos, and the nation-wide strike mobilized by the Nigeria Labour Congress over the removal of subsidy on the petroleum pump price sold locally. A rise in the citizen's anxiety over the state of the nation, renewed the national question, should Nigeria still stay on as a corporate entity or disintegrate according to ethnic lines of Hausa, Igbo and Yoruba or should it restructure, giving more powers to the regions? Included was the fast increasing economic hardship, caused by political corruption and brigandage, affecting citizens' trust in the leadership. Amidst all these, Nigeria's national teams, both the Super Eagles and the other teams' categories' did not qualify for international final competitions. The questions, sufficing from these are; Would the non-participation of Nigeria's National football team in the 2012, African Nations Cup and other football competition in the year 2012, influence national peace and Unity? How would viewing other national teams competing in the African Nation's Cup fill the gap to inspire citizens' emotional security, peace and unity and integration?

### **National Integration, Security and Peace**

Nigeria is probably the most complex multi-ethnic nation (Nnoli 1989) in the world with 397 ethnic groups (Otite 2000). Its ethnic relations have been poor (Osaghae 1994, Ibeanu 1992), considering the numerous communal violence and conflict against the national government, causing an effect on national integration (Albert 2001, Ake 1985) according to Alemika and Okoye (2002). Ethnic groups had in the past been mobilized for self-determination against their ethnic neighbors and regions that threatened to secede declining

their poor status in the unpopular federal arrangement (Ake et al. 1996). The rate of political corruption and the insensitivity of leaders to economic development and other social and physical infrastructure development are elicitors, of the ethnic crisis and national disintegration. With this, the dare need for a reasonable strategy for peace and unity is therefore understandable. National security depends on peace and unity, and the integration of all ethnic groups. Integration is possible with national security, meanwhile the definition of what security is, is avoided, causing scholars and writers to present different perspectives. The interest on this subject is increasing. As Baldwin (1997), puts it "redefining "security" has recently become something of a cottage industry". Baldwin advised that a contextual meaning must be clarified to afford the better usage of the word. Security is also multi-directional, or at least a two way street. This refers to the benefactor and the beneficiary. It is retributive. Its cause and effect, relates to all involved in accordance with the principle of "what you give is what you get".

Security is gained by the provider just as the receiver or beneficiary. Security is guaranteed by interacting groups who affect each other. For instance, the police who provide security over life and properties also expect job security from citizens and government. In the same vein, government, as the provider of national security would require legitimacy from the citizens. National security is multi-directional because it becomes impossible to speak of national security without speaking of economic, health, social security and environmental security and so on. Social security relates more to the objective of this paper. It refers to the satisfaction of citizens over some social interest, which involves and includes sports. In multi-ethnic nations, the term integration is most appropriately used to describe a state where ethnic groups' secure partnership with others to form one nation. In this context, national security serves three categories of beneficiaries: The Government, who is saddled with the function of coordinating national unity and progress; the constituting ethnic groups that contribute resources for the collective well-being of the nation and the individuals as the end beneficiaries.

It is empirically true that a nation's pursuit for security is sometimes at variance with that of individual citizens (Baldwin 1997). The problem between citizens and national government's pursuit for social security is hung on understanding the concept and its practical value, which it seeks to protect. While the government releases security as policy objectives, groups and individuals evaluate security against their values and goals. Any inhibition to obtaining these two factors, stipulate threat to security at that level. Wolfers' (1952) characterization of "security as the absence of threat to acquired values" comes in handy. Individuals, State and Ethnic groups have values, which may include physical safety, economic welfare, autonomy, psychological well-being, the right to sexual expression, wealth and political representation, protection of language and ancestral religion, identity and so on (Schaefer 2010). One value object, which ties the national policy objective with individual's values is the psychological value reaped in emotions. The emotional attachment to any valued object reveals the relationship between the

individual and the object. It explains the reason for feeling insecure when the government fails to attend to the citizens' value. Meanwhile psychologists believe that emotion is different from rational thought, not as information acquired or stored in memory (Davis and Palladino 2005, Plutchik 1993, Edwards 1998). Emotion is defined here as the deepest true feeling of an individual towards certain objects, which may be social, physical and even abstract. Emotion has three components physiological, cognitive, and behavioural (Rathus 2004, Carlson and Hartfield 1992).

Social objects in my opinion are objects which value elicits, improve, or promote human interaction. This may be feelings shown towards man-kind and animals, and other objects either physical or abstract which have symbolic significance and representation in social interaction shared, observed and appreciated (value object). Physical objects may be plants, land, hills, houses as long as they are of some value to a person, or group. Abstract objects are celestial factors imaginary objects, which are to a religion valued objects, for instance, angels, demons, ancestors, God and heaven etc. The assumption here is that Love for one's national government may turn into hate when national policies and performance do not secure his/her social valued object. In our context social valued objects are sports, like football, car racing, horse racing, basketball, and so on. In the same vein, an individuals' love for his/her nation is expected to drive him/her to support national policies, when social satisfaction is derived. In view of this, a citizen's positive emotion; credits and secures governance and national integration. Where citizens feel safe and secured, there are no forms of threat or challenges towards their corporate entity called "nation". National security therefore depends on the sustenance and maintenance of collective emotion towards, social and physical valued objects. National integration is secured when the nation's safety from disintegration is guaranteed by the individual citizen's continued collective positive feelings towards it.

Integration is indeed a concept with very high patronage by scholars and writers on nation building and peace building. National integration has two levels, - horizontal and vertical. The later refers to the relationship between higher and lower political units, social classes and so on. The former refers to the relationship between guilds, religious groups, cultural and national groups and associations (Awa 1983). Awa identified three approaches for examining this concept. First, is the structural approach, which explains that a system of interaction must evolve to improve the relationship between groups? The second is the cultural approach, which identifies' the need for citizens to evolve and abide by a cultural and normative pattern. Tolerance and acceptance of difference are stressed that at the individual level they must show commitment and contribution in the political system while freedom of choice is upheld (Seymour 1976). The Marxian approach to national integration examines the integration's objective and its expectation, which according to Onimode (1983) at the minimum is to place national interests above ethnic, religious and other primordial and class interests, to ensure the quality participation of all ethnic nationalities or groups in order to eliminate national

oppression, and to mobilize a national will for the pursuit of carefully articulated national goals, common destiny and civilization. As a new orientation and consciousness, expectation on individual citizens to drop, exclusive interest, to accept and bear the new inclusive interest, with love, and solidarity. This new orientation and expectation requires compatriots to bear patriotic burdens, which are emotion laden. The emotional attachment of an individual to his nation is generated through the feeling of joint ownership. These three approaches, show that citizens coming together to operate under an established system of interaction, under agreed norms and culture, extolled above diversity and locality is the evidence of integration. Sport/Football therefore as a symbolic culture which attracts participation of all governments, citizens and sportsmen/women to a common goal and objective moves to achieve unity and peace.

The sustenance of peace and unity (integration) is however dependent on the government's security of citizens' emotion and manipulation social valued objects to elicit hope and faith and come for the nation. This refers to sport's role in nation building. Citizens' continuous positive emotions towards common solidarity is the odious task often failed by national governments' functionaries, that are sometimes disappointing, hurting the feeling of citizens. This situation is substantiated in Wilsons (1983) theory of relative deprivation, which describes the effect of a negative discrepancy between legitimate expectations and actualities. The theory asserts that where citizens' values are not met, over a time, rising expectation - increased the sense of frustration sets in on citizens' emotion. This causes emotional insecurity, describing and determining citizens' reactions to the government's insensitivity towards their valued object. There are political, social, and economic means to generating individual citizen's positive emotions. As will be reviewed below, National security is as well equitable with emotional security.

### **Sports, as an Agent for Peace and Emotional Security**

Two concepts, have elicited the understanding of peace, these are Negative and Positive peace (Jeong 2000, International Alert 1996, Wenden 1995). The former describes peace as the absence of war or direct physical violence, which describes silence as peace. Meanwhile, silent and non-violent activity may be gained through suppression, subtle punishments and harsher laws. Positive peace queries peace where there is structural oppression. Positive peace is only obtainable with the development of Just and equitable conditions associated with the elimination of in-egalitarian social structure (Galtung 1969). Equality is considered a social and legal right, and as a means and goal of positive peace (Boutros-Ghali 1992, Nelburg 1989).

This concept of peace as the promotion of egalitarian society, where equity and justice is present, supports our discourse on sport's role in national peace, security and integration. It demands the value of sport in the social well-being of the people. The providence of sport is the egalitarian element (equality and

common rights) situation that it creates. This is the same element, which a community and nation, must possess as a vital condition for achieving peace. Sport especially football does not discriminate, amongst class and ethnics. Instead it equalizes all and promotes social balance, by helping to engender egalitarianism. Conflict may be promoted through structural insensitivity instituting what, in this paper, is called silent conflict. For sport loving citizens the insensitivity of Government and failures in social contract may institute a silent conflict.

Coakley (1994) sees sports as satisfying some intrinsic and extrinsic values, by which participants are rewarded. As we focus on national integration, the United Nations (2003) provide the definition most suiting for this paper; "all forms of physical activity that contributes to physical fitness, mental well-being and social interaction". This definition identifies for us the social value of sports as an activity that pulls people to interact. Would this mean that only sport men and women gain interaction? Fans and spectators also gain intrinsic and extrinsic values through recreation (Wuest and Bucher 1999, Mull et al. 1997) pleasure (Majaro-Majesty 2008) and leisure. Spectators, (citizens) gather together on the platform of sport, forming a symbolic identity - a sub-culture that draws people from different cultures or better put, surmounting cultural boundaries, to make possible a plane ground for all-inclusiveness. Majaro-Majesty (2008) captures the benefits of sports as:

*... Create space for people to meet and interact. Secondly, create atmosphere in which friendship and better understanding between two divergent ethnic groups/communities are acquired through frequent contacts. Third, they help break enemy identity (given to members of ethnic group/communities in conflict or former adversaries). Sports (e.g. football) have the ability to create pleasure from enjoyment, and with it create the avenue for people to interact and access each other in open communication and common activity (pp. 205-206).*

This supports the social contact theory of interaction, that prejudice is reducible through contact (Schaefer 1976). When sport loving people from diverse groups and cultures gather it provides a pleasant situation for reassessing divergence and prejudice. Sport for this reason has been accepted as an agent for peace (Butty 2007). Majaro-Majesty (2010) concludes that football followership may create the passion and emotional attachment for people of like minds to interact across borders of ethnicity. Meanwhile peace described as order, harmony, and cooperation (Jeong 2000, Rummel 1981) incidentally describes security. Peace and security both share equality, justice and fundamental human rights as common features that ensure or encourage one to leave in a coherent community, or a united nation. Peace demanded by parties in conflict, when their aims, goals, and aspirations are divergent, but arriving at mutuality is not usually easy. Government in this context, as a major group (because they hold authority), and citizens, as a minority both have relative interest in sports, their interest does not mutually merge at all times.

Sport's capacity to pull emotional attachment and solidarity towards the national integration goal presents it as a symbolic culture. Borrowing from Gans (1997) the term symbolic ethnicity, football is a symbol of nationality, which no matter what ethnic group one belongs to, success in sport especially in competitions is an accomplishment that citizens guide with pride. The passionate involvement of all ethnic groups, in debates and criticism, the share of pains and gains, cheering in jubilation and chanting of the goal!! When a goal is scored and a match is won, it describes a kind of ethnicity, of which all national are involved in. At this point of euphoria, citizens are not divided; they become a whole, whose actions and behaviour are regulated by a sub-culture. Football loving fans and citizens may be regarded as an Ethnic group (Majaro-Majesty, 2010). Meanwhile, Williams James's concept of "Emotional Identification" describes this phenomenon, showing how things become part of our matured self; Sport/football becomes part of a citizen self-concept, being inseparable from it, where self-concept is the total sum of a person's thoughts and feelings that defines the self as an object (Franzoi 2000, Epstein 1983, Oysterman and Packer 1996).

Government's attention to sports/football will reap the benefit of citizens' keeping of faith and hope on national leadership under stringent economic and political situations. Citizens' strong self-concept with the nation is only evident through emotional attachment and solidarity. Nations, across the world have used their National Number - One Sports, to strengthen National goals, such as integration. Even in obvious circumstances of disintegration, sports have offered the restoration that Nations required for re-construction. Examples could be found in South - Africa, Liberia, and Sierra-Leone, Ivory Coast and so on. Nelson Mandela then President of South Africa integrated the indigenous Blacks with the whites, who operated the Apartheid regime against the former. He found the best strategy with Sports, so he hosted the Rugby World Cup. A sport for the White and the rich in South Africa and making it worse he pursued this goal adopting the Red-bok as the national team, (a team formerly known to be a white apartheid team) amidst criticism though. At the end, the spirit and hope for a new nation was reborn, with new aspirations for both Blacks and Whites. He continued to use this strategy with football, by hosting the African Nations Cup, and setting the agenda for hosting the Soccer World Cup. The achievement of these National Teams, the Red-bok and the Bafana-Bafana at international events sparked-up patriotic spirits, and love for their President and Nation.

There was war in Sierra-Leone; their football teams had great performance at the African and World Cup. There was dancing, and a carnival on the streets, forgetting the pains of war. This singular fit turned the nation around to achieve peace, redirecting the nation to pursue peace, and national integration. Ivory Coast, once described as the most peaceful nation in West Africa, was in a war situation, which coincided with the Africa Nations Cup. Their National Team, the Elephants of Cote de Voire (Ivory Coast) performing well, won the Nations Cup, and while jubilating; members of the team seized the opportunity to

address the Nation to embrace for peace and integration. This was greeted positively, enhancing peace talks and its eventual achievement.

### **Pay Per-View Café: A Platform for Integration and Security**

A Pay per-view café (PPC) is conceived here as any leisure place, - restaurant, café, recreation center where a token fee is paid to view special programs on the television. This includes football. There are restaurants which charge fees to admit any customer during World Cup events and the African cup of nations. Regular customers are recognized based on their patronage, while non-customers are admitted for patronage through the duration of the match telecast. There are real cafés which show the cable telecast of live sporting events, to viewers who cannot afford it. These cafés have thrived in Africa and Nigeria and have contributed in popularizing the European leagues and the followership it enjoys today. In PPC, viewers are presented with the opportunity to meet and form new associations, and make new friends at an individual level. For this reason it is a platform, which brings people of like minds and interest together, to share common burden - success or failure of their team. As a people they are out to see their team win, but when they loose, they are left with the emotional burden and the self-imposed responsibility to investigate loss and/or apportion blames.

A pay per-view café (PPC) is therefore a conscious or an unconsciously created natural place, where equality is extolled, and the views/opinion of all are welcomed. Freedom of speech dwells at the PPC, - a non-formal grouping, where anyone is allowed to air his/her view, whether its facts, rumors, or an observation. The ability of these cafes to generate opinions and incitements' is very high. It is on its own a power house for generating community and national resentments. Majaro-Majesty (2010) asserted that it is an avenue for a new kind of ethnicity to form. The significance of PPC to this study is immense, because it provides access to compatriots and a large number of nationals who cheer their national team. The question here therefore is how are emotions expressed in the PPC?

### **Research Questions**

In order to find the relevance of national football teams' achievement and appearance in international competitions and to reiterate the importance of sports in national development, in relation to integration; peace and security, the following research questions are extracted from above:

RQ.1: How is emotion expressed in PPC?

RQ.2: How would non-qualification of national teams affect National peace and unity?

RQ.3: Would viewing other national teams feature at international Mundial stand the gap to inspire peace and unity in a nation where their national team has not qualified?

RQ.4: How would emotional insecurity relate to national peace and integration?

## **Methodology**

The descriptive survey type carried out qualitatively through a careful observation, included citizens who patronized the PPC in Ojota - Lagos, Ibadan - Oyo state, Ijebu-Ode-Ogun state, Nigeria. Participants or study subjects were unsuspecting viewers at the PPC, who were observed in their natural state of emotions. Selected responses were purposively selected, as they suit the objective of the study. Subjects, or research subjects, interviewed were purposively selected based on their emotions revealed through actions and reactions, in cases where it is required for more probe to elicit real/true feeling over a subject of discourse. Clues for selecting the interviewees were generated by observing viewer's non-verbal expressions facial or mood swings when comments and statements were made by other viewers. Questions were tactically asked to involve identified subjects into the discussions and arguments. With these approaches Participants/research subjects were classified and stratified according to their level of emotions, extent of emotion migration, vocalized expression of emotions, and opinion over the non-qualification of national Teams at the Africa Nations cup, the nation's integration and government's leadership. The data collected elicited the speech, attitudes and behaviors, which expressed subject's real deep feelings of emotion towards the nation as a result of the Super Eagles' exclusion in the African Nations cup. Their feeling of insecurity and sense of peace were also observed and carefully codified and analyzed using content analysis.

## **Findings**

*RQ.1: How are emotions expressed at the pay per-view centers?*

During the observation, four types of viewers were identified and categorized according to how they expressed their emotions. These were the most vocal tagged the "hyper-plosive", the "vocal-plosive", (the quiet), docile, (the most-quiet) - the docile-plosive respectively. These four categories of viewers at the café were prominent in all the viewing centers used for the study. The hyper-plosive viewers easily expressed their emotion. They raised issues, asking sober questions which pointed at the government's deficiencies and their insensitivity. They freely gave information - claims backed-up with proof and those based on mere ear say and fathomed their personal understanding especially rising from how they felt. As if they led discussions,

they expressed embittered views loudly with sad looks and abuses, alleging the government of failures in sports, especially football. To ease their pain and disappointment sometimes the hyper-plosive resulted to mockery jokes, using the achievements of some of the competing teams as a reference.

Vocal-plosives were observed to be expressive of their emotions but with some control. Their bitterness and pain could not be easily designed through how they enjoyed the jokes. Although they made jests, they still tried to moderate some of the excessive abuses on Nigeria; their love for the country seems high and they tried to be as objective as possible. The vocal-plosives for these reasons were hard to differentiate from hyper-plosives but for the moderation and some decency in their comment, as well as their objective views and positive positions towards the nation. A further enquiry showed that the people from this emotional category was either accomplished or have something going for them or are influenced by some religious perspective. Arguments are sometimes ensued between this category and the hyper-plosives are based on some unguided talks.

The vocal-plosives usually find a balance in their arguments to encourage fellow viewers to have hope in the nation. They argue that every nation has their peculiar problems and that Nigeria's problem is not an exception. While hyper-plosives are hopeless the similarity between them and the Vocal-plosives is that they are both hurt about the state of the nation - continued failures and underdevelopment. Their concerns are however expressed differently - while the hyper-plosives expressed more pain, hate and faithlessness, the vocal-plosive express pain, disappointment, but are in love and faith, even though they have fear for the future. The former are reckless with their comments; the latter are modest, constructive about their criticism and careful about suggesting national disintegration as the option to solving the problems of national development.

Another category of viewers at the pay-per-view centers (PPC) were the "Docile" viewers. As indicated above, they are very quiet participants at the PPC. They seem to enjoy most of the comments and mockery jokes at the PPC. Somehow they are not overt in their emotions other than laughter and comment on rear occasions. Their pain, hate and hopelessness are concealed in their laughter and fun they seem to catch. It is observed that "Docile viewers" were either poor orator, who preferred to listen than to comment. The cheers and laughter were signs of support of opinion and position which reflect them. What distinguished this group is their resolve to survive through any means possible as they withdraw interest from collective benefit to personal interest.

The Docile-plosive, of all the other categories, are the quietest, even though they appear to be most pained and disappointed by the situation in the country. They hardly spoke. Their facial expressions, shaking of the head in disgust, hisses and folding of their arms across their chest (a sign of pain) gives their emotion and position away that they once cared about the nation. In most cases during breaks or half-time, this category of viewers either walk away or stood aside, avoiding discussion and arguments. After the match they hardly stayed behind for post-match analysis. My observation showed that docile-

plosives carried more pain than the others, considering the way they avoided talking about the nation and its state of development. The fact that their big disappointment and failed expectations were expressed in silence and savoured personally, does not mean that they are at peace with the nation. Eventhough their love for the nation seemed once high, they avoided anything that reminded them of their pain.

*RQ.2: How would the non-qualification of national teams affect National peace and unity?*

The implication of non-qualification of a national team on national peace and unity is visible in expression of emotions, through vocal and non-vocal means (gestures). The non-vocal means were read through participation in their laughter to the mockery jokes. Their head gestures either nodding to approve or disapprove of the points made. However most of the comments approved of, were those which expressed emotional disappointments on the nations leadership, and doubts on the nation's successes and continuity as a corporate entity. The impact on national peace and unity is negative, favoring the dissolution of the nation and the violence calling for revolution.

For example Olu in Ibadan joked, *"Come can we not all go our separate ways; (referring to disintegration along ethnic lines) I tell you, that is the only solution to all these problems. Must we die too before we know what to do?"*

Another viewer comments *"Would it not be wise for one to apply for a visa lottery to republic of Togo? (General laughter) The one sector (football) where we (Nigeria) are good at is now taken from us". For this viewer he is just disenchanted about the way the nation has failed in sports and other spheres and thinks dropping the nation's identity to leave in even a less developed nation would not be a bad idea. The impact on peace is in the comment of these viewers: "I think we should just close down this country and deal with our situation ourselves". Another "Revolution is the answer burn down everything". "Mr. Thinker!! (Referring to a Vocal-plosive who stated an optimistic view about the nations integration) Continue you shall soon get tired".*

These statements refer to the fact that nothing had worked in the past, and there was no need of hoping for a better future. These show that people are indeed not happy about the nation's slow progress and leadership. They now see the nation's integration as the reason for their individual failures in football, the nation's number one sports and others spheres of development.

*RQ.3: Would viewing other national teams featured at international Mundial fill the gap to inspire peace and unity in a nation where their National Team has not qualified?*

Going by this observation, viewers were not happy over their national teams not qualifying, at the Africa Nation's Cup. Viewing matches of other countries compete at the Africa nations Cup did not satisfy their desire, but

instead, it elicited pain and served as a reminder of their poor fate as citizens of the country. For example in Ibadan one hyper-plosive, after the Ivory Coast national team's good performance at the preliminary round led by Didier Drogba, commented jovially: (*Keeping a straight face, contradicted his purpose for making the jest*) "*Why are we not applauding their efforts? Great team, their government cares about football, and their citizens. Our government knows nothing, but mere rhetoric's and embezzlement*".

In Lagos, one hyper-plosive after viewing one of the matches featuring the Ghana "Black Stars" made this jest (Clapping his hands with dismay, looking sad and eyes laden with tears).

*"Just look at us now, look at how Ghana played, for just a presidential hand shake. No financial rewards for them you know. Nigeria will promise financial rewards they would not fulfill, and when they do fulfill it, half of it is given to officials as bribe and lobby for a shirt (chance in later games) even press men are given some share, what remains at the end is not enough for the players". "This country is not a country"*.

Another vocal-plosive in Ijebu-Ode's reaction to Nigeria's absence at the nation's cup observed (Shaking his head in regret and disbelieve) "*Ha!! Nigeria is not competing at the Africa nation's cup, even though we call ourselves the giant of Africa. Things will not get right, until we face the truth*". (The "truth" means here to attack the government, in revolt for change).

These comments are all indicative of the disapproval of the situation of none qualification of their national team, where their equals are competing. Viewing other teams play therefore reminded them of their pain and loss, also casting a reminder of other areas of development where the nation had failed. For instance in Ijebu-ode one hyper-plosive retorted (*Hands on his chin, speaking in low voice with discontentment*).

*"See what they have turned us into? We now seat and watch others, as fools and like old dogs. Since, he assumed office as president things have gone bad for the country, from Boko Haram's terror, to armed robbery and economic hardship"*.

*RQ.4: How would emotional insecurity relate to national peace and integration?*

The findings show the citizens after a continuous disappointment from government's failure to provide adequate contributions to sports and valued goals. The none-qualification of the national team would be blamed on the government as a scapegoat. Citizens are as a result reminded of government's failure and the corporate existence is seen as the problem when all disappointments and national failures in other spheres. For instance poor attention to political corruption, poor provision of economic poverty, and very slow upward mobility for individual citizens, coupled with ethnicity - prejudice, discrimination, and injustice, had made citizens think of themselves first and foremost and to likely to revert to personal - security at the expense of mutual benefit and common good.

Evidence from oral interviews elicits some information from docile viewers' opinions. Some responses were: (Bayo, in Lagos) *"They are right; this country needs to be prayed for"*. (Dele): *"Big brother, I can't be bothered as long as I am alright"*. *"Some have made it in this country, I will make mine"*. From these responses, it is concluded that Docile-viewers share the same pain with hyper-plosive's and supports their opinion that the nation has failed just as the leaders have. The resolve to survive by any means possible includes even deviance to national laws and norms. They seem to have given-up on the country's general good and focused on their personal gains. At this level the national consciousness is weakened.

Interview with few other viewers are shown below revealing the level of hopelessness and pain which is generated by non-qualification of the National teams at Mundials.

- ✓ **Question:** Why are you not contributing to the discussion?
- ✓ **Answer - (Victor, a docile viewer):** What do I have to say, the more you discussed the country the more pain you get.
- ✓ **Question:** But one can share his experience to educate people more on national patriotism?
- ✓ **Answer:** (smiles) they will soon get tired of talking about the country?
- ✓ **Question:** So you think they are right?
- ✓ **Answer:** I don't blame them, I blame our leaders? This country! (*Shakes his head and stops talking as if he has violated his decision not to comment on the nation*).
  
- ✓ **Another interviewee (sola):** A Docile-plosive:
- ✓ **Question:** From the way these people talk, they do not love this country?
- ✓ **Answer:** So you love this country? Everyone does,
- ✓ **My response:** Yes I do.
- ✓ **Sola:** Okay, why do you love this country?
- ✓ **My response:** It is my country?
- ✓ **Sola:** (looks at me to assess me, and concluded) I pray you don't get frustrated, when you do you will say worse things.

This reveals the level of disappointment in the national project. Instead of sports being a strategy for setting up a platform for integration, the non-qualification of the national team has brought citizens together to share resentment, which according to Karl Marx (is an essential elementary stage in revolution. The implication for peace and integration is that citizens are raising conflict, while peace is endangered through this silent conflict against government.

### **Other Research Observations**

Through this research, some observations have been made unconsciously which add to knowledge. First, observation and interviews with the four categories of viewers, the emotions expressed by all were very high and deep, changing from love and hope to hatred and hopelessness for the nation. Abuses and supports of negative comments and a share of negative feeling, show that there is conflict but not easily seen or felt. The kind of conflict here referred to as a silent conflict. It was discovered therefore that silent conflicts are fought without notice to the opposition (government). The grudge held is many times not told; going by the docile-plosives and the docile-viewers, who hardly talked about the pain and disappointment in their minds against government. The bearer of silent conflict develops from love to hate and this is expressed from the attitude of hope and faith, to the loss of it to hate, expressed through frustrations and selfishness. What happened is the gradual retrieval of love for the mutuality progress to an individualistic and selfish goal. According to this study, silent conflict is identifiable when:

- ✓ Citizens start to jest about their community or nation.
- ✓ Citizens, listen to negative comments about their community or nation and do not react in defense of them.
- ✓ Good, comments made about nation are critiqued and laughed at by the majority of the citizens.
- ✓ Citizens stop complaining about the failures of the nation.
- ✓ Citizens show less interest in policies of the nation.
- ✓ Citizens become interested in personal progress and less dependent on government for support.

There could be more.

Second, peace is a product of internal psychological satisfaction, expressed through emotions, which is itself a product of the outcomes of physical experiences, from human contacts with themselves and other valued aspects which sports is an example. Football as a loved sport has generated a kind of affection in the hearts of many Nigerians and the knowledge that their national team, which comprises of individuals from different ethnics, performs well at international competitions wearing the national colors generates some satisfaction and encouragement, some patients and endurance to hope for a better future. The opposite is the case when they fail and do not appear at international competition; the reactions shown in this study by citizens are expected. The role which sports play in this case is the pacifier. Citizens seem pacified to still hang on hope for the nation to change for better and deactivate or suspend activation of emotional conflicts.

Finally, another aspect where sport influences citizens emotion is the stimulation of individuals pride and ego, which could help build peace and national peace and integration. National pride and ego is threatened each time a

nation does not do well in their popular sports to qualify for international competitions where other nations are show cased. The opportunity to give the life line to sustain or manage citizens' love, hope and faith in their nation is often wasted. The continuous poor rating in among nations, especially when events (of which sporting events is one) provide a chance to compare nations, is unacceptable to citizens as this brings sadness and relatively reduces citizen's ego and pride to take-up national identity.

## **Conclusions**

From this study, sports could bring about, hope, joy, faith and attitude to citizens towards a shared collective progress, and create the atmosphere for peace. This is when expectations on governments support for sports and performance of National Teams at Mundials are present. The importance of sports, especially football, is revealed through citizens hurt over the non-qualification of their national Teams at Mundial. The emotional torture caused by Nigeria' Super Eagles Non- qualifying for the international Mundials' indeed cannot be over emphasized. As a pacifier and a strong element in generating citizens' interaction, sports cannot be neglected when generating positive emotions towards the nation. Ethnic conflicts and communities' war can be prevented through emotion and the ego building of citizens. A high emotional feeling towards somebody's community would elicit better cooperation and mutual living, enough to prevent national disintegration. Disintegration is possible where there are no social pacifiers, amidst continuous disappointments and hurt, which degenerates to selfish and exclusive pursuit of development by individuals and communities. Governments must strive to achieve citizens valued objects, which connects them with other communities. Sport as a strategy for peace is valid for increasing cooperation between both or all member groups in the community or the nation.

This study has also proven that sports are essential in raising emotions required for engineering peace, collective interest and integration of people. The nation's corporate existence is indeed hinged on the way people feel about themselves and how they generate reasons for their backwardness and interpret their association and relationship with other ethnic groups. In national affairs, citizens will surely experience the everyday emotional touch, which threatens their positive feelings towards the nation. Where citizens do not have moments of respite from any other sphere of the socio-economic and political live of the nation, citizens are most likely to revolt silently against their relationship with the nation through unpatriotic statements and actions - for example, personalised goals like crime. Victory and excellence in sports, as is obvious in this study, does provide that moment of respite for citizens in emotional pain, worry and hurt. Where citizens for about two to three weeks of a competition, glue to their television sets to view and jubilate over a victory of the nation's

national team, apart from medical and psychological cure and therapy, it provides hope and faith in the nation's corporate existence.

Emotional insecurity, peace and national integration are mutually related and *sine qua non* to each other. The emotions of citizens are very important in the generation and sustenance of positive cooperation with government even at times of trouble. The government's insensitivity towards sports has influence on the emotions of citizens on national integration. Where integration is threatened, threat to peace exists; Governments must note that citizens' that value attainment will favour policies and faith in leadership, which is indeed a very important aspect in national life. Emotion building is for these reasons as important as nation or community building and peace building. Citizens must be given reasons to believe in the country and hope for a better future, as well as elicit cooperation with other ethnic groups towards generating a mutual coherence, needed for national integration, peace and unity. Governments therefore, should be more interested in sports to improve the national pride and citizens' ego. The citizen's ego must be protected by ensuring that their emotions are secured. Insensitivity to the citizens', valued objects leads to provocations. Therefore, a conscious effort towards building positive emotions for sustaining patriotism is important.

According to this study sports could bring about, hope, joy, faith and a forward looking attitude to citizens to share collective progress, under the atmosphere for peace. This is when expectations on governments support for sports and performance of National Teams at mundials are present. But whether sports will bring about peace or not as a singular factor is not certain. There are other strong values that citizens cherish that may combine with sport to create conditions such as equal opportunities, justices, freedom of speech and expression, social and physical safety of emotions and economic progress.

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