Name: Chetachi Purity Chukwudubem

School: Anglican Comprehensive High School, Ipaja, Lagos

Class: JSS 2

The world is full of magnificent and wonderful inventions which have sustained mankind for ages. The desire to contribute my quota in making the word a beautiful place is succinctly captured in this discourse *If I were to Invent Something New*.

Notable inventions credited to Bill Gates of Microsoft, Mark Zuckerberg of Facebook, now Meta, telecommunications experts, automobile engineers and other professionals cannot be over-emphasized. Interestingly, there has been constant evolution in the technology space. New inventions are taking over the old ones. There is this consciousness of coming up with ideas that will make life easier. Of great interest to me is man's energy requirement and how it affects our financial status and the environment.

It is worthy of note that fossil fuel, woods, electric and gas cookers have not solved the problem of our society when it comes to cooking and heating the homes. If I were to invent something new, I would invent a user-friendly, cost-effective and environmental-friendly solar cooking stove. My preference for solar cooking stove is informed in the abundance of solar energy in this part of the world. Solar energy which is derived directly from the sun does not have emissions which are harmful to the health unlike kerosene, gas and even electric cookers which have capacity to cause electric shock. Despite the inclination to emit harmful substances, these age-long cooking systems are pricey. The last time I checked, a 6kg cylinder cost about 30,000 Naira, while a kilogram of gas is sold for 1400 Naira. Charcoal is not easy to come by, and kerosene is almost going into extinction. Gas can be channeled towards powering of industries, and woods used in the construction sub-sector. Now the question is, how do we make cooking gadgets easily accessible to people especially those living on the hinterlands?

Emphatically, If I were to invent something new, I would venture into manufacturing of solar cooking stoves. My strategy is simple: I would locally fabricate a stove casing with an in-built inverter and solar panel. It will be designed in such a manner that it can absorb power from any source of light. I mean, when it is fully charged it would have the capacity to cook for 7 days uninterrupted. Moreover, it is going to replace dependence on kerosene stoves, gas cookers and electric cookers which come with high cost. Additionally, I will make it readily affordable and accessible so that no one is left out. At some point we might consider exporting them to the neighbouring countries which have similar energy needs to earn us foreign exchange.

Concisely, if I were to invent something new, I would invent a solar cooking stove. This will solve the problems associated with cost of buying conventional cooking gadgets, environmental pollution and the threats they pose to the health. It is another shift from what it used to be to what the society presently desires. Renewable energy saves cost, health and the environment. This invention would be a dream come true.