**IF I COULD INVENT SOMETHING NEW**

Nigeria as a developing country and Africa’s most populous nation is faced with numerous challenges including insecurity, health problems, corruption, and education challenges. All these problems can be solved using digital technology such as artificial intelligence (AI), mechatronics, robotic, machine learning, and blockchain technology. This is the reason why my career goal is to become a mechatronics and robotics engineer. I like the profession because it will give me a great opportunity to apply digital technology to solving societal problems. My passion is to invent digital solutions that can address Nigeria’s challenges in three main areas namely: insecurity, health, and corruption.

In Nigeria, kidnapping, killings, armed robbery, terrorism, and abduction, particularly kidnapping of secondary school and university students have become rampant. For example, in 2014, bandits abducted over 200 Chibok girls. Over the years, there have been kidnappings and killings of religious leaders, traditional rulers, and innocent citizens. The consequences of insecurity are loss of life, destruction of properties, and food scarcity, among other challenges. My invention will include developing crime-tracking devices. The device will keep track of any crime and alert security agencies. I wish to develop robots that will protect students, rural dwellers, farmers, and innocent residents from bandits and abductors. My digital solutions will bring about peace, development, food security, safety of life, prosperity, and a better economy. In addition, agricultural exports to other countries will be made possible, thereby boosting our country’s economy.

Secondly, in the health sector of Nigeria, there are numerous challenges, especially the cholera outbreak, malaria, Lassa fever, and so on. For instance, the recent cholera outbreak has led to the loss of life, particularly of children. Cholera, a bacterial disease that is spread by contaminated water and food is more prevalent because of poor hygiene. For example, 25% of Nigerians still defecate in public while many residents are without toilets. I hope to invent AI digital kits that are affordable for detecting water safety and help in maintaining personal and environmental hygiene. I intend to develop an AI device for predicting the availability of public toilets and monitor usage. My digital solutions will aid in the reduction of sickness, infections, and death; many people will be agile and productive.

Lastly, corruption is a major problem in Nigeria especially among those in public office. Many government officials embezzle public funds for personal use. There is also oil theft in the Niger Delta and illegal mining across Nigeria’s communities. My invention will involve the use of smart tracking devices to detect corrupt officials that embezzle public funds using blockchain technology. I wish to make software that support transparency, accountability, and cyber security. My device will also monitor the public account so that no one steals public funds. In addition, mining tracking devices will be developed to keep track of mining sites. My innovation will discourage corruption, and our country’s resources will be used for public good.