**“IF I COULD INVENT SOMETHING NEW”**

**BY**

**EGWUMBA, RITA IFUNANYACHUKWU**

Nigerians are told and assured that security of lives and property are the primary essence of governance. Recently it has recorded unprecedented security challenges such as Boko Haram Terrorists attacks, militancy, armed robbery, banditry, kidnapping for ransom, Fulani-Herders/farmers clashes, cultism etc. The worsening insecurity in Nigeria can also be seen in places like Kaduna, Abuja, Zamfara, Katsina and other towns. Also the spate of killings and kidnappings at Bornu, Benue, Plateau, Uzo-Uwani and host of other States in Nigeria leave one asking what the government of Nigeria is doing to contain this menace ravaging virtually all the States in the country.

 At present, the spate of hunger in the country could largely be attributed to the inability of farmers to access their farm land. The brave ones that cultivated are regularly attacked and butchered like animals. This was after the cattles have eaten and destroyed all the crops. Peopl no longer engage in trade and investment as kidnapping for ransom has become so lucrative and thus is the fastest means of making money and surviving. There is no day one listens to radio and television without hearing of several arrests. To everybody’s chagrin no one hears of trials and conviction of these undesirable elements in our society. Most people are scared to travel as our roads and railways are no longer safe. They have been taken over by armed robbers, bandits and kidnappers.

 It beats the imagination and common sense that this security challenge is appearing insurmountable in spite of all assurances by the military. Nigeria has witnessed the loss of thousands of lives; many are displaced, economic activities disrupted and the legitimacy and authority of the government undermined. This crisis underscores the failure of governance, dire lack of initiatives, patriotism and political will on the part of the Executive, the National Assembly, Security Agencies, etc.

Regrettably, kidnapping is more lucrative than government work or politics. The use of the ransom monies paid to kidnappers can only be guessed as these are more likely deployed to fund further criminal activities or to support their personal lifestyles. Informants, collaborator or sponsors most often benefit from these funds.

The telecommunication companies have not helped in any way to stem this ugly trend. These hoodlums and desperados cannot be tracked alongside their sponsors. There must be mechanism and benefits from registering SIM cards, Drivers’ License, National identity Cards, Vehicle plate numbers – all tailored towards crime detection and prevention. I wish I am in a position of authority and ***if I could invent something new,*** I will invent micro-chips, central hub and CCTV cameras that could be mounted strategically at major roads, streets, public places, churches, mosques, market places, banks etc to help in early detection of crimes at the planning states and in collaboration with the Security apparatus nip every crime on board before it is committed. Security agencies should be more proactive than mere responsive. It is only then that Nigeria can regain its pride of place in the comity of nations.