

COMPETITION ASPECT: ESSAY

THE HORROR OF AN UNPEACEFUL ENVIRONMENT.



The word “peace” maybe defined in different ways by different people, depending on the context and situation within which they find themselves. For the purpose of this brief narration I want to make on an experience I had, I will like to define peace as, “the absence of war, a state of tranquility, freedom from disturbance and violence”.

Five years ago, as a vibrant young man in his early days in the university, I had great dreams to achieve but one faithful morning while preparing to write a continuous assessment(CA), I got news that one of my course mates had been picked up and put behind bars by the police. While I

wondered what will become of the CAs the situation deteriorated and spread to other parts of the English zones where I was found. I had to move to the village to be with my parents while waiting for school to resume, only to realize that the entire issue became what is now referred to as “Anglophone crisis”. While it became a full blown war in other areas, my village remained calm until one morning at 5am when we were riotously awoken from sleep by a thunderous gun shot. Just at the hearing of that sound I thought I had died, but I realized myself on the floor alive not knowing where to run to and not knowing the where about of my parents. This was the beginning of horror.

The situation worsened to the extent that I had to run for safety by traveling on foot for more than 45kilometers, through narrow roads in the forests, crossing big streams under the rain, just to find a peaceful environment. God being my helper I found myself in the west region of Cameroon where a friend took me into his room. I lived with him for a year in a peaceful environment though it took me long time to recover from the trauma. I struggled and as time went on I had something doing through which I could survive. With these horrific circumstances, I say “peace is not the highest goal in life but it is the most fundamental requirement”.

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