

THEATRE AS A MECHANISM FOR THE PREVENTION AND MANAGEMENT OF HAZARD AND DISASTER FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN AFRICA

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Abstract

Most of the environmental hazards and disasters occurring in our societies today are due to carelessness and ignorance occasioned largely by lack of proper enlightenment and careless disposition to environmental issues.

This paper identifies that in a developing society like Africa, dependency on technological innovation for its development is inevitable. For that reason constant occurrences of hazard and disaster can not be averted. However, it is possible to manage the situation to the advantage of man so that the rate of its occurrence would be reduced to the barest minimum. This can be brought about by our inherent management approach. In this wise, the role of theatre in providing this managerial outlet from the approach of Theatre for Development (TfD) stands out. This paper will attempt to identify some of these hazards and disasters and analyse how theatre can be a tool for the amelioration of the phenomenon. The concepts that will be advanced will provide better understanding of this phenomenon.

The paper concludes by recommending theatre as a mechanism and panacea for keeping hazards and disasters at bay from our vicinity.

Introduction

The incessant occurrences of hazards and disasters in Africa have caused leaders and citizens alike some high degree of worry. Lots of mechanisms have been put in place to combat the phenomenon. The happenings, which occur in two dimensions are prominent in; natural disasters and the man-made ones. The natural occurrences are visible in earthquakes, floods, volcanoes, hurricanes, tornadoes, storms, droughts, snow, hail and lightning. The man-made ones, which are majorly due to man's careless disposition to the issue of his environment are observable in; deforestation, lack of attention to town planning programmes, poor attitude to waste disposal, construction of structures on water ways, incessant bush burning, lack of respect for road signs and excessive

speeding on our roads etc. Those ones that occurred through natural means have posed more problems. This is due to the fact that they are occurrences that are said to be beyond human control. They are classified as nature outbursts that are catastrophic and more often than not they occur without warning. Adding to the reel of environmental problems are technological inventions, which are genuinely aimed at bringing comfort and improvement to mankind, but have caused us more harm than good. As a developing nation though, our dependency on technology for sustainability cannot but be on a high side, but the complexities which it carries are the source of worry. As these worries occasioned by negative environmental occurrences posed by natural disaster, technological inventions mount by day, one is more alarmed that combating the man-made hazards and disasters posed greater complexities than the ones that occurred naturally or through technological inventions. It is at these cross-roads that we opined that the complexities brought about by technological inventions, natural occurrences and man-made disasters and hazards could be ameliorated using theatre approach. This paper therefore, recommends a mechanism that we hope is potent to prevent and manage the occurrences of these various hazards and disasters for sustainable development in Africa.

In approaching this work, we have segmented it into six compartments, with a view to providing a sequential understanding of what the work is all about. The introduction is preceded by an examination of conceptual framework and an historical preview of steps taken so far by various governments and non-governmental organisations to combat hazards and disasters that have been ravaging Africa. The paper also examines some technological inventions and its effect on our environment. Finally, it examines Theatre for Development (TfD) approach as a mechanism for preventing and managing hazards and disasters for sustainable development in Africa. It concludes by making some recommendations.

Theoretical Framework

It becomes imperative to illuminate on some concepts that we shall come across in this paper, they form our theoretical framework and are therefore germane to our understanding their relationship in this work. The concepts are: hazard, disaster, theatre, prevention and development.

Hazard: can be described as anything that carries the potential emblem of danger. It cuts across all live endeavours; occupational, health, social, recreational, environmental, etc. while *Disaster* as described in Encarta

Dictionaries 2009: "as an event that causes serious loss, destruction, hardship, unhappiness or death." Disaster, which manifest in injuries and death, property damage, earthquakes, volcanic eruption, hurricanes, tornadoes, tidal waves etc. often occur in a sudden form. Disasters may either be natural (caused by disequilibrium in nature) or man-made (caused by man careless disposition to the issue of his environment).

Theatre is a concept that carries a two dimensional definitions. It is defined by Etherton (1982) from the angle of a play house; where audience seat to enjoy performances, "a building for live dramatic performances." Secondly, he also defined it as "the circumstances of a live dramatic performance." (Etherton 1982) For the purpose of this discourse, we will adopt the latter and enumerate its potency as a tool for management and prevention of hazard and disaster. *Theatre for development* (TFD) on the other hand as described by Okwori (2004), is: "one of a range of participatory method through which development issue can be communicated." (Okwori 2004: 17) TFD as an approach share the same attributes with the under-listed theatre practices: 'People's Theatre', 'Popular Theatre', 'Theatre for Conscientisation', 'Theatre for the Oppressed', 'Theatre for Change', 'Theatre for Integrated Rural Development' etc. All the above enumerated theatre styles are theatrical approaches devoted to community concerns. Yankah (2006) quoting Prentki (1998: 247) captured the meaning of TFD. He described it as a mechanism:

Used in the service of development aims: a tool available to development agencies which pursue the goals of self-development and an improved quality of life of all people whose material conditions leave them vulnerable to hostile and predatory forces, both natural and human. In other words, it is an instrument in the struggle to help such people become subjects, and cease to be objects of their own histories. (Yankah 2006:42)

From the above definition it is obvious that theatre for development is people-oriented; it is a means by which people in a given area congregate to make significant contributions to their existence, using communal participatory method. This paper will further elucidate on this theatre approach.

Prevention: is defined in the Encarta dictionary as: "action that stops something from happening: "an action or actions taken to stop somebody from doing something or stop something from happening" We see it therefore, as a process of distancing from imminent terrible occurrences, an approach

masterminded to ward off an impending evil. *Development* as it were, is a manifestation of growth, increase, changes, progress or advancement. Development more often than not is a positive phenomenon, noticeable in physical, such as in structural transformation like; buildings, infrastructural facilities, etc and the intangibles, as manifested in values; political, social, economic and social values. Development is the yardstick for measuring the rate of growth in a given society.

Occurrence of Hazards and Disasters- A Historical Outline of Combative Efforts

Earlier in this work we tried to enumerate different ways by which hazards and disasters find their way into our environment. This segment will not bother to go again in that direction; rather we shall examine several combative efforts made by Governments in various Nations in Africa at the occurrences of hazards and disasters in permanent check. Some measures were seen in the establishment of agencies in different countries in the African sub-region, such as National Disaster Agency, Meteorological Disaster Management agencies, National Emergency Management Agency, Indigenous Knowledge Research Team, United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), Ecological and Disaster Management Agency, Environmental and Social Impact Agency, Fire Services, Road Safety Corps, Fire Services, Red Cross Society etc. Some of the agencies were assigned to the hazard prevention and management process. Like Fire Service, managing disasters, ecological agencies managing flood and other environmental problems Road safety Corps preventing and managing occurrence of accidents etc. These obviously were aimed at allowing specialists to deal with specific disaster. Many Non-governmental Organisations like United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) (1965), United States Agency for International Development (USAID) (1961) United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) (1946), to mention just a few also show great concern by providing assistance in form of financial aid, technical and expertise aid to the affected countries. Astonishingly, each day that passed, there were mounting reports of the occurrence of hazards and disasters in a more alarming magnitude. This indicates that most of the preventive and management mechanisms have not achieved their intended purpose. Relentless efforts of various governments in Africa to checkmate the situation have proved ineffective. A look into our environment shows that hazards and disasters still lingers in spite of all efforts made.

various governments within the African sub-region. The inability to combat the problem in Africa has continued to stand in the way of African development and its sustainability. Although hazards and disasters are not limited to Africa alone, developed nations also suffer one kind of natural disasters or the other. We have had reports of disasters in the following places: The Biloxi Mississippi hurricane in 1998, Eastern India cyclone in 1999, Southern and Midwestern United States tornadoes in 2001, Southern South Korea typhoon in 2003, South Eastern United States hurricane, Katrina in 2005, to mention just a few. The only difference is that they were able to manage their own leaving minimal effect. These developed countries did not show complacency, rather, they continue to invent disaster forecasting mechanisms while also embarking on aggressive enlightenment and awareness campaign. For instance, in 1991 the volcanic eruption of Mount Pinatubo in Philippines, had its attendant effect reduced because Philippines government yielded the warning handed to them by a team of Geologists from United States of America to evacuate their citizens from their habitation. (Encarta 2009) Yielding the warning saved the lives of thousands who would have died as a result of the volcanic eruption in the area. This was a disaster, which its effect was reduced due to obedience. These kinds of measures and discipline are what is lacking in Africa. There is no doubt that all the environmental hazards and disasters enumerated above are inimical to growth and sustainable development in any society where they manifest. It is at this point that we felt that if we must confront the problem headlong, there is the need to revisit our approaches. One would wonder why the responsibility for the prevention and management of hazards and disasters fell squally on government. It is because the occurrences of the phenomenon are of high magnitude, only government can afford the resources to prevent and manage it. We noted that the burdens of providing all conveniences for citizen are too weighty on government. It is against this backdrop that we are recommending the use of theatre as an alternative mechanism for the prevention and management of hazards and disasters in Africa for sustainable development. This paper will therefore, elucidate on this suggested mechanism, Theatre for Development(TfD) approach, which has been tested and found to be a potent and an effective approach and mechanism for orientating citizen on the prevention and management of hazards and disasters, which may have defiled other methods.

What is Hazard?

Here, hazard shall be holistically examined. It will be a slight build up on the earlier segment where we tried to illuminate on its definition. Hazards are occurrences that pose danger to man's life. They are occurrences that are present in almost all human endeavours and have been identified to manifest in diverse forms. They include: industrial hazards, agricultural hazards, health hazards, household hazards, social hazards and hazards that occur due to technology. We shall enumerate and explain how they occur later.

What is Disaster?

Disasters are sudden occurrences that cause great damage; including loss of life and or great destruction to property. Disasters have been identified to occur through natural means and through human intervention and they are inimical to sustainable development. Disasters are not synonymous to Africa alone; they are phenomena that occur worldwide. However, those ones that are common to Africa are those we want to attempt suggestion for their prevention in this paper. They are: flood disasters, fire disasters, collapse buildings, (in Nigeria, Lagos and Abuja from 2008-2009), bridges, tunnels and mines draught, famine, plague, epidemic, etc. It is not as if the occurrences of these phenomena are new to us.

Manifestation of Hazards and Disasters

Disasters and hazards are two intertwined phenomena that we found no area of difference in their features. They both carry danger and are sudden occurrences. Therefore we will treat them as same. They occur as enumerated below:

- 1) Industrial waste hazards: Many hazards and disaster that occurs in our environment have been as a result of industrial wastes. They include; air pollution, water pollution and soil pollution. Air pollution especially has accounted for death caused by cancer while water and soil pollution have resulted inaccessibility to clean and hygienic drinkable water and inability to be engaged in farming. A typical example is situation in Niger-Delta, Nigeria where there have been protracted unrests and protests against different kinds of pollutions from industrial wastes.
- 2) Agricultural waste hazards: as good as agriculture is to man existence, because it provides food for our consumptions. The hazards that

confront our environment as a result of wastes from pesticides and herbicides used to keep pests away from the crops and herbicides used to eradicate weeds are enormous. Soluble nitrates are also part of the agricultural wastes, these dissolve in ground water (wells and boreholes), and causing health problems.

- 3) Wastes from Hospitals, which include; discarded used medical materials that have been contaminated with blood, outdated/ expired drugs discarded and radioactive isotopes has also been identified as another outlet through which our environment are exposed to hazard.
- 4) Household wastes also have the potentiality to pose hazards to our environment. Batteries that we use and thrown away carelessly contains toxic, toxic from paints and asbestos particles from renovated old homes when inhaled could cause lung diseases or even cancer.

Another in the categories of hazards and disasters occurrences are those that are caused by technological inventions. Technological inventions are no doubt catalyst for man comfortable living, but through the same means they brought comfort to man, they also bring hazards and disasters. Technology was described in Encarta (2009): "as creation of new devices, objects, ideas, or procedure useful in accomplishing human objectives." (Encarta 2009) These creations, Besel (2009) identified that they manifest in "communication, aviation and astronautics." The under-listed are these technological manifestations:

- Telecommunication technology, which brought about the manufacturing of cell phones (GSM), walkie-talkie etc, provides convenience in communication and embarking on journeys, which in itself is hazardous.
- Automobiles and aircrafts, which aids our movement from one place to another.
- Dam construction for generating hydroelectricity, water supply for human consumption and farm irrigation also fall in line with technological invention.
- Bombs, Chemical weapons, grenades, guns and ammunitions for defence against war and attack from enemies.
- Manufacturing of industrial machine to aid large production of goods.

Hoagland (1932-) captured man's quest for development using technological invention. He also tried to paint the danger associated with their use, when he described the inventions as 'risky activity.' He says: "Man is different from animals in that he speculates a high risk activity." (Hoagland 1932) These activities are the technology we invented for our comfort and security but which more often than not place disaster on our doorsteps. As we invent more and more in these various areas of technology, we are dragged into destruction by those things we invented for our comfort. Sagan observed that:

We've arranged a civilization in which most crucial elements profoundly depend on science and technology. We have also arranged things so that almost no one understands science and technology. This is a prescription for disaster. We might get away with it for a while, but sooner or later this combustible mixture of ignorance and power is going to blow up in our faces. (Sagan, 2009)

Arp (2009) also brought us to the nakedness of the danger inherent in man's technological inventions. He said:

Soon silence will have passed into legend. Man has turned his back on silence. Day after day he invents machines and devices that increase noise and distract humanity from the essence of life, contemplation, meditation...tooting, howling, screeching, booming, crashing, whistling, grinding, and trilling bolster his ego. His anxiety subsides. His inhuman void spreads monstrously like gray vegetation. (Arp 2009)

Effects of Technology on Man's Life and its Environment

It will be recalled that we presented technology as a strong catalyst in our developmental processes in Africa as a developing continent, the attendant negative effects, which are highlighted below are the worrisome aspect of the invention.

The radiation effect emitting from Mobile phones and their service stations, which is causing health hazard is one. The very many motor accidents that occur as result of the indiscriminate use of mobile phones by motor drivers on motion are another. There are many automobile accidents, plane crashes, from inventions in automobile technology. Dams overflowing their banks;

thereby causing floods that have sacked quite a number of citizens from their homes are some of the negative effect of technology. A case in point was contained in the Nigerian Tribune of Thursday, 20 August 2009, where it was reported that: "about 68 families were rendered homeless as a result of flood in the Duste-Kura area of Niger state, Nigeria." (Nigerian Tribune 20 august 2009: 1) Aside from flood from our dams, there are records of people who died through electric shock from the hydro electricity power generated from our dams. The invention of bombs, chemical weapons, grenades, guns and other war equipment being used to fight wars that are in most cases not necessary and uncalled for is another example. All industrial machines that we use to aid production in our factories constitute industrial hazards to factory workers, operators of the machines and people living within and around the vicinity of the industrial location. These and many more are the problems that technological inventions have caused us in our environment. Considering the good and the bad effects of technological inventions, we are presented with the fact that technological innovations are a double edge sword that we must contend with. However, as we invent these technologies, we should be thinking of a way out before their attendant negative effects start to rear its head. This thinking elicited the discourse in this paper.

Efforts of Governments, Non-governmental Organisations and their Agencies

Government in Africa deserved some commendation haven put various mechanisms in place to ward off hazards and disasters from our environment. The antecedents of their efforts manifest in:

- i) The establishment of relevant agencies, which various governments has embarked upon attested to genuine efforts at putting the problem in check.
- ii) Acquisition of instruments and equipment for monitoring and prevention of disasters before they occur.

As earlier observed, efforts made so far by government, year in year out are commendable, but it looks as if it is the same style that no longer produced the expected result. We realized that in solving the riddles of life, including solving environmental problems, one single straight jacket approach will be insufficient to arrest the situation. It is against this backdrop that we are proposing the use of theatre as a mechanism for resolving problems of

environmental hazards and disasters in Africa. One fact remained incontrovertible that no matter how terrible any problem is, it prevention is not impossible given the right management approach. Theatre in this case seems to stand out as an ameliorative preventive tool. In the subsequent section of this paper, we want to highlight the role that theatre plays in ameliorating societal problems, using the Theatre for Development (TfD) approach and recommend it as a mechanism for prevention and management of hazard and disaster for sustainable development in Africa.

What is Theatre?

In the preceding section of this paper, we had attempted defining Theatre; as a circumstance of live performance. In this segment we intend to enumerate the importance of theatre and how it could be used as a mechanism for prevention and management of hazards and disasters. Theatre, from time immemorial and over the year has been acknowledged as a sacrosanct instrument mirroring the ways of life of the people of Africa. Ogundeji (2000), describe theatre as that tool which: "articulate the spiritual, social, economic, political and psychological needs and fear of a people through performance." (Ogundeji 2000:2) Theatre enactment therefore, reminds people of what is expected of them when they are derailing from the norms and the ethics that bind them together. The misconception that trailed theatre not being regarded as a noble profession gave way a couple of years back. Theatre practitioners, especially ladies who were hitherto described as: "loose", 'immoral and lacking in decency" (Owusu 1992:26), were no longer described so. Rather the profession and practitioners are now treated with respect and dignity, haven seen the multi-dimensional potency of the art.

Theatre and its Effects on Development

Theatre has been known to be a tool for entertainment. It has been known too for being a medium used to educate the society. It is also a medium used to communicate ideas, values and ethics connected with prevention and management of problematic issues. Theatre also provides effective methods for charging and appealing to human minds, using entertainment. (We have seen situations where people have wept in the theatre, haven been emotionally stirred.) Theatre have provided forum for discussions, interactions and cross-fertilisation of ideas. Theatre has also been used as medium of enlightenment and forum for creating awareness. It is an instrument for effecting social change.

It will be observed that with all the characteristics listed above, theatre has grown beyond just being a mere vehicle for the satisfaction of entertainment wants to a didactic instrument from which the society stand to benefit. Theatre soon grew in leaps and bounds to have branches. One of such branches is Theatre for Development (TfD).

What is Theatre for Development (TfD)?

Theatre for Development (TfD) is a theatre style that we have identified as a branch in theatre, employed for solving community problems. We will also try to provide answer to why it has been suggested as a mechanism for the prevention and management of hazards and disasters for sustainable development in Africa. The contents, context, notion and methodology of this style of theatre shall be explored in this paper.

Theatre for Development has been described by Abah (1996:247) cited in the works of Yankah (2006) as:

People's theatre, addressing their own problems in their own language, using their own idioms and their own terms. The ordinary people are the subjects, and in practice, the ones in control. That is they decide the agenda and participate in making the drama on those chosen issues. (Yankah 2006:42)

Mavrocordatos also observed that mechanism, which preaches that "a community can participate in the development of a strategy, of a path to overcome its hardships." (Mavrocordatos 2008:1) is Theatre for Development (TfD). Thus, Theatre for Development explores mostly communication as its tool for the realization of its objectives. We like to emphasise here that when there is robust communication doubt outlets is removed. Mda (1993) advanced that TfD:

...has the potential for being a democratic medium, in which the audiences may play an active role in medium programming, and therefore in producing and distributing messages. It is not centralized like the technological media and is capable of integrating indigenous and popular system of communication that already exists in the rural areas. (Mda 1993:2)

The first impediment to growth is the absence of a good communication channel. When channels of communication are blocked, no amount of mechanism geared toward solving any problem will ever be productive.

Communication therefore is a good antidote to resolving problems, solving environmental problems for sustainable development inclusive. Tfd according to Okwori (2004) is described as:

one of a range of participatory methods through which development issues can be communicated. It uses all denominators of community theatre (language, artistic forms of expression, codes and symbols and above all stakeholders are participants), but it is more interested in process...in addressing issues of development. (Okwori Ed. 2004:17) (emphasis mine)

Prevention and Management Functions of Theatre for Development (Tfd)

Kofoworola, a theatre scholar of long standing, at one of this presenter's interaction with him spoke eloquently on the potency of Tfd. Some of the experiences we drew from him shall form part of our submissions. We also observed in the course of our research that Theatre for Development (Tfd) has been employed to resolve many knotty communal problems in many countries in all parts of Africa and beyond. Kerr (1999) reported how Tfd was used in 1999, in Lusaka, Zambia to provide avenue for the marriage between two sects of activists; adult educators and social workers on one side and University based artists on the other who has for long engaged in protracted status conflict. Tfd approach was used to resolve the crisis (Banham et al, 1999, p. 79).

In Oluwole in Nigeria, Ewu (1999) reported how Tfd was used to stop the archaic traditional practice of Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) that was rampant in the area (Banham et al. 1999, p. 89).

In Ketepe, a community in Oyo state, Nigeria, Tfd was the mechanism used to resolve a protracted misunderstanding that had pitched the women against the Village head. The Tfd team that went to the community were able to fraternise the two aggrieved parties and peace returned to the community.

Augusto Boal and Paulo Freire in Brazil have inspired International Aid Agencies and Theatre practitioners to help create awareness among the people on the understanding of issues, such as AIDS, gender and development (Encarta, 2009.)

Given the above enumerated antecedents of Tfd, and considering the fact that among others it has the following under-listed advantages:

That it uses people to resolve their own problems

That it communicates in the code that the people understands, haven agreed on such codes.

- a. That it is nearer to the people, so it permeates interpersonal relationship.
- b. That preparation, feedback and evaluation is the product of Tfd
- c. That it promotes actor-spectator transaction.

Theatre for Development (Tfd) Methodological Approach

Having been familiarized with the operational approaches of Tfd, We enumerate below its operational methodologies, which are being recommended to bring about the prevention and management of hazards and disasters for sustainable development in Africa that we have long quest for.

Theatre for Development (Tfd) relied on the under-listed operational tools highlighted below for effective performances: Tfd team, (who will be the facilitators) members of the targeted project community, language, music, dances folklore and the cultural value of the people of the project community. All the above highlighted instruments are what Tfd will explore to get the people committed to the project. Thereafter, it begins to act as enumerated below.

The first operational methodology in commencing the process of prevention and management of hazards and disasters is in the creation of linkage with the project (affected) communities (hazard and disaster prone areas) with a view to discussing project modalities and logistics. Prevention of hazards and disasters therefore, require that a linkage should be established with people living in the areas that are hazard and disaster prone with a view to discussing all necessary project modalities.

The Tfd team will proceed by paying visit to the targeted community's head and elders with a view to obtaining permission, especially when the area involved are in a rural setting. At the forum, mode of operation and management approach with the community will be agreed upon. This is because Tfd is a practical exercise which requires participation and cooperation of all members of the project community. This can only be achieved when continuous dialogue is established.

Then channels of communication, cultural factors and tradition that may impede the smooth operation of the project will be identified with a view to ironing them out with the community. Establishing a robust communication channel will permeate understanding and fertile ground for a rewarding rapport.

Homestead approach in the community research, essentially is, involving the people in the process of solving the problems that confront them. The use of Tfd approach will create an enlightenment forum, a reminder process and initiating a sense of direction for the people to follow.

Presentation of all data collected will be laid bare at the community open forum for discussion and agreement. The people of the community will be afforded the opportunity to know why they are often confronted with environmental problems while they will jointly phantom a way forward.

The performative approach that Tfd will use abounds in the presentation of relevant story that would analyse the problems identified. Analysing problems using stories is a good way of sustaining awareness.

In order for the targeted project to be committed to solving their environmental problems, Tfd will use the approach of theatre by the people. This is a system where community members are casted to act out the story with less expert interference. Through that approach, the targeted community will appreciate their problems.

Performance and post-performance appraisal, which is one of the operational methodologies of Tfd sustains the peoples commitment.

Follow up action which Tfd adopt ensures that all that were agreed on in solving identified problems were fully implemented.

Recommendations

We realized that carelessness is the bane of most of the disasters and hazards confronting us. Therefore we need to be constantly enlightened and reminded of individuals and communal obligation and responsibilities to the issue of his environment. Hence, we have put to bare the potency of the Tfd's approach, which is basically an enlightenment instrument. This will help in ameliorating occurrences of hazards and disasters in our society. As a follow up, government should show favourable disposition to the newly suggested approach, using theatre mechanism to confront occurrence of hazards and disasters headlong in our environment. The mechanism of theatre should be used to constantly charge and remind people about the danger inherent in citizen's lackadaisical attitudes to issues of environment, using Tfd approach. In addition:

- Tfd's approach, as a mechanism for crisis prevention and management should be given more vitality, by establishing more Tfd teams in various countries in Africa.

- Government should enliven National, States, Regional Arts Councils and National Cultural Centres or as the case may be, to be more active in enlightenment service to humanity, rather than reduce them to mere praise singers to political leaders at political functions and ceremonies.
- More Cultural Centres should be established by government and empowered to carry out enlightenment and mass mobilisation programmes.

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Interview

This presenter during an interview drew experience from Kofoworola Ziky, a theatre scholar and a researcher who had employed TfD to resolve some communal issues.