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Community Insecurity and its Threat to Human, Economic and Political Security in Nigeria

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Abstract

The unprecedented spread of insecurity in the West African region is alarming and mind-boggling to the citizens, local and international communities. The spate of community insecurity cuts across Mali, Cameroon, Chad, Niger and Nigeria with its manifestation in insurgency and terrorism, secessionist movements, religious conflicts, urban crimes, ethnic violence, banditry, abduction, mass killings, suicide bombing, rape, disruption of properties, herdsmen and anti-democratic activities. However, the phenomenon is more evident in Nigeria in the last fifteen years as new dimensions of insecurity with more devastating implications are emerging. Community insecurity poses human, economic, and political security questions among scholars and policy-makers alike in the global environment. The attempt to solve the questions has culminated to the adoption of different security strategies ranging from self-help security arrangements and community policing at local level, to joint security task force at state and central levels in Nigeria. The complexity of issues like social inequality, marginalization, weak institutions, human rights abuse, bad governance, poverty, globalization, militarization of migrants, constitutional abuse, and widespread corruption are very germane to the contextualization of community insecurity. The aim of this study is to interrogate the emerging threats of community insecurity to human, economic, and political security in Nigeria. The researcher utilized qualitative method or library technique to collect data. The paper submitted that security and development are mutually dependent and not exclusive. It also submitted that engagement and stronger link between the security provider and local communities should exist.

Keywords: Community insecurity, threat, human, economic, political security

Introduction

Community security has become a topical issue among scholars, political class and citizens in the global environment. Community insecurity is the state of being subjected to threat, danger or injury within the society or environment where one dwells. It is the anxiety that is experienced when one feels vulnerable and insecure due to attack from different terrorist agents or groups. Modern state defined its security through its military and policy. Security issues in Africa are viewed from the protection of the state, territory, institutions, regime sustainability, military defense, properties and lives. The West African region desire for peace-driven environment where there is mutual relationship between the government and citizens. Unfortunately, the region lacks the capacity for peace and tranquility due to low confidence in government by citizens. In Nigeria, the aim of the government is to maintain a society that enables citizens to pursue their political, economic and social desires within the purview of the law. It is the

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responsibility of the various governments to protect their citizens against external aggression and internal violence by raising effective military and police institutions.

Admittedly, adequate protection of citizens by the government and proper conduct of individuals are major factors for national development in any society. Development in Nigeria has been impaired by community violence and insecurity which persistently serves as threat to her economy. The departure of some foreign investors aside from inadequate supply of social amenities is not unconnected with the threat to lives created by bandits, Boko Haram, Herdsmen, Secessionist groups, and abductors. For over a decade, the North-eastern region of Nigeria has been ravaged by insecurity, as the militant group Boko Haram has dis-stabilised border communities. The damage ranges from loss of life to destruction of property and farmlands. This unlawful act became more pronounced in Nigeria with the return to democratic rule in 1999 with different range of conflicts arising from ethno-religious crises, whole sale abduction, hostage taking, arson, incidents of cattle rustlings and terrorism, first from the North, and later spread to other regions of Nigeria.

The phenomenon of community insecurity became more pronounced in Nigeria over two decades with the emergency of different militant groups posing threats to the survival of governments, foreigners and citizens. The implication of insecurity has led to huge budgetary vote for security to enable the government to counter the menace. The attack on government facilities and individuals have compelled the federal government to tag this criminal act as terrorism, a fundamental factor for the Anti-terrorism Act in 2011. Nigeria was ranked 146th on Global Peace Index and 8th least peaceful in Africa (Olaiya, 2021; IEP, 2021). This puts the country in the league of least peaceful countries such as Afghanistan, Yemen, Syria, South Sudan and Iraq (The Sun, 2021).

The existing studies have suggested that violence in Nigeria in the form of Niger Delta militancy, Boko Haram terrorism and herdsmen attacks may be considered as a consequence of economic and political factors such as poverty, unemployment, inequality, corruption and poor governance (e.g., Olawale, 2003; Ikelegbe, 2006). Many experts have argued that violent extremism in Nigeria today is a consequence of decades of pervasive corruption and neglect of governance (Evans & Kelikume, 2019). For example, Osagie, Fred and Samuel (2010) showed that deprivation of the indigenes of the dividends of oil proceeds was the greatest cause of conflict of the Niger Delta.

Community insecurity is the existence of fear, threat and destruction to the survival of people sharing the same geographical location, bounded with collective social action, having similar culture or mixed-culture, engaging in social interaction through social network, and performing similar political and social responsibility; arising from pervasive inequalities and unfairness, ethno-religious conflicts, weak security system, loss of socio-cultural, and communal value system and terrorism within the social group or from neighbouring environment. Community insecurity is the state of being subjected to threat, danger or injury within the society or environment where one dwells. It is the anxiety that is experienced when one feels vulnerable and insecure due to attack from different terrorist agents or groups within or outside the environment.

The Federal Government of Nigeria under the Buhari's administration provided policy options to control incessant community insecurity which includes the passing of Control of Small Arms and Light Weapons bill 2021 in the National Assembly. The measures often adopted to regulate small arms overtime have yielded little or no result because of increased demand for and supply of small arms and light weapons are readily induced more speedily than envisaged worldwide. Also, poor security network, corruption, border leakages and politics have played dominant roles in the excessive availability of arms and in the failure of this policy option to control small arms in Nigeria. There was also Rural Grazing Area (RUGA) settlement policy option to control incessant herdsmen/farmers clashes in 2018. The Federal Government suspended the RUGA initiative because it drew the ire and condemnation of some state governors who insisted there is no land for ranches and cattle colonies in their state (Fowowe, 2019). Secondly, the government suspended it because it was not in consistent with the approved National Livestock Transformation plan (National Network, 2019). The policy option of mediation, which is the sole tool

applied by National Boundary Commission (NBC) to resolve incessant boundary disputes in Nigeria has failed due to certain fundamental reasons, ranging from over politicization of conflicts, tribalism, lack of skill on the part of the official, favouritism and corruption.

The main objective of this study is to investigate how community insecurity has posed threat to human, economic and political survival in Nigeria. The secondary objectives are to: find out the real causes of community insecurity; present the catalogue of community insecurity as empirical evidences of its existence; inquire if there is policy option of the government to tackle community insecurity; and make recommendation to the government on how to control community insecurity in Nigeria.

Methodology

The researcher has utilized qualitative method or library technique, which relied on secondary data such as published and unpublished data, annual reports on security from government institutions, research reports prepared by scholars in different fields, books of various authors, newspapers, material downloaded from internet and historical documents on community security in Nigeria.

Conceptual clarification

In this section, attempts are made for the clarity of some concepts that are germane or integral to this study to create proper understanding in the contexts they are used. However, the context of the discussion is value laden and consists of subjective conditions rather than objective historical factors. All the definitions characterize political violence. According to Unal (2008), ‘no agreement as to how to operationalize each of these terms according to a solid typology (prospective) and taxonomy (retrospective) based on clear and definitive criteria’.

Security is increasingly viewed as an all-encompassing condition in which people and communities live in freedom, peace and safety, participate fully in the governance of their countries, enjoy the protection of fundamental rights, have access to resources and basic necessities of life, and inhabit an environment which is not detrimental to their health and well-being. Here, the security of people and the security of the state are mutually reinforcing (OECD, Development Assistance Committee, 2000, Hussein, Gnisci and Wanjiru, 2004). However, Zedner (2000:201) argued that “the pursuit of security appears to require not merely an absence of threats but the positive reinforcement of public perceptions of their safety”. The UNDP identified a number of threats on human life such as economic insecurity, food insecurity, personal insecurity, community insecurity and environmental insecurity (UNDP, 1994).

Security embraces all aspects of the society including economic, political and social dimensions of individual, family, community, local and national life. The security of a nation must be constructed in terms of the security of the individual citizen to live in peace with access to basic necessities of life while fully participating in the affairs of his/her society in freedom and enjoy all fundamental human rights (OAU Kampala Document, 1991).

Security is a dynamic condition which involves the relative ability of a state to counter threats to its core values and interests (Omede, 2012). Security of a nation hangs on two important pillars which are (1) the maintenance and protection of the socio-economic order in the face of internal and external threat and (2) the promotion of a preferred international order, which minimizes the threat to core values and interests, as well as to the domestic order (McGrew, 1998).

Community is assessed based on criteria like territory shared history, a common culture, or an established relationship among families living together interdependently (Mawby, 1990; Ekong, 2003). According to the United Nations Development Program (UNDP), community safety or community security seeks to operationalize human security, human development and state building paradigms at the local level ...The approach centres on ensuring that communities and members are “free from fear”. It aims to

protect people from the loss of traditional relationships and values and from sectarian and ethnic violence. Community security is realized through constant connection with community people by the state representatives such as security providers and local authorities.

Community Security is a process that focuses on promoting a community driven approach to understanding and providing security. It has a clear focus on improving the relationships between behaviours of communities, authorities and institutions. The process involves participatory or inclusion in democratic governances, interactions between social groups and better service delivery (Bennet, 2014).

Insecurity in any context arises mostly from common sources (structural factors) and thrives where it finds enabling conditions (accelerators), though it manifests in various forms which may interact with one another (Uzoehina, 2017).

Human Security

Human Security is required following the recent challenges posed by both old and new security threats emanating from consistent poverty, domestic and international terrorism, ethnic conflict and financial stress. Human security is also needed to enable policy makers to adopt comprehensive approach to address threats created by aggression- and violent-prone elements. Human security implies the protection of major freedoms on which life depends. It means preventing people from experiencing severe and pervasive threats by creating enabling political, social, environment, economic, military and cultural systems that grant people opportunity for survival, livelihood and dignity (Commission for Human Security, 2003:4).

Human Security displays the following characteristics: People-Centred (individual is the focus of analysis); Multi-Sectoral (focuses on causes of threat like persistent poverty, unemployment, hunger, famine, unsafe food, malnutrition, environmental degradation, physical violence, child labour, inter-ethnic and religious tensions, political repression and human rights abuses (UNDP Human Development Report, 1994 and HSU-OCHA); Comprehensive approach (integration of all the elements of threats by policy-makers for the purpose of tackling insecurity in a nation-state); Context-Specific Concept (insecurities vary across different regions different regions and demand that solutions be based on contextualization); Prevention-Oriented (centres on protection and empowerment). Human Security is not meant to displace state security but to co-exist with it in a mutually interrelated manner. Human Security reflects the wide scope of threats experienced by individuals within the state.

Human security is value-driven relating to security, stability, and sustainability of development gains. Secondly, human security makes no distribution between different kinds of human rights, be it political, economic, social, cultural, and legal. Human Security approach requires assessment of vulnerabilities and the capacities of the affected communities. It involves an assessment of the strategies needed to help prevent and mitigate the recurrence of insecurities. This will enable threats, vulnerabilities, capacities and strategies to be effectively examined (United Nations office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (n.d.).

Economic Security

Economic security implies the condition of having stable income or other resources to support a standard of living regularly. It includes: a) consistent solvency b) prediction of the future cash flow to a country or individual c) available of job and employment security. It also involves the financial support to those that are jobless, based on the level of production in a society. Economic security includes basic social security, which is defined as access to basic needs infrastructure in the areas of health, education, housing, information, and social protection, as well as work-related security (Gandhi, 2022; ILO). Tamošiūnienė and Munteanu (2015) provide a broader definition of economic security in their joint research. In their opinion, economic security is a priority element of modern national security, which can arise in any

modern society, because safety of energy, transport, communications, army, food, etc. that cannot exist outside the national economic.

The overall objective of economic security is to ensure sustained economic growth and development. It also ensures economic and financial well-being of people. Deficit in economic security will be felt seriously by the people, disturb governance and deracinate governments (Paler, 2022). Economic security” has emerged as a key aspect of national strategy to ensure the safety of citizens and preserve the value of the nation (Kazuto, n.d.).

Persistent community insecurity affects a nation’s economy when government fails to curb various groups responsible for it. The work of Adagbami (2013) opined that insecurity is detrimental to general well-being of the people and has led to destruction of business and properties and relocation of industries. Okereke (2012) stated that human capital investment collapsed and become a threat against the economy due to the attacks on banks, market, parks and government department in northern Nigeria leading to economic backwardness in Nigeria, causing the increase in poverty, unemployment and failure in sustainable human development that is not only prevalent in the northern part but the entire country as well as neighbouring countries like Chad, Cameroon, Niger and Benin republic.

Political Security

Political security is the prevention of government act of repression, gradual violation of citizens’ fundamental rights and the use of military to suppress opposition. It was defined as the prevention of government repression, systematic violation of human rights and threats from militarization. This established an agenda that would protect people against states that continued to practice political repression, systematic torture, ill treatment and disappearance (Hassan, 2015). The political insecurity arises when the collective coexistence is affected by changes in the systems of government or by state decrees that alter a more or less established order. The term political insecurity is measured using five indicators: killing/assassination, enforced disappearance, torture, arbitrary imprisonment and lack of press freedom (Usman, 2012). The basic assumption of this study is that political insecurity leads to human insecurity in Nigeria. Political insecurity emanates from political ideology, leadership exposure, nature of political culture and socialization process of citizens.

Elements of Community Insecurity in Nigeria

The elements of community insecurity in Nigeria include insurgency and terrorism, successionist movements, inter-community conflicts, urban crimes, ethnic violence, banditry, abduction, mass killings, suicide bombing, rape, disruption of properties, herdsmen and anti-democratic activities.

Community Insecurity and Insurgency

Insurgency represents an intermediate step in the spectrum of conflict, which ranges from stable peace to general war (U.S. Army, Field Manual, 2008). The principal strategy for insurgencies is the use of violence within the context of direct, armed struggle in asymmetric modes of warfare for political claim making (Kiras, 2007). According to Tanko (2021), Nigeria is faced with an unprecedented wave of different but overlapping security crises - from kidnapping to extremist insurgencies - almost every corner of the country has been hit by violence and crime.

Causes of Community Insecurity

Literature on causes of violence in Nigeria identify many factors like corruption, injustice, hunger, poverty and despondency in the midst of plenty cornered and monopolized by the leaders who use instruments of coercion to suppress the masses in their agitations (Hendrix, 2016; Okoli and Nachanaa, 2016; Oladipo 2013; Olu-Adeyemi, 2017).

Unemployment

The degree of participation in local violence is tantamount to the level of unemployment in a country. The rate at which unemployment has increased in Nigeria is alarming since the 90s with a huge number of graduates roaming the streets. With the daily collapse of industries and departure of foreign investor, the certainty of not securing jobs is high. Youth unemployment as at 2020 was 21.7% (Nairametrics, 2020). The figure however rose to 32.5% and the country is in the middle of one of the worst economic downturns in 27 years (Tanko, 2021).

Internal and External influence

The activities of sponsors of community insecurity within and outside the state have impacts on the success of agents of terrorism. The wealthy citizens use their resources to promote violence in order to disorganize the peaceful environment. Survey showed that 6 Nigerians were among those 38 people prosecuted by UAE for sponsoring terrorism (Sahara Reporters, 2021). The supply of ammunitions by the rich to the agents of violence increases the outright disregard for laws regulating citizens' conduct. Secondly, influence from other members of terrorist groups outside the country has further polarized violence in communities.

Ungoverned spaces

The vulnerability of communities in Nigeria to attack by the various violent groups resulted from the government failure to provide for security in those remote area. This development has provided opportunity for arbitrary penetration in those communities without fear of reprisal. The vulnerability of a human settlement is affected due to its location and inability for physical resistance (Brauch, 2011). Individuals not empowered to develop resilience to difficult situations in their communities (CHS, 2003). To avert incessant attack, government should aim at the identification and promotion of, and support for, existing coping mechanisms at community level (ICRC, 2012). There is a profound lack of police presence in the rural areas than the urban centers (Lindström, 2015).

Porosity of institutional capacity

The extent of overcoming the vulnerability of agents of community violence is determined by the institutional capacity puts in place by the government. The security institutions have to improve on their performance to enable them to overcome the onslaught of the militant groups. Improvement will be attained when adequate security budget is granted to military institutions, well-sophisticated ammunitions are purchased, regularly military training is put in place, and capacity, effective military surveillance, security intelligence and military reforms exist. The foundations of the institutional framework in Nigeria are very shaky and have provoked deterioration of state governance and democratic accountability (NSACC, 2021).

Existence of marginalisation of minority groups

Nigeria is a country with different ethnic groups with each trying to have dominance over the economic, political and social system. While it is true that Nigeria is a federation, it is equally true right that the federation is created out of circumstances through emergency of states which coexisted in coercive unity. The agitation for recognition by those in the minority at the federal level for even development resulted to the establishment of different insurgent groups to distabilise the society by unleashing terror on innocent citizens.

The violence in Nigeria can be said to be as a result of the prevailing political marginalization (Okoli & Nachanaa, 2016). Without a doubt, the citizens feel excluded, marginalized, victimized, abused, and frustrated (Evans & Ikechukwu, 2019)

Judicial manipulation of justice and inequality

The struggle for justice by citizens in the face of corrupt and disrepute judicial system has led some citizens to create a state of terror and violence when justice is denied by the court, particularly on issues affecting their community, individuals and the government authority. The scarcity of equity and justice in Nigeria that has essentially increased the threat and danger of crime and violence. This stark and pervasive inequality has led to acts of social disorder, otherwise called insecurity. The neglect of social justice by the government has made violent-ridden individuals to justify the act of terrorism in affected communities. According to Onuegbu (2021), the Coalition of South East Youth Leaders (COSEYL), an apex socio-political front for all youth groups in the Southeast region, identified the lopsided appointments into federal government owned institutions against the principle of federal character as factor responsible for alarming insecurity in the country. According to The Sun (2021), since the abduction and consequent incarceration of Mazi Nnamdi Kalu by the government, the rate of community security has increased tremendously.

Ethic crisis

Community clashes usually emanate from lack of tolerance, attempt to usurp the rights of members of other communities, and expansionist tendency. Ethnic crisis is so rampant and often generate destruction of properties, economic activities, political instability, maiming and killing of people. According to Stremlau (1999), “polarisation between ethnic groups and resulting conflict between them as they compete for resources, political and economic power and other goals, has spawned negative consequences of tremendous proportions, of which genocide, ethnic cleansing and civil war are but a few examples, have caused several losses of lives, livelihoods, displacements as well as properties”.

Poverty growth

The level of growth in different communities in Nigeria increased to the extent that individuals considered a suicidal act to mitigate their suffering. The more poverty increases the higher the level of aggression. The inability of citizens to have access to food, shelters, clothes, good health care facility, and education due to lack of money prompt them to take harm, particularly, when certain groups assured them of such provisions. The struggle for survival, therefore, is the reason for the series of violence, including the constant, oil theft/bunkering, piracy, and kidnapping in the Niger Delta, asymmetrical bombings and attacks across the northern half of the country by Boko Haram, and the attacks, kidnappings and killings by herdsmen (Evans and Kelikume, 2018; Hendrix, 2016; Okoli and Nachanaa, 2016; Oladipo 2013; Olu-Adeyemi, 2017).

Agitation for development

Development in every society should spread to every community without any preferential for one at the detriment of another. In some of the communities in Nigeria, the non-provision of resources for development due to vagaries of reasons has resulted to violent demonstrations among the indigenes to compel those in authority to reckon with their interests. Failure of government to provide adequate security attracts criminals who exploit the poor infrastructure to terrorize innocent rural dwellers (Ceccato, 2016).

Environmental pollution and non-compensation

Environmental pollution in the southern part of Nigeria, especially in the Niger Delta, and the non-compensation of affected communities by the multinational companies are some of the fundamental factors for the consistent attack of oil ridge, abduction and killing of expatriates as well as unending bombing of government institutions. For instance, the indigenes of oil-rich Niger Delta regions of Nigeria resisted the operation of oil firms in their communities by establishing different militant groups such as Niger Delta Volunteer Force (NPVF), Movement for the Survival of Ogoni (MOSOP), Ijaw Youth

Council (IYC), Movement for the Emancipation of the Niger Delta (MEND) among others to create a state of terror in that environment (Ukeje, 2001; Okonofia, 2016; Miapyen & Bozkurt, 2020).

Secessionist bid

The attempt by the three major ethnic groups in Nigeria to secure self-independent through their various militant groups often result to community insecurity. There are Oodua group seeking for Oduduwa Republic and Indigenous Peoples of Biafra (IPOB), Niger Delta Republic, Arewa Republic which considered their existence in Nigeria as an error created by the British Colonial administrators who never took into cognizance cultural and historical differences in the course of fusing the various geographical regions together. Secondly, the insistence of the North to hold on to power is another reason for secessionist movement. According to Adibe (2017), there is a big disparity in geographic size and population among the various ethnic, religious, and cultural groups in Nigeria, which makes notions like “fairness” and “justice” relative and contentious when it comes to access to power and the allocation of investments by the federal government.

Religious superiority, imposition, and dominance

Since independence, the danger posed by religion in Nigeria has astronomical destruction to the peaceful co-existence of individuals within and without communities. The major reasons are the rivalry among religions, attempt to impose one particular religion on others through violence. Hazen and Horner, (2007), Salawu (2010) and Igbuzor, (2011) considered community insecurity in Nigeria to have been influenced by religious rivalry.

Non-sanction of crime offenders

The failure of the government to impose death penalty on insurgents, terrorists and other violent-minded groups have made it terribly difficult to control the surge of community insecurity that ravaged the Nigerian nation over the years. Those arrested by the government and found guilty by the court are usually freed. For instance, the Boko Haram, Herdsmen, Bandits, and Secessionist groups are usually granted amnesty and shielded by the government. The action of Nigeria government contravenes UNGA’s recommendation of 2015. According to recommendation by United Nations General Assembly (2015), Boko Haram terrorists should be punished and that no amnesty should be granted to them for abusing and violating international human rights law and international humanitarian law.

Outright disregard for social and cultural values

The disregard for human lives by abductors, terrorists and militant groups is responsible for persistent insecurity in the various communities in Nigeria. Our value system places high premium on human life and despises greed, oppression and exploitation of the weak. Due to the unnecessary abdication of these values, killings, kidnapping and ritual murder are what we hear almost every now and then. Onifade, Imhonopi & Urim (2000) contends that the youth have fast abandoned our value system and imbibe the western values.

Catalogue of community Insecurity

Nigeria in recent times has witnessed an unprecedented level of insecurity such as Boko Haram activities, banditry, kidnapping, Fulani-Herdsmen-Farmers clashes, Niger Delta militants and regional secessionist groups such as Indigenous People of Biafra (IPOB) and its militia wing, Eastern Security Network (ESN) in the name of nationalism. The total deaths recorded between 2011 and 2022 was 41, 659 according to data compiled by Gavin (2022) in the Nigeria Security Tracker, 2022. The increasing bifurcation of Nigeria emanated from the events that took place in May 29, 2011, during the inauguration of President Ebele Jonathan which was based on religious and regional lines mixed with political, economic, or social

grievances (Gavin, 2022). In 2011, Zamfara witnessed a spate of armed attacks and rapidly intensified violence (Egbejule, 2022).

According to Global Conflict Tracker (2022), since 2011, attacks were made by Boko Haram, one of the largest Islamist militant groups in Africa, has conducted terrorist attacks on religious and political groups, military, as well as civilians in busy markets and villages. In April 2014, over 200 girls were abducted. Between January and June 2021 alone, over 2,943 abduction cases and 5,800 death cases were reported by Nigeria Security Tracker, 2021 (Ayodele, 2021). According to SBM Intelligence, kidnappings in the country have increased. Between June 2011 and the end of March 2020, at least \$18 million was paid to kidnappers as ransom (Nigeria Country Commercial Guide, International Trade Administration, 2021). Between December 11, 2020 and February 26, 2021, 730 secondary school students in Katsina, Niger and Zamfara States were abducted (WANEP, 2021). 1,181 people (including 362 children and 103 females) kidnapped in Nigeria between January and February 2021 (WANEP, 2021).

The drivers of displacement in Nigeria are multi-faceted, complex, and often overlapping. Boko Haram and other Non-State Armed Groups (NSAGs) are major agents behind displacement in the Northern Region since 2014. Crime, cattle rustling, land disputes, armed violence and tensions between pastoralists and farmers escalated in the central, north central, and north-west regions in 2020, following the trend of the past three years conflict and violence led to 169,000 new displacements in 2020 and about 2.7 million people were living in displacement as of the end of the year, an increase from 2019. (Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre, IDMC, 2020).

In order to subdue this menace from Boko Haram, Nigeria formed a joint task force with Benin, Cameroun, Chad, and Niger.

Insecurity and its Threats to Economic and Political Development

Nigeria is faced with an unprecedented wave of different but overlapping security crises - from kidnapping to extremist insurgencies - almost every corner of the country has been hit by violence and crime. The increasing rate of threats emanating from insecurity has discouraged domestic and foreign business investors from participating effectively in the growth and development of the economy because it has assumed a dangerous dimension from simple protest to violent-ridden, bombing, abducting and killing. The consistent and persistent rate of insecurity has fuelled anti-social acts such as armed robbery, ethnic crisis, assassination, militancy, banditry, abduction, and illegal killing. Insecurity does not only affect the corporate existence of Nigeria but also have a devastating impact on economic development. The most challenging insecurity is Boko Haram insurgency, which has hindered peace in the northern part of Nigeria among ethnic communities.

In every society, economic security is intricately linked to national security. Hence, the epidemic proportion of criminality in Nigeria has ramifications for its economy. Insecurity has resulted to disruption of economic activities, decimation of consumer confidence, decrease in foreign direct investment (FDI), disproportionate defence spending vis-à-vis other economic sectors, the struggle for personal survival undermines innovation, increase in brain drain, perverse incentives, decline in productivity, possible national isolation, and deepening corruption at all levels (Financial Nigeria, 2020).

Available data on the economic impact of violence on countries' Gross Domestic Product (GDP) according to the Institute of Economics and Peace (IEP) in its 2021 report on the economic value of peace, showed that as much as eight per cent of Nigeria's GDP or \$132.59 billion (N50.38 trillion at N380/\$1) is being impacted economically by growing violence around the country (Adekoya, 2021).

The scale of insecurity has not only threatened the human lives, but also, the survival of Nigeria democracy. Political struggles among the political class, politics of rancour and bitterness, ethnic based

politics and intimidation of opposition groups, the use of state apparatus to undermine others are the major sources of insecurity in Nigerian state. Public participation in politics is impaired by consistent political violence which has led to loss of life and property. More than anything else, the greatest obstacle to the country's democracy is the pervasive insecurity of lives and property, as evidenced by the spate of armed robbery attacks, assassinations, kidnappings, armed banditry, ethnic and religious conflicts, coupled with the seeming helplessness of security agencies to handle criminal acts (Mallam & Mijah, 2018; Jae, 2018). There are roadblocks to a strong democracy in Nigeria at all levels of government. Conflict—triggered by political competition and communal, ethnic, religious or resource allocation rivalries—poses a major threat to democracy.

The election of 2019 was marked with persistent attacks by factions of the insurgent group Boko Haram in the northeast; increased communal violence between nomadic herdsman and farmers spreading southward from north-central states; and a dramatic uptick in banditry, kidnapping, and killings in the northwestern states of Kaduna, Katsina, and Zamfara of voters as some had to stay away from polling booths because of threats on their lives (Human Rights Watch, 2019).

Conclusion

Insecurity in Nigeria is not a national problem as most people think but rather trans-national. Nigeria need to look beyond its borders for insurgents, as well as overhauling its economic plan to totally eliminate this visible and invisible enemy. The existence of threat due to menace posed by agents of conflict and violence in any nation has a great bearing on its human, economic, political, and social survival. Over the years, Nigeria as a nation has been battling with threat of insecurity following the activities of Boko Haram, bandits, abductors, Fulani-Herdsman, and other militias. The implication of this development on the economy is devastating as huge amount of money is being allocated to security in the national budget.

In order to curb this menace, there is need to adopt new approach such as: consistent training of security men with modern equipment to meet global best practice standard, acquisition of sophisticated ammunition, employing intelligence services to contain the recurring security breaches, addressing the root causes of insecurity in the country, formulating and implementing stringent laws, and criminalizing terrorism.

Way Forward

In order to be able to resolve the challenges posed by community insecurity, the government can adopt the following recommendations:

Need for police reforms

Police reforms in Nigeria will help to remove some of the challenges encountered by police institutions which involves widespread disrespect for law; lack of operational autonomy due to political interference; citizens' distrust of law enforcement agents; inadequate resources and facilities to resist crime and violence; corruption; recruitment of mediocre; poor remuneration and denial of pension allowance; weak institutional leadership; lack of consistent training as well as technological exposure to the handling of modern weapons (Alemjka & Rutere, 2018).

The government needs to reform the police to enable states to adopt their security measure suitable to protect their communities. A bill should be passed into law that will give states the opportunity of organizing their security structure to counter community insecurity. For instance, the Amotekun established by state governments from the Western part of Nigeria, should have the backing of the federal government. According to Ibrahim and Bala (2018), Vigilante groups such as the Civilian Joint Task

Force and organized hunters who have supported the fight against Boko Haram have reduced the menace posed by terrorists.

Good governance

The triumph of violence in some communities in Nigeria is not unconnected with the existence of bad leadership. Since independence, the bane of governance is the succession of bad leadership during the democratic and military eras. Good governance heals lots of dissatisfaction in every society. The fragrant disregard for ideal principles of governance such as application of rules of law, constitutional sovereignty, practice of human rights, provision of social amenities, equity and justice, sound economic system, adoption of democracy and its consolidation, provision of jobs, creation of peaceful environment through mediation and reconciliation, and effective security institutions. Oluwa (2012) has pointed out, good governance is a function of effective, visionary, transparent, trustworthy and credible political leadership whose driving force is an improvement in the collective wellbeing of the citizens through well-conceived, effectively implemented economic policies and human development programmes.

Raising peace keeping groups

There is no society that is devoid of conflict because human beings have diverse interests. The ability of a nation to manage crisis within a limited period without its escalation makes such to be seen as developed. Peace keeping groups will serve as mediators, reconciliatory agents and conflict managers. The attainment of peace in the community is determined by government's effort to embark on dialogue mechanisms and the establishment of peace clubs for local actors who are closed to the issues at hand. This dialogue should involve LGA officials, religious leaders, traditional authorities, community members, and formal and informal security forces (NSRP, 2017).

Discouragement of illegal importation of ammunition

The rate of illegal importation of destructive ammunition through Nigerian border is increasing on daily basis. The easy accessibility to illegal ammunition by insurgents, herdsmen, kidnappers, Boko Haram, and secessionist groups, through some companies and individuals have to be discouraged with serious penalty meted against offenders. The porosity of the Nigerian borders has made it possible for unwarranted influx of migrants from neighbouring countries such as Republic of Niger, Chad and Republic of Benin (Adeola and Oluyemi, 2012). Accessibility to small arms and light weapons have enabled militant groups and criminal groups to create a state of anomie within their community. The government can discourage this illegal importation by blocking the means through which this illicit acts are carried out.

Adopting security measures

There are several security measures that the government can adopt to prevent community insecurity in Nigeria. Among them are: Constant surveillance of national borders is needed to prevent infiltration of terrorists and illicit importation of Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW); Identifying and destroying source of terrorist financing; Domestic inter-agency co-operation and collaboration, as well as information sharing among ECOWAS member States (FATF, 2013).

Identifying groups/institutions sponsoring community violence

The ruling elite needs to identify those financiers of insurgency and terrorisms. The roles of those sponsors are to create a shield for the criminals, provide weapons, and information on any strategy adopted by the government, reward them with cash and escaping routes. These sponsors need to be prosecuted. The government can achieve this by preventing money laundering techniques through which sponsors transfer fund to terrorists. Secondly, the government can also impose sanctions on the sponsored groups by freezing their accounts and also destroying their investments base.

Bringing corruption to the lowest ebb

The public institutions are rotten with endemic corruption due to the consistent and illegal siphoning of public funds. The diversion of millions of naira which was meant for the purchase of ammunition for security officials has affected the performance of security forces whenever they have encounter with the insurgents. Dasuki's saga typified the extent political appointees can steal money. A sum of \$2 billion meant for procurement of ammunition against the Boko Haram insurgent was transferred into Dasuki's personal account (O'Grady, 2015; Reuters, 2016). Aside from this, the nation has lost huge amount of money to political office holder following their poor service delivery of goods. Over \$15 billion was reported to have been lost to illicit financial flow annually in Nigeria (Onuoha, 2021).

The government can achieve anti-corruption measures by promoting code of conduct for public sector, and establishing systems of declaration of assets. In addition, transparency in the spending of security fund, and monitoring of allocation of funds to government departments that are responsible for the purchase of ammunition should be enhanced. This can be achieved through constant auditing of their accounts and inventory system. Political appointments to public offices should be guided by the principle of merit-based systems.

Equipping the security officials/agency

The inability of the government to ward off conflict-ridden communities in Nigeria is due to the use of outdated ammunitions to combat the insurgents and terrorists responsible for human insecurity, economic retrogression, and political disruption. The need to increase the security budget to enable sophisticated and modern equipment to be purchased should be the top priority of the government. According to Phenson (2014), these security outfits lack basic equipment and are technically out-modeled in terms of modern crime fighting technologies, especially the Nigerian Police. The Nigerian Police lack fire-power, forensic laboratories, modern communication and technical equipment for professionalized police duties as obtained in civilized countries abroad. However, The Guardian (2021), indicated in its publication that the government admitted the need to increase the security personnel as it would enhance effective tackling of rising insecurity in Nigeria.

Creating environment of peace

The Nigerian society is very fragile to govern due to the multiplicity of ethnic groups with diverse values and demands. Over the years, Nigeria has had regular interruption in governance from the military. The democratic experiment has been on trial for over 60 years without the citizens experiencing its dividend. The failure of the ruling elite to fulfil promises made during their campaigns are major reasons for the citizens' resistance against rules and order. For the peace to subsist in any society the government needs to adopt powerful constitutional arrangement, maintain rule of law, guide against corrupt, establish effective security, introduce electoral reforms, and observe fundamental human rights. The fourth republic political leaders are devoid of all the components that make up for good governance and thus creating avenue for violent-prone environment.

Punitive measure

The government should adopt the policy of 'killing at sight'. Those kidnapers, Fulani-herdsmen, Boko Haram should be sentenced to death, if found guilty to deter them from furthering their dastardly act. Once arrested and found guilty by the court of law, death should be imposed on them.

Blocking source of funding

The government needs to block the sources of the financial assistance of the various groups engaging in the act of terrorism and appears to be threatening the state. Thorough investigation should be made to discover the means of funding their violent acts. If it is foreign, an alliance with the foreign nations to

intercept the transfer of money into the accounts of the militant groups. If aids such as money, weapons, and food supply are being sponsored by domestic agents, the government should block the avenue through which the Boko Haram, Fulani-Herders, and the militias are accessing them.

Multi-stakeholder approach

Traditional and community leaders, pressure groups, civil society organizations, academics, media personnel, and security experts should meet to form a synergy in areas of intelligence gathering, information sharing, and early warning signals in matters relating to security around their communities. This is a multi-stakeholder approach which should be employed by the government at federal and state levels. The government needs a sensitization approach through print and digital media as well as conferences, seminars, and NGOs to educate citizens about peaceful coexistence irrespective of religious, political, tribal, or regional affiliations.

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