GOVERNANCE AND SECURITY CHALLENGES IN NIGERIA: AN APPRAISAL

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Abstract

The primary responsibility of Government at any level Federal, State and local is to ensure that security of life and property of the people are protected. In fact, no issue has preoccupied the time and thinking of government as how best to achieve greater security and social well-being of the citizenry. When this is not provided, a Nation is at great risk of collapse. The Nigerian state has in recent times been infested with various forms of security challenges, ranging from cases of abduction, banditry, assassination, ritual killings, rape all caused by the ethnic militia, herdsmen, terrorists group among others. This study investigates governance and security challenges and its implications in Nigeria. The study anchored on the social contract theory for its theoretical frameworks of analysis. It generated data from the secondary sources and adopted content analysis for its findings. The study observed that the prevailing crisis of governance in the area of security propagates uncertainties, uneasy calm, potential threats to the ordinary citizens which is an indication of failure of leadership among those who exercise power and authority at the machinery of government. The findings shows that the negotiation, Amnesty and Hostage-prisoners swap approach currently relied on by government has not been successful to stem the tide. The study therefore recommend a paradigm shift of holistic restructuring of the country to address the issue of poverty, unemployment, political imbalance and overhaul the security architecture with modern technology, among others.

Keywords: Governance, security, poverty, restructuring, insurgency.
INTRODUCTION:

The 1999 constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria as amended, specifically states that the security and welfare of the people shall be the primary purpose of government. Unfortunately, government on its constitutional responsibility has failed to provide a secured environment for lives, properties and the conduct of business and economic activities. In fact, security is the prime responsibility of the state (Hobbes, 1996). Today, the alarming level of insecurity in Nigeria has farewell the crime rate and terrorists attacks in different parts of the country leaving unpalatable consequences for the nation, economic growth (Bature & Tsuwa, 2016).

Iregbenu and Uzonwanne (2015) observed that, insecurity has assumed a pervading form in the country that government is challenged to do what could be done to avert the menace. Although, advanced countries of the world like France, Britain, Switzerland, Germany, Russia, and United States of America are faced with the challenges of security on daily basis, but the Nigeria security situation has obviously taken different dimensions. The country has witnessed a consistent pressure on the government by the Movements for the Emancipation of the Niger Delta (MEND), Movement for the Sovereign State of Biafra (MOSSOB), Indigenous People of Biafra (IPOB), increasing spate of kidnappings in almost all the geo-political zones. In the North East, there are the challenges of boko-haram terrorism. In the North West, there is the challenge of rural banditry and kidnapping terrorism. In the North Central, there is the challenge of farmers and pastoralists clashes. In the south-south, armed militants still operate in the mangroves engaged in all manner of economic sabotage. In the South West and East, local militias are filling the vacuum created by the absence of the state and are heating up the polity with ethno-religious rhetoric (Ebiziem, Ezenwoke and Ogbodo 2019). The threat to national security and increasing waves of crimes placed Nigeria on 14th position in the ranking in the Global Peace Index (GPI, 2020). In the midst of this confusion, Nigerians are asking “where is the state?” Many Nigerians understand the grave dangers of surrendering our sovereignty to a mob of violent and no descript no state actors.

Furthermore, Nigeria as a nation has turned into land of tears, sorrow and blood because of general insecurity and poor governance; which its product has placed the country as poverty capital and citizenry has nothing worth living. Illustrating the gloomy picture of insecurity in Nigeria, Yunusa Ahmad Abubakar, the House of Representative member on Defence posited that for the past six months, Nigeria has witnessed unprecedented killings of police, Army and other security personnel with destruction of police stations, correctional centers by hoodlums and agitators. That police, no longer wear their uniform to work for the fear of the so called “unknown gunmen” (Vanguard, May 1, 2021).

In fact, Nigeria has witnessed an unprecedented level of insecurity, inter communal and ethnic clashes, ethno-religious violence, armed robbery, assassination, murder, gender based violence and bomb explosions on increment basis leading to enormous loss of lives and properties and a general atmosphere of siege and social tension for the populace (Igbuzor, 2011).

Similarly, the deteriorating security situation in the country has posed serious threat to socio-economic development. These developmental challenges include: endemic rural and urban poverty, high rate of unemployment, debilitating youth unemployment, low industrial output, unstable and deteriorating exchange rate, high inflation rate, inadequate physical and social infrastructure, colossal amount of domestic debt and rising stocks of external debt (Ewetan and Urhie, 2014). Therefore, with the lingering challenges and the inability of the Government and its security operations to guarantee safety and security in the country, the
questions that every citizen ask today in Nigeria is that “can there be security?” Is security of lives and properties achievable? Despite the plethora of security measures taken to address the daunting challenges of insecurity in Nigeria, government efforts have failed to produce the desired positive result amidst the deteriorating security situation in the country.

Arising from the foregoing, and for easy understanding of the subject matter, the paper seeks to examine Governance and security challenges in Nigeria and their implications for development. To attain this objective, the first section of the paper addresses conceptual issues and theoretical framework. The next explores the causes of insecurity and their implications for the nation’s stability, while the third section makes conclusion and recommendations.

CONCEPTUAL CLARIFICATIONS

Attempt is made here to clarify the concepts of the discourse in order to provide an analytical foundation for better understanding and empirical verification.

Governance

Broadly speaking, governance is concerned with how a state is governed, about the rules and practices to which governments and state powers as well as authority are exercised (Kjaer, 2004) According to UNDP (1997), Governance is “the exercise of economic, political and administration authority to manage a country’s affairs at all levels. It comprises mechanisms, process and institutions, through which citizens and groups, articulate their interest, exercise their legal rights, meet their obligations and mediate their difference” Apparently important in the UNDP’s definition of governance is that it compasses not just state, but the private sector and civil society as well. All the three essential and critical process of good governance, the role of the state is viewed as that of resting a stable political and legal environment conducive to sustain democracy, while civil society institutions and organizations are viewed as a means facilitating political and social interaction and mobilizing groups to participate in economic, social and political activities (Oluwole, Aworewo & Ifedayo, 2014).

Equally, Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD 2020) posited governance as the use of political authority and exercise of control in a society in relations to the management of its resources for social and economic development. This broad definition encompasses the role of public establishing environment in which economic operators function and in determining the distribution of benefits as well as the nature of the relationship between the ruler and the ruled.

Also, according to the United Nation (UN 2011), governance is consensus-oriented, participatory, following the rule of law, effective and efficient, accountable, transparent, responsive equitable and inclusive. Good governance ensures high-level of institutional effectiveness and socio-economic development, complemented by a politically stable environment for the formation and implementation of government policies (Vende and Jooji, 2017).

As Diamond (2004), rightly asserts, Governance includes: the capacity of the state to function in the service of public good, commitment to the public good, transparency and accountability, rule of law, participation, dialogue and social capital. In brief, good governance promotes fundamental human rights, allows people to pursue their lives in a just equitable manner, insures the existence of legal safeguards and rights; imposes constitutional limits on the extent of government power; a truly independent judiciary; free exchange of information and ideas; absence of corruption; and reasonable investment in the human
capital, such as through education and research. Good governance has the capacity to create new wealth and reduce insecurity.

SECURITY

Security has to do with freedom from dangers or threat to a nation’s ability to protect and develop itself, promote its cherished values and legitimate interests and enhance the well being of its people. Thus, internal security could be seen as the freedom from absence of those tendencies, which could undermine internal cohesion and the corporate existence of the nation and its ability to maintain its vital institutions for the promotion of its core values and socio-political and economic objectives as well as meet the legitimate aspirations of the people (Imobighe cited in Okolie and Onah, 2017:243).

In other words, the presence of insecurity such as conflicts, crisis and war constitutes threat to lives and properties, hinders business activities and discourages local investors, all of which stifle and retard socio-economic development of a country (Ewetan and Urhie, 2014).

Accordingly, Buzan (1991) analysed security from three levels. These include individual, state and international levels. The sectors, which he also addresses in the article “New patterns of global security in the twenty-first century”, are political, military, economic societal and environmental. These concepts cannot adequately address the issues or security separately, each one is intricately and complexly linked with the next, forming a web of information that a security analyst must detangle to understand each concept individually in order to ascertain how they affect each other on the whole (Okolie and Onah, 2017).

Technically speaking, security is a direct synonym to safety. It signifies absence of, or protection from, physical danger. As noted by Lerner (1964:626), cited in Okolie and Onah, (2017:243).

Security is sometimes used in such phrases as state security, security risk, security police, etc, to denote (a) the Safety of protection, and/or (b) the agencies to which the safety of the state are entrusted... In a large sense, security is virtually identical with welfare and signifies absence of, or protection from, material want.

In fact, the above postulation indicates inter alia, that security is multi-faceted and multidimensional in meaning, applications and projections. Thus, Lucklam (2012:2) cited in Okolie and Onah (2017:244) posits that;

Security is not multi-headed, but also morally ambiguous and politically contested. Everything depends on who speaks in the name of security. Whose security are we talking about? From what are they secured? And how is their security protected (or neglected).

However, in practical terms, security encompasses, but not limited to the following:

- Freedom from hunger, want, starvation and diseases;
- Conviction that the 'need of the stomach' are safeguarded and guaranteed;
- Mustering of adequate security machinery in a given polity to protect the lives, property and investments of the citizens;
- Guaranteeing the future of the people through responsible and responsive governance;
• Instituting adequate safeguards against oppression, suppression and alienation of
  the mass of the citizens
• Evolving political actions that will deepen affective, ascriptive and evaluative
  orientation among the citizens;
• Implanting statecraft, based on effective production and equitable distribution of
  socially produced wealth; and
• Improving the residues of patriotism, solidarity and cooperative behaviours
  (Okolie, 2012:7-9, cited in Okoli and Onah, 2017:243). In consonance with the above
  contention, security is said to be multi-dimensional and multi-faceted in its
  ramification.

Methodology

The study adopted qualitative design as its methodology and applied descriptive
nature in the application of this research. The data used was generated from the secondary
sources. The secondary and documentary source include books, journals, periodicals,
monographic seminar papers, conference papers, published and unpublished research books,
magazines, internet materials. Others are statutory and recognized international
organizations like the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS), International Labour
Organizations Document (ILO), Worldometer online data provider. Equally, extant literature
review was greatly utilized on the subject matter. The secondary data generated were analyzed
using content analysis. Content analysis has to do with the rigorous analysis and examination
of written records in a critical, analytical, descriptive and explanatory manner so as to make
generalization and meaning from such written records and documents.

According to Kerlinger (1977), cited in Ebiziem et al., (2020), content analysis is a
research technique for objective, systematic, quantitative and qualitative description of the
manifest content of communication. The central objective of content analysis is to convert
recorded data or information into data which can be treated in a scientific manner so that a
body of knowledge may be built up.

THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

Our theoretical framework in this paper is organized and presents within the rubric of
social contract theory. The social contract theory posits the imperative of surrendering
people’s power over their lives and properties to some people or group of people within the
same society who, in turn are saddled with the responsibility of providing for and protecting
the people and society at large. The advocates and proponents of social contract theory
include: Thomas Hobbes (1388-1678), John Locke (1632-1704), and Jean Jacques Rousseau
(1712-1755) The social contract theories see the state as a human contrivance emanating
from the consent of the individuals for the sole purpose of advancing and protecting the
personal values or right of the individual member, including the right to life and property.
Social contract is made because of the certain inconveniences prevalent in the state of nature
such as men’s inclination to violate the rights of others all in the name of self preservation.
The state of nature was full of conflicts and crises as in modern states hence the need for a
leviathan who will not only control relationship in the pursuit of the valuables but also to
ensure security of life and property against brutality and man’s inhumanity to man.

Undoubtedly, Nigeria is a plural society in which numerous distinct ethnic, religious
and cultural groups co-exist within the nations. A plural society as conceived by Otite
(1999:2) “is characterized by co-existing but distinct cultural diversities and compulsory
social institutions which determines and guides the individual and group behaviours of the
incorporated people”.

54
Pointedly, since the return of the Civilian rule in 1999 to date, ethno-religious tensions have grown so high that different groups in Nigeria manifestly formed their youth, militia groups, hence, contravening the whole essence of federal practice in Nigeria and thus engendering political instability and insecurity. (Dode and Ita, 2018). The implication of the ideas embedded in the social contract theory to the present situation is that, it is the responsibility of government to provide good governance and security to the citizens by ensuring that the lives and property were well protected. Thus, the above assumptions justified the use and application of social contract theory to the study.

Causes of Insecurity in Nigeria

Many scholars have identified several causes of insecurity in Nigeria that are inimical to socio-economic and sustainable development (Ezeani, 2018; Ewetan and Urhie, 2014; Ali, 2013; Onyishi, 2011; Okorie, 2011; Slawa, 2010;) posited that the insecurity in Nigeria is on the increase and it has been compounded by the rising wave of terrorism since the country returned to democratic rule in 1999. Although, the incursion of the military into governance and the consequent imposition of military command structure on the federation no doubt led to the overwhelming dominance of the federal government that distributes national resources to lower levels of government at its own whims and caprice.

Ethno-Religious Conflicts

Bishop Kukah on his Easter message titled: Nigeria: before our glory depart; said: “Taunted by Boko Haram, ravaged by bandits, kidnappers, armed robbers, and other merchants of death across the nation, there is collective fear as to whether Nigeria’s glory is about to depart”(Kukah,2021). He further stated that Retired military and intelligence officers lament over what has become of their glorious profession, as they watch the humiliation of our military personnel; traumatized citizens are tortured daily by bandits. Elaborating the above issues, Kukah posited that North-east is currently boiling with continuous attack by Boko-haram terrorists. There is no peace in the South-east and South-south either; following the invasion of Fulani herdsmen and their constant killing of Nigerians. The suspicion and distrust among ethnic groups in the country is seriously responsible for security crisis in the country. Ethno-religious conflicts recur among the various groups when there is lack of cordiality, mutual suspicion and fear and these have caused conflicts and religious clashes between the two dominant religions (Islam and Christianity), and thus, have become a major security challenge that affects Nigeria (Salawu, 2010, Achumba, Ighonereho and Akpan-Robaro, 2013). Equally, ethno-religious conflicts have emerged as a result of trend and particularistic forms of political consciousness and identity structured around the political system (Igbugor, 2011).

The implication is that in all parts of Nigeria, ethno-religious crisis have assumed alarming rates. It has occurred in places like Shagamu (Ogun State), Lagos, Abia, Kano, Bauchi, Nassarawa, Taraba, Benue, Ebonyi, Enugu, Kaduna, Jos, Kebbi and Niger State respectively. Groups and communities who had over the years lived together in peace and harmony now take up arms against each other in gruesome war over scarce resources, power, land, chieftaincy, local government councils, control of markets among others. These ethno-religious identities have become disintegrative and destructive social elements threatening the peace, stability and development in Nigeria (Onyishi, 2011).
Table 1: Nigeria Ranking in the Global Peace Index, 2008 – 2020

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Global Peace Index</th>
<th>Global Peace Ranking</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2008</td>
<td>2.574</td>
<td>125°</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2009</td>
<td>2.599</td>
<td>127°</td>
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<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>2.628</td>
<td>131°</td>
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<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>2.613</td>
<td>137°</td>
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<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>2.707</td>
<td>146°</td>
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<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>2.693</td>
<td>148°</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>2.710</td>
<td>148°</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>2.910</td>
<td>151°</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>2.877</td>
<td>149°</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>2.849</td>
<td>149°</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2018</td>
<td>2.873</td>
<td>148°</td>
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<tr>
<td>2019</td>
<td>2.898</td>
<td>148°</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2020</td>
<td>2.865</td>
<td>147°</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: GPI, 2020

Statistics from table above indicate that insecurity is affecting Global Peace in Nigeria, in fact, between 2008 and 2020 the country dropped from 125° to 147°. In other words, Nigeria has been identified as the least peaceful in West Africa (GP1, 2020). The situation has become worsen given the impunity that characterizes the Nigeria political culture. In fact this ranking is affecting the investment, and socio-economic development of the country (Achumba, Ighomereho and Akpor-Robaro, 2013).

Lack of Institutional Capacity

The breakdown of institutional infrastructures had made governance to be shaky and has created a pool of frustrated people who are ignited easily by any event to be violent. The incapacity of government to deliver public services and provide basic needs for the masses has given rise to security challenges (Ali, 2013). Contributing on security challenges in Nigeria, Ortom, the Governor of Benue State, in a lecture organized by the Nigeria Union of Journalist posits “that the terror franchise is responsible for killings, rape, public executions, bombings of public and private property and places of worship, robbery and mass abduction of the Chibok girls (2012), Damabak school children (2015), and the Dapchi girls (2018), including Leah Sharibu, who is still in custody. The group was responsible for the bombing of the building of the United Nations Office in Abuja and has killed more 30,000 people and displaced three million people. He further stated that banditry, insurgency, armed herdsmen, abduction for ransom, cattle rusting and illegal gold mining activities had continued to drive insecurity in the North West geo-political zone due to poor institutional capacity (Vanguard May, 2021).

Unemployment

The recent report released by the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) is a cause for worrying concern. The NBS report shows that a 20 month interval on the nation's unemployment rate, unemployment rose to 27.1% in the second quarter of 2020 from 23.1%
recorded in third quarter (Q3) 2018. The NBS in its "Labour force statistics unemployment and underemployment report" noted that unemployment rate among young people 15-34 years was 34.9% while underemployment for the same group rose to 28.2% from 25.7% in third quarter (Q3) 2018. The report added, the number of persons in the labour force (people within ages 15-64 who are able and willing to work) was estimated to be 80,291,894. It was 11.3% less than the number of persons in third quarter (Q3) 2018 (NBS, 2020).

Furthermore, an appraisal of unemployed youth’s percentage (in a population of about 200 million) according to Worldometer, an online data provider showed an alarming trend as the number exceeds the populations of South African countries. Alarming, unemployment (34.9%) and underemployment (28.1%) rates among youths totaled 63% thus, placing Nigeria, uncomfortably ahead among the worst cases globally. Others in its league are Lesotho (28.2%), Swaziland (26.5), occupied Palestinian territories (26.4%) and Mozambique (24.8). In addition, countries with the lowest unemployment rates at the end of 2019 are Qatar (0.1%), Cambodia (0.3) Niger (0.4%), Belarus (0.5), Laos (0.7), Myanmar (0.8), Bahran (1.2%), Tonga (1.2), Thailand (1.4%), Kuwait (2.0%), for the world's largest, economies, the unemployment levels are Japan (2.4%), India (3.5%), Germany (3.6), United Kingdom (3.9%), United States (4.1%), China (4.8%), Canada(5.9)France (8.6%) and Italy (10.4%). (http:www.worldometers.info/demographics/Nigeria-demographics). The National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) indicated that Imo State recorded the highest rate of unemployment with 48.7% followed by Akwa-Ibom and Rivers with 45.2% and 43.7% respectively. The report is worrisome as it poses a threat to security, governance and peaceful co-existence and development. The large number of youths who are unemployed is capable of undermining democratic practice as they constitute a serious threat if engaged by the political class for clandestine activities (Ebiziem, et al, 2020).

**Poverty**

Poverty is one of the major factors to insecurity. However, existing scholars are not yet settled on whether poverty causes crimes, insecurity and terrorism or not. In fact, there exists at the moment a predominance of literature, which argues that conditions of poverty either predispose someone to crimes and terrorist activities or enhance the goals of terrorism (White Head, 2007; Aftab, 2008, and Ibaba, 2013; Raimi & Akubor, 2015). The above scholars were of the view that poverty standing alone cannot cause terrorism but can be a strong contributory factor to the menace of insecurity and terrorism. However, (Pizza,2011) was of the view that poverty and economic inequality do cause insecurity and terrorism, a claim he demonstrated with the list of 10 countries worst hit by terrorists events using Gross Domestic Product (GDP) per capital and Human Development Index (HDI) (Iibaba, 2013). Besides, Iibaba (2013), observed that poverty can hardly be disconnected from domestic insecurity. He stated that poverty without freedom and good governance can support terrorism, just as poverty within the context of a failed, fragile or failing state may trigger insecurity and terrorism.

Weak Security System

A cursory look at the security Agencies in Nigeria shows the existence of following: Nigeria Police Force, a creation of the 1999 Constitution, amended, under section 214; State Security Service (SSS), created in the Nation Security Agencies Act (Cap N74 L.F.N., 2004). Armed Forces of The Federation provided under section 217 of the 1999 constitution, as amended, among others. However, these bodies most often perform below expectation on related security matters. This occurs from inadequate equipments, both in terms of weaponry and capacity training. Also, the attitudinal and poor behavioral disposition of personnel. In fact, some personnel assigned to deal with given security situations lack the expertise and equipment to handle the situation. Equally, some personnel sometimes were influenced by ethnic, religious or communal sentiment or their personal interest to serve their ethnic people, rather than the national, most often they undermine the interest of the nation by becoming saboteurs and leaking vital security information aiding and abetting criminals to acquire weapons or to escape the long arm of the law as currently witnessed in the North-East of Nigeria. (Akuul, 2011; Adebanjoko and Okorie, 2014; Oparaku, Nwaneri, and Egbe, 2017).

Asymmetric Power Relations

One of the greatest challenges facing Nigeria Security and Governance is problem of asymmetric power relationship between and among the disparate components units in the country. This has generated mutual accusation and counter accusation of domination and marginalization by the southerner part of the country, particularly the South-East and the South-South. However, since the fourth republic, the leadership distribution among the political zones in the country has rotated among the South-West by Obasanjo, May 29, 1999-May 29, 2007; North West, Yar’ Adua, May 29, 2007-May 5, 2010; South – South Jonathan, May 6, 2010, and May 29, 2015; North-West, Buhari, May 29, 2015 till date, while South-East has no presidential slot given to her in the leadership distribution. This structural imbalance which is unfair and unjust has continued to raise agitations for restructuring of the polity (Ezeani, 2018).

Porous Borders

In fact, a factor which has enhanced insecurity in Nigeria is the porous frontiers of the country where individual movements are uncontrolled. The porosity of Nigeria's borders has serious security implications for the country (Nwadialor, 2011). Given the porous borders as well as the weak security system, weapons come easily into Nigeria from other countries such as Niger, Chad, Republic of Benin and Cameroon respectively. Available information shows that these migrants are mostly the perpetrators of crimes in the country (Ogbonnaya and Ehigimouse 2013). Corroborating on the porous nature of the country border, former Head of State of Nigeria and Chairman of the National Peace Committee Abdulrasheed Abubakar said that over six million arms were now in circulation in Nigeria with over 80,000 killed in recent years. (Vanguard Editorial, May 1, 2021).

Terrorism

Today, terrorism is one of the fundamental sources of insecurity in Nigeria and its primary bases and sources of support have generally been located on religious fanaticism and intolerance. In fact, Nigeria has lost more than 50,000 lives in the Northern region since 2009 to the insurgency of this famous sect, Boko Haram which has been ravaging the northern region of the country (Obialor 2015; Nwazor, 2013). Terrorism is a global phenomenon and it is ravaging the whole world. It has been defined by Sampson and Onuoha as "the premeditated use of violence by individuals or group to cause fear,
destruction or death especially against unarmed targets, property or infrastructure in a state intended to compel those in authority to respond to the demands and expectations of individuals or group behind such violent acts". Equally, some foreign observers have linked terrorism in Nigeria to a number of factors which include political conflict, unbalanced development that involves inequalities, religious/ethnic distrust, poor governance linked to leadership failure and high level of corruption (Oparaku, Nwaneri, and Ègbe, 2017).

Similarly, the security situation between 2012 and 2020 in Nigeria obviously took different dimensions. This period, however, witnessed a consistent pressure on government by the increasing attacks by the Boko Haram group, mayhem by the Islamic assassins, the Fulani herdsmen, increasing spate of kidnapping in South-East geo-political zone among others.

The Effects of Insecurity

The effects of insecurity are multi-dimensional including losses of investment which in turn discourages potential domestic and international investors, destruction of critical infrastructure, human resource decimation through hostage-taking, kidnapping and genocide; disruption of human capital development through the kidnapping of students in educational institutions, disruption of economic activities through theft, armed robbery, assassination, ritual killing and numerous fraudulent activities amongst others, all constitute threats and have implications for Nigeria corporate existence. (Warren, 2020; Ezirim & Okoye, 2018; Obialor, 2015; Oluwole et al, 2014)

Summary of findings

The study highlighted the seemingly intractable security challenges in the country with the following factors been responsible: Inadequate equipping and training of security personnel; loss of socio-cultural and communal value system such as collectivism and loyalty to authority; porous borders, extreme inequality cum poverty; corruption among others were all compounding factors in which Global Terrorism Index released on 27th November, 2020, placed Nigeria as the third most terrorized country in the world. The study further observed that Government failure to deliver public good are the lapses which created a pool of frustrated people who were easily ignited by an event to be violent. Therefore, evidence of this had shown that poor governance with the ranging intensity abduction, kidnapping, banditry assassination, armed robbery, ritual killings are on the increase.

Conclusion

Having explored pertinent issues that necessitated this study and examined the underline dynamics of Governance and Insecurity, this paper has successfully unfolded the nexus between governance deficits and security challenges and further demonstrated that the state is the only institution that is saddled with the responsibility to impose and maintain order and is at liberty to use its coercive apparatus, whenever and whatever it deem necessary. When analysed critically, it has been observed that Governance and Insecurity are multidimensional variables that requires a holistic approach in tackling. From our earlier discussions, there is clear correlation between highest unemployment rate and kidnapping and banditry hotspots. Equally observed is the web of ethnic based favouritism, the concomitant misrule, coupled with environment characterized by weak state performance which has brought peculiar neglect, deprivation, frustration and violence among the youths that have
decided to take up arms against the state in spite measures put in place by the government, the menace of insecurity has worryingly persisted.

**Recommendation**

From what have been highlighted so far in our result and findings, the following recommendations were suggested:

1. There is need to conduct a holistic re-jigging of the National security architecture which include the decentralization of the police structure in a manner that will allow for effective state and community police. This surgical approach will also include amendment to the constitution and other statutes that will allow for effective community police operation.

2. The country needs to acquire surveillance technology such as drones, satellites imagery and the likes to allow aerial monitoring of these spaces, mobile phone tracking and tracing, thus, making it impossible of the movement of miscreants. Also, the need for intelligence gathering and surveillance to be proactive.

3. There is need to promote international cooperation and collaboration with strategic partners in terms of capacity building in technological fit-out and back-up for Nigeria security agencies to enhance their operational efficacy against menace, to reach out to some countries like U.S.A., Pakistan, Israel, China that have recorded varying degrees of success in tackling kidnapping and banditry.

4. To further accentuate improvement and transparency in security spending, specifically in Armed forces budgets and security votes, because lack of transparency encourages corruption. Therefore, transparency would promote more effective security architecture as it would allow costs to be weighed up against benefits.

5. The enthronement of good governance with comprehensive restructuring that will be patriotic enough to alter the asymmetrical socio-economic and political structure that has over the years impoverished the youths, and to have a well trained, well equipped and highly-motivated security personnel to be fully supported with unwavering cooperation.

6. Finally, stemming the tide of insecurity in Nigeria requires all hand to be on deck. This implies a robust integration of all arms of government and major stakeholders through convocation of security summit to address some of the lacuna associated with human insecurity challenges vis: poverty, unemployment, environmental degradation, injustice, corruption, porous border, asymmetric power relation, small arms proliferation among others.
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