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## Strategies for Security Management in Nigeria: A Roadmap for Peace and National Security

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### Abstract

*The security situation in Nigeria has become enormous and embarrassing to government. To tackle insecurity, it is imperative to investigate and identify its sources and causes. This paper isolated and clarified different causes and sources of insecurity in Nigeria. The paper equally suggested two strategic security management approaches that can accommodate both long term and immediate solutions to insecurity. These models – the two approach model and the composite approach model simultaneously aim to remove the causes or sources of insecurity and involve all stakeholders – government, communities, business organizations, civil society, religious organizations etc in the fight against insecurity.*

**Key words:** Strategies, security, management.

### Introduction

**Security:** The freedom from danger, care intimidation, apprehension, the feeling or assurance of safety, peace of mind or absence of fear, and the certainty or assurance of the good life or welfare – constitutes one of the fundamental objectives and indeed the foremost responsibility of every government and the state. In Nigeria, the constitution unequivocally spelt out as a fundamental objective and directive principle of state policy that “the security and welfare of the people (of Nigeria) shall be the primary purpose of government” (Section 14 (2) (b) Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999). Nigeria in recent times has witnessed an unprecedented level of insecurity. No wonder national security has become an issue for government,

prompting huge allocation of the national budget to security. According to Azazi (2011), in order to check the crime rate in Nigeria, the federal government has embarked on criminalization of terrorism by passing the anti-terrorism Act in 2011, installation of computer-based Closed Circuit Television cameras (CCTV) in some parts of the country, enhancement of surveillance as well as investigation of criminal related offences, heightening of physical security measures around the country aimed at determining or disrupting potential attacks, strengthening of security agencies through the provision of security facilities and the development and broadcast of security tips in mass media. Despite these efforts, the level of insecurity in Nigeria is still high and the country has been consistently ranked low in the Global Peace Index (GPI, 2012), signifying poor state of insecurity in the country as indicated in table 1 below:

**Table I:** Nigeria and other West African Countries on the Global Peace Index Ranking (GPI)

S/N	Country	GPI Score 2009	GPI Rank 2009	GPI Score 2010	GPI Rank 2010	GPI Score 2011	GPI Rank 2011	GPI Score 2012	GPI Rank 2012
1	Ghana	1.76	52	1.78	48	1.75	42	1.81	50
2	Sierra Leone	–	–	1.82	53	1.90	61	1.86	52
3	Burkina Faso	1.91	71	1.85	–	1.83	51	1.88	56
4	Gambia	–	–	–	79	1.91	62	1.96	74
5	Senegal	1.98	80	2.03	–	2.05	77	1.99	78
6	Guinea	–	–	–	–	2.13	92	2.07	92
7	Guinea Bissau	–	–	–	–	–	–	2.11	95
8	Liberia	–	–	2.15	99	2.16	97	2.13	101
9	Mali	2.09	96	2.24	109	2.19	100	2.13	102
10	Benin	–	–	–	–	–	–	2.23	114
11	Niger	–	–	–	–	2.36	119	2.24	116
12	Mauritania	2.48	124	2.39	123	2.43	130	2.30	125
13	Cotd'Ivoire	2.34	117	2.30	118	2.42	128	2.42	134
14	Nigeria	2.60	129	2.76	137	2.74	142	2.80	146

**Source:** Adapted from Global Peace Index (2009 – 2012).

### **The state and security**

The state is generally presented as a people organized for law and development in a given territory. As a result, the state requires the element of the people, law and order, territory and development, encapsulated in sovereignty to operate. The state serves

utilitarian purposes; hence, it is not end in itself. The purpose of the state is to ensure secured people for development. The term security has been used to mean protection against or safety from a future risk of severe deprivation, injury or death and requires rules, order and impartial adjudication and application. Security according to Achumba, Ighomereho & Akpo-Robaro (2013) refers to a situation that exists as a result of the establishment of measure for the protecting of persons, information and property against hostile persons, influences and actions. It is the existence of conditions within which people in a society can go about their normal daily activities without any threat to their lives or properties. It embraces all measures designed to protect and safeguard the citizenry and the resources of individuals, groups, businesses and the nation against sabotage or violent occurrence (Achumbo et al, 2013). Security is the protection against all forms of harm whether physical, economic or psychological. It is however argued that security may not be absence of threats or security issues but the ability to rise to the challenges posed by threats with expediency and expertise. Security cannot therefore exist without provision for national security. Aggressive and repressive states can be major sources of human insecurity and a greater source of human suffering.

National security is concerned about those governmental institutions that seek to ensure the physical protection and safety of their citizens, their equal access to the law and protection of from abuse. There are two sets of government systems and institutions concerned with national security. The first component consists of the traditional instruments of national security, namely: the criminal justice system (police, justice and correctional services/prisons) the military and the intelligence community. The second and more important, relates to the nature of governance, its institutions and rules, norms and values that underpin it – as well as the efficacy thereof (Thamos, 2008). Human security according to Pam Sha (2005) defines security in terms of an integrated idea of positive peace, human rights and sustainable development. It is related to the enhancement of livelihoods of all people at risk; the values of the respect of human rights, the dignity of the individual, respect for diversity, community empowerment, decentralized forms of government, peace and co-existence and the accountability and transparency of actions aimed at the betterment of livelihood (Human Security Report, 2003). These values aspire towards the creation of an enabling environment for development of people at risk, a minimum social security net for those in need, clear vision and approach to participation and empowerment and milestones for the achievement of those aspirations (Thamos, 2008). The promotion of Human Security is realized through freedom from want and fear.

### **National security**

National security refers to the absence of threats to core values and the prevention of public disorders. Security could be seen at two levels, namely; the state and

individual. Individual security has to do with core values such as job security, social security, and security against national disaster whereas at the state level, security connotes the safeguard of the territorial integrity of the state against internal and external aggressors (Atoyebi, 2003). Thamos (2008) noted that national security is to feel safe, which safety should stand guaranteed by the political dispensation in such a way that wars may be less likely and the normal conditions among states may prevail. National security also envisages preparations for all sorts of defence which may appear as preparedness for war. Nweze (2004) conceptualized national security as the preservation, protection and the guarantee of the safety of life, property, wealth of the citizenry and measures to guard against threats to national sovereignty. It equally implies freedom from danger to life and property and people to pursue legitimate interest within the society (Bassey, 2004).

### **Insecurity and sources of insecurity in Nigeria**

**Insecurity:** Given the fundamental presentation of security, insecurity is the presence of and/or apprehension of those tendencies that could undermine internal cohesion and corporate existence of the nation and its ability to maintain its vital institutions for the promotion of its core values and socio-political objectives, as well as meet the legitimate aspirations of the people. It also implies the presence or apprehension of danger to life and property, and the presence of a non-conducive atmosphere for the people to pursue their legitimate interest within the society. It embodies the presence, or apprehension of threat to, and or direct violation of security. It implies threat to individual security, state security and security of the environment. Imobighe (2003) identified threats to internal security in Nigeria to include: religious/political intolerance, management of resources, subversion and sabotage, espionage, smuggling, alien influx, armed robbery, mutiny/coup d'état, civil unrest, revolutionary insurgency. Some common descriptors of insecurity according to Achumba et al (2013) include: want of safety, danger, hazard, uncertainty, want of safety, doubt, inadequately guarded or protected, lack of stability, troubled, lack of protection and being unsafe. Beland (2005) defined insecurity as a state of fear or anxiety stemming from a concrete or alleged lack of protection i.e. lack or inadequate freedom from danger. These definitions reflect physical insecurity which is the most visible form of insecurity, and it feeds into many other forms of insecurity such as economic security and social security. It is however depressing that Nigeria is yet to develop a credible security policy in the face of serious, threatening, internal security challenges (Ekoko & Vogt, 1990).

### **Sources of insecurity in Nigeria**

Nweze (2004) identified sources of security threats in Nigeria to include: militarism, and military experiences, ethnic/religious pluralism, unemployment, poverty and failure of governance, socio-economic inequalities and demographic factors, small

arms and ammunition trafficking, migration and indigene question in Nigeria, Nigeria's socio-economic status in Africa and the illegal alien issues, globalization, porous security heritage and external influence. It is necessary to distinguish between different causes as each may require different remedy. Like in other countries, the sources of insecurity in Nigeria can be traced to a number of factors. Beyond the external-internal dichotomy, sources of insecurity can equally be classified as either remote or proximate and immediate. In Nigeria, the challenge is not so much about external sources but rather that of internal sources. Hence the focus of the paper was on the internal sources.

### **Remote (root) factors**

#### **a) Lack of institutional capacity**

There is apparently a breakdown of institutional infrastructure. The foundations of institutional framework in Nigeria according to Achumba et al (2013) are very shaky and have resulted in the deterioration of state governance and democratic accountability, thereby paralyzing existing set of constraints including the formal and legitimate rules nested in the hierarchy of social order. According to Igbuzor (2011), the state of insecurity in Nigeria is a function of government failure. This is manifested by the inability of government to deliver public services and provide the basic needs of the masses. Lack of basic necessities in Nigeria has created a pool of frustrated people who are easily ignited by any event to become violent. It is argued that Nigeria has the wherewithal to provide for her people, but corruption of public office holders has made this impossible. Nigeria according to Hazen & Horner (2007) is a 'paradox of plenty', a very rich country with very poor people. With this kind of situation, insecurity of lives and properties is bound to arise/occur.

#### **b) Pervasive material inequalities and unfairness**

Great disparity in life chances is a major root cause of insecurity in Nigeria. Inequity and unfairness have given rise to grievance by a greater number of people. Some sections of the people may feel marginalized in government development policies, and political offices and this may become a source of disaffection and resentment. According to Onuoha (2011), a large number of the Nigerian people have become frustrated and lost hope, particularly the youths who have taken to violence.

#### **c) Ethno-religious conflicts**

Among the various ethnic groups and religious in Nigeria have arisen distrust and lack of confidence. According to Hazen & Horner (2007), Salawu (2010) and Igbuzor (2010), ethno-religious conflict is a major source of insecurity in Nigeria. Frequent and persistent ethnic conflicts and religious clashes between the two dominant religions (Islam and Christianity) present the country with a major security challenge. In every part of Nigeria, there exists ethno-religious conflict which according to

Ibrahim & Igbuzor (2002) have arisen as a result of new and particularistic forms of political consciousness and identity often associated with ethno-religious identities. As Adagba et al (2012) have noted, claim over scarce resources, power, land, chieftaincy, local government council, control of markets and sharia among other trivial issues have resulted in large scale killings and violence among groups in Nigeria.

**d) Conflict of perceptions between the public and government**

Over time, there has been a standing mismatch between public and government perceptions. A situation which often results in the reaction of the public to the excesses of the military regimes which governed Nigeria has created sensitivity by those in government as public intrusion matters of state. Frequently, on every given incident, public and government reactions diverge. The media have not helped matters in such situations. Such reports have always been capitalized upon in sophisticated ways by various groups, some of which are violent to incite public clamour for a change and immediate reaction through strategically provocative violence. The truth is that the media has contributed to exacerbate insecurity or perception of insecurity in Nigeria. The pen, it is said, is mightier than the sword.

**e) Weak security system**

This arises from inadequate equipment for the security arm of government both in weaponry and training. This is in addition to poor attitudinal disposition of security personnel. In most cases, security personnel lack the expertise and equipment to handle such situations in a way to prevent them from occurring. Even when this exists, some personnel get influenced by ethnic, religious or communal sentiment and are usually swallowed by their personal interest to serve their people, rather than the nation. People as a result become saboteurs of government effort by supporting and fuelling insecurity through either lacking vital security information or aiding and abetting criminals to acquire weapons or to escape the long arm of the law.

**f) Loss of socio-cultural and communal value system**

The traditional value system of the Nigerian society like most other African societies according to Clifford (2009) is characterized by such enduring features as collectivism, loyalty to authority and community, truthfulness, honesty, hardwork, tolerance, love for others, mutual harmony, and co-existence and identification of individual with one another. Other distinctive features of the Nigerian traditional society are abhorrence for theft, incest and high values for life. Stealing was considered extremely disgraceful and lives were highly valued. All these values which made society secured and safe have all gradually been discarded or lost. New obnoxious values have succeeded the lost ones. We are often acquainted with

‘modernity and civilization’. Most traditional Nigerian endearing values and morals have been traded off for western values which portend a dangerous precedence.

### **Immediate and proximate factors**

#### **g) Porous borders**

One major immediate factor which has aggravated insecurity in Nigeria is the porous frontiers of the country, where individuals are largely untracked. The porosity of the Nigerian borders has serious security implications for the country. Given the porousness of our borders as well as weak security system, weapons and small arms get into Nigeria easily from other countries. Small arms and light weapons proliferation and the availability of these weapons have enabled militant groups and criminal gangs to have easy access to arms (Hazen & Horner, 2007). According to Edeko (2011), Nigeria is estimated to host over 70 percent of about 8 million illegal weapons in West Africa. Due to the porosity of Nigerian borders, unwarranted influx of migrants from neighbouring African countries such as Republic of Chad, Niger and Benin has become possible. These migrants who are mostly young men according to Adeola & Oluyemi (2012) are some of the perpetrators of crimes in Nigeria.

#### **h) Rural/urban drift**

The migration of jobless youths from rural to urban centre also causes insecurity in Nigeria. According to Onuoha (2011), Nigeria is one of the countries in the world with very high rural/urban drift. Most urban areas in Nigeria have grown beyond their environmental carrying capacities and existing infrastructure and this has resulted to increased poor quality of the living conditions. Out of frustration due to over population, these youths are drawn into crime.

#### **i) Social irresponsibility of companies**

Corporate social irresponsibility is a set of actions that increases externalized costs and/or promotes distributional conflicts. Companies engage in corporate social responsibility (CSR) in order to offset corporate social irresponsibility. The rise of terror groups in some parts of the country is directly related to the neglect of social responsibility. Thus was the case in the Niger Delta Region crisis.

### **Unemployment/poverty**

As a result of high level of unemployment and poverty among Nigerians, particularly the youths, they are adversely attracted to violent crime. Adagba et al (2012), Nwagboso (2012) noted that the failure of successive administrations in Nigeria to

address challenges of poverty, unemployment and inequitable distribution of wealth among ethnic nationalities are the major causes of insecurity in Nigeria.

#### **j) Terrorism**

Today, terrorism is the most fundamental source of insecurity in Nigeria and its primary source is located in religious fanaticism and intolerance, particularly in Moslem dominated states of Nigeria. Terrorism which is a global phenomenon was defined by Sampson & Onuoha (2011) as ‘the premeditated use of threat or violence by an individual 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 the individual or group behind such violent acts’. Terrorism in Nigeria is an Islamic insurgency with a political undertone by a faceless group based in the northern region of the country, which calls itself Boko Haram, which takes into account the legitimate political, social and economic grievances of the northern population. According to Oluokun (2014), Nigeria has lost up to 1,500 lives in the north since 2009 since the insurgency of Boko Haram.

Many theories have explained the terrorism challenge in Nigeria both in terms of personal motives of the terrorists, the underlying causes of terrorism and the values of the communities that host terrorism and sustain it. The theories according to Adagba et al (2012) commonly linked terrorism in Nigeria to religious, socio-political, economic and cultural parameters. Implicitly, while terrorism may have originated from Islamic fanaticism, it is now driven as much by other factors such as inequalities and lack among Nigerians. The current challenge of terrorism to physical security is threatening the very foundation of the Nigerian nationhood. The sources of insecurity in Nigeria have been summarized by Kufour (2012) as located in four factors, namely: political conflicts, unbalanced development that involves horizontal inequalities, religious/ethnic distrust and leadership failure. The crime statistics in Nigeria as was reported by CLEEN (2012) and the summary of activities of Boko Haram and the number of attacks and victims from 2009 – 2012 as was noted by Achumba et al (2013) are as indicated in table II below:



**Table II: Statistics of Crime in Nigeria from 2000 – 2008**

	<b>Year</b>	<b>Theft</b>	<b>Armed Robbery</b>	<b>Kidnapping</b>	<b>Assassination</b>	<b>Fraud</b>
1	2000	29,127	1,877	243	1,255	7,927
2	2001	40,796	2,809	349	2,120	10,234
3	2002	35,231	3,889	337	2,117	9,134
4	2003	33,124	3,497	410	2,136	9,508
5	2004	37,289	3,142	349	2,550	9,532
6	2005	46,111	2,074	798	2,074	9,580
7	2006	41,901	2,863	372	2,000	6,395
8	2007	21,082	2,327	277	2,007	5,860
9	2008	23,927	2,340	309	1,956	5,058

**Source:** Summary of crime statistics in Nigeria (2000 – 2008), CLEEN (2012).

### **Strategies for security management in Nigeria**

Achumba et al (2013) suggested a security management approach that accommodates both long term and immediate solutions called “the security strategic management approach”. It is a combination of two models – the two way approach model, and the composite approach model. While the two way approach model aims at combating the creators and perpetrators of insecurity, and simultaneously addresses and removes the causes or sources of dissatisfaction or discontent, the composite approach model aims at involving all stakeholders, both in public and private capacity – government, communities, business organizations, civil society, religious groups and individuals – to supply resources, expertise and information required to ensure a safe environment.

#### **The two-way approach model**

This consists of two models – one part deals with the ability to remove the factors that cause people to engage in acts of insecurity whereas the other part combats the perpetrators of insecurity. This helps to fight criminals with the long arm of the law and with force of arms. It involves being prepared at all times and being proactive. It is aimed at protecting innocent citizens from harm. Its major strategy is to identify and map out black spots on physical security that require vigilance on the environment. Black spots are locations where criminals take advantage of political and economic vulnerabilities to safeguard their operations and attract recruits. They include those area that are politically volatile, and with a large mass of uneducated and abject poor population that are vulnerable to be recruited as terrorists; areas where people have very high level of attachment to opinion leaders and the leader – followers ties are very strong; towns and states on borderlines with other countries and which have cultural, and language links with other societies outside the country, which allow for a network of transnational criminals and terrorists. Such black spots Achumba et al (2013) noted facilitate smuggling of illicit weapons and personnel through the borders without detection. Black spots help terrorists and criminals in

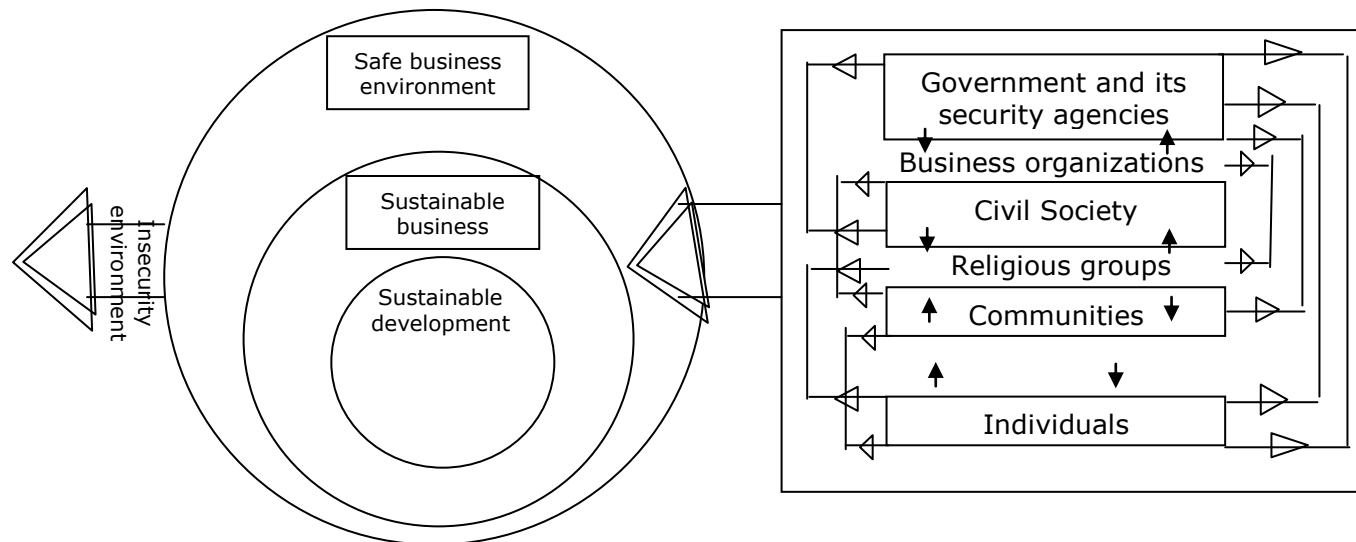
their insecurity flows, that is, movements of assets, people, services or strategies/sensitive know-how. Security agencies should therefore develop and adopt scientific means to detect, map and analyze such black spots in Nigeria and firmly understand their modus operandi in importing insecurity into Nigeria. Continuous monitoring of black spots offers the possibility of tracking the movement of criminals and terrorists, their sources of funding and illegal weapons, skills and expertise. Such approach is critical for intelligence gathering and necessary for threat interception and mitigation of insecurity.

### **The composite approach model**

This model contrasts with the thinking that security is the sole responsibility of government. While according to Ogbeche (2012) it is agreed that security of lives and property is the primary responsibility of government, security challenges in Nigeria are too enormous and serious business to be left for government alone. There is the need for active participation of other stakeholders such as business organizations, civil society, religious organizations, communities and individuals as depicted in fig 1 above.

Insecurity is not peculiar to Nigeria alone. The United States of America, the United Kingdom and other countries also experience the challenges of insecurity on daily basis. The difference however is on the different approach adopted to mitigate it. In U.K, insecurity according to CONTEST (2011) is managed through four strategic work streams, each comprising a number of key objectives of pursue, prevent, protect and prepare. The pursue strategy is meant to stop attacks. That means to detect and investigate threats at their earliest possible stage and disrupting criminal activity before it is carried out, whereas the prevent strategy focuses on stopping people from becoming criminals or supporting crime. The aim is to discourage people from becoming criminals. The protect strategy is meant to protect people from criminals while the prepare strategy mitigates the impacts of criminal attacks and deals with ongoing attack. This involves attempt to bring a criminal attack to an end and increase the resilience to recovers from its aftermath as well as effective and efficient response to save lives, reduce harm and aid recovery. An analysis of the strategies indicates that the approach in U.K is proactive instead of reactive responses experienced in Nigeria. For effective implementation of these strategies, measures are put in place to ensure the accountability of the strategies and progress monitoring. The security intelligence agencies and the police are adequately equipped to disrupt crime related activities. CONTEST (2011) contended that the police, security and intelligence agencies work together to keep U.K safe.

**Fig I:** The Composite Approach Model for security management



**Source:** Adapted from Achumba et al (2013: 94): Security Challenges in Nigeria: Implications for sustainable national and business development.

It was recognized that the growing use of inexpensive but sophisticated communication technology make planning of attacks easier and more secure, providing allowance for instant communication between geographically disparate groups via e-mail, web fora, social networking sites or by the use of internet to make voice calls. Criminal use of internet was identified, investigated and disrupted, making it more difficult for criminals to exploit the internet for radicalization, recruitment as well as counter-terrorist propaganda. There is also enhanced communication and information sharing for criminal attacks. These are organized by co-ordinators, supported by Prevent Engagement Officers (PEOs) who connect the police, community police and neighbourhood police. They help to develop community contacts and in understanding of community issues. They help to identify potential threats in the community and generates prevention projects and information sharing with prevention partners to support strategic objectives. There is therefore the challenge to rethink and improve on the policies and institutional means of dealing with security concerns in Nigeria. The roles of the stakeholders in the security management model are as discussed below:

#### **The role of government**

To overcome insecurity, there is need for intelligence gathering and surveillance so that law enforcement agents could become proactive and reasonably predict potential crime with near accuracy rather than being reactive. According to Achumba et al (2013), the menace of insecurity calls for a new approach founded on creditable intelligence gathering. Government should not only continue to engage the security personnel, it should rather more than ever before, recognize the need to devote more attention to security intelligence, capacity building to meet the global best practice standard and acquisition of modern technology. Although, the Nigerian government has introduced the use of Computer-based Closed Circuit Television (CCTV) cameras in public places in Abuja to monitor and record events that take place in a particular location, Ogunleye in Achumba et al (2013) have argued that for it be effective, government should ensure that these cameras are properly managed and maintained, ensure proper recording, with good quality images and incidented records on cameras should be followed up by the police or appropriate authority.

There is the need to modernize the security agencies through capacity building in advanced training, intelligence sharing, advanced technology, logistics, motivation and change of orientation. This will enhance the operational capabilities of the security agencies by identifying avenues that would enable them respond appropriately to internal security challenges and other threats. There should equally be complete overhaul of the security institutions in Nigeria to reflect international standards of best practices in order to pre-empt security breaches. The consistent pattern of post damage responses to national security is as result of dearth of pre-

emptive intelligence amongst security personnel. There should be an institutionalized approach rather than the episodic and reactive responses adopted by government.

Government at all levels should not compromise in enforcing the law, particularly in corruption cases. The judiciary ought to have time scales for corruption and security cases at this stage of our development. In Nigeria, the law has ceased to act as a deterrent since corruption and insecurity have largely been compromised. The law enforcement agencies should be given incentives, good conditions service and social security if they would become incorruptible and fare better in course of discharging their duties.

There is need to reorder priorities and seek better understanding of the underlying causes and dynamic of the insecurity in the country, with the aim to provide effective conflict prevention and management strategies. According to Akpabibibo (2003), the formulation and effective implementation of policies and programmes to address the root causes of insecurity in Nigeria particularly with regards to poverty, unemployment, environmental degradation, injustice, corruption, porous borders and small arms proliferation have become crucial. Therefore, efforts to tackle insecurity can only be effective if there is a robust combination of legislative and judicial interventions with government reforms that address some acute human security challenges.

#### **The role of business organizations**

Business can only operate successfully in a secured environment. Environmental changes have significant impact on business operations and sustainability. Little wonder Elumelu (2004) contended that business enterprises can contribute towards security and safety development in Nigeria through long-term strategy of creating and providing jobs for the unemployed and cooperating with regulatory authorities and security agencies to fight crime. Business organizations should equally be socially responsible. Where a firm is socially responsible, and does not exploit the community where it operates, it may not experience issues of insecurity. Cooperate organizations are also expected to address issues of pollution, product safety, job discrimination. They are expected to assist government in the provision of traffic lights on major streets and electrification of towns and villages where they operate.

#### **The role of civil society**

Due to inability of government to provide adequate security, there is need for civil society to advance the importance of security in Nigeria. With active involvement of civil society in security management, it is most likely that we could have less violence, human right abuses and social injustice. They have to play the roles of critic, catalysts and advocates of public interest. They are most likely to raise public awareness on disastrous effects of insecurity.

### **The roles of religious organizations**

Religious organizations in Nigeria can play very prominent roles to ensure security in the country since their teachings are the basis of value development in the modern world. The role of values cannot be overemphasized since values govern behaviours. Where social values and norms governing human rights in both private and public places are distorted, violated and comprised, the people and government live in atmosphere of instability and insecurity (Clifford, 2009). If every religion can tolerate one another, religious crisis is likely to be mitigated.

### **The role of communities**

It is imperative that security management be significantly aided through the cooperation of local communities. Depending on our perceptions and sincere feeling with regards to our collective responsibilities towards lasting peace in Nigeria, communities should strive to live peacefully with each other. They should equally be vigilant of strangers in their midst to ensure that criminals do not have access to their localities.

### **The role of individuals**

Security should be everybody's business. Individuals should cultivate the habit of security consciousness and report any security situation to the appropriate authority (not only the police) immediately. Every individual should develop a high level of security awareness and alertness since they understand their communities better. Any report of suspicious behaviour or activity could lead to actionable intelligence hence disruption of attacks. Through early detection of crime and its prevention, safety and enabling environment would be provided for people to operate and for economic development to thrive.

### **Conclusion**

The security situation has grown from bad to worst and this has affected business organizations and sustainable national development. So far the approach adopted has been reactive instead of pre-emptive. This paper contended a change in approach such that crimes are nipped in the bud. The paper equally analyzed the roles government, business organizations, civil societies, communities and individuals are expected to play to check insecurity and criminality in Nigeria.

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