

Security Challenges As Threat To Socio-Economic Development In Nigeria

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Abstract

Overtime the security of lives and properties of citizens of Nigeria as well as other residents in the country have been seriously threatened due to the recurrent security challenges, which have collectively undermined socio-economic development in the country. This study is therefore a bold attempt to investigate the security challenges as a threat to socio-economic development of Nigeria. This study is anchored on the theory of Fragile State espoused by Sara (2008). Content analytical method was adopted due mainly to the nature of the problem under investigation. Data for the study were generated from secondary sources. After careful analysis of data relevant to the study, it was found out that Boko Haram terrorist acts have significant adverse effect on foreign direct investment; that there is a positive relationship between Niger Delta militancy and reduction in foreign exchange earnings to Nigeria and that effective mass participation in governance is central to achieving peaceful co-existence in Nigeria. On the basis of the foregoing, we make bold to recommend as follows – that government should address the root causes of insecurity such as poverty, unemployment, environmental degradation, uneven development etc through good governance; that government should evolve policies and programmes necessary to promote national loyalty and consciousness; that the security agencies should be overhauled to be proactive through intelligence gathering among others. These recommendations among others are central to enthroning socio-economic development in the country.

Keywords: Security; Security Challenges; Socio-economic development; Good governance

Introduction

Security of lives and property have been accorded priority attention by governments of different countries of the world be it democratic or military administration. This is so because an atmosphere devoid of fear, anxiety, threat, harm, etc to citizens' lives and property is a sure means to bring about socio-economic development. It is generally believed that development cannot thrive in the atmosphere of conflicts, violence, anxiety, fear and wanton destruction of lives and property. Therefore, it follows that there is a strong link between security and development in any social setting. Security is seen as a situation in which citizens of any country is at liberty to go about their normal daily activities without threat to their lives and means of livelihood; safety from bodily harm, disease and human rights violations wherever they may find themselves (Adeleke, 2013).

The centrality of security in enhancing peaceful co-existence and promoting conducive environment for viable economic activities to thrive has been recognized by successive Nigerian governments. This may have partly explained the establishment of security agencies that are fully staffed with qualified officers and men with operational equipment to nip in the bud any perceived threat to lives and properties in the country. In addition, there is a national security policy formulated to ensure internal security which is enshrined in the constitution with obvious objective to secure effectively the lives and properties of the Nigerian citizenry. Section 14 (2) (b) of 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.” Government at all levels have always carried out constant public enlightenment programmes on the need to give peace and security a chance by being law abiding. Apart from that, there have been huge budgetary allocations to fund defence and internal security in the country, a trend that has denied capital projects the needed attention (Central of Bank of Nigeria, 2011). Besides the huge expenditure on security at the federal level, the 36 states and 774 local government areas in Nigeria have continued to enjoy security votes that run into billions of Naira (Eboh & Obodoechina, 2012).

Regrettably, in recent time, Nigeria has been passing through difficult security situation. There have been so many security challenges that have consistently threatened the corporate existence of the country. It has been argued that since Nigerian independence in 1960, there have been centrifugal forces that have continued to work against our collective desire to have a strong indivisible country. Nigeria is a heterogeneous state with over 250 ethnic nationalities or groups (Echiegu, 2014). These nationalities as argued by Nwali (2011), were forcefully merged in the popular amalgamation of 1914 which gave birth to Nigeria. He argued that fear of domination of the strong ethnic group over the weaker or minority group became the order of the day which eventually degenerated into security challenges that are now a regular feature in the Nigerian state. Security challenges imply situations when citizens are not free to walk, work peacefully or harmoniously without fear of intimidation, molestation, infliction of bodily injuries wherever they find themselves (Iwundu & Thom-Otuya, 2013). In other words, they constitute conditions that create or cause anxiety, fears, intimidation, threat, harm etc to lives and property. Security challenges have continued to show an upward trend as they have taken different forms and dimensions ranging from acts of militancy and vandalism of oil installations in South-South, massive robbery in South-West, kidnapping in the South-East and terrorist acts, herdsmen attacks on farmers as well as cattle rustling especially in Northern Nigeria (Adebakin, 2012). Other manifestations of threat to national security include drug trafficking, human trafficking, human sacrifice, ritual killings, sectarian violence, political violence, communal strife, natural disasters and pervasive acts of normlessness (Darmer, Baird & Rosenbaum, 2004). The level of insecurity in Nigeria is so high that there is hardly a day that passes without any ugly report of one form of security challenge or the other. Unfortunately, ordinary citizens as well as our collective common wealth are at the receiving end of the dastardly acts.

Security challenge, otherwise known as insecurity, according to Ewetan and Urhie (2014), could be traced to the early years of military administration when huge military equipment were imported into the country for use to prosecute the Nigerian civil war. They argued that after the war, some of the arms got into wrong hands – civilians and ex-military men, who then deployed them for mischievous purposes such as armed robbery. They maintained that the level of insecurity assumed threatening dimensions following prolonged years of military rule. They equally argued that from this period, people began to procure small arms and light weapons for individual protection since the security agencies appeared to have been overwhelmed by incessant security challenges that arise from time to time in the country. It was argued that many of these weapons of destruction got into the hands of unemployed but criminally minded youths who deployed them for criminal purposes. It is

generally believed that violence and other anti-social behaviour inimical to security were fallout of peer group pressure and other psychological factors linked with growing up while some people hold the opinion that government indifference to the plights of people through formulation of anti-people policies ignite security situation in the country. There is no doubt that religious intolerance and struggle over control of the nation's natural endowments have equally been severally implicated for security challenges in Nigeria. From the foregoing, one may be safe to argue that insecurity could pose a serious challenge to the country's quest for socio-economic development.

Realizing the adverse effect of security challenges on socio-economic conditions of the country, government overtime has devised policies, programmes and strategies aimed at tackling the ugly monster headlong. In 2013, the federal government allocated huge funds to combat threats to national security and the National Assembly passed the Anti-Terrorism Act in 2011 (Ewetan, 2013). Government at some points applied minimal force in her effort to disarm the militias and their hostilities against her in the North-East and South-South geopolitical zones. Amaizu (2008), averred that the Federal Government has launched massive crackdown on militant groups aimed at degrading their capabilities. He argued that at other periods, government entered into dialogue with the militant groups for purpose of discouraging them from carrying out mindless attacks against oil pipelines. In the Northeast where Boko Haram elements have been holding the country to ransom, the military has been fully mobilized and deployed to reclaim all parts of the country that have hitherto fallen under the insurgents' control. It is worthy of note that Boko Haram is known in the Arabic Language as *Jamaatu AhlisSunnah Laddaawatihwal-Jihad* (meaning, people committed to the propagation of the prophet's teachings and Jihad). The Hausa applied the term Boko Haram to mean "the western education system is forbidden" (Omobuwajo, 2015). In the South-East and South-West where robbery, kidnapping, frauds and other criminal activities have assumed threatening dimensions, security presence has been increased especially at areas considered as flash points. Laws were passed at both federal and state levels with stringent sanctions against criminal elements found culpable in criminal cases (Amaizu, 2008).

In spite of the foregoing, security situation in the country has been anything but peaceful. The Boko Haram elements are still killing and bombing innocent hapless citizens especially in the Northeast region. Similarly, there have been cases of alleged incessant bandits and Fulani herdsmen attacks on innocent communities as well as cattle rustling in many parts of the country especially in the North. In the South-south region there are renewed agitations by militant groups and Kidnapping and armed robbery in both the Southeast and Southwest. All these security challenges are believed to have serious adverse effect on the socio-economic conditions of our dear country. The foregoing triggered our desire to unravel the implications of the security menace on the socio-economic development in Nigeria.

Statement of the Problem

The importance of adequate security of lives and property in socio-economic development of any country cannot be overemphasized. Existence of security situation gives citizens the green light to go about their normal legitimate business in any part of the country without fear of molestation, intimidation, anxiety, harassment and threat to their lives and property. It has been a generally held view that security is not necessarily the absence of threats or security issues but the existence of proactive mechanisms to effectively respond to any perceived security threats in the environment with expertise and dispatch. To Oladeji and Folorunso (2007), it is a well-known fact that internal security is a sine-qua-non for economic growth and development of any country. There is no gainsaying the fact that absence of security or insecurity could have damaging effect on the overall wellbeing of the people particularly in areas of sicknesses, low life expectancy, low quality standard of life and even

untimely death. On the economic front, security problems (challenges) could result in disruption and dislocation of businesses, properties, reduction in foreign direct investments and abrupt closure of business ventures.

Unfortunately, within the period under review, the security situation in the country was anything but peaceful or serene. Unarguably, it is alleged that the security challenge posed by incessant senseless bombings, maiming of lives and destruction of properties by the outlawed Boko Haram could be implicated for low rate of investment especially in the North eastern part of the country. As pointed out earlier on, there is no sane investor who is interested in returns on his investments that could sink his/her hard earned resources in any environment that cannot guarantee safety of the investments. It has been argued that many companies and business concerns in most parts of the country especially in the Northeast have closed shops owing to precarious security situations in the region that are allegedly masterminded by the Boko Haram insurgents. There seems to be a general consensus that the number of lives and properties lost to Boko Haram nefarious activities is mindboggling.

There is no doubt that the mindless suicide bombings, killings, kidnapping, etc by the insurgents especially in places like markets, churches, mosques, motor parks, etc, may have served as sources of disincentive to foreign direct investment in the country as Nigeria is currently being counted as one of the terrorist endemic countries. Tochukwu (2013), noted that since Boko Haram resumed operations in 2010, Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) into Nigeria has been reduced to a reasonable level. World Investment Report (2013), revealed that FDI flows into Nigeria dropped by 21.3percent from \$8.9 billion in 2011 to \$7 billion in 2012. Dauda (2014), observed that the impact of Boko Haram terrorism on the socio-economic and political structure of Yobe State is overwhelming and devastating. He lamented that so many businesses have been affected in the state as some shops have been taken over by the military personnel who have converted them into their base thereby forcing the owners to either relocate or abandon their businesses totally.

More so, the incessant vandalism and explosion of pipeline installations in the South-south geopolitical zone has been partly fingered for the current dwindling economic situation in the country, which is now biting hard on Nigerian citizens. It has been argued that renewed criminal activities by the militants in the region have resulted in the loss of precious lives and properties, and there has been significant reduction in the level of production of crude oil per day. Concerned members of the country have described the acts of the militants as acts of economic sabotage. The security challenge has been compounded by the slump in the price per barrel of crude oil at the global market. It is believed that the poor state of the national economy where many states find it an uphill task to meet wages and salaries obligations to their workforce could be blamed on militant activities in the Niger Delta region. Akhemonkhan, Raimi & Ogunjirin (2012), revealed that the Federal Government of Nigeria has provided to the military authorities, on a monthly basis, the sum of 150 million Naira (\$1.3 million) as financial resources for securing the lives and protecting oil installations in the Niger-Delta areas. Despite this huge financial expenditure, insecurity of lives and properties continues unabated in the Niger-Delta region.

Kidnapping is yet another main security challenge that has serious adverse effect on economic activities. There is a near consensus that kidnapping is a fallout of the Niger Delta militants' agitations for resource control. Kidnapping has assumed threatening dimensions as it has been embraced by criminally minded elements who now see it as money spinning venture. The Southeast and Southwest zones have been worst hit by the menace of kidnapping cases. It is argued that acts of kidnapping seem to have led to the closure of a good number of business concerns. This is so because family members of the kidnapped business moguls or important personalities are usually forced under threat of eliminating their loved ones to pay huge ransoms which are believed to be often drawn from the captive's investments. To Nwogu (2008), kidnapping has turned into profitable business among the

youths in Abia, Imo, Ebonyi and other states in the zone. He lamented that in 2010 several prominent men and women in Aba and its environs were kidnapped for ransom. This, as he argued, affected the economy of Abia State as many businessmen and manufacturing companies relocated to other states like Enugu and Anambra. In rural areas, there were cases of kidnap of traditional rulers and ordinary people while attending village meetings and church services (Ajani, 2010). The above internal security situation may have taken dangerous dimension due to poor governance where government at all levels appear to be unconcerned with the level of injustice, deprivation, inequality, environmental degradation etc that have been meted against the citizenry who have been placed under their watch especially the vulnerable youths, women and children.

Objectives of the Study

The general objective of this study is to examine security challenges as a threat to socio-economic development of Nigeria. However, the specific objectives include:

1. To ascertain the extent to which Boko Haram terrorist acts have affected foreign direct investment in Nigeria.
2. To find out the nexus between Niger-Delta militancy and reduction in foreign exchange earnings to Nigeria.
3. To determine how effective mass participation in governance could encourage peaceful co-existence in Nigeria.

Conceptual Analysis

Concept of Security

There is a near general consensus that security of lives and property is one of the determining factors which moved people to enter into social contract with the state. To Hobbes, life in the state of nature was short, brutish and nasty. In other words, life in the state of nature could be best described as the survival of the fittest. It was in the face of such precarious security situation, according to social contract theorists, that people took a drastic action by appointing a few number of people (government) who could oversee their affairs as well as guarantee protection of their fundamental rights. Put differently, people surrendered their rights to government whose duty it should be to ensure their survival – security. To Adeleke (2013), security implies freedom from threat or violence which could result in loss of lives and valuable properties. From this view point, security is a situation where one or generality of the people are free from all forms of fears or threat to their precious lives and hard earned valuables (properties). In other words, citizens are free to go about their normal businesses in any part of the country without any form of threat to their lives and means of livelihood. However, the United Nations Development Programme (1994), sees security as protection from hidden and hurtful disruptions in the day-to-day activities of individuals at homes, offices or communities. Security here implies a situation of being secure and safe; a state of being protected from threats such as hunger, disease among others. This definition calls to mind the crucial role of the government in the provision of adequate security. Government the world over sets up security architecture whose job it is to ensure on daily basis that people are free from threats or disruptions in the course of their day-to-day activities. Similarly, Ogunleye, Adewale, Alese and Ogunde (2011), maintained that security encompasses all mechanisms put in place to protect and safeguard citizenry and resources of individuals, groups, businesses and the country against sabotage or violence. Achumba, Ighomereho & Akpor-Robaro (2013, p. 80) gave what appears to capture the meaning of security. To them, security can be perceived as:

Stability and continuity of livelihood (stable and steady income)
predictability of daily life (knowing what to expect), protection
from crime (feeling safe), and freedom from psychological harm
(safety or protection from emotional stress), which results from
the assurance or knowing that one is wanted, accepted, loved and

protected in one's community or neighborhood and by people around. It focuses on emotional and psychological sense of belonging to social group which can offer one protection.

The above definition emphasizes that security is the state under which one is protected or free from physical, economic and psychological harm. The quest to guarantee security must cover the above dimensions; failure to properly secure an individual from any of the identified components is an indication that there is no adequate security of lives and properties.

Overtime, efforts have been genuinely made to redefine security from a state centric view to a broader view which places much premium on individuals. Thus, security of individuals has been accorded a pride of place because where people are free from perceived threat or violence capable of causing harm, death or loss of properties, there are usually tendencies that they would at all times carryout their legitimate activities which could usher in national development.

From the foregoing analysis, we can come to an understanding that security whether viewed from the angle of the state or individual is central to tranquility, national cohesion, increased economic activities which are required to drive socio-economic development in any economy. This is so because development thrives in atmosphere of peace. In other words, individual potentials are harnessed and exploited in full to drive all sectors of the economy in a secure environment.

Security Challenges

Despite concerted efforts made by several administrations to enthrone adequate security to guarantee safety of lives and properties, insecurity has become the order of the day. There have been security challenges across the lengths and breadths of Nigeria. The situation has gone so bad that each geo-political zone is associated with one form of security challenge or the other. The level of insecurity in the country has assumed a frightening dimension that it is becoming increasingly difficult for people to freely move and engage in legitimate business ventures in some parts of the country. Insecurity, by way of definition is an opposite of security. It implies a situation of fear, anxiety, threats, attacks, intimidation, harassment etc arising from lack of protection. Insecurity stands for any of the following: absence of safety, danger, hazard, uncertainty, lack of protection and lack of safety (Ewetan and Urhie, 2014). Security challenges do not just happen. They are occasioned by criminal acts such as armed robbery, kidnapping, hostage taking, banditry, insurgency, terrorism, herders/farmers clashes and indigene-settler dichotomy, etc. There is no doubt that Nigeria has been contending with several security challenges such as armed robbery, militancy, insurgency, religious crises etc.

Socio-economic Development

We shall begin analysis of the concept with the decomposition of development. To Ake (2001), development is a multi-dimensional phenomenon and man centred. It involves the process of giving empowerment to people so as to maximize their potentials and develop capacity to exploit nature to solve their daily needs (Nnoli, 1981; Ake, 2001). In the words of Abah and Nwokuwu (2017), development is a positive change and transformation in social, economic, political and cultural conditions of the society. However, socio-economic development refers to the process of social and economic transformation in a society (Ewetan and Urhie, 2014). Socio-economic development is measured by some indicators such as GDP, life expectancy, literacy level, levels of employment, rate of investment, level of production, among others.

Empirical Review

Nwagboso (2012), in a study titled "Security Challenges and Economy of the Nigerian State (2007-2011)" sought to find out the extent to which the internal security

problems have negatively impacted on Nigerian economy. The study adopted the theory of Relative Deprivation as its theoretical framework. Content analytical method was adopted due to the nature of the problem of the study. The study revealed the following findings among others – that security challenges in the country are traceable to bad governance as government has failed to address such casual factors as poverty, unemployment and inequitable distribution of wealth among ethnic nationalities which have led to anger, agitation and violent crimes against Nigerian state; that the activities of various militia groups have resulted in low income accruable to government from oil revenue, low GDP rate, low participation of local and foreign investors in economic development. Based on the foregoing findings, the study recommended the formulation and effective implementation of policies and programmes that can address the root causes of insecurity in Nigeria such as unemployment, poverty, environmental degradation, injustice among others.

Achumba, *et al* (2013), in the study entitled “Security Challenges in Nigeria and the Implications for Business Activities and Sustainable Development” examined the insecurity situation in Nigeria and its impact on business investment, operations and sustainable development. The study adopted content analytical method to probe into the research problem. It was found that the remote and immediate cause of insecurity in Nigeria include – weak institutional capacity, pervasive material inequality and unfairness, ethnic religious-conflict, weak security system, loss of socio-cultural and communal value system; porous borders, social irresponsibility of companies, unemployment, poverty, etc. The study equally found that activities of Boko Haram insurgents have led to a significant loss of lives and property and a general atmosphere of fear and social tension in the country. Business investment and operation such as production, marketing, finance, and human resource management have been affected by insecurity especially in the Northeast region. On the basis of the foregoing, the study recommended the creation of safe business environment which allows for business activities and sustainable development; that there should be proactive security management model that can proactively combat the creators and perpetrators of insecurity situations and finally, it was recommended that there should be involvement of all stakeholders from both public and private sectors who could bring in expertise and information required to ensure safe business environment.

In a related study entitled “Insecurity and Socio-economic Development in Nigeria,” Ewetan and Urhie (2014), examined the pertinent issue of insecurity in Nigeria and its impact on socio-economic development. The study adopted content analysis. It was found among others that insecurity has been on the increase, which have posed serious threat to lives and properties; that the menace had adversely affected business activities and discouraged local and foreign investors; that insecurity has undoubtedly threatened the corporate existence of the country as one and indivisible political entity. In the light of the above findings, the following recommendations were proffered among others – that government should be proactive in handling security issues through effective intelligence gathering and sharing among security agencies; that there should be regular training, logistics, motivation and deployment of modern technology in managing security issues and that government should expedite action in the provision of relevant social, economic and physical infrastructure to drive business and industrial growth.

Adeleke (2013), carried out a study titled “Insecurity: A Threat to Human Existence and Economic Development in Nigeria.” The study had as its main objective the examination of the causes of insecurity, government efforts at fostering peace and impact of insecurity on human beings as well as the nation’s economy. Content analytical method was adopted in the analysis of the research problem. It was revealed that power shift from the northern hegemony to a minority geo-political zone of South-south was responsible for some insurgent groups rising against the state; other factors that account for insecurity in the country include – intra/interparty rancour, porous boundaries, unemployment, job

racketeering and illiteracy; that insecurity is detrimental to general wellbeing of the people; it has led to destruction of businesses, properties and closing down of businesses. The study, based on the findings, recommended that government should give dialogue a chance through convocation of a conference of major ethnic and minority groups to decide on a more peaceful way forward for Nigeria.

Theoretical Framework

This study is anchored on the theory of Fragile State espoused by Sara (2008). According to Sara, the theory is employed to explain phenomena in countries experiencing severe developmental challenges such as institutional capacity, poor governance, political instability, unemployment, poverty and low level of economic development.

To Slater (2012), a leading proponent of the theory, a fragile state is a state that is significantly susceptible to crisis in one or more of its subsystems. He added that a fragile state is vulnerable to internal shocks as well as domestic conflicts. The foregoing presupposes that governance institutions in a fragile state embody and sustain conditions that trigger crisis in both economic and social spheres. In the economic sphere, it could be observed that institutions that have direct touch on property rights of citizens usually reinforce stagnation or low growth rate or create inequality in wealth, access to land or access to means of livelihood. In the social area, the institutions are seen creating extreme inequality or lack of access to health and education. It is important to stress that statutory institutions in a fragile state are vulnerable to challenges by rival systems such as traditional institutions and ethnic or community based organizations that show little or no regard for the state and its institutions.

This theory clearly captures how extreme poverty, low level of human and social development that challenge a state are linked to weak institutional capacity and poor governance which trigger and sustain internal conflicts. According to Ikyase (2013), a fragile state lacks the capacity to deliver basic social and infrastructural services, thus compounding the situation of insecurity in the state. In the same vein, Nwanegbo, Umara & Ikyase (2017), maintained that such state are trapped in vicious cycles of violent conflicts and poverty or suffer from a curse while others face the challenge of not providing basic necessities of life to their citizens such as good health facilities, good roads, quality education, electricity, portable water supply, etc. Therefore, it could be safely argued that occurrence and re-occurrence of situations of insecurity have among other things been attributed to the failure of the state to co-ordinate itself and meet up with its basic responsibilities of providing for and protecting the citizens.

The relevance of the theory stems from the obvious fact that the Nigerian state has from every indication shown that it has failed in her efforts to organize and co-ordinate itself for purpose of addressing the yearnings and aspirations of the citizenry. In addition, her institutions have succeeded in creating and sustaining conditions of poverty, inequality, stagnation, underdevelopment, hence the lack of legitimacy and trust in government which have become the order of the day. The foregoing situation has triggered frustration-aggression disposition among some aggrieved citizens, who now take up arms against the state, its institutions and citizens. This theory describes the situation of security challenges that have continued to threaten the foundation and corporate existence of our country, Nigeria as well as other third world countries. Unless the Nigerian government becomes alive to its responsibilities and obligations to the citizens, there may hardly be improvement in the security situations in the country. Also important is the fact that there is urgent need for reforms in public institutions so as to serve as purveyors of fairness, equality, accountability, transparency, meritocracy, etc that define such institutions. In other words, there is a clarion call for strong institutions if only government can effectively minister to the basic needs of the citizens and equally provide them with adequate security.

Security Challenges in Nigeria: An Overview

Overtime, Nigeria has been battling with a good number of security challenges which have continued to undermine her strenuous efforts towards inducing socio-economic development. Scholars such as Jamiu (2013), Achumba, *et al* (2013), Nwagboso (2012), have observed and identified the following as security challenges that serve as cogs in the wheel of progress – (a) the Niger Delta Crisis (b) Kidnapping (c) Boko Haram Insurgency especially in the Northeast (d) Armed Robbery (e) Ethno-religious conflicts (f) Political/ritual killing/assassination etc. A brief discussion on some of the security challenges will suffice here.

Armed Robbery, Kidnapping and Farmers/Herders Clashes – Armed robbery has become a house hold name in Nigeria. Robbery attacks take place in homes, markets, offices, banks, parks, open places, etc. In the course of the robbery, lives of innocent citizens (victims) in most cases are usually lost while huge sums of money and other valuables are looted. The rising cases of robbery in the country have stimulated the formation of neighbourhood watch popularly known as vigilante groups who keep awake in the night so as to ward off any criminal attacks. In the Southeast, the Bakassi Boys is a case in point. Presently, there is an increase rise in the number of private security organizations whose services are required to ensure adequate security as government security outfits are often seen to be overwhelmed with the high rate of crimes in the society.

Kidnapping is yet another security challenge that has serious damaging effect on the socio-economic activities in Nigeria especially in the South-East. It has been argued that kidnapping originated from the South-South region following the Niger-Delta militants' agitations against the government and multinational corporations' insensitivity over their plights and environmental degradation due to the excessive oil exploration and production in the region. The criminally minded elements in the South-East embraced it with open hands as a fast means of money making. Rising from its quarterly standing committee in Yola, Adamawa State, the Nigerian Guild of Editors expressed serious worry over the upsurge in kidnapping across Nigeria especially in the South-East zone. The Guild lamented that the menace of kidnapping cases was scaring away foreign investors especially at this time that their contributions were highly needed to assist in revamping the country's ailing economy (NGE, 2016). Kidnapping and hostage taking are no longer associated solely with the Southeast, the North seems to be the most affected presently. These criminal acts are now being carried out by allegedly Fulani herders, bandits as well as Boko Haram terrorism for ransoms and exchange of prisoners.

More so, there have been cases of farmers and herders clashes which have led to loss of valuable lives and properties and the situation is currently threatening food security in Nigeria as farmers shy away from their farms for fear of AK47 wielding herdsmen. Cases abound of herders/herders attacks and reprisal attacks leaving at their wake gory tales.

Table 1: Catalogues of attacks in the North Central Nigeria

State	Year, and Day	Month	No of Lives Lost	No of Houses burnt	Sources
Nasarawa	2013/08/01		16	37	News Byte
Nasarawa	2013/07/07		03	16	Flash newsniger.hotspot.com
Nasarawa	2012/11/18		16	08	The Vanguard Newspaper
Nasarawa	2013/06/03		12	06	The Premium Times
Benue	2012/07/08		34	86	The Vanguard Newspaper
Benue	2013/05/23		76	44	Daily Post
Benue	2013/06/02		28	66	Thisday Newspaper
Benue	2013/08/01		16	24	Newsbyte
Benue	2013/06/02		20	15	Thisday Newspaper
Benue	2013/04/20		19	07	The Sun Newspaper
Benue	2014/08/16		18	20	The Punch Newspaper
Benue/Agatu	2016/08/14		38	19	Daily Post
Plateau	2013/06/08		16	14	The Nigerian Tribune
Plateau	2013/06/03		03	22	The Punch Newspaper
Plateau	2013/09/03		12	17	The Nigerian News word
Plateau	2014/06/08		08	11	The Nation Newspaper
Plateau	2015/10/06		11	04	Thisday Newspaper

Source: Nwanegbo, Umara & Ikyase (2017)

The above table 1 shows the level of carnage in the North Central geopolitical zone of Nigeria arising from clashes between herders and farmers. From the table, we could observe how low our country has degenerated security wise. Lives of our people have since lost their sacred nature as criminal elements appear to be a liberty to waste what they did not create. In addition, the crises have made parties involved loose their senses as they destroy people's property as if they were not achieved through strenuous efforts.

Niger Delta Crisis (Militancy) – The discovery of oil in commercial quantity at Oloibiri, Bayelsa State necessitated massive oil prospecting, exploration and exploitation with its attendant adverse effect on the environment (Tanzer, 1969). In addition, there was feeling of marginalization by the people of the Niger Delta as they have consistently claimed that government and multinational corporations have not shown any serious commitment towards the development of the area despite economic contributions of the region to national treasury. According to Osungade (2008), cited in Nwagboso (2012), the conflict in the Niger Delta region started in the early 1990s when there was tensions between the foreign oil companies and the minority ethnic groups (Ogonis and Ijaws) who felt that they were exploited. It was argued that the process of oil exploration and production were having adverse environmental impact on oil producing areas as all forms of economic activities were destroyed. The people of the region demanded for a halt to their marginalization from federal political structure, compensation for increasing environmental damage and a stop to all forms of exploration and production activities with potentials for causing environmental damages (Olukoshi and Agbu, 1995). The above issue coupled with the quest of the people to have control over the oil wells resulted in acts of militancy in the area. Corroborating the foregoing, Ogbodo (2010) stressed that competition for oil wealth and government as well as multi-national corporations' neglect resulted to agitations, violence and subsequent extra-

judicial killing of Ken Saro-Wiwa and nine Ogoni leaders by the Abacha's administration. Consequently, several militant groups launched series of attacks on pipeline installations. The destruction of the pipelines had been partly responsible for reduction in foreign exchange earnings for the country as Nigeria, for the time being, has remained a mono-economy country. Apart from pipeline vandalism, the militant groups have engaged in acts of hostage taking for ransom. This menace has spread to other parts of the country especially in the Southeast and most recently in the north where bandits, insurgents and herders have been in the habit of kidnapping people including school children for ransoms or exchange of their members in jail.

Boko Haram Insurgency – This has remained a major security challenge in Nigeria with negative impact on the nation's economy. Boko Haram is a militant Islamic group with intention to impose Sharia Law on states in the northern Nigeria which could extend to other parts of the country. Nwagboso (2012), argued that the activities of the members of the group have raised serious concerns among investors on the safety of their lives and business ventures. The operations of Boko Haram and its splinter groups have become very knotty. It abducted seven expatriates in Bauchi, five Lebanese, a Briton and Italian who were working for a construction company, SETRACO. There is a near consensus that Boko Haram and other terrorist groups have aligned with Al-Qa'ida and were responsible for the murder of British national, Christopher McManus and his Italian co-worker, Franco Lamolinara on March 8, 2012 in Sokoto while working for a construction company in Birnin Kebbi. The insurgent tactics are evolving towards the style of internationalist Jihadism such as hostage taking and suicide bombings (Famutimi, 2013). The dastardly acts of the group include the following among others – killing of innocent Nigerians, bombings of major cities and security formations in the Northern parts including Force Headquarters Abuja, bombing of United Nations Office Abuja, hostage taking, raping of unsuspecting women.

Achumba, *et al* (2013), outlined the following as the root causes of security challenges in the country – (i) Lack of institutional capacity resulting in government failure; (ii) Pervasive material inequalities and unfairness; (iii) Ethno-religious conflicts; (iv) Conflict of perception between the public and government; (v) Weak security system etc.

Why Insecurity in Nigeria

There is a near consensus from different shades of opinion that insecurity thrives in Nigeria due mainly to corruption and poorly governed environments characterized by weak institutions. The Boko Haram insurgency and its accompanying terror in the Northeast, the militancy in the Niger Delta region, the violent crimes of armed robbery, kidnapping, ritual murders, cross-border criminal activities in arms, drugs and human trafficking etc are believed to be products of bad governance and corruption, which have become more pronounced since 1999 when the country returned to democracy. It is rather regrettable that in spite of the abundant human and material resources at her disposal, the country's ratings in recent time on indicators of development, governance and corruption have become a matter of serious concern.

There is good governance when there is transparency, accountability, inclusive participation, rule of law, political will to protect fundamental human rights of people by government in power. It is a common saying that good governance strengthens government institutions and gives legitimacy to government in power.

It is believed that bad governance which deprives majority of their entitlements and other wholesome expectations (public goods and services) from government is partly responsible for bottled-up anger and frustration among people, which in most cases motivate them to engage in heinous criminal activities to vent their anger thereby pitching themselves against the government. It is important to stress that some individuals have innate tendencies to indulge in crimes but good governance has the magic wand to reduce such ugly acts to the

barest minimum and as such promote and sustain socio-economic development. It is a well known maxim that states that meaningful development cannot take place in an atmosphere riddled with insecurity.

Impact of Security Challenges on Socio-economic Development in Nigeria

The security challenges bedeviling Nigeria have far reaching consequences on the socio-economic development of the country. This is so because development of any kind cannot thrive in the atmosphere of conflicts, confusions, wars, bickering and the likes. Socio-economic development implies the process of social and economic transformation in a society (Ewetan and Urhie, 2014). Socio-economic development is measured by some indicators such as GDP, life expectancy, literacy level, levels of employment, rate of investment, level of production, quality standard of living, among others. Enduring socio-economic development springs from conducive environment where there is peace, security and protection of rights of individuals and their properties against attacks.

Commenting on the effect of security challenges on the Nigerian economy, Nwagboso (2012), stated that security issues have greatly affected the country's economy. He argued that prior to the implementation of Amnesty Programme in the Niger Delta region, there was a significant reduction in the number of barrels produced per day. This reduction according to him was mainly due to kidnapping and hostage taking of oil workers in the region. Similarly, the Group Managing Director of NNPC, Mr. Maikanti Baru has lamented the renewed rising incidences of pipeline vandalisms in the Niger Delta, stating that in 2015 alone, there were 3000 cases of such incidents resulting in the loss of over 643 million litres or ₦51.28 billion (Omeiza, 2016). Continuing, he reported that between 2010 and 2015, Nigeria recorded 18000 cases of pipeline vandalism. It was also revealed by Mr. Baru that between January and May, 2016, 1,447 cases had been recorded resulting in the loss of 109 million litres of petroleum products and 560,000 barrels of crude oil (Omeiza, 2016). The natural gas supply to power has been adversely affected with estimated drop of about 50 percent leading to a significant drop in electricity supply throughout the country (Omeiza, 2016).

There is no gainsaying the fact that hostage taking and kidnapping cases in some parts of the Nigeria have not only resulted in the creation of unfavourable investment climates for businesses to operate but also led to closure and relocation of business ventures by investors to other peaceful cities in the country or other peaceful African countries. The worst hit by cases of kidnapping is the Southeast and Southsouth regions. Nwagboso (2012), reported that the period (2007-2011) witnessed high incidence of kidnapping cases targeted at business moguls who were frequently forced under gunpoint to pay several millions of Naira as ransoms to regain their freedom.

The menace of Boko Haram insurgency has become a thorn in the flesh of Nigerians. It was believed that in 2009 when the insurgents first struck, over 4000 people were killed including Nigerians and expatriates. The group has carried out series of bombing spree notable among them were – the bombing of the United Nations Office in Abuja, the Police Headquarters in Abuja and the military base in Kaduna (Egbewole, 2013). Suleiman (2012), maintained that the mindless killings and bombings by Boko Haram have forced mainly the Igbos and Yorubas from the Southern part of the country, who have engaged in various businesses in the North to return to their home states to avoid being killed. The activities of Boko Haram is strongly believed to have succeeded in enlisting Nigeria among terrorist prone countries with its adverse effect on foreign direct investment, which government has overtime championed with full commitment. Put differently, insecurity situation that pervades the country has made Nigerian economy unattractive to foreign investors as there is a growing fear that their investments may not be adequately secured. This has negatively affected our national drive towards economic growth and development. The current

economic recession that is dangerously ravaging the country could be viewed from this light. By and large, insurgent activities have brought about dislocation in people's normal lives and activities as we currently have citizens who are now refugees in their own country. There are currently humanitarian crises resulting in malnutrition of internally displaced persons especially children as statistics has it that about 2.5 million children are currently malnourished in Nigeria.

Conclusion

Security challenges in any social environment poses a serious threat to lives, properties, discourages economic activities as well as work against our collective quest to attract foreign direct investment. Nigeria since independence has grappled with different forms of security challenges which at some points have threatened her corporate existence. The insecurity situation has not only continued to rise but has assumed a dangerous dimension with its attendant consequences on socio-economic advancement of the country. Thus, we can safely argue that there is a positive link between the current economic crisis and security challenges that feature prominently in almost all parts of the country. Therefore, government at all levels should rise to the occasion through adoption of proactive measures to drastically reduce or eliminate the monster so as to launch our country on the path of all round sustainable development. This can only be achieved through good governance.

Recommendations

For us to rise above security challenges in the country and enthrone socio-economic development, we make bold to recommend as follows:

1. There is need for government at all levels to urgently address the root causes of insecurity in the country such as poverty, unemployment, environmental degradation, uneven distribution of infrastructural facilities, uneven development, etc, through good governance.
2. Government should evolve policies and programmes capable of promoting national consciousness and national loyalty as it will help to eliminate the centrifugal factors that are always at work to tear the country apart. In addition, enlightenment campaigns carried out on the dangers inherent in acts of insecurity in schools, churches, mosques, markets, media outfits.
3. The security architecture of the country should be properly trained and overhauled to be proactive through intelligence gathering so as to nip any perceived security threats in the bud since the reactive posture maintained by these security agencies in crisis situation have not curbed security challenges in the country.
4. Stringent punitive measures should be meted out to any person or group of persons convicted of acts of inciting people against government or acts of insecurity so as to serve as deterrent to would be mischief makers (trouble makers).

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