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Security Challenges and the Effect for Business Activities in Nigeria: An Assessment

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Abstract

The study focused on critical assessment of the effect of security challenges in Nigeria, insecurity which has come in different forms as Boko Haram, Fulani herdsmen, armed banditry and kidnapping are bruising more fears to the life of the common people. This is compounded by hunger, unemployment infrastructures and its implications for business activities in Nigeria. The paper seeks to determine the implications of security problems on the business operation and investment in Nigeria. The study adopts the frustration-aggression analysis. Secondary data was mostly used in the study. The study identifies the root causes of insecurity in Nigeria which has hindered business activities and some Security challenges confronting Nigeria was also highlighted. Security challenges in any environment constitute threat to lives and properties, hindered business activities, and discourage local and foreign investors, which affect and retards socio-economic development of a country. The study recommends effective formulation and implementation of policies It recommends, amongst others, strong political will, genuine efforts, sincerity in tackling security issues, effective implementation of the sundry poverty alleviation programmes in Nigeria.

Keywords: Root Causes, Security Challenge, Business Activities, Nigeria, Fulani Herdsmen

INTRODUCTION

Nigeria, one of Africa's largest economies, is also the lynchpin of security in western Africa. Yet for over a decade, it has struggled to address devastating insurgencies and terrorism by Boko Haram and the Islamic State. Success against both groups remains elusive and security in northeastern Nigeria has significantly deteriorated since 2017. Insecurity has also spread to northwestern Nigeria with the farmers-herders' conflict, which is compounded by the intensifying effects of global warming and remains dormant at best. Proliferating across the country, militia groups add another complex security challenge. Amidst these widespread challenges, Nigerians are demanding meaningful human security and accountability from the often-brutal military and law enforcement forces, such as the Special Anti-Robbery Squad (SARS). Layered over these issues, the kidnappers and farmers herders have devastated local economies, exacerbating already high levels of poverty and inequality and fractious political processes. Onuoha, (2014)) Security challenges can be traced to the early years of military rule when large quantities of arms were imported into the country for the use of the military during and after the Nigerian civil war, some of which got into the hand of the civilians. Soon after the civil war these arms were used by civilians and ex-military men for mischievous purposes such as armed robbery, (Olabanji and Ese 2014). The 1999 constitutions make provisions for the rights of citizens. The inability of government to provide a secure and safe environment for lives, properties and the conduct of business and economic activities has led to resentment and disaffection among business investors. This has resulted in communal clashes, and religious violence and crime in different parts of the country that has destroyed lives and properties, disrupted businesses and economic activities, and retarded economic growth and development in Nigeria. No business investors whether local or foreign will be motivated to invest in an unsafe and insecure environment. In a globalized world investors are not only looking for high returns on their investments but also safe environment for their investments. Thus the alarming level of insecurity in Nigeria has made the economy unattractive to foreign investors and has slowed down the level of business activities, and this has impacted negatively on economic growth and development. Okonkwo et.al (2015). Consequently the purpose of this paper is to assessed the implications of insecurity on business activities.

Recently, Nigeria witnessed an unprecedented level of insecurity. This has threatened national security and has prompted huge allocation of the national budget to security (Achumba and Akpor 2013). The 1999 Constitution of the Federal Republic of

Nigeria specifically states that "The security and welfare of the people shall be the primary purpose of government". Unfortunately, government on this constitutional responsibility has failed to provide a secured and safe environment for lives, properties and the conduct of business and economic activities. Okonkwo et.al(2022) The alarming level of insecurity in Nigeria has increased the crime rate and terrorists attacks in different parts of the country, leaving unpalatable consequences for the nation's economy and business growth. In order to ameliorate the incidence of crime, the federal government has embarked on criminalization of terrorism by passing the Anti-Terrorism Act in 2011. Despite the government efforts, the level of insecurity in the country is still high, and a confirmation of this is the low ranking of Nigeria in the Global Peace Index (GPI, 2012). These security challenges which have social, economic , political and environmental dimensions, have affected the nation's stability and well being adversely. The various dimensions of security challenges include: ethnic and religious conflicts, terrorism, insurgency, kidnapping, armed robbery, wanton destruction of lives and properties, the menace of Fulani herdsmen and farmers' conflicts, corrupt practices, economic sabotage, oil theft and bunkering, environmental degradation, separatist agitations, rape and the girl-child abuse. Notably among these which have attracted government's attention lately are the *Boko Haram* insurgency, armed banditry and the Fulani herdsmen, Kidnappers and farmers' clashes. The activities of both groups have led to wanton destruction of properties and countless loss of lives especially within Benue, Taraba, Adamawa, Katsina, Sokoto, Nasarawa and Borno States as flash point areas and pockets of killing in some other parts of the country.

Otite (1999) and Klare (2001) in their separate but related studies explain the recurrent security challenges in Nigeria within the context of their structure and the nation's porous borders which make it extremely difficult to block the influx of small arms and light weapons that largely fuel the security threats and transnational crimes in the country. In the opinion of Otite (1999), for example, security challenges and communal violence in the country are products of the prevalence of dominance and subordination which are characteristics of an encapsulating society with competing interest. This, for example, is largely responsible for the incessant attacks on agrarian communities by nomadic herdsmen who move across communities in parts of the country to graze livestock on farmlands.

The palpable implication is that the escalating security threats in the country have not just put strains on her international image but also stresses the business environments it creates fears in the minds of the business people alike and does not inspire the usual confidence and excitement which stem from business environment. This is reinforced by the fact that the prevailing security challenges have tended to disrupt the business environment, Again, these security challenges have negatively distracted government

as scarce national resources required for the business men and women to thrived are redirected to the management and quelling of internal uprisings and skirmishes.

STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

One of the greatest challenges confronting the Nigerian state and the international community at large today is the increase of destructive extremism amongst non-state actors and groups, whose actions are generally seen to constitute grave security risks to the lives and property of the citizens and the current world economic and political order. Spanning across North-East, North-West, North Central, South-South and other parts of Nigeria, the activities of non-state armed groups such as the Islamic State of the West African Province (ISWAP), Al Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM), the Boko-Haram, the organized bandit groups, the killer Fulani Herdsmen, the Movement for the Emancipation of Niger Delta (MEND) and other splinter organisations, are causing a great deal of concern amongst national security chiefs, political leaders, government officials, foreign policy analysts, and people across all faiths, creed and religious persuasions, (Oke, 2020). this high level of insecurity in the country, especially , in the Northern zone where 'Boko Haram' has become a threat to business activities. No investor will be willing to invest where his investment is not secured. Many companies and businesses in the Northern part of the country have stopped operation due to "Boko Haram" scourge. The cost of life and material resources lost to insecurity in the country since the past few years is unquantifiable. The frequent occurrence of bomb explosions, orchestrated by the acclaimed religious extremists in the northern part of the country, has assumed a worrisome dimension. An estimated number of about 2,000 lives have been lost to bomb explosion from 2010 till date. According to security information released by Crime Guard, a security monitoring group, between March and December 2012, there were a total of 153 successful explosions in the country which claimed several lives and properties and led to closure of many businesses in the country. As a result of insecurity in the country many businesses and companies in their numbers are closing down operations in the north and relocating to other African countries for fear of loss of lives and properties. And the few remaining companies operate on skeletal bases. Insecurity in the country not only affects foreign direct investment and business activities, it also affects business confidence as many companies lost confidence in establishing businesses in some parts of the country. Okonkwo et.al(2015) One of the greatest challenges confronting the Nigerian state and the international community at large today is the increase of destructive extremism amongst non-state actors and groups, whose actions are generally seen to constitute grave security risks to the lives and property of the citizens and the current world economic and political order. Spanning across North-East, North-West, North Central, South-South and other parts of Nigeria, the activities of

non-state armed groups such as the Islamic State of the West African Province (ISWAP), Al Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM), the Boko-Haram, the organized bandit groups, the killer Fulani Herdsmen, the Movement for the Emancipation of Niger Delta (MEND) and other splinter organisations, are causing a great deal of concern amongst national security chiefs, political leaders, government officials, foreign policy analysts, and people across all faiths, creed and religious persuasions, (Oke, 2020).

OPERATIONAL DEFINITION OF TERMS

Security Challenges: - security challenges refer to the whole gamut of activities or incidences that inhibit social progress and human interaction. Simply put, it has to do with any event that constitutes a danger to the safety of the State that inhibits its ability to develop and protect itself, as well as promote the general well-being of the people. At the human level, it refers to any action that tends to devalue or undermine the quality of life of the people. Invariably, such tendencies that inhibit or disrupt socio-economic activities automatically qualify for security challenges.

Boko Haram:- The term Boko Haram is a derivation of Hausa word "Boko" meaning western or otherwise non-Islamic education, while "Haram'' is a word with Arabic origin that figuratively means sin but literally, forbidden. In order words, Boko Haram means western education is forbidden or is a sin. Boko Haram is a very controversial Nigeria militant Islamic group that seeks for the imposition of sharia law in the entire northern states of Nigeria.

Insurgence: This is defined as a political battle waged among a cooperative or acquiescence populace in order for a group of outsiders to take over (or at least undermine) the government of a nation.

Sect: Sect can be seen as a body of persons distinguished by peculiarities of faith and practice from other bodies adhering to the same general system.

Security: Security can be explained to mean the total sum of actions and measures, including legislative and operational procedures, adopted to ensure peace, stability and the general well-being of a nation and its citizens.

Terrorism: Terrorism is perhaps the most controversial problematic concept to define in the world today. This is made more problematic as a result of the blurred distinction between legitimate act of resistance and criminal act of terrorism. Despite these difficulties, however, terrorism could be conceptualized as the politically motivated acts of violation perpetrated against civilian targets with the aim of inflicting mass causalities, instilling fear and a sense of insecurity and affecting a change in the policies and action of the victims.

National Security: The national security of any nation encompasses other vital areas such as environmental protection, social and food security and more especially the

prevalence of internal peace. Without adequate security of lives and property, the system will be rife with lawlessness, chaos and eventual disintegration. It might be military, economic, ideological or cultural. National security is best described as a capacity to control those domestic and foreign conditions that the public opinion of a given community believes necessary to enjoy its own self-determination or autonomy, prosperity and well-being.

REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE CONCEPTUAL REVIEW

According to Nwanegbo and Odigbo (2013), Olabanji and Ese (2014) the divergent approaches to the conceptualization of human security in the theoretical literature can be categorized into two major strands. One is a neo-realist theoretical strand that conceptualizes security as primary responsibilities of the state. The second strand, a postmodernist or plural view, conceptualizes security as the responsibilities of non-state actors and displaces the state as a major provider of security. Proponents of this approach argue that the concept of security goes beyond a military determination of threats. They are of the view that government should be more concern with the economic security of individual than the security of the state because the root causes of insecurity are economic in nature. Security 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 (Ogunleye,et al, 2011).

Some scholars in conceptualizing security placed emphasis on the absence of threats to peace, stability, national cohesion, political and socio-economic objectives of a country (Igbuzor, 2011; Oche, 2001; Nwanegbo and Odigbo, 2013, Olabanji and Ese 2014). Omede (2012) sees security as a dynamic condition which involves the relative ability of a state to counter threats to its core values and interests.

The concept of insecurity connotes different meanings such as: absence of safety; danger; hazard; uncertainty; lack of protection, and lack of safety. Beland (2005), insecurity is "the state of fear or anxiety stemming from a concrete or alleged lack of protection." It refers to lack or inadequate freedom from danger. Achumba et al (2013) defines insecurity from two perspectives. Firstly, insecurity is the state of being open or subject to danger or threat of danger, where danger is the condition of being susceptible to harm or injury. Secondly insecurity is the state of being exposed to risk or anxiety, where anxiety is a vague unpleasant emotion that is experienced in anticipation of some misfortune. These definitions of insecurity underscore a major point that those affected by insecurity are not only uncertain or unaware of what would happen but they are also vulnerable to the threats and dangers when they occur.

People engaged in business activity, either directly or indirectly, to satisfy unlimited human wants. Therefore, business has become part and parcel of human existence in particular and global world in general. Mohddeeb (2011) defined business as an

economic activity, which is related with continuous and regular production and distribution of goods and services for satisfying human wants. Henry (2011) it is human activity directed towards producing or acquiring wealth through buying and selling of goods. Stephenson (2011) sees business as the regular production or purchase and sales of goods undertaken with the aim of making profit and acquiring wealth through the satisfaction of human wants.

Insurgency

Insurgency is a systematic approach used by a group of people to kill, destroy, and violently intimidate innocent citizens for their selfish interest. Insurgency has been a global menace which affects the economic, socio-political cum educational sectors of the country experiencing it. The recent upsurge of insurgent groups that surfaced from the northern part of the country such as Boko Haram and others has been a serious challenge to the country, since their inception in 2009, in the far north of Borno State; they have destroyed, killed and displaced millions of people which attracted international or global attention.

Olojo (2013) asserted that poverty, longstanding economic disparities within Nigeria, and structural violence, are key factors underlying the Boko Haram menace. However, the complex nature of the situation in Nigeria has at the same time caused some observers to characterize Boko Haram's aggression as violent extremism beyond a domestic agenda. Boko haram has become a threat to the national security. Their activities have almost crippled the socioeconomic life of the entire nation. Boko Haram has intensified its operation in the northeast of Nigeria despite the state of emergency that was declared by the federal government in the three states in the northern region where Boko Haram activities are concentrated. The activities of the sect have been of concern to scholars who have written various academic papers on the modus operandi of Boko Haram.

Eme and Ibietan (2012) analyze the origin and ideology of the Boko haram insurgents, from their analysis they posit that Jama'atu Ahlis Sunna Lidda'awati Wal-Jihad better known as Boko Haram is an Islamic terrorist group that has a strong operational based in the northeast of Nigeria. The ideology of Boko haram, according to them, is to bring to an end the secular system of government and introduce sharia law in Nigeria.

However, Lister (2012) did not subscribe to the notion that the Boko Haram aim is to Islamize Nigeria through the introduction of sharia law. According to him, the foot soldiers of the sect are disgruntled youths who have been paid by unscrupulous Northern politicians to cause mayhem in the country because of their selfish ambitions. The high rate of poverty, unemployment and political corruption has been blamed on the elongation of the conflict. Most of the foot soldiers of Boko Haram are youths that

are frustrated because the lack employment, income and they have been disdained by politicians after being used by these politicians for their elections victory.

Cook (2014) asserts that the youths enlisted into Boko Haram because of the prevalence of poverty in the North. The poverty profile of Nigeria that was released in 2011 by the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) indicated that the northern region has more poor people than people in the south. Aside the killings, kidnappings and bombings of the sect, their activities constitute a hindrance to the socioeconomic development of the northeast where their operation is focused and Nigeria as a whole. Eme and Ibietan (2012); Ogochukwu (2013); Odita and Akan (2014) agree with their study on the Boko Haram insurgency that the heinous crimes of the Boko Haram insurgents hinder socioeconomic and educational development in Nigeria.

Owolabi (2013) stated that the activities of Boko Haram sect have rubbished the image of Nigeria and have hampered the quest for achieving millennium Development Goals (MDGs) as well as vision 2020. Since the advent of a new dimension to insurgency in Nigeria, it is clear that the fabric of Nigeria economic foundation has really been shaken. The impact of the activities of the dreaded Boko Haram has brought physical, psychological and economic damage to the Nigeria's fragile economy. There is a sharp drop in the commercial activities in the North as foreign investors are gradually diverting from Nigeria due to the increasing security crisis.

Chukurah and Ogbeje (2015) reveal that Boko Haram insurgency has in no small measure affected lives and led to displacement of a large proportion of the populace, and funds that would have been diverted to enhance economic development are being channeled to tackle the Boko Haram insurgency. Since their inception in 2002, Boko-Haram has been disrupting and destabilizing government activities mainly in northeastern part of the country. According to the study, it reveals that north-east has witnessed one hundred and fifteen (115) attacks by the suspected Boko Haram terrorist insurgent, making the environment so hazardous thereby forcing the people especially investors/entrepreneurs to alternate to a free zone. Their activities by implication have crippled all economic activities in the zone, as a country or state that is constantly witnessing upheavals might not be able to advance at a fast pace.

Olojo (2013) contends that one significant factor that has stimulated the drive towards violent extremism; recruitment and support for Boko Haram are economic deprivation. From the foregoing, it is evident several scholars believed that poverty and longstanding economic disparities in the northeast part of the country made the youth join the sect.

Babangida (2011) on the other hand corroborated this view; he posits that national security is the physical protection and defense of our citizens and our territorial integrity and also the promotion of the economic wellbeing and prosperity of Nigerians

in a safe and secure environment that promotes the attainment of our national interests and those of our foreign partners.

Furthermore, Otto and Ukpere (2012) and Adebakin, (2012) asserts that "security means protection from hidden and hurtful disruptions in the patterns of daily life in homes, offices or communities.

The United Nations Development Programme (1996) posits that human security (an aspect of national security) refers to "freedom from fear and freedom from want" and "safety from chronic threats such as hunger, disease, and repression as well as protection from sudden and harmful disruptions in the patterns of daily life – whether in homes, in jobs or in communities." National security can summarily be describes as "protection from the threat of disease, hunger, unemployment, crime, social conflict, political repression, and environmental hazards". The national security of any nation encompasses other vital areas such as environmental protection, social and food security and more especially the prevalence of internal peace. Without adequate security of lives and property, the system will be rife with lawlessness, chaos and eventual disintegration. It might be military, economic, ideological or cultural (Nwolise, 2006:352, Omede, 2011:92). The people must not only be secured from external attacks but also from devastating consequences of internal upheavals, unemployment, hunger, starvation, diseases, ignorance, homelessness, environmental degradation and pollution cum socio-economic injustices. Security is vital for national cohesion, peace and sustainable development. It is therefore apparent that national security is a desideratum, sine qua non for economic growth and educational development of any country (Oladeji & Folorunso, 2007, Ewetan & Urhie, 2014).

Theoretical framework

This work rests on the theoretical framework of frustration-aggression analysis. The theory was propounded and developed by Dollard and his associates in 1939, and were very explicit in their treatment of this phenomenon. The frustration-aggression theoretical framework is relevant to this study as it provides explanations for the emergence of Boko-Haram insurgence and how it has affected national security in Nigeria.

The basic assumption of the frustration – Aggression theory is that all aggression, whether interpersonal or international has its root causes on the frustration of one or more actors' goal achievement. That is, the non-fulfillment of personal or group objectives and the frustration that this breeds. Since the demand for basic human needs has always exceeded the supply, all human conflict can be traced to an actor's failure to obtain what it needs. The frustration-Aggression theory therefore rests on the basic stimulus–response (frustration –aggression) hypothesis Dougherty and Pfaltzgraff 1990. They proposed not only that a particular frustration instigates aggression primarily against the source of the frustration, but also instigates aggression against

targets that are to some degree related to that source. They provided that aggression is not just undertaken as a natural reaction or instinct as realist and biological theorist assume, but the outcome of frustration. Consequence of the way the society is structured, the feeling of disappointment may lead such a person to express his anger through violence that will be directed to those he holds responsible or people who are directly or indirectly related to them (Johan and Dennen 2015). That is a situation where the desire of an individual is denied either directly or indirectly. Therefore, the most common explanation for violent behavior is inability to fulfill needs.

Insurgents can be driven by frustration, oppression, exploitation and social inequalities. The use of terror and violence by such groups is aimed to intimidate or coerce government and the public in order to promote political, social ideological and religious or philosophical objectives. Looking at Boko Haram, attacks in the Northern Nigeria, one can affirm that the astronomically relative deprivations of acquisition in terms of western education poverty, unemployment, and social inequalities, could have been the reasons that trigger insurgency in that part of the country. In this context, aggression may develop as a consequence of having been exposed to extremely frustrating conditions sufficient enough to provoke a sense of hopelessness. Kukah (1993) argues that Boko Haram members face complexities, contradictions and challenges emanating from their inability to meet up with basic human needs like foods, cloth and shelter. Soyinka (2012) agrees with this position and argues that, "economic factors, such as unemployment, wasted resources, social marginalization and massive corruption are responsible for nurturing the current season of violent discontent in Nigeria". It is, however, important to note that the existence of frustration does not always lead to aggression, given that frustration may have other consequences other than aggression.

Generally, in Nigeria approximately 76 percent of northerners live on less than one dollar per day. Schools are not adequately financed and this situation leads to low standard of education. This in reality implies that the bulk of the population are shut out of the national economy. In fact, at a time, Nigeria was said to have one of the lowest labour participation rates (60%) in the world (National Conference Reports, 2014). Many especially in the North, are not enjoying the dividends that democracy is expected to bring in the country. Nigerian governments' poor response to northern desire for improvement in economic and security conditions has fueled resentment, making many young men vulnerable to Boko Haram recruiters. People in the North are significantly marginalized and are not provided the same economic opportunities and benefits that the rest of the country enjoys. This account for the reason the founder and also leader of the group, Mohammad Yusuf argued that - Western education or Boko had brought nothing but poverty and suffering to the region and was therefore forbidden or 'Haram' in Islam (Brock, 2012).

This situation of poverty had made citizens in the north not to be loyal to the government, but to shift their loyalty in favour of Boko-Haram ideological grouping where they could find solace. However, it is on this note that the Boko- Haram began to seek for alternative ways to further express their frustration by resulting to violence for the institutionalization of Sharia Law in some parts of the north where Sharia does not exist and to completely Islamize the region through a jihad. This is popularly known as a "Holy War". Once declared, Christians and the schools in the north become vulnerable to attacks. They believed that life will be better if a complete Islamic state is attained in Nigeria and they are no longer under 'Haram' - the imported western system of education and governance (democracy), which they claimed has brought nothing but poverty and suffering in the country and should be forbidden. It is this crusade that made the group to seek training, and weapons from external terrorist organizations. No wonder Ringim (2012) noted that Boko-Haram violence emanated from political disagreement. Accordingly, Brock (2012) underscored the need to treat the Boko-Haram challenge from different perspective as there are religious concerns, there are concerns about governance, and of course, political implications. To him, It is a combination of so many things.

However, the frustration-aggression theory has been criticized for its insufficiency of causal link to aggression and other insights into human behaviour.

REASONS FOR INSECURITY IN NIGERIA

Many scholars have identified several causes of insecurity in Nigeria that are inimical to socioeconomic and national development (Ali, 2013; Okorie, 2011; Jega, 2002; Salawu, 2010; Onyishi, 2011; Ezeoba, 2011; Lewis, 2002; Achumba and Akpor 2013). These causes have been classified into external and internal causes. In Nigeria the internal causes of insecurity pose major challenge to socio-economic development than the external causes of insecurity.

Poverty/Unemployment/Poor Remuneration

Effiong (2019) says Nigeria is faced with acute poverty, unemployment saga as well as poor remuneration for workers. Retired civil/public servants in the country are equally crying of ill prepared pension schemes and lack of welfare plans. The unemployed youth do fund solace in a devil's workshop to commit crimes and pose security challenges while the under paid employees resort to official corruptions and dwindled productivity. Retires resort to complaints and attacked to the government.

Unchecked inflow of Lethal Weapons. This is proliferation of light weapons. Some politicians who procure lethal weapons for unemployed youths to use in guarding them to succeed in campaigns and elections did not recover such weapons from the youths. They now use those weapons to form cult groups or armed robbery and kidnapping

for ransom. The end result is increase in violent crimes and security challenges in our nation.

Ethno-religious conflicts - These have arisen from distrust among various ethnic groups and among the major religions in the country. Ibrahim and Igbuzor (2002), Hazen and Horner, (2007), Salawu (2010) and Igbuzor, (2011) Okonkwo,etal.(2015) identified ethno-religious conflict as a major causes of insecurity in Nigeria. Ethno-religious conflict was defined as a situation in which the relationship between members of one ethnic or religious group and another of such group in a multi-ethnic and multi-religious society is characterized by lack of cordiality, mutual suspicion and fear, and a tendency towards violent confrontation (Achumba et al. 2013; Salawu, 2010). 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 all parts of Nigeria, there exist ethno-religious conflicts and these according to Ibrahim and Igbuzor (2002) have emerged as a result of new and particularistic forms of political consciousness and identity often structured around ethno-religious identities. The claim over scarce resources, power, land, chieftaincy, local government, councils, control of markets and sharia among other trivial issues have resulted in large scale killings and violence amongst groups in Nigeria (Adagba, et al, 2012).

In all parts of Nigeria, ethno-religious conflicts have assumed alarming rates. It has occurred in places like Shagamu (Ogun State), Lagos, Abia, Kano, Bauchi, Nassarawa, Jos, Taraba, Ebonyi and Enugu State respectively. These ethno-religious identities have become disintegrative and destructive social elements threatening the peace, stability and security in Nigeria (Eme and Onyishi, 2011).

Weak Security System - This result from inadequate equipment for the security arm of government, both in weaponry and training (Achumba et al. 2013). Okonkwo, et al. (2015) This is in addition to poor attitudinal and behavioural disposition of security personnel. In many cases, security personnel assigned to deal with given security situations lack the expertise and equipment to handle the situations in a way to prevent them from occurring. And even when these exist, some personnel get influenced by ethnic, religious or communal sentiment and are easily swallowed by their personal interest to serve their people, rather than the nation. Thus, instead of being national watch dogs and defending national interest and values, and protecting people from harm by criminals, they soon become saboteurs of government effort, by supporting and fuelling insecurity through either leaking vital security information or aiding and abetting criminals to acquire weapons or to escape the long arm of the law (Achumba and Akpor 2013).

Permeable Borders: Achumba et al. (2013) in Okonkwo etal (2015) observe that the porous frontiers of the country, where individual movements are largely untracked

have contributed to the level of insecurity in Nigeria. As a result of the porous borders there is an unchecked inflow of Small Arms and Light Weapons into the country which has aided militancy and criminality in Nigeria (Hazen and Horner, 2007). Available data show that Nigeria host over 70 percent of about 8 million illegal weapons in West Africa (Edeko, 2011). Okonkwo,etal.(2015)Also, the porosity of the Nigerian borders has aided the uncontrollable influx of migrants, mainly young men, from neighboring countries such as Republic of Niger, Chad and Republic of Benin responsible for some of the criminal acts (Adeola and Oluyemi, 2012).

Neglect of God and His Ordinances: In pursuing the desires of the human nature, man have deviated from the norms of the spirit. These are two enemies (Gal. 5 vs 16-26). Insecurity becomes imminent because human nature shows itself in immoral, filting and indecent actions (Isa. 65 vs 1-8). There are serious signs of concern of Nation monching dangerously towards a state of emergency anarchy or doom.

It is very clear that Nigeria in recent times has witnessed all unprecedented threat level of insecurity. This has made national security threat to be a major issue in Nigeria. Eme, Nwachukwu & Olise (2017) identifies the following as part of the causes of security threats in Nigeria. These include, youth unemployment, the culture of get rich-quick based on greed, proliferation of small arms and light weapons as well as inadequate policing of our borders and maritime environment. Also, Achumba; Ighomereho & Akpor-Robaro (2013) states the causes of security challenges in Nigeria to include: lack of institutional capacity resulting in government failure, pervasive material inequalities and unfairness, ethno-religious conflicts, conflict of perceptions between the public and government, weak security system, loss of socio-cultural and communal value system. He further mentioned these as immediate and proximate factors which caused security threats in Nigeria: Porous boorders, rural/urban drift, social irresponsibility of companies, unemployment/ poverty, terrorism and insecurity of business environment.

SUMMARY

The purpose of this study was to empirically examine and analyze the issue of security challenges and their effect on the Northeast Nigeria. In the carrying out the analysis, the menace Boko Haram and other insurgent groups constitutes has been critically examined. The study attempted to look at the issue of insurgency and the factors that have continued to motivate the spiral rise in the activities of the sects and provide plausible answers to the following questions:

- What are the socio-economic, religious, cultural and political factors that motivate the Boko Haram nuisance in Nigeria?
- What are the implications of the Boko Haram insurgency on national security?

- In what ways can the Boko Haram insurgency be curbed to enhance national security?

The trend of activities of the sect has led to ceaseless bombings and all sorts of attack in the Northern parts of the country with little or no provocation. Attempts were made to establish the general meaning of insurgency and national security in Nigeria. It was discovered that several factors can be attributed to the nonstop rise in the activities of these insurgent groups such as the socio-economic, political, cultural and religious factors.

In a situation where national security cannot be guaranteed, the impact will be felt directly or indirectly in every other sphere, ultimately leading to national security challenges. The activities of the Boko Haram, ISWAP and other insurgent groups are a serious challenge the government is grappling to combat and the failure of the Gen. Muhammed Buhari's led federal government to completely eradicate these security challenges or reduce their manifestations significantly has made members of the public to lose confidence in the government as it is perceived that the government is more interested in playing the politics of blame game rather than radically addressing the root causes of the problem that have permeated deep into the society.

The findings of the study have explicitly explained the issues of security challenges in Nigeria and their effects on Business Activities in Nigeria. While Boko Haram began and maintained elements of a basic Islamic movement, it has evolved into a hardened and sophisticated terror network. Based on the findings of the study, there is evidence that insurgent groups constitute security challenges and which have negative effects on national security. This is made manifest in the Boko Haram murderous campaigns against security personnel, and government institutions, religious clergy and sacraments; and unarmed members of the general public. The escalating of violence, with increasing attacks like suicide bombings and kidnappings depict the failure of government at all levels to curtail the crises.

RECOMMENDATIONS

In Nigeria, insecurity has infiltrated all facets of the country making good governance practically difficult, thus, affecting lives and property of the populace as national security is a top priority and where this is not guaranteed, the atmosphere will not be conducive for other activities to thrive. However strict measures must be taken to halt, and reduce the menace from completely destroying the country. Based on the findings which indicated that insurgency and insecurity have dire consequences on the national security of the country, this research work, therefore, makes the following recommendations:

i. This project is of the opinion that for the challenges of insecurity to be surmounted, there is the imperative need to adopt both the kinetic and non-

kinetic approaches. The military approach alone cannot sufficiently address militancy and insurgency in Nigeria. Boko Haram needs more than a military response as it is practically impossible to fight the Boko Haram and ISWAP insurgent groups with mere guns and ammunition.

ii. There is need for the Federal Government of Nigeria to revamp its alliance with Benin, Chad, Niger and Cameroun. This coalition, and its Multi-National Joint Task Force (MNJTF) against insurgency has been working effectively to end both Boko Haram and ISWAP insurrection. Nigeria has a huge opportunity to show leadership in Africa, which is struggling with extremist violence and identity conflict from all angles. Strengthening the Multi-National Joint Task Force is essential to ensure continued hard hitting military and non-military pressures on Boko Haram and other sects.

iii. It is paramount for the federal government to adopt social protection measures that will target the political grievances and socioeconomic circumstances that make young people vulnerable to the militant groups. This can be done by taking serious steps to combat poverty, unemployment and the impact of environmental degradation. Alongside improving the provision of basic or essential services.

iv. The idea of dialogue, rehabilitation and reintegration of members of Boko Haram sect should be discontinued or completely abrogated. It is grossly unprofessional to engage in a dialogue with a terrorist group.

v. Reports from the battlefield indicated that security personnel are not being provided with the requisite ammunition and modern fighting techniques. The idea of military professionalism should be at the top of government priorities and the government should endeavor to supply the army with sophisticated military equipment that measures up to the weapons of the Boko Haram.

vi. With regard to the virtually insurmountable task ahead, the Nigerian government will need international assistance particularly in the areas of counter insurgency operations, detection of improvised explosive devices, forensic analysis, intelligence gathering and analysis, from this perspective, without international assistance, the Nigerian government will almost certainly face a prolonged battle in neutralizing Boko Haram and other violent groups.

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