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SECURITY MANAGEMENT AND NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT IN NIGERIA

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Abstract
This article critically examined the effect of insecurity on Nigeria's economic growth. The paper contains introduction, methodology, concepts of security and national development, threat to national security, challenges of development in Nigeria, law as a tool of social ordering, conclusion and recommendations. The paper utilized descriptive survey method. It identified effective governance and leadership as non-negotiable change agents. Subsequently, suggestions for improving Nigeria's leadership's capabilities and strengthening national security were made. One of such suggestions was that the Nigerian government should provide sufficient modern weapons for security agents. It was also recommended that the government should pay serious attention to poverty alleviation and the raging unemployment palaver in the country.

Keywords: Security, Security Management, Development, National Development, Security Challenge

Introduction

Security is a pressing issue for every community. Without effective security measures, no nation can advance. Kingdoms and empires have always implemented policies that address both internal and external security concerns in order to safeguard people and property. Providing security for its citizens is one of the government's main responsibilities. Numerous vices, including violence and crime, have frequently been brought on by inadequate security measures, posing serious risks to both the economy and the nation's peace *(*Oladiran*,* 2012*).*

Nigeria has experienced a recurrent issue with insecurity in recent years. The persistent Boko Haram insurgency in the North-Eastern Region of Nigeria, the Niger Delta militancy, the Jos and Sokoto crises, kidnapping, armed robbery, and rituals in the Southwest, and Eastern part of Nigeria, as well as the recent Fulani herdsmen clashes in various parts of the country, are examples of security challenges. Nigerian citizens are daily experiencing an increase in security threats.

In addition to more people participating in crimes, these crimes are also becoming more ruthless, sophisticated, and desperate. New types of violent crimes have emerged since the inauguration of the current democratic system, including kidnapping for ransom, pipeline vandalism, political violence, terrorism and, most recently, the killings committed by Fulani herdsmen *(*Otto and Ukpere, 2012*).*

For the development of any country, security issues are crucial. This is because a supportive environment is necessary for sustainable development to occur. According to Joseph (2014) and Adebayo (2014), maintaining law and order, which is based on national security, is essential to any society's survival. It is important to note that Nigeria is not exempted from the problems and difficulties that every nation on earth faces. She struggles with her own economic, cultural, political, and social issues as a developing nation, which have an impact on its citizens. (Adebayo, 2014).

Crime poses a threat to a country's economic, political, and social security and is a significant contributor to underdevelopment, because it deters both domestic and foreign investment, lowers the standard of living, depletes human and social capital, strains relations between citizens and the government, and undermines democracy, the rule of law, and the ability of a nation to foster development (Adebayo, 2014).

Literature Review

The Concept of Security

Security as a concept has been a subject of debate over the century. The best way to guarantee the security of people, their possessions, territories, states, and institutions, among others, has been sought after throughout human history. Like other concepts, security lacks a clear definition. On this note, various viewpoints on security held by researchers will be examined.

Adebayo, (2011), quoted in Iregbenu and Uzonwanne (2015), argued that security can be

seen as a measure that ensures peaceful coexistence and overall peaceful development. From Adebayo's point of view, security lacks anxiety, fear, tension, and concern about the loss of property, life, purpose, and values. Security is considered as a way for a state to develop and that without security it will be difficult to achieve development. Oladiran, (2012) further explained that security means defending a state by using its armed forces to control its citizens. For Oladiran (2012), security can also mean public policing with state-employed officers. Others may see security as crime prevention, security technology and risk management or loss-prevention.

Iregbenu and Uzonwanne (2015) found that security is an essential aspect of Nigeria's economy. Their research concluded that crime and insecurity negatively impact business. It has also been argued that security influences business and investment decisions and that security threats are critical in the business environment. Due to security challenges, companies are being closed.

The Concept of National Development

The idea of national development is multifaceted. However, Odunola and Kolade (2012) viewed national development as sustainable growth and the development of a nation into a more desirable nation. According to them, national development ought to be citizen-centered, and its effectiveness is dependent on how well it affects people's lives.

National development, according to Lawal and Oluwatoyin (2011), is a country's overall socio-economic, political, and religious advancement. This can be achieved through planning by the leaders of a country. This idea of national development, when compared to Nigeria's current development, unfolds the fact that the nation is lagging behind. Nigeria's national development is at an extremely worrisome point right now.

One of the characteristics of a nation that is not advanced is its imbalanced foreign exchange rate. Another one is inflation. These are the characteristics of Nigeria’s economy today that have impeded the country's development.

Nigeria's situations of continued reliance on imports, bad roads, high rates of youth unemployment, epileptic power supply, low standards in its educational system that cause brain drain, political immaturity, hunger for power and intolerance are all contributing factors.

Since the country's independence, a number of administrations have, at various times, adopted national development plans. Some of these plans fell short of their objectives because there were no public consultations; planning should also involve people in rural areas. Where there is also no good governance national development plans will fail (Lawal and Oluwatoyin, 2011). The majority of Nigerian leaders are not dedicated to development. The Structural Adjustment Programme (SAP) of the *1980s*, the National Economic Empowerment and Development (NEEDS), the National Transformation Agenda, and the Seven Point Agenda are a few of the plans made by leaders to achieve development. (Joseph, 2014).

Nigeria currently faces a number of security issues that have hampered national development efforts. National development is also hampered by corruption and government’s neglect of some crucial initiatives that could put the nation back on track.

Methodology

Descriptive survey method was utilized to investigate issues relating to security management and national development. To this end, necessary data for this study were collected from journals, textbooks and the Internet.

Threats to National Security

Nigeria has experienced an embarrassing level of insecurity in recent times. Almost all regions, if not all, face uncertainty. In the South, there are militant groups, violence between peasant farmers and nomadic herders, killing and raping innocent women and young girls and in the Northeast, there is the Boko Haram insurgency and so on.

Boko Haram Insurgency

For some time now, terrible terrorist activities have been taking place in the Northeastern part of Nigeria. These horrible activities are orchestrated by a group called Boko Haram. The group took advantage of the prevailing corrupt political system, unemployment, poverty and instability in the country to launch terrible attacks on people (Cook, 2011, Carson, 2012).

Nigeria, a nation with more than 200 million people, needs order, regional security, and peace in Africa. Countries like Chad, Cameroon, Benin, and Niger are dependent on the economy of Nigeria. Since Boko Haram started attacking the nation, its actions have had

a significant impact on national development (Gillepie, 2014, Marcal, 2012).

Although, since the election of Mohammadu Buhari into office in *2015*, the activities of Boko Haram have been curtailed the sect is still very active as seen in their recent attacks in Borno State killing dozens of citizens, including military men and burning of about forty houses.

Beyond the tragic loss of lives, terrorism has wreaked havoc on Nigeria's economy by fostering an atmosphere of unrest. The cost of Boko Haram's activities to the nation was estimated at 28.48 billion dollars in *2013*. This has recently had an impact on Nigeria's performance in the global competitive index, according to Onuoha, Ichite, and George (2015).

The actions of Boko Haram affect Nigerian manufacturers as well. Manufacturers' products are no longer selling out as quickly as they were prior to the rise of terrorism. As a result, they are producing at or below capacity, which lowers profits for the manufacturing companies. Adebayo (2014) warned that if this keeps up, the workforce would be threatened with accompanying labour unrest. It is apparent that thousands of Nigerians lost their jobs between 2015 and 2023, and the aforementioned reason is not far from the root cause given that insecurity can affect any sector of a nation. Some employees would need to be sacked in order for the business to continue operating, and if the loss persists, they will cease all business operations.

Menace of Kidnapping

Kidnapping poses a number of definitional problems in relation to Nigeria's legal and moral viewpoints (Ezemenaka, 2018). Despite the malleability of the concept, this paper favours an operational definition that sees kidnapping as the crime of seizing and taking away a person by force, often with a demand for a ransom. The crime involves unlawfully seizing and carrying away a person by force or fraud or seizing and detaining a person against his or her will with intent of carrying that person away at a later time (Zeman, Bien and Urban, 2018; Teivens-Treinovis, Nesterova, Solobutina and Lipe, 2018).

In Nigeria, the law against kidnapping provides that "any person who unlawfully imprisons any person, and takes him out of Nigeria without his consent; or unlawfully imprisons any person within Nigeria in such a manner as to prevent him from applying to court for his release or from discovering to any other person the place where he is imprisoned, or in such a manner as to prevent any person entitled to have access to him from discovering the place where he was kidnapped is guilty of a felony, and is liable to imprisonment for ten years" (Criminal Code Act, Cap C 38). In a nutshell, kidnapping has been a serious threat to security management and national development in Nigeria.

Niger Delta Militancy

Another inhibiting threat to security management and national development in Nigeria is the Niger Delta militancy which erupts day-in-day-out in the region. Agitation against environmental degradation and poor infrastructural development in the Niger Delta region in Nigeria, particularly by the Ijaw youths, has been a recurring issue, particularly from the 1990s (Ojo, 2007). However, the emergence of a new wave of agitation started in 1998. Precisely, on December 11th 1998, the Ijaw Youth Council (IYC) in the region, in its Kaiama Declaration, issued an ultimatum to all the oil companies in the region to suspend operations and to leave the region by 31st December, 1998.

The basic complaint by the IYC, as contained in the Declaration, is that the oil exploration by oil companies in the region was causing severe land and food shortages and serious environmental pollution (Ezeudo, 2013). The oil exploration in the region is dominated by multi-national corporations such as Chevron, Texaco, Exxon-Mobil, Agip, Shell and the Nigeria National Petroleum Corporation. Their other complaint was that there was no serious and systematic effort at meaningful human and infrastructural development in the region both by the government and the multi-national oil companies (Olatoke and Olatunba, 2010, Ugwuanyi, 2014).

It is worthy to note that the oil from the region is the life blood of the Nigerian economy. Nigeria depends up to 90 percent on foreign exchange from the oil got from the region *(Akeem, 2010).* Indeed, as reported by Tell (2008). The Niger Delta region is the hub of oil and gas production in Nigeria that accounts for 95 percent of foreign exchange earnings, 95 percent of national budget, 80 percent of government revenue and over 80 percent of national wealth. The above agitations had led to incessant militancy crisis in Nigeria.

Armed Robbery Threat

The Nigerian society started to experience escalation of armed robbery activities in the

country from 1970, at the end of the Nigeria/Biafra Civil War (Eze, 2016). Over the years, particularly from 1970, armed robbery became the most common and feared crime in Nigeria because of its regularity (Alemika, 2006). Armed robbers can strike in homes, on the highways, markets, banks, offices and even in places of worship, during the day and night. In Nigeria, as armed robbery activities overwhelm the society with its attendant hype and victims, it has earned itself numerous media coverage with sensational headlines (Folahanmi, 2017, Cyril, 2020).

Challenges of Development in Nigeria

Mass poverty, socio-economic inequality, youth unemployment, food insecurity and scarcity, climate change, and unfavorable climatic conditions are, undoubtedly, some of Nigeria's biggest development challenges. The National Baseline Youth Survey Report states that the youth unemployment rate in Nigeria was 54 percent in 2012. However, by June 2014, statistics from the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) suggested that 80 percent of Nigerian youths were unemployed. Such a sharp increase in unemployment rate clearly indicates a nation that poses a threat to itself.

Rising youth unemployment poses serious threats to national security and socio-political stability, as evidenced by experiences in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA Region). Youth unemployment was one of the causes of the "Arab Spring," which swept through Egypt, Tunisia, Libya, Yemen, Syria, and other Arab nations. Egypt, Tunisia, and Libya are currently dealing with some of the most severe political, security, and economic crises in recent memory.

The Role of Law in Promoting National Security and Advancing National Development

In this discussion, conceptual analysis will be less important than the functional or teleological aspect of law. For our purposes, it is appropriate to think about how the law might help to advance national security and boost economic development. The conduct, attitudes, orientation, or dominant legal ideology of the key players in the administration of justice judge, attorney, etc. should also be examined in this context. This is necessary because law is essential to any country's socio-economic and political development.

Law as a Tool of Social Ordering

Law has long been valued as a tool of social control by sociological jurists. It is undeniable that law plays a crucial role in human societies, as evidenced by utilitarianism, which is based on the ideas of Jeremy Bentham and Von Ihering, jurisprudence of interest. The fulcrum is the goal or end of law, social solidarity, which emphasizes peaceful coexistence among the various components of human society, and the notion of law as a social engineering tool advanced by Roscoe Pound. It serves as a tool for achieving stability and order as well as this is, perhaps, more crucial a platform for political and socio-economic advancement.

Administration of Justice: Law in Aid of National Security, Social Justice and Development

The critical role of the actors, particularly the judges, in the administration of justice of any nation cannot be over-emphasized. Gray, an eminent English jurist, exaggerated this point when he defined law almost exclusively in terms of the rulings and decisions of the court. According to him, “the law of a state or any organized body of men is composed of rules which the court, that is the judicial organs of that body, lay down for the determination of legal rights and duties”. Holmes had earlier defined law as the prophesies of what the court would decide. Although these perspectives of the eminent jurists have been criticized as being unduly restrictive as they ignore other critical dimensions of the phenomenon, it does emphasize the pivotal role of the court in the administration of justice of any nation. Mr. Justice Arthur T. Vanderbilt further explained the crucial role of the judiciary when he said;

“….. it is the courts and not the legislature that citizens primarily feel the keen cutting-edge of law. If they have respect for the work of the courts, their respect for the law will survive the shortcoming of every other branch of government, if they lose their respect for the work of the courts, their respect for law and order will varnish with it to the great detriment of society”. In the light of the foregoing, it is apposite to examine, albeit briefly, the general attitudes of the Nigerian judges to statutory interpretation or the dominant legal ideology.

Many jurists have expressed the view that the quality of a legal system is largely a reflection of the dominant legal ideology of the judges. Eugene Ehlich, an Austrian jurist said: “There is

no guarantee of justice except the personality of the judge" *(Cardozo B. N. 1921).* Kayode Eso J.S.C noted "the court is to administer the law as it is and not as it ought to be".

Other notable scholars have equally condemned the undue emphasis placed on legal rules as the driver, as it were, of judicial rulings and decisions. Lloyd remarked in this respect. *"Conceptualism or legalism is a vice to which lawyers too readily succumb. Rules are means to an end, purposive instruments. They embody social objectives and policy choices. Thus when a judge is confronted with a rule, he is not met by a bloodless category but a living organism which contain within itself value choices*". It is important that our judges must approach law from the angle of social justice, seen largely from prisms of the common man not schooled in the intricacies of jurisprudence but nevertheless endowed with the elementary principles of justice.

Conclusion and Recommendations

The above findings show that Nigeria is faced with different security challenges, ranging from Boko Haram insurgency in the North, herdsmen killings, and Niger Delta militancy among other security challenges. Based on the findings of this paper, it is obvious that security challenges in the country have negative effect on Nigeria's national development. Insurgency, in particular, has made investors both within and outside Nigeria change their investment destinations as a result of security challenges, thereby making the rate of unemployment in the country high and Foreign Direct Investments low. This has moved the country further away from the path of development.

It is hereby recommended that the Nigerian government should endeavour to build viable institutions that respond actively to security challenges by enhancing security efforts with weapons to combat terrorism.

Also, the fight against corruption should be followed strictly and laws that will make it possible for anyone caught on corruption charges to go to jail and forfeit all his properties. The root cause of insecurity should be addressed. Nigerian government should deliver quality governance to the citizens and create institutional framework that will ensure effective management of resources to improve the lives of the people.

Furthermore, the government should pay more attention to poverty alleviation, which includes creation of jobs and welfare packages. Government as a matter of urgency should give more allocations to education, especially in the North. When youths are educated, they will be able to stand their grounds to know what is good and wrong and not easily deceived by religious bigots.

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