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EFFECTS OF INSECURITY ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN NIGERIA

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ABSTRACT

This paper examines the relevant issue of insecurity in Nigeria and its effect in socioeconomic development. The continuous rise in Insecurity and deterioration in the economic development in Nigeria call for a concern among researchers and policy makers over the years. However, these two hydra-headed problems still remain the greatest challenges facing nations all over the world. Since the past decade or more, Nigeria has witnessed an unprecedented security challenges occasioned by the activities of militants in the South-South region, kidnappers in the south east, violent armed robbery in almost parts of the country, political assassination, ritual killings and more recently activities of Boko Haram in some parts of the northern region especially north east. These social menaces, when put together impinge on the security of lives and property of both Nigerian citizens and foreigners living or even trying to invest in the country. To ensure economic development in Nigeria therefore, the study recommends various measures of curbing insecurity including preventive community policing, human development centered growth perspective, equitable distribution of resources as well as channeling of resources to frontline sectors of the economy among others. This has become worrisome in the face of Nigeria's preparedness to be ranked among the twenty (20) developed countries of the world by the year 2020. These social menace triggers off a worrisome sense of insecurity that challenges Nigeria's efforts towards national economic development and consequently its vision. It also scares the attraction of foreign investment and their contributions to economic development in Nigeria. This paper recommends effective leadership and good governance as a panacea to solving problems of insecurity, unemployment, poverty, hunger, disease, among other negative indices.

Keywords: Insecurity, Economic Development, Conflict, Unemployment, Investment.

Introduction

Insecurity in Nigeria has reached an alarming proportion showing its ugly head in various facets of our national life. Lives are lost on daily basis, population depleted, businesses in comatose, investments are nose-diving, multinationals closing shops and vacating the country, unemployment soaring and the populace in fears. Clearly, it poses a threat to governance and economic growth in troubled nation. Since the exit of the military from the political scene and the enthronement of democracy in Nigeria about 13 years ago, Nigeria has witnessed an unprecedented security challenges that have put Nigerians and foreigners on their toes. More particularly, since 2007, the state of insecurity in the country occasioned by the activities of different groups has assumed an alarming dimension. Such activities include

militancy in the south south region, kidnapping in the south east, violent armed robbery, political assassination, ritual killings and more recently suicide bombings in some parts of the northern region especially north east.

According to Stewart (2004), the economic cost of insecurity is enormous. People who joined the fighting forces, who are killed or flee, can no longer work productively; schools, power stations, and roads that are destroyed reduced the productive capacity of the economy. Further, displacement of people reduces the production of exports, thereby reducing foreign exchange earnings, import potentials and consequently further constraining output, leading to a decline in employment and earnings. The reason for government failure to address this issue of insecurity satisfactorily may not be unconnected with government failure in meeting the developmental needs of the people which has forced them into forming alliance in different forms that has succeeded in breading what Onifade, Imhonopi and Urim,(2013) refers to increasing ethnic hate, religious bigotry, political rivalry and a growing population of disgruntle citizens in the country who feel they have been short-changed and given very limited or no access to the common patrimony.

In particular, the activities of Boko Haram, following the frequent suicide bombings in the country especially in some parts of northern region, have culminated in the loss of lives and property and stagnation of economic activities. According to Olisemeka (2011:26), the several violent attacks by the Boko Haram have affected economic activities in Maiduguri and other cities in the north east as many residents have fled their homes while others who could not relocate, hardly go about their normal businesses. The city has been under siege from Boko Haram and the presence of the military following these senseless attacks that have put everybody on edge.

The effect of insecurity is very obvious as it presents itself in the destruction of few available infrastructures needed for the industrial growth and development of the nation. No country of the world can develop without the needed prerequisite for growth and development. With the huge outlay of government resources spent on curbing the menace of insecurity and the attendant destruction of the few existing infrastructure, one can assume that the challenges that insecurity posed to development is enormous.

This paper laments the increasing security challenges facing Nigeria and the negative effects on national economic development and her preparedness to be ranked among the developed countries of the world.

The study focuses on three fundamental issues viz:-

1. To establish the causes of insecurity in Nigeria
2. To determine the implications of insecurity
3. To recommend preventive measures

Conceptualization of Security, National Security, Insecurity and Economic Development

Security

Macfarlare (1994) defines security as the protection of assets including people against damage, injury or loss from internal and external causes. Albert (2003) sees security as involving the survival of the state and the protection of individuals and groups within the state. The

deduction from the above view is that the sovereignty of a nation state may be determined by their capacity to safeguard citizens and her resources against any attack, be it from within or outside the state territory.

National Security

In the past, national security was perceived traditionally as building up defence and security manpower, and amassing or collecting weapon systems so that in the event of a threat situation, the state could meet the challenge. In other words, the state channeled all her energy and resources to military manpower and armaments. Thus, this idea of national security was perceived from a wrong direction. For instance, Mroz (1991), conceived national security as "the relative freedom from harmful threats".

The antithesis of security is insecurity, which can be seen as the absence of security as discussed above. The common description of insecurity is uncertainty, hazard, danger, want of safety, want of confidence, state of doubt, inadequately guarded and protected, lack of protection and being unsafe, instability and others. In the words of Achumba et al, (2013), the common descriptors outlined above point to a condition where there exists a vulnerability to harm, loss of life, property or livelihood. To them insecurity is state of not knowing, a lack of control, and the inability to take defensive actions against forces that portend danger or harm to an individual or group, or that make them vulnerable.

While recognizing the need for nations to have military forces McNamara (1968) insisted that development is essential for security. However, he regrets that ignorance on the part of leaders makes this fact problematic. In his words;

The rub is that we do not always grasp the meaning of security in this context. In a modernizing society, security means development, security is not military hard ware, though it may involve it; security is not traditional military activity though it may encompass it. Security is development, and without development there can be no security. A developing nation that does not infact develop, simply cannot remain secure for the intractable reason that its own citizenry cannot shed its human nature. This is what we do not always understand, and what governments of modernizing nations do not always understand. The devastating effects of insecurity on economic growth were recognized early enough in the literature: UNDP (1994), Beland (2005); Collier Paul (2006); Achumba and Ighomereho (2013); Omoyibo and Akpomera (2013); Stewart (2004); Aderoju (2007) amongst others. Most of these studies however examined the subject from a political-socio economic perspective, only a few purely economic study of the subject exist in the literature. UNDP (1994) defined human security with a view to understanding what insecurity entails. According to it, human security means, first, safety from such chronic threats as hunger, disease and repression. And second, it means protection from sudden and hurtful disruptions in the patterns of daily life – whether in homes, in jobs or in communities. The report identified seven elements that make up human security: (i) Economic security; (ii) Food security; (iii) Health security; (iv) Environmental security; (v) Personal security; (vi) Community security; and (vii) Political security. Anything short of this definition and elements, amounts to insecurity.

Patterns and Dimensions of Insecurity

Nigeria is currently bedeviled by a plethora of civil unrests and insecurities including but not limited to the following;

- Armed robbery
- Kidnapping and Ritual killings
- High profile murder and political assassinations
- Herdsmen disturbances and clashes with farmers • Violent agitations for resource control especially in Niger Delta of Nigeria
- Non-violent agitations for self-determination as observed South East Nigeria
- Terrorist attacks epitomized by Boko Haram in North East Nigeria • Ethnic and Religious tensions
- Communal and land disputes typified by Aguleri-Umuleri crises in Anambra State.
- Political/Post Election violence

The understanding here is that governments must look beyond mere equipping and applying or misapplying defence and security forces in the search for national security. Rather, they should give more attention to those factors that give rise to the urge to use or misuse defence and security forces such as poverty, unemployment, hunger and starvation, low technological development, lack of social amenities, obnoxious laws and policies and abuse of human and people's rights.

Insecurity

It is a fear of the unknown; A feeling of trepidation and unsafe. Also, it is a state of being unable to protect lives and property. In other words, the person is vulnerable to damage, injury or loss from both internal and external causes. Thus, one can deduce from the definition that a nation's sovereignty cannot safeguard the citizen and her resource both within and outside the country. There are various types of insecurity.

a. Job insecurity
b. Food insecurity
c. Political insecurity
d. Economic insecurity
e. Financial insecurity
f. Social insecurity
g. Demographic insecurity
h. Gender/sexual insecurity
i. Health insecurity
j. Environmental insecurity
k. Relationship insecurity
l. Religious insecurity
m. Moral insecurity
n. Insecurity complex

Economic Development

The concept of development seems to be in a state of flux since the end of the Second World War. In the early 1940s the ideological differences between the socialist east and the capitalist

west appears to have influenced the meaning of and the conceptualization of the term. The challenge of economic development is very different. There is no divorce between theory and observed facts.

One cannot conceptualize economic development without first invoking economic growth. This is because economic growth is one aspect of the process of economic development (Sen, 1983). Therefore, economic growth is the increasing capacity to satisfy the needs and wants of the economy overtime. It is conventionally measured as the percentage rate of increase in real gross domestic product, or real GDP. On the other hand, economic development can be defined as "the process of improving the quality of human life through increasing per capita income, reducing poverty, and enhancing individual economic opportunities. It is also sometimes defined to include better education, improved health and nutrition, conservation of natural resources, a clear environment and a richer cultural life" (Penn State University, 2008).

Causes of Insecurity in Nigeria

Insecurity in Nigeria can be attributed to many factors. These are as follows:

a. **Imposition of unpopular policies**- Nigeria is yet to get a leader who will make policies that majority of her citizens embrace and support. More often than not, policies are foisted on people despite their opposition and disapproval. One of such policies was removal of fuel subsidy and deregulation of the downstream sector of the economy on January 1, 2012 by the Jonathan led government against people's opposition and protest. This unpopular policy culminated into mass protest, crisis and violent demonstration as the youths engaged the police in a fight for two hours and threw missiles which led to the use of live bullets by the security agents.

b. **Corruption:** This is one social vice that is the bane of development of Nigeria despite her huge human and material resources. Corruption constitutes a run on the economy of any nation. This is the reason most governments in the world do not treat issues of corruption with kid gloves. In Nigeria, corruption seems to have defied solution despite the measures and campaign against it. Though, government has set up agencies like Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) and Independent Corrupt Practices and other related offences Commission (ICPC) as well as an enabling Act, but there is lack of political will to fight corruption. The global anti corruption watchdog, Transparency International ranked Nigeria 143 out of 182 countries in its 2011 Corruption Perceptions Index. Conversion of public funds to personal use remains pervasive.

c. **Poverty:** This is a social problem occasioned by unemployment and lack of empowerment. In other words, as unemployment rate increases, poverty level also rises. Poverty, despite decades of military rule by leaders from the north, coupled with a lack of formal education has driven the region's exploding youth population toward extremism. New government statistics released showed that in Nigeria's north west and north east regions besieged by Islamic insurgents, about 75 percent of the people live in poverty. Also, in a recent report of the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS), Nigeria's poverty profile 2010 shows that at least 112.6 millions of Nigerians or 69 percent of the country's population are living below the poverty level.

d. **Defective Intelligence Gathering and Coordination on the part of security agencies as well as under funding and under equipment:** There is absence of effective information and intelligence gathering among the security agencies in Nigeria. For example, in the fight against terrorism, the Nigeria Police Force and State Security Service are enmeshed in unhealthy rivalry. According to Obi (2012),"by publicly discrediting the Police, members of the public have been told, in no unmistakable terms that the Police and the SSS are working at cross roads or purposes. The public has known that there is no co-ordination between the two sister agencies; that they don't share information and /or intelligence reports". Besides, the security agencies which include the Police, DIA, Army, Navy, Airforce and State Security Service are not adequately funded and equipped to match the Boko Haram militant group. These inadequacies on the part of the security agencies give hoodlums the leverage to tinker with the security system of the country.

e. **Unemployment:** In Nigeria today, unemployment is soaring very high because critical infrastructure like roads, constant power and water supply needed to create jobs is not put in place by the government despite promises made to fix them. According to Mohammed, a sociologist, with the high rate of youth unemployment, all manner of crimes such as the activities of Boko Haram, kidnapping and other vices were to be expected. "There is a serious economic violence on the people that is why those with violent intentions can easily employ them. That is why religious organizations that talk about the youths get large followers" (Newswatch, 2011). Besides, the official rate released by the National Bureau for Statistics (NBS) puts unemployment at about 24 percent even though many unemployed Nigerians are yet to register with the government. Ekpo, an economist, opined that despite the healthy growth of the economy in the last five years, unemployment has been rising alongside the increased incidence of poverty. In 2007, eight million Nigerians were unemployed. The figure rose to 10 million in 2008 and hit 18 million in 2011. Ekpo stated that armed robbery, Kidnapping, gangsterism and other vices are not unrelated to the high rate of unemployment in the country and across the states." No country can afford to have millions of unemployed youths. This army of the unemployed can become a nuisance to society. It is a time bomb that must be diffused.

f. **Terrorism/Suicide Bombing:** This is the greatest security challenge the government of President Jonathan has faced since assuming power last year. In some parts of the country especially north east, security of lives and property has been undermined due to the activities of Boko Haram. Boko Haram is a Nigerian Islamic militant group that is opposed to western education, but seeks the imposition of sharia laws in 12 states of Nigeria. The group has engaged in suicide bombings in different parts of the country including Abuja, Borno, Kano, Yobe, Plateau, Kaduna and Kogi that led to the loss of many lives and destruction of properties.

Insecurity rears its ugly heads in many facets of our national life. Clearly, the following are some of the areas this conundrum has affected Nigeria;

- **Effect on Population:** The effect of insecurity on the population is obvious. Insecurity depletes the population as innocent, young and productive member of the population

are wasted during periods of uprising. For instance, between 2009 and 2013, a whopping 1, 341 lives have been lost due to the activities of Boko haram in North Eastern part of Nigeria. No wonder the number of assassinations continued to be on the increase. This was put at 1255 persons in year 2000, increasing by 1295 to 2550 in year 2004, until it got to an all-time high of 38,955 persons in year 2009. These assassinations also include very high profile politically motivated killings, investigations for which are still ongoing and never ending.

- **Effect on Oil Production, export and Oil revenue:** Exports were invariably negatively affected. This resulted from the general fall in production, a shift towards domestic markets, and disruptions in international markets. Foreign receipts from oil witnessed a steady drop from a high of $99,878 in 2011 to an all-time low of $45,365 in 2015, representing a 55% decrease over the figure in 2011. Consequently, oil production also declined steadily from 1974.80 barrel per day in 2011 to 1748.2 in 2015.

- **Effect on Unemployment:** Insecurity definitely results in the shutdown of businesses and the relocation of companies from unsafe to safe havens. Whereas the labour force continued to increase drastically but to 77.0 million in 2015, from 73.0 million in 2014, representing an increase of 5.5 per cent, employment generation has not kept pace with that increase. Hence, the period witnessed continued increase in the number of unemployed. As shown, the number of unemployed in the labour force increased to 10.4 percent, compared to 7.8 per cent in 2014, representing an increase of 2.6 percentage points.

- **Effect on Agriculture:** The agricultural sector was never spared during uprising but particularly badly hit, especially as people were forced to move in the course of the conflicts. For instance, due to herdsmen's clashes in part of Benue, Kogi and Enugu State that resulted in destruction of farmlands, farm produce in those areas were low causing an increase in the prices of food items during the period. Further, agricultural activities has been brought to a complete halt in Borno State since the beginning of Boko Haram disturbances in that area.

- **Effect on Foreign Investment:** Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) are investments targeted at building new factories or investing in actual production activities which creates jobs. Achumba and Ighomereho (2013) noted that Insecurity discourages investment as it makes investment unattractive to business people. This is because it increases the cost of doing business either through direct loss of goods and properties or the cost of taking precautions against business risks and uncertainty. These costs could have a negative impact on business development and progress.

Dealing With Insecurity in Nigeria

The severity and hardships insecurity have caused the nation calls for a concerted and well-articulated security policy to address the hydra-headed problem. Analysts have suggested the need to understand the causes of insecurity so as to target the right solution to addressing the problem. Such solutions must be such that should be long lasting and all-encompassing to avoid a recurrence.

Firstly, government has core responsibilities to its citizens, the greatest being good governance which political leaders pledge to provide but which they renege at all levels. There is no doubt, this could be remotely connected to the disaffection in the polity. Government should put all political options on the table and nothing should be left in the search for peace. The Presidency should be free to talk with any agitated group or segment, without compromising public law and order, or the corporate existence of the country. Secondly, government should create an enabling environment for job opportunities for the teeming Nigerian youths. This can be done through laws, policies and provision of infrastructural facilities which will facilitate investment and creation of jobs by the private sector organizations in the country. Thirdly, the security agencies including the Police, DIA, Army, SSS, Navy and Air force should be trained and retrained in a modern way of combating terrorism. Though, this is ongoing now, it should be supported and followed by the provision of modern equipment and facilities by the government to enhance intelligence gathering and effective coordination of the activities of security agencies in the country. Besides, government should increase its budget allocation to these agencies in order to boost their morale in securing lives and property of both Nigerian citizens and foreigners living in the country.

Conclusion

Insecurity occasioned by the activities of militants, kidnappers, violent armed robbers and more especially Boko Haram in the country can truncate our dream of achieving Economic development, if not tackled or checked by the government. This can be done by government proving effective leadership and good governance, ensuring well equipped and coordinated security and enhancing intelligence gathering mechanism through synergy between Nigeria and the international community. Besides, equitable distribution of national resources and egalitarian society are essential or germane to achieving our vision**.** On the whole, a Nation replete with insecurity can never attract investments nor grow its economy. This study examined the effect of insecurity on economic growth and considered the likely effect of such insecurity on economic variables such as investment, employment, exports, government revenue and the informal sector.

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