

Security Challenges and the Implications on Business Sustainability in Nigeria

Nwagbala Stella Chinelo, Ph.D.

Faculty of Management Science
Department of Business Administration
Nnamdi Azikiwe University, Awka Nigeria
Email: sc.nwagbala@unizik.edu.ng

Engr. Ani Anthony Ejike

Faculty of Management Science
Department of Business Administration
Tansian University, Umunya
Email: tonerotan@gmail.com

Abstract

Nigeria is experiencing an alarming degree of insecurity which has increased the crime rate, terrorists' attacks, kidnappings, incessant killings, looting, closing of existing businesses, discouraging of business investors and burning of infrastructures in different parts of the country, leaving severe consequences on the nation's economy and business growth. It is against these challenges that this study seeks to examine the root causes of insecurity hindering business sustainability and possible solutions to leverage on to promote security and sustainable development in Nigeria. Data were generated via the internet, newspapers, newsletters, libraries and other documented materials pertinent to the study. Findings revealed that insecurity had a negative impact on economic growth and business sustainability in Nigeria. Consequently, it is recommended that the Nigerian government should consider the security issue as its priority agendum for national recovery, business growth and sustainability.

Keywords: Insecurity, Business Performance, Business Growth, Sustainability.

Introduction

Africa's most populous country, Nigeria, has been experiencing unprecedented levels of violence and insecurity. This situation has jeopardized national security and has prompted huge allocation of the national budget to insecurity (Achumba and Akpor, 2013). Despite the huge amount invested on national security, the federal government has failed to provide a secured and safe environment for the citizens, properties and the conduct of business activities in Nigeria. The alarming level of insecurity in Nigeria has increased the crime rate and terrorist attacks in different parts of the country, leaving unpalatable consequences for the nation's

economy and business growth. Insecurity has affected the activities of business in Nigeria where shops, business centres, offices, are closed very early due to theft, armed robbery, kidnapping, assassination and fraud as well as killings among youths of the universities. Insecurities also cause operation management to stop production or utilization of available resources such as material, men, and machines etc. which invariably affect the performance of businesses in Nigeria. Consequently, because of the compulsory *SIT-AT-HOME* order by Indigenous people of Biafra (IPOB) every Monday-in the-Southeast people are no longer free to go about their business activities for fear of being killed which seriously, affect business activities in the Southeast of Nigeria.

The Global Peace Index (2019) rated Nigeria low as regards security matters. Investors, foreigners, expatriates and even indigenes of Nigeria are scared about investing and committing their hard-earned resources in lucrative businesses because Nigeria symbolizes an unsafe place of abode and have also been included among one of the terrorist countries of the world. On the other hand, the country's food crisis has been linked to insecurity from the Boko Haram sect, bandits and Fulani killer herdsmen which has forced farmers to abandon their farmlands. Consequent upon the crisis, Nigeria has been ranked 98 among 107 countries on global hunger index (Sahara Reporters, 2019). Since after the report above was made, the truth is that the attacks from both bandits and other criminal elements have actually increased, more lives have been lost and more farmers have been sacked from their farmlands such that if the ranking were to be done now, Nigeria might witness worst ranking on the global hunger index (Nwagbala, Uzodike, Anizoba and Ani, 2021).

To buttress this point, kidnapping in the Southeast zone of Nigeria could be traced to hostilities, conflicts and violence in the Niger Delta region (Nwagboso, 2012). This new black economy thrived in the Southeast zone, especially in Abia, Enugu and Imo states, where prominent indigenes and residents of the states, even lecturers, *professors* were also their targets currently. Following the 2007 general elections in Nigeria, this social problem became dangerous in the Southeast as youths that were used as political thugs by politicians during the 2007 general elections subsequently diverted their guns, skills and energy into the ugly trade as a new means of economic survival after the elections. Nwagboso stated that confessions by those apprehended indicated that some politicians in these states supplied guns to youths for the purpose of rigging the 2007 general elections. Unfortunately, these guns were not recovered at the end of the elections. As a result, kidnapping transmuted into a profitable business mostly among the youths in Abia, Imo, Enugu, Ebonyi and other states in the zone. Consequently, the increasing rate of kidnapping activities in Abia state, particularly in Aba metropolis, resulted in several foiled attempts to kidnap the Abia state Governor, Chief Theodore Orji, in 2008 (Nwogu, 2008). Thus, from 2007 to date, several prominent residents and indigenes in Aba and its environs were kidnapped for ransom. This adversely affected the economy of Abia state as many businessmen and manufacturing companies relocated to other states. Kidnappers went as far as kidnapping school children, traditional rulers, lecturers and innocent citizens while attending church services, village meetings and their workplaces. The federal government, by the invitation of the state government, deployed soldiers to Aba metropolis and its environs to address the spate of kidnappings in the South-East zone particularly in Abia state, This was partly as a result of intensive attacks launched by the army at the hideouts of kidnappers in Ukwa West Local Government Area of Abia State (Sampson, 2010; Onifade, Imhonopi and Urim, 2013). Notwithstanding the government efforts, the level of insecurity in the country is still high which shows that the Nigerian government has not made a remarkable effort to checkmate the murderous monsters that have been killing innocent citizens, and it is a betrayal

of the confidence reposed in the government by Nigerians who voted them into power. The murderous campaigns and vicious onslaughts on individuals and institutions provide a highly unfavourable business environment for internal and foreign investors. Foreign investment is a major factor in the achievement of sustainable development. The overall implication for sustainable development is that the economy is fast deteriorating. The government has failed to provide a secure and conducive environment for protection of lives, properties and the conduct of business and numerous economic activities leading to lack of interest and dissatisfaction among business investors (Okonkwo, Ndubuisi-Okolo and Anigbogu, 2015). In the light of the foregoing, the study sets out to examine insecurity and its effect on business sustainability.

Statement of the Problem

The inability of government to deliver public services and to provide basic needs for the masses like shelter, food, clothing, infrastructures, employment and security gave rise to violence in Nigeria. The paucity of basic needs by the people of Nigeria has created a pool of frustrated people who are ignited easily by any event to be violent. Insecurity in the country not only affects foreign direct investment and business activities, but it also affects business confidence and stability as numerous firms' lose confidence in establishing businesses in some states in Nigeria. The argument here, is that Nigeria has the resources to provide for the needs of her people, but corruption in public offices at all levels has made it impossible for office holders to focus on the provision of basic needs for the people. Nigeria earns a great deal of revenue through oil sales but fails to use these earnings to meet the needs of its people and to develop infrastructure, protect businesses as well as the economy. As a consequence of insecurity in the country, many businesses and companies in their numbers are closing down operations especially in the north and relocating to other African countries for fear of loss of lives and properties. Insecurity has become a threat to business activities in the country. What then can we do to curb the incidences of insecurity in Nigeria? This study focuses on the causes of insecurity and business sustainability in today's contemporary environment and the remedies to the menace of insecurity in Nigeria.

Conceptual Review

The concept of insecurity connotes different meanings such as absence of safety; danger; hazard; uncertainty and lack of protection. It refers to lack or inadequate freedom from danger. Achumba et al. (2010) define insecurity from two angles. First, 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. People engage 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 the global world in general. Williams (2008) who sees security from the socio-political perspective stated that security involves the capacity to pursue cherished political and social ambitions. That is, security is socio-political in nature as without security there can be no political stability and consequently social activities will be in disorder.

Insecurity is continually on the increase thereby engulfing all the inhabitants of Nigeria as the government faces undefeatable pressure to guarantee the security of lives and properties of its

citizens. Beland (2005) opined that insecurity entails lack of protection from crime (being unsafe) and lack of freedom from psychological harm, unprotected from emotional stress resulting from paucity of assurance that an individual is accepted, has opportunity and choices to fulfil his or her own potentials including freedom from fear. The insecurity in Nigeria ranges from kidnapping and activities of terrorists and human trafficking in the South-South and the Southeast, high level of “armed robbery” in the South-East. The incidences of the insecurity that occurred are multifaceted and multidimensional: activities of political vanguards, killings by hired assassins by political and business opponents.

Concept of Business Performance

Operational performance is focused on improving effective and efficient systems which are reliable and can ensure outstanding performance which exceed customer expectations (Opusunju, et.al, 2019). To get such sustainable operational results, operations strategy is developed which supports the organization in ensuring the key operational aspects of the firm are met: cost reduction, speed of product development and production, flexibility of the production system and quality assurance for the product; the degree to which a product or service meets customer requirements and expectations; timelines: measures whether a unit of work was done correctly and on time. However, the criteria must be established to define what constitutes timeliness for a given unit of work.

Business Growth

Growth is an important phenomenon in small enterprises. Meanwhile, their survival basically depends on their power to partake in the market with other big companies (Opusunju et.al, 2019). Growth decreases the possibility of closing small businesses. Also, growth is the product of an internal process in the development of an enterprise and an increase in quality and/or expansion. Growth is defined as a change in size within a period of time. A company’s growth is basically the result of expansion of demands for goods or services. It first results in a growth in sales and consequently in investments in additional production factors to adapt itself to new demands. However, entrepreneurs’ ideas on growth include the following: increase in sales, increase in the number of employees, increase in assets, increase in profit, increase in the firm’s value and internal development. Internal development consists of development of competencies, organizational practices in efficiency and the establishment of professional sales procedure. This was the most important index for entrepreneurs that participated in the research. Nevertheless, an increase in the number of employees was not necessarily considered a sign of development. Growth may be associated to new markets, particularly in the case of technology firms, with reference to diversification.

Sustainable Development

Sustainable development is maintaining a delicate balance between the human need to improve way of life, maintain and guarantee continuity of a business and feeling of well-being on one hand, and preserving natural resources and ecosystems, on which we and future generations depend (Ozoh and Stephen, 2018). Sustainable development entails economic growth together with the protection of environmental quality; each supports the other. The essence of this form of development is a stable relationship between human activities and the natural world, which

does not decrease the prospects for future generations to enjoy a quality of life at least as good as our own (Mintzer, 1992). Ashford and Hall, (2013) referred to sustainable development as achieving economic and social development in ways that do not exhaust a country's natural resources. However, the best known and widely used is consensually stressed by the Brundtland Commission give further details about sustainable development as development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet up with their own needs.

Insecurity and Business Sustainability

Insecurity makes investment unattractive to business investors. As a result it discourages potential business investment. This is because it accelerates 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. (Ujah and Eboh, 2006; Okonkwo, Ndubisi-Okolo and Anagbogu, 2015). A study reported by World Bank on investment climate in nine African countries in which it was found that 29% of business operators in Africa and 36% in Nigeria perceived insecurity as a major constraint on investment. This situation has the damaging consequence of giving signal to the international community that Nigeria is not a safe and secure place and as such not suitable for investment and business activities. In that case, foreign firms and entrepreneurs would decline to invest and this is particularly important in view of the efforts being made to create the desired atmosphere to attract foreign direct investment. So, it is a strong disincentive to business investment as it scares away potential investors because the environment is considered a high risk zone due to the high level of uncertainty.

Businesses that are already in existence- The Nigeria insecurity situation, in many circumstances, can force businesses' operations to shut down in the periods of violence and also has caused the outright shutting down of many enterprises especially in the areas where incidences of insecurity are rife on a daily occasion to protect the life of workers and business properties. Some businessmen and manufacturing companies had to relocate particularly from the North in recent times, to other peaceful parts of the country (Nwagbosa, 2012). Non indigenes especially Igbos and Yorubas have to come back to their home states before they are killed by Boko Haram (Suleiman, 2012; Okonkwo, Ndubisi-Okolo and Anagbogu, 2015).

Theoretical Review

This study adopts the frustration-aggression model. A theoretical framework developed by John Dollard and his associates in 1939 but was expanded and customized by Yate (1962) and Berkowitz (1963), drawing mainly from the psychological foundation of motivation and behaviour. The theoretical framework gives clarification for violent behavioural nature resulting from the inability of a people to achieve their human needs. It is based on the common premise that all humans have imperative needs which they seek to fulfil and that any barricade to the fulfilment of these needs by individuals or groups elicit violent reactions. Frustration-aggression theory emphasizes that the difference between what people feel they want and the discrepancy, however marginal, between what is sought and what they get, the greater the violent reaction. In the face of these frustrated expectations, a group is most vulnerable to embark on violent, vicious behaviour or be a ready army to be used to cause crises. Central to this explanation is that aggression is the natural outcome of frustration. In a situation where

the legitimate desires of an individual or group is deprived of either directly or by the indirect consequence of the way a society is structured, the feeling of frustration can compel such persons or group to express their anger through violence that is focussed on those perceived to be responsible for their misfortune or others who are indirectly related to those frustrating their prospect.

Major Incidents of Violent Attacks since 2009 till date and Casualties 2009-2021

Following an apparent altercation with the police forces in July 2009, 14 Boko Haram members were shot in a joint military and police operation. The military suppressed the group's reprisal revolts in six northern states, with the attack leaving over 800 dead, the majority of which were sect members and civilians. Attacks continued, culminating in the 30 July, 2009 execution of Yusuf in custody.

From August 2011–June 2012 Boko Haram violence significantly escalated, with the suicide bombing of a UN building, and several attacks on security facilities, banks, and churches, resulting in high numbers of civilian casualties. More than four hundred and twenty-five (425) were killed, over three hundred (300) persons injured. UN Building in Abuja was razed down.

In October 2012, Adamawa, Kano, Kaduna, Kogi, Bauchi, Plateau, Yobe, Abuja, Sokoto and Katsina killed over 1,047; many sustained injury. Human Rights Watch released a report accusing Boko Haram's "widespread and systematic murder and persecution" as likely amounting to "crimes against the human race."

2013- 2015

May 2013 and from June to October 2013 several confrontations among Boko Haram and state forces resulted in hundreds of deaths. In September 2013, Boko Haram was suspected of an attack on a college that killed 40 students. Crisis Group then reported in December 2013 that 200 insurgents, dressed in military uniform, coordinated an attack on state military targets in Maiduguri, and later that month, several hundred fighters attacked military barracks outside Bama. Borno, Adamawa, Kano, Plateau, Gombe, Yobe, Bauchi and killed over 732 persons and many others injured. Over 270 Chibok girls were abducted in Borno State; some women in Adamawa were kidnapped; over 200 persons were killed and many injured. The cumulative death excise varies according to sources, ranging from 7,500 deaths in 2014 according to the Nigerian Social Violence Project (John Hopkins University Africa Program) to 18,000 according to the Nigeria Security Tracker (Council on Foreign Relations). Furthermore, since the start of the insurgency, cumulative deaths range from 11,121 to 33,000. March, 2015 Herdsmen cutting farmers' hands and raping siblings in Oyo were killed. 17 May, 2015 Herdsmen killed 100 farmers in camp in Benue.

2016- 2018

April 12, 2016, Attack in two villages in Gashaka by herdsmen. In Taraba 15 were killed. April 19th, 2016, Protest against Fulani herdsmen, 23 were killed in Delta. April 21st, 2016 Fulani herdsmen attacked farmers in Lagun Oyo. April 25th, 2016, Attack inUkpabiNimo in

UzoUwani Enugu; 40 people were killed. In June 16, 2016, a man was shot by Fulani herdsmen at Ossissa in Delta. June 20th, 2016, Herdsmen attack on Benue communities; over 57 persons were killed. Over one hundred lives were claimed in Borno, Enugu State and Kaduna State. 2016, Over two hundred lost their lives and properties. In Enugu state, Maiduguri; Zaria, Kaduna etc. more than one hundred were killed and few injured in 2017. In 2018 on 24th December, over seventy people were killed, 24 soldiers killed in Borno and one (1) soldier killed in Yobe State. On 26 April 2018, In the outskirts of Maiduguri, the largest city in Borno State, Boko Haram bombers killed at least four civilians. A subsequent gun battle and tear gas launched by security forces repelled the attackers; two officers were injured and several others wounded. On 15 July 2018, after ISWAP forces led by Abu Musab al-Barnawi overran a Nigerian army base in the north-eastern part of Nigeria, hundreds of Nigerian soldiers went missing. After the attack, less than 100 Nigerian soldiers returned. The attack came 24 hours after ISIL ambushed a military convoy in the neighbouring Borno state. The attack on the base resulted in a fight that lasted over an hour; it is unknown if there were any victims in the assault. A report from a local pro-government armed force said the military had sustained some casualties. This attack marks Boko Haram's first major gain since 2015. On 8 September 2018, ISWAP fighters managed to capture the town of Gudumbali in central Borno, marking their first major gain in nearly two years. The following day, ISIL's West Africa District released a video showing footage from combat with the Nigerian Army in the area. ISWAP launched another offensive and captured Baga in north-eastern Borno State in late December 2018.

2019-2021

Further information: Barnawi's ISWAP launched a major offensive in January 2019, attacking several Nigerian military bases, including those at Magumeri and Gajiram. Insurgents also overran and destroyed the refugee town of Rann near the border to Cameroon, relocating its inhabitants yet again. The destruction of Rann was originally attributed to ISWAP, but Shekau's Boko Haram later claimed responsibility. In 2020, Herdsmen killed 22 persons in coordinated attacks in 4 communities of southern Kaduna. Also on 19th July 2020, 19 people were killed and more than 30 were injured at a wedding venue in countries south. In Nigeria's the so called middle belt region, more than 1,421 Christians were hacked to death by Nigerian Jihadists in seven months of 2020 1Jan – 31stJuly by Muslim Fulani terror groups and not less than 1,606 people were killed in 125 fatal incidents, an average of 13 per incident, suggesting that Nigeria is the third-most terrorized country in the world, according to the Global Terrorism Index released on 27 November 2020. A few weeks prior to the school kidnapping, Boko Haram extremists admitted to killing more than 100 rice farmers in Borno State, in retribution for farmers cooperating with the Nigerian military. The attack, staged at a rice field in GarinKwashebe, took place on a local government councillor election day, the first to be held in thirteen years since the extremists launched an insurgency in the area. Data from SBM Intelligence shows that between January and November 2020, there were 142 incidents in the Boko Haram insurgency in north-east Nigeria, an average of 13 a month. In 2021 Insecurity in the region persisted as Boko Haram and its splinter faction, Islamic State West Africa Province (ISWAP), continued to launch attacks against civilian, humanitarian, and military targets. The Islamist insurgents between January and September killed at least 363 civilians. In August, authorities in Borno State in the Northeast declared plans to send 1,860,000 internally displaced persons (IDPs) and refugees back to their communities regardless of ongoing safety concerns. Sixteen days later, IDPs were returned in to Kukawa Local Government Area. On August 18, Boko Haram insurgents attacked the community and at least 100 people were abducted. The government continued to participate in forced returns of Nigerian refugees from Cameroon. On

25 August 2021 up to 30 people were killed in a midnight attack at Yelwa Zangan behind the University of Jos, Nigeria.

Source: Compiled from Nigerian Newspapers and adopted from Ogege, 2013, Ndubisi-Okolo&Anigbuogu, 2019, newsletters, internet Global Terrorism Index

In the Northwest and parts of the South, inter-communal violence continued as herder-allied armed groups, vigilantes, and criminal gangs killed hundreds of civilians, kidnapped people for ransom, and raided cattle. World-report, 2021) .As a symbol, the 2021 kidnapping of Mohammed Amodu, a “notorious kidnapper” and third in command of a kidnapping syndicate, indicates that Nigeria’s security challenges could remain largely unchanged in 2021. (Ruth Olurounbi, 2021)

The Causes of Insecurity in Nigeria

A lot of things have been found as the causes of insecurity in the country. Some of the problems in Nigeria and solutions are discussed below:

These causes have bedevilled the smooth flow of business activities in Nigeria. They include but not limited to the following:

Corruption

Corruption is like a cankerworm that has eaten deep into our system, and it can be known to be a ripple effect because it affects every part of the economy, with security topping the list during the last administration. We heard about the major scam by the former minister of defence who connived with some other officials to embezzle the money supposed to be for procurement of arms and ammunition for the security agencies in the fight against insurgency in the Northeast. Regarding corruption in 2019, Transparency International placed Nigeria at 146th position out of 198 countries in the Corruption Perceptions Index with a score of 26 out of 100. Corrupt Nigerian politicians have become a turn off for international investors. Corruption has already become a part of life in the country unfortunately, and forms part of the economic problems in Nigeria today.

Unemployment and Poverty

The devastating unemployment rate in the country is capable of causing panic. The issue is particularly obvious when it comes to Nigerian youths. According to the statistics, every tenth young citizen of the country is officially unemployed. Another statistic provided by the NBS as of 2019 showed that the unemployment rate in the country has risen to 23.1%. Rapid growth in population is also a significant cause of this menace. All these factors combine to create the sultry security situation in the country. Government should consider unemployment causes, effects and solutions in Nigeria.

Politically Based Violence

There is persistent rancour among political leaders even in the same party and there is also rancour between the ruling party and the opposition parties. There are also several economic related assassinations all over the country which create problems for the nation's economic growth and development. Inter and intra-political party conflicts have become rife in which politicians are deploying large resources to go beyond each other, changing the rules and legislations of the political game, employing violence and political assassination, and distorting laws to determine political score. Party meeting, conventions and campaigns have become war threats where small and light weapons like guns and cutlasses are freely flaunted and used to rig elections, harass and threaten electors.

Akonbede (2013) stated that the fight for political power, religious imposition and land disputes and the lack of aid for victims or penalty for troublemakers, corrupt persons, and the mismanagement of the economy have all fuelled tensions in the country. This assassination is so rampant, that most shocking of these killings was the massacre of Chief Bola Ige, Ogonna Uche, Funsho Williams, Marshall, and Dikibo, among others. Onyemaizu (2006) stated that a resort to violence, including armed militancy, assassination, kidnapping and so on, have somewhat suddenly become attractive to certain individuals in seeking to resolve problems that could have ordinarily been settled through due process. The predilection of most of the politicians is not for election but selection, and the end-products of such misadventures include the decimation of innocent lives, disruption of economic activities, and destruction of properties among others have often been disastrous, thus obstructing growth.

Ethno-Religious Conflict

Ethno-religious conflicts in all parts of Nigeria have assumed alarming rates. Communal and societal conflicts have emerged as a result of new and particularistic forms of political awareness and identity often structured around ethno-religious identities. It has occurred in places like Shagamu (Ogun State), Lagos, Abia, Kano, Bauchi, Nassarawa, Jos, Taraba, Ebonyi and Enugu State respectively (Ibrahim and Igbuzor, 2002; Umaru, Pate and Haruna 2015). Groups and communities who had over the years lived together in peace and harmony now take up arms against each other in gruesome *war*. These conflicts have also revolved around who gets what and how in the state especially as it concerns the allocation of scarce resources, power, land, control of markets, chieftaincy titles, local government councils and expansion of religious territories. These conflicts have resulted in large-scale killings and violence among ethno-religious groups in the country (Adagba, et al, 2012). There is the classification of the "Christian" and "Moslem," "settler" and "indigene," and "osu" (slave) and "Nwadiala" (free born). These ethno-religious identities have become disintegrative and destructive social elements threatening the peace, stability and security in Nigeria.

Interagency Rivalry, Weak and Poorly Funded Military Establishments

There is greater insecurity in many states based upon the high security vote received by the state governments on a monthly basis; some of these monies find their way into the pockets of some highly placed private citizens and the Chief Executives of the states, leaving the hapless citizens to the mercy of criminals and sociopaths. Also, the armed forces, paramilitary establishments and the police under federal control are institutionally weak, heavily politicised

and poorly funded. The feeble Security System results from inadequate equipment for the security arm of government, both in weaponry and training. This is in addition to poor attitudinal and behavioural disposition of security personnel. Security personnel, who in many cases were assigned to deal with given security situations, lack the expertise and equipment to handle the situations in a way to prevent them from occurring. (Achumba et al. 2013; Ndubisi-Okolo and Anagbogu, 2019). Even when these exist, some security personnel get influenced by ethnic, religious or communal sentiment and are easily swallowed by their personal interests to serve their people, rather than the country. Thus, instead of being national watch dogs and defending national interests and values and protecting people from criminals' harm, they soon become saboteurs of government efforts by supporting and fuelling insecurity through either revealing vital security information or aiding and abetting criminals to acquire weapons or to escape the long arm of the law (Achumba and Akpor, 2013; Okonkwo, Ndubuisi- Okolo, Anagbogu, 2015). This status quo makes it easy for the nation's security to be compromised.

Non-Prosecution of Perpetrators of Violence in Nigeria

Lack of arrests and prosecution of perpetrators and sponsors of violence has encouraged many more social deviants and their godfathers to throw caution to the wind to perpetrate evil in the land. The Nigerian society has become a rigout of fiefdoms controlled by feudal lords who are almost as powerful as the state and who maintain a rental economy within the larger national economy. To handle this issue, government should create, implement and monitor a national action plan for violence prevention, enhance capacity for collecting data on violence, integrate violence prevention into social and educational policies, promote gender and social equality, and monitor adherence to international treaty, law and other mechanisms to protect human rights.

Loss of the Socio-Cultural and Communal Value System

Communal values express the worth and appreciation of the community, the values which guide the social interaction of the people towards a common goal. In Nigeria the collapse of moral values is one of the critical factors to the continued security challenges that the country is faced with. The breakdown of the communal value system, which placed a high premium on human life and which despised greed, oppression and exploitation of the weak, among others, has also contributed to the unpleasant security environment in the country. As a result, new values that are zero-sum, paternalistic, narcissistic, chauvinistic and corrupt in nature and that preach that might-is-right have all taken over; endearing social values and morals have been traded off for western values. Nigerians place a high value on communal living.

Immediate and Proximate Factors

Achumba et al, (2013) opined that the proximate factors that have contributed to the state of insecurity in the country are porous borders, rural-urban drift, and social irresponsibility of companies resulting in negative externalities which provoke social unrest within their host communities.

The Huge Gap of Inequality and Absence of Fairness and Justice

The insight of marginalisation by many Nigerians is informed by the ostentation showed by the political class and elite vis-à-vis the grinding poverty to which nations are subjected. Nevertheless, security has been bourgeoisified by the elite. This state of inequality, unfairness and injustice has toughened the people, forcing them to take their destiny into their hands. Egwu (2001) argued that security of the Nigerian nation-state has been reduced to that of the ruler and his immediate supporters; thus, the security calculus has failed in Nigerian because it does not include vital aspects of social and national development supported by the provision of basic social, economic or even military conditions necessary for effective national security.

Ways To Improve the Security Situation in Nigeria

The only solution for the security challenges in Nigeria is for the Nigerian government to tackle security problems and govern in a way that fosters development. Development consists of creating an economy with relevant social, economic and physical infrastructure for business operations and industrial growth, eliminating corruption and providing gainful employment, as well as a functional and useful education among others:

Elimination of Corruption

Eliminating corruption is another way with which we can fight the rising spate of insecurity used by the government to checkmate its officials. The current administration is doing well in the fight against corruption, but more work needs to be done. I feel we need to put into practice the bottom-top approach rather than the top-bottom approach the present administration is using in fighting corruption. We need to scrutinize from the grass roots because charity, they say, begins at home. We also need to sensitize our citizens especially the youth on corruption and other vices so that when they grow up and hold government positions, they will not have it in them to embezzle public funds. Finally, the solution can only come when we have selfless leaders who will go the extra mile to effect change in different tiers of government.

Creating Employment

In combating the situation, it is the responsibility of the government to create new jobs as well as the citizens to create their own opportunities through entrepreneurship. With regard to social security, priority should be given to the implementation of projects and programs that create jobs, especially for young people. We need to provide jobs because when people are unemployed, they still survive somehow, devising dubious means and involving themselves in nefarious activities like armed robbery, pick pocketing, and car snatching among others; secondly, our school system needs to be made functional. Anyone that has spent four years in a school should be able to do something to help oneself. Once more, the state of youth unemployment in Nigeria is staggering. Boko Haram will continue to increase if necessary machineries are not put in place to combat the situation.

Ethno-Religious Conflict

National unity is the most important factor that holds the country together. Nobody will fight for the strange people; nobody will care about the parted country and no country will develop and work together without the idea of national unity. It is necessary to provide the citizens with

the universal system of goods and unit regions depending on the natural resources. For example, the Edo supplies the country with cocoa, but receives sugar cane from the Sokoto people. The same interaction can be introduced in the other sectors of the economy. There should be good government policies and public enlightenment that teach against ethnicity such as inter-ethnic marriages and marrying from other tribes to help reduce conflict. To fight against religious extremism, we should keep track of any form of radicalization.

Socio-Cultural and Communal Value System

The Nigerians' image has been marred due to moral deceit which has become rampant in the society. It has become a way of life which Nigerians have exhibited in different capacities. Hence, it can be terminated through reactivation of Nigerian norms and values which will bring about national transformation. To achieve this, religious education should be entrenched in schools. Moral values are an integral part of societal development and progress. Therefore, a morally decayed nation is in all ramifications handicapped in all aspects of human development (Faith et al. 2016). Religious education exposes students to the norms, customs, values, skills and interrelationships that exist in the society, making public awareness possible when students are rightly directed and guided. Definitely reactivation of moral values through religious education will bring transformation to the entire society. The reason is that education is a moral endeavour in which the role of the teachers is to create a just and caring environment. More so, religious education generates transparent, responsible, hardworking and honest people who shun corruption in public and private sectors. It also drives people to be devoted to their duties.

Equipment of Security Agencies

Another way to solve our current security problem is by increasing the manpower and welfare of all security agencies and equipping them with modern-day combat machinery, skills and training. Definitely we currently have a lot of security personnel, but according to a statistics report released in 2020, we are still very much under policed as a nation. Most of the security personnel lack the motivation to face the insurgents; we have heard of cases whereby the camps of our security forces have been attacked because they lack sufficient and modern-day combat equipment forcing them to either retreat or be outgunned. To help the situation, government can collaborate with neighbouring countries to exchange intelligence and information that would help in quelling the insurgency. They can also acquire state-of-the-art combat helicopters and alpha jets for the Nigerian Air Force. This will help in reducing the casualties of the war on our own side and assist the military in neutralizing most of the hideouts of these evil ones and hopefully bring the long-dragged war to an end. Also, observations show that the policemen are presently not doing much. They set up static checkpoints that even common thieves can escape. This requires they should be mobile so that they can rapidly respond to distress calls (Aliu, et al. 2010).

The Huge Gap of Inequality and Absence of Fairness and Justice

Favouritism and a culture of impunity must be avoided from our national psyche and life. There is also the need to ensure more transparency in the hiring processes, to give equal opportunities to job seekers, and to avoid favouritism. This and other factors are some things that negatively affect the security framework in Nigeria.

Good Governance Is the Foundation Upon Which A Formidable Economy And Sustainable Security Is Built

The Northern leaders and elders have many questions to answer on the spate of bombings in the region rather than blaming Buhari's leadership at the central. It is sad that a top political leader once said that Boko Haram members are well-equipped than the Nigerian security agencies. In other words, our Nigerian security agencies are in total failure. Even the federal government declaring states of emergency to those troubled northern states have not prevented Boko Haram attacks. Related to the above is the challenge posed by the poverty level in Nigeria. At all levels, governments should be able to address this and there should be a realistic social security program in Nigeria to meet the people's basic needs in order to prevent the fear for the future and that of their children. This will often provide the basis for the desperation exhibited in the pursuit of ill-gotten wealth. Issues of electoral reforms, insecurity, high costs of living, unemployment, and infrastructural decay are some of the areas government should address. Government should use diplomacy to increase order and deepen its partnership with other states at regional, continental and international levels to reinvigorate its call for a legally binding international system that will be efficient in regulating, controlling and monitoring illicit trade in SALWS. More so, Nigeria should work within the African Union (AU), ECOWAS and Lake Chad Basin regional bodies to regulate arms trade in Africa.

Conclusion and Recommendations

Based on the findings of this study one may conclude that insecurity has had a negative impact on economic growth and business sustainability in Nigeria. The result revealed that poverty, Corruption, Unemployment, Politically Based Violence, Ethno-religious Conflict, Weak, and Poorly Funded Military Establishments among others is the root cause of insecurity which can lead to frustration, and in turn may translate into violence. The problem of insecurity as identified in this study is the outcome of frustrated expectations which breed aggression. The way the Nigerian society is structured paved way for frustration and that people are inevitably compelled to express their frustration through various shades of anti-social behaviour including violent responses that are directed at those perceived to be responsible for their predicaments or are readily available to be used as political agents for destructive purposes. The prevailing vicious attack by Boko Haram and the failure of the security sector to guarantee security have terrible consequences for sustainable development. The economic life of people in those regions is grounded to a halt. The Boko Haram debacle creates an unfavourable investment climate for both indigenous and foreign investors that would have propelled the economic fortune of Nigeria. The government in Nigeria should devote all resources and attention on the security sector at the expense of other sectors that impact directly on the welfare and living standards of its citizenry in order to surmount this insurgency. This further moves Nigeria away from the path of sustainable development.

The study also recommends the existence of good governance which will help to de-escalate the activities of herdsmen. For greater security, greater development and less corruption, the government should try as much as possible to consider restructuring the economy. (Ozoh and Dinwobi, 2018). The armed forces on coercive and non-coercive force should embark on continuous orientation. The proper and more modern way of security management networking, as adopted by some advance states of the world, may be accepted. (Victor Aina, 2020). Finally,

there is urgent need for the government to address and tackle the issues of crime, unemployment, underdevelopment, and corruption in public and private organizations.

References

Achumba, O. S., Ighomereho, M. O. and Akpor-Robaro (2013). Security Challenges in Nigeria and the Implications for Business Activities and Sustainable Development. *Journal of Economics and Sustainable Development*, Vol. 4(2):79-99.

Adagba, O., Ugwu, S.C., and Eme, O.I. (2012). Activities of Boko Haram and insecurity question in Nigeria. *Arabian Journal of Business and Management Review*, Vol 1(9), 77-99.

Agbedo O. (2016). Tracking endless Fulani herdsmen/farmers clashes. *Sunday Sun Newspaper*. 30.

Akonbede Udama (2013). Understanding Nigeria Terrorism: Its Implications to national peace, security, unity and sustainable development. *IOSR Journal of Humanities and Social Science*, 8(5), 100-115.

Aliu, A. (2010). "Reign of Armed Gangs on the roads, homes, dims Nigeria's Security Bar", *The Guardian*, Friday, April 9, pp, 21-23.

Aminu Umaru, Hamza A. Pate and Ali D. Haruna (2018). The Impact of Insecurity and Poverty on Sustainable Economic Development in Nigeria. *Asian Journal of Economics, Business and Accounting* 7(2): 1-10

Ashford Namand Hall R. P (2011). *Technology, globalization and sustainable development. Transforming the industrial State*. New Haven CT: Yale University Press.

BBC African News (2010). Ongoing concern; Boko haram and Nigeria's war on terrorism.

Berkwitz, L. (1963). *Aggression: A Sociological Analysis* New York: McGraw-Hill.

Beland, D. (2005). The Political Construction of Collective Insecurity: From Moral Panic to Blame Avoidance and Organised Irresponsibility. *Centre for European Studies Working Paper Series* 126.

Brundtland G.H, and Mansour K. (1987) World commission on environment and development (WCED). *Our Common Future: Report of the World Commission on Environment and Development*. Oxford University Press: Oxford.

Dollard J. (1939). Frustration and aggression. New Haven, CT, US, Yale University Press
Egwu, S. G. (2001).

Ethnic and Religious Violence in Nigeria. Jos: St. Stephen Book House. Faith Nkem Okobia, Mary I. Okafor & Justinia N. Osajie (2016).

Reactivating Nigerian norms and values through religious studies for national transformation
<http://dx.doi.org/10.4314/og.v12i1.s1.10>

Global Peace Index (2019). Global Peace Ranking. Institute for Economic and Peace, Retrieved from Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia.

Index (2014). Transparency International on the perception of corruption. Available on: <http://www.transparency.org/cpi2014/results>

Mintzer I M. (1992). *Towards sustainable agricultural development*. MD young London, Belvavanpress;. 12.

Ndubuisi-Okolo Purity.U. and Theresa Anigbuogu (2019) Insecurity in Nigeria: the Implications for Industrialization and Sustainable Development *International Journal of Research in Business Studies and Management* Vol. (6) I5

Nwagbala S.C., Uzodike N.J., Anizoba A.S. and Ani T.E (2021) Insecurity and food crisis in Nigeria. A study of Anyamelum Local Government Area. Anambra State. *International Journal of Trend in Scientific Research and Development*. Vol. 6(1) 1129-1135.

Nwagboso, C. (2012). "Security Challenges and Economy of the Nigerian State (2007 – 2011)." *American International Journal of Contemporary Research*, Vol. 2 (6)244-258.

Nwogu, M. (2008). How Abia State Governor missed gunmen's bullets. Daily Sun Newspaper, p. 4

Obi, Callistar,(2015) Challenges of Insecurity and Terrorism in Nigeria: Implication for National Development. *OIDA International Journal of Sustainable Development*, Vol. 8(2). 11-18

Ogege, S.O. (2013), Insecurity and sustainable Development: The Boko Haram Debacle in Nigeria. *American International Journal of Social Science*. Vol. 2, No.7.

Okonkwo, Ndubuisi-Okolo and Anigbuogu (2015). Security Challenges and the Implications for Business Activities in Nigeria: A Critical Review. *Journal of Policy and Development Studies* 9 (2), 154-158.

Onyemaizu, C. (2006). "In the Maze of Violence," *The Source*, September 4, Vol. 19, (22), 10-21.

Onifade Comfort, Imhonopi David & Urim Ugochukwu Moses (2013). Addressing the Insecurity Challenge in Nigeria: The Imperative of Moral Values and Virtue Ethics. *Global Journal of human social science Political Science* Volume 13 Issue 2 Version 1.0

Opusunju Michael Isaac, Akyuz Murat and Ibrahim Yusuf Ohida (2019). Insecurity and Business Performance: The Operation Management Challenge in Ikot Ekpene, Akwa Ibom State of Nigeria. *American Journal of Environmental and Resource Economics* Vol 4(4):132-138

Ozoh Joan Nwamaka and Dinwobi Kelechi Stephen (2018). Insecurity and Sustainable Development in Nigeria (in Context of Terrorism) *Asian Journal of Economics, Business and Accounting* 7(2):1-10

Ruth Olurounbi, (2021). Nigeria: Will insecurity, kidnapping and crime get worse in 2021. <https://www.theafricareport.com>.

Umaru Aminu, Hamza A. Pate and Ali D. Haruna (2015). The Impact of Insecurity and Poverty on Sustainable Economic Development in Nigeria. *International Journal of Humanities Social Sciences and Education (IJHSSE)* Vol. 2(2) 32-48

Vanguard (2013). "NSCDC Arrest 560 Suspects Over Employment Racketeering". <http://www.vanguardngr.com/2013/01/nscdcarrest-560-suspectsoveremploymentracketeering>.

Victor Aina (2020). "Rising Insecurity in Nigeria: Causes and Solutions" Culled from <https://researchcyber.com>. William, P. D. (2008). "Security Studies: An Introduction." New York: Rutledge. World-report, (2021). <https://www.hrw.org>

Yate, A. (1962). *Frustration and Conflict*. London: Methuen.