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National Security and its Implication for Peace and Development in Nigeria Federation

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Abstract: ***Enhanced performance of governmental agencies in any federation is a product of security of life and property. The paper qualitatively appraise national security and it's implication for peace and development in Nigeria. The finding revealed that the national security anatomy has been performing their constitutional responsibility of securing life and property, however it is been challenged by number of factors among paucity of funds, over-centralisation, lack of the adequate security expert and the shortage of personnel. The paper recommended among others provision of the adequate funds, complete restructure of security to allow decentralization, increase in the number of security force and equitable distribution of resources. Professionalism should also be embraced to sustain movement towards stable national security.***

Keywords: Development, Federation, Good Governance, Insecurity, National Security, Peace.

1. INTRODUCTION

Consequently, Nigeria has been instrumental in conflict management at international and regional level. Ironically, the nation formal security sector is overburden and the challenges transcend their capability. Security is positively linked to good governance and necessary condition for development and peaceful coexistence. One of the major indices of good governance is the protection of life and property. The government of Nigeria owes Nigerians an assurance of security of their lives and properties. Individual right having been submitted to the government unilaterally, hence social contact (Laskar, 2013).

The sadden development is that, as democratic norms are gradually taking roots in Nigeria; the security outlook remains precarious, confused, weak, frustrated and defeated. The country continually face with all manners of insecurity manifested violence Government effort at

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containing the vice is constrained by degree of conspiracy and falsehood prevalent in the politics. Falsehood has become popular cutting across every segment of the country. According to Iwara and Ukwenga, (2013), political leaders lead in the falsehood which has permeated Nigeria state.

Nigeria through her national security in attempting to combat the menace of insecurity and its vices developed National Security Strategy in 2014 which its purpose among other things are to guide, organise, and harmonise national security policies and efforts (Bala and Ouédraogo, 2014). The policy document is a complementary of the major security policy developed by former president Obasanjo in 2000. Nigeria government has also move beyond the policy document by taking practical steps. However, all the efforts have not yield any positive result.

Objective of the Paper

The main objective of the paper is to examine the interconnection of good governance and security of life and property as a product of true federalism, while the specific objective is to examine the nexus between security and peace, and development.

Conceptual Analysis

The concept of security is broad in scope and encompassing that an attempt to limit the scope will automatically make the term to lose focus. In essence, security has been defined as freedom from such phenomena as threat, danger, vulnerability, menace, force, attack, risk, harm and doubt or anxiety (Kempen, 2013). According to Mijah (2007) cited in Fayeye (2011), security is conceived as freedom from danger or threats limiting a nation to protect and defend itself, promote its cherished values and legitimate interest and enhance the well-being of its people. Security may also mean freedom from financial want and all forms of precautions taken to guide against attack, crime, espionage, accident and conspiracy in its social, economic and political interpretation respectively (Akinade, 2008).

Security has been extended to human security in its non-conventional conception. Mijah (2007) cited in Fayeye (2011), argued that security is more than the absence of conflict. He maintained that lasting and durable peace requires a broader vision which includes but not limited to education, health, democracy, human rights, protection against environmental degradation and the proliferation of deadly weapons among others. In essence, there can't be security where there is injustice, hunger, poverty, ignorance, crime among others. The pillar of security is interrelated, interconnected and mutually reinforcing. Security encompasses personal and state freedom from pervasive threats such as poverty, illiteracy, violence, crime, etc.

National security is interchangeable with state security. Togun cited in Akinade (2011) alluded that when security is applied to national interest, it involves political and economic stability as well as defence and scientific development. Togun identified two forms of security which are national/state security and internal security. Former is the measures designed to protect the country from threats to her interests, while the latter is the measures put in place to protect the various community of a country from internal wrangling and hostilities against one another.

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National security according to Gilbson cited in Akinade (2011) is the protection of the social contract entered into by the citizens and government, so that both live in dignity and freedom.

Peace is described as a political condition that ensures justices and social stability through formal and informal institutions, practices, and norms (Miller and King, 2003). According to Reardon and Cabezudo (2002) cited in Yaser, Gizem and Soner (2015), peace became a continuous social process where justice, equity, and respect for basic human rights are maximised, while violence on the way is reduced to the barest minimum. However, any peace sought outside the premise of social justice is not a true peace.

Development involves economic, social, political, environmental and cultural dimensions progress. According to Akinade (2018), development can be linked to the accelerated economic, administrative, social, political, cultural and industrial changes in a condition considered considerable to achieve the progress of civilization. Development can also mean quantitative growth, qualitative improvement and expansion in the capabilities, capacities, and choices of states (individuals or groups) (Mirakhor and Askari, 2010). Development is more of transformation of the society. Economic growth, social progress and elimination of poverty are key objectives of development.

The nexus among security, peace and development is that security and peace are anchored on development, and development is anchored on security and peace. Preventing the causes of insecurity through the creation of conditions that generate peace in society is essential. The availability of peace will give birth to development in the society. In the presence of development, insecurity is always at minimal rate which will invariably lead to peace among the citizens because the causes of insecurity or violence would have been technically eliminated by the rate of development. In other way round, a situation of high insecurity, economic development is often very elusive.

Linking it to Nigeria situation where economic crisis is more acute and the risk of failure of institutions of governance; insecurity coupled with crime takes centre stage with the emergence of anti-state groups. Any measure conceived by Nigeria government to address the problem of insecurity must first and foremost recognised that peace and security are sine-quo-non for the development of any society.

2. METHODOLOGY

The paper adopts historical method, therefore descriptive and analytical in nature. It entails a thematic presentation in line with the historical method. The theme of security, peace and development is a reflection of the complex nature of human interactions. The paper draws insights from the approaches of related disciplines that have explored the subject of national security. The work utilized secondary materials as its source, which include archival materials and view from the various scholars of the subject matter.

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Nigeria National Security

Most analysts have come to agreement that there is an interconnection between good governance and security; unless there is peace and stability, development is elusive. It is an accepted phenomenon the need for good governance in securing a state. Good governance as the security index is to achieve peace and stability, embark on meaningful development, enable contending armed groups to disarm and establish a basis for enforcing human rights and restoring dignity among others.

Security issues need to be seen in more holistic terms; it Involves food, environmental, political, economic, and health security, among others. Lack of good governance makes food and health insecurity potent instruments for political instability. In the context of a weak economy and an ever-enlarging army of the unemployed; violence has become institutionalised. It is a fact that there is a positive link between good governance and security. Principles of good governance in the security sector are heighted below according to DFID (2000) cited in Fayemi (2005):

1. Security sector organizations are accountable civil authorities and society;
2. They operate in accordance with the international and domestic constitutional law;
3. Transparent of the sector's planning and budgeting, and these are made available for government and public consumption;
4. The civil-military relations are based on a well-articulate hierarchy of authority which is based on respect for human rights;
5. The civil authorities also have the capacity to exercise political control over the operations and expenditure of the security forces, and monitor and provide constructive input to the security sector;
6. Civil society can also be consulted on a regular basis on security policies, resources allocation, and other relevant issues;
7. During peace time, the security forces personnel are engaged in adequate training to discharged their duties in a professional manner consistent with the democratic tenet; and
8. Fostering on environment supportive of regional and sub-regional peace and security has a high priority for polices-maker.

Nwabueze and Isokun cited in Akinade (2011) rightly alluded that national security is synonymous to fundamental human rights. The fundamental human rights constitute the fabrics on which the stability of the nation is built. People become insecure when their fundamental rights are restricted or denied. Citizens' security is therefore linked to the strongest point of national security. Apparently, a nation is as strong or as weak as its individual members that form the ring of its national security (Akinade, 2011).

Manifestation of Violence, Breach of Peace and Insecurity in Nigerian Democratic System

The following are the various manifestations of violence (conflict) and insecurity in the present day Nigeria Federation:

Ethno- Religious Conflicts: Igbuzor (2011) identified ethno-religious conflicts as one the major sources of insecurity in Nigeria in recent time. Communal and societal conflicts have

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emerged as a result of new and particularistic forms of political consciousness and identity often structured around ethnicity and religion. The insurgency of Boko Haram in Northern part has become a deadly instrument in the hand of religious fanatics and failed politicians. Herdsmen has also enlisted into the group of killer machinery.

Politically Based Violence; The contemporary conflicts in Nigeria can be described as a reaction loss of power by political and elite class. The situation is therefore a contest of political power between those who won power and those who lost power and want it back. Politicians are found altering the rule of the game, distorting laws, and employing violence and political assassination to settle scores. The predilection for most of the politicians is not for election but selection.

Economic Based Violence: Natural resources and poverty issues serve as the basis for economic based violence in Nigeria. Cries of resource control in Nigeria regularly rent the air between the proponent (the Niger Delta) and opponents (the Federal Government). The other argument is that most of conflict in Nigeria is poverty induced. The failure of government to provide the basic necessity of life has created an army of unemployed youth which incidentally gave birth to frustration (Achumba, Ighomereho and Akpor-Robaro, 2013).

Organised Violent Group: There has been the rise of organized violent groups that take various dimension and forms. These includes ethnic militia; vigilantes; secret cults (especially in tertiary institutions) and political thugs (Obi, 2002). One noticeable fact is that they are all involved in the perpetuation of large scale violence which creates a high level of insecurity in Nigeria. With asses to small arms, they at liberty to cause mayhem and kill indiscriminately as they are often better trained and consequently overpower Nigeria security operatives.

Breach of peace creates enormous insecurity in the Nigeria society with tremendous impact on individuals, communities, and the Nigeria federation as a whole. According to Achumba, Ighomereho and Akpor-Robaro (2013), the impacts include but not limited to loss of lives and properties; social displacement; hostilities between indigenes and settlers; disruptions of family and communal life; general atmosphere of mistrust, fear and frenzy; hunger and poverty; and atmosphere of insecurity and instability among others.

Contemporary Security Challenges in Nigeria

In recent time, thousands of people have been killed in outbreaks of various violence across the country. This has led to terrible state of the nation and the heightened tensions. There are manifestation of grave insecurity which needs to tackle and overcome for peace and development sake. The following are some of the major security challenges the nation must tackle:

1. The Niger Delta Crisis: The Niger Delta, which is the major oil producing region in Nigeria has suffered for decades as a result of excessive marginalisation. Ironically, the region has been neglected by the federal government despite the bulk of country revenue coming from the region. The region has reported sought for peaceful means of addressing the marginalisation

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which has not expected result as the efforts made by successive governments seem not adequate. The development led to the formation of various militia groups who carried arms to address the perceived inequality by demanding for resource control. It has snowballed into incessant kidnapping, suicide bombing, vandalization of oil pipe and other vices which has contributed to the economic woe in Nigeria (Imongan, 2015). There is currently a new militia group known as Avengers which was emerged immediately after the inauguration of Buhari administration in 2015. The federal government in all sense of sincerity and dedication need to make efforts to foster peace and development in the region, especially at this testing period for the nation.

2. Boko Haram: This is a militant Islamic group that has killed thousands of people, Nigerian and foreigners inclusive since 2009. The direct consequence of violence is North-East that have been plunged into severe humanitarian crisis. As at 2018, the crisis has left almost eight million people in need of humanitarian aids, one of the worst scenario in the world in the recent time (Njoku, 2020). The government has not be able to make significant military gains, as killing and bombing is reported daily. The issue of Boko Haram has been politicised and the government must be sincere and squarely faced the monster that is still conveniently engaging in suicide attacks and kidnapping.

3. Farmer-Herder Clashes: The North-Central (middle belt) is facing prolonged violent conflict between predominantly Christian farmers and the populous Muslims cattle herders. The root causes are claim of ownership (access and rights) of land and water resources coupled with desertification which has changed the grazing patterns of cattle. In 2018, more than two thousand (2,000) farmers were killed by the herdsmen (Ajibo, Onuoha, Obi-Keguna, Okafor and Oluwole, 2018). The crisis was reported to have claimed six times more than the Boko Haram crisis. A critical study of terrorist will conclude that herdsmen are product of Boko Haram, as terrorist has the ability of changing their approach and outlook in an attempt to shift the attention of government. Inclusive and creative ways of addressing this deep-rooted conflict must be sought by the government.

4. Arm Bandit: The current wave of arm bandits in the north-west region of Nigeria is alarming and have become a subject of national security and public concern (WANEP, 2020). The rate at which the so-called bandits operate and the response of government is pathetic and diminish the state power. Nigeria has become a nation where people live at the mercy of armed bandits, hence they decide and negotiate the faith of the citizens with federal government. The armed bandit is gradually taking over the southern part of the country.

5. Kidnapping: This is another security challenge that need immediate attention in Nigeria. Kidnapping cut across all the six regions. It has become a daily occurrence, while the kidnappers demand ransom (Bello and Jamilu, 2017).The situation is becoming worrisome as influential people and religious leaders are being kidnapped. Some are reported released and some killed after the payment of the negotiated ransom. This has made the South-West Governors setting up Amotekun security outfit to monitor and police the entire region. Other regions need to intensify in such development to address the menace. The federal government

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at this crucial period should support the regional initiative through finance, workshop and mobilization instead of engaging in unpopular opposition through the office of Antony General of the federation.

6. Rapping: Rapping in the country is gradually becoming a monster that needs to be dealt with. The news of rapping is at alarming and if not curb will become a virus dangerous than coronavirus. Rapping is no more limited to campuses, it has been extended to the religion house. The strange development about the incidence of rapping is that it is not limited to young people or cult activities, Pastor, Imam, uncle, brother, even father has been identified as the suspect (Eyang, Gobo, Iwuagwu and Ogar, 2020). There is need to legislate the offence of rapping as a serious crime and all suspect should be prosecuted and the guilty severely punished.

7. Islamic Movement of Nigeria (IMN): This is a Shia Islamic and pro-Iranian sect operating in Nigeria, under the leadership of Ibrahim Zakzaky. It opposed to secular government and federalism with nonviolent approach to achieve an Islamic state. It focuses on Islamic studies, enlightenment, western education and charity work (Haruna, 2019). IMN strong position on revolution and their regular peaceful protest has severally lead to clash between the group and the security forces leading to death of scores of them. Consequently, the leader of the sect was arrested in 2015 and was subsequently released through the court injunction in 2021 (Maishanu, 2021). The sect has also be banned on 26 of July 2019 by the government as the group's actions termed terrorist and illegal in nature. To avoid the re-occurrence of Boko Haram like violence, the military must be moderate in use of force against the armless protesters of IMN. The federal government in collaboration with the Kaduna state government must also be magnanimous in dealing with the sect believe.

8. Cameroon Conflict: Cameroon is one of Nigeria neigbours. The country is on the brink of civil war. The 20% Anglophone community felt marginalised by the Francophone-dominated government. They demand for common law system and a return to a two-state federation for peaceful co-existence. Instead, the government responded with series of draconian measure. On October 1, 2017, Anglophone separatists declared the two Anglophone regions as the self-proclaimed "Republic of Ambazonia" (Njoku, 2020). The conflict was reported to have claimed hundreds of life of both civilians, military and police officers, while thirty-two thousand (32,000) separatists fled to Nigeria (Njoku, 2020). Nigeria government need to be proactive in its response to the conflict so as to safe her from the unnecessary influx of refugee incase, the war blown out.

Challenges of National Security in Nigeria

Several challenges has been identified to hinder national security in Nigeria. Few of the salient of these problems are highlighted below:

1. **The Paucity of Funds**: One of the major challenges confronting national security in Nigeria is inadequate of funds. This is manifested in the obsolete weapons paraded by the security forces as well as inadequate training. On several occasions when the fund is release, it either too late or not adequate.

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2. **Over-centralization**: Over-centralization of security matter also hinder the effectiveness of the sector due to broaden nature of Nigeria. When command is restricted to the centre thereby make governors at the state level appendage of the federal government and a mere chief security of the officer of their respective states. This has led to the ineffectiveness of the sector.
3. **Security Personnel's Rivalry**: Conflict of interest and poor working relationship has manifested among various units of the security sector. Their relationship is characterised by conflict rather than collaboration. There has been an allegation of seniority clash, wrong perception about one another, and role conflict among others. This has adversely affected sharing of information among one another. According to Albert (2013), Nigeria does not seem to have formal arrangement for security sector interagency collaboration.
4. **Shortage of Personnel**: There is shortage of personnel considering the high population density of Nigeria. As noted by Babangida (2012), the gross inadequate of security personnel is a mismatch between Nigeria population and security workforce. A total security workforce of less than six hundred (600, 000) is grossly inadequate to secure the fast growing population coupled with the dynamic metamorphosis of different insurgency in almost all the regions of the country.
5. **Paucity of Professional**: Similar to the above is the dearth of professional security personnel to meet up with the dynamic nature of insecurity (Nweke and Nwachukwu, 2014). This is coupled with gross untrained personnel of the security sector to meet up with modern security challenges. The dynamic nature of crime and the perpetrators of crime seems to be technologically better than the security personnel that Nigeria parade who are archaic and moribund in nature. Hence, these advance criminals pose a serious threat to the national security.
6. **Porous Border:** Unguided and unsecured Nigeria border has made it easy for terrorists, human traffickers, and drug barons to infiltrate the country and perpetrate their evil desires. This unchecked border also aid free movement of deadly weapons by unscrupulous elements to commit grave act. Nigeria, among other African nations has become a dumping ground of deadly weapons (Edeko, 2011). This portends grave security consequences to peace and development of Nigeria.
7. **Primordial Factor**: Many security personnel get carried away, and influence by ethnic, religious and political sentiment. Instead of being national and objective oriented officers, they protect primordial interest, thereby sabotage government efforts by indirectly protecting criminal in the name of affiliation.
8. **Weak Legal Apparatus to Prosecute the Perpetrators**: Inability to arrest and prosecute the perpetrators and sponsors of violence crime has encouraged and increase the insecurity rate in the country. This is manifested in weak legal system and the influence of powerful godfathers in prosecution of offenders.

3. CONCLUSION

Security has been an issue in Nigeria federation. Restructuring is fundamentally a necessity to correct the faulty foundation laid for Nigeria national security. It is seen as a function of the installation of positive virtues of administration and elimination of vices caused by insecurity.

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The study noted that Nigeria democratic government has proved to be ineffective in security of life and property. Secured and developed Nigeria could only be achieved by readiness of all the stakeholders to go for a positive change. For the manifestation of the positive change to play a role in stabilizing the entire nation, dynamic and progressive development is needed. However, development can only be possible in the atmosphere of peace. There can't be development when security of the nation is under a threat; as no plantation can germinate, even if it germinates, cannot grow on a rocky sand.

Recommendations

Security of the nation should be a paramount affair, as development can only be possible when the security situation in the country is handled with all seriousness. In addressing the identified challenges of insecurity in Nigeria, the following are put forward:

1. Funds should be made available as at when due for the security sector to carry out their constitutional responsibility. Various security forces should also be empowered by the government with necessary modern equipment with periodic training to carry out their task.
2. There is need to review and address the over-centralization of security sector. To allay the fear of decentralization, oversight body should be empowered to checkmate their activities. More importantly, the federal government at this crucial period should have second thought on the proposed state police for effective security measure of the country.
3. Government should also incorporate formal arrangement for security sector, interagency collaboration to guide against incessant conflict noticed among the security agency. The measure will enhance effective security sector governance.
4. Government should increase the number of the workforce with qualified personnel to reduce overburden of existing force created as a result of high population density of the country.
5. Professional in the security sector should be appointed and encouraged to manage the corps for effective policing and security of the entire nation. Effort should be made towards constant training of the personnel to meet up with the training deficit of the sector. Technological innovation of the security sector should be the focused of this 21st century.
6. Nigeria borders should be mount with forces with integrity to hinder the free movement of deadly weapons by unscrupulous elements who aim at committing grave act. Those security officers should be well paid to reduce the threat to peace and development of Nigeria.
7. Security personnel should be loyal and dedicated to the country. As objective and oriented officers, while shun sentiment should be nationalistic in approach. On government side, equity, accountability and probity should be guiding principle across the country.
8. Law enforcement officer should be empowered to arrest and prosecute perpetrators of violence crime. This will serve as deterrent to other offenders. Creation of strong institution is apt.

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