NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND NIGERIA'S SECURITY THREATS

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Abstract

One of Nigeria's biggest problems now is insecurity. The impact of security issues on Nigeria's national development has not received much consideration. It makes sense that insecurity has slowed down the country's development since democracy was restored. However, security is necessary to accomplish and maintain reasonable development. Despite Nigeria's wealth of riches, the nation's security issues have led to a system that encourages violence and impedes progress. Boko Haram's security threats and the degree to which the insurgency has influenced Nigeria's growth were investigated through qualitative analysis. This article examines the security challenges posed by the Boko Haram uprising and their impact on Nigeria's development. It concludes that Boko Haram's aggression has significantly hindered national progress, particularly in the Northeast, where it has stifled the inflow of Foreign Direct Investment. To effectively end the insurgency, the study recommends that the Nigerian government address its root causes by tackling corruption, creating jobs to eradicate poverty, and strengthening overall security measures.

Key Words: National Development, Security Threats, Boko Haram, Insurgency

Introduction

Nigeria is becoming increasingly insecure for its citizens on a daily basis. Not only are

more people getting involved in crime, but such crimes are becoming more ruthless, sophisticated, and desperate. Since the start of the current democratic era, new forms of violent crime have emerged, including kidnapping for ransom, pipeline vandalization, political violence, terrorism, and more recently, the killings of Fulani herdsmen, among others (Otto and Ukere, 2012). Security issues are vital for the development of any nation because sustainable development depends on an enabling environment. Hutchful (2002), cited in Adebayo (2014), posits that the survival of any society relies on law and order, which are based on national security. It is important to note that every country globally faces its own problems and challenges, and Nigeria is no exception. As a developing nation, she faces economic, cultural, political, and social problems that have affected her citizens (Adebayo, 2014).

With a population of approximately 200 million, Nigeria (ADB, 2012) is Africa's largest country in terms of demographic size, the second-largest economy after South Africa (ADB, 2012), and the largest oil producer on the continent. She is blessed with petroleum, gas, and mineral resources (ADB, 2012). While the country has agricultural potential, it remains a food importer. These resources, which should serve as a blessing to the people, have now become a problem for the nation. One of the primary challenges currently facing Nigeria is high unemployment, which has driven citizens, especially the youth, into various crimes, particularly joining Boko Haram.

Addressing security issues is essential for the execution of successful development projects, hence the necessity of this paper. It is the duty of governments worldwide to protect the population from crime, structural violence, and social insecurity. Without the security of citizens, development plans—whether social, political, or economic—will not succeed (Adebayo, 2014).

The emergence of Boko Haram led to a series of bombings and the hostage-taking of innocent citizens; even the United Nations building was targeted in these bombings (Awojobi, 2014). The ongoing activities of the insurgency have resulted in a low inflow of Foreign Direct Investment (FDI). Therefore, crime threatens the economic, political, and social security of a nation and is a major factor linked to underdevelopment; it discourages both foreign and local investment, lowers the quality of life, destroys social and human capital, damages the relationship between the state and its citizens, and undermines the rule of law, democracy, and the country's ability to promote development (Adebayo, 2013).

However, Boko Haram has caused widespread insecurity in Northern Nigeria, interrupted development, scared off investors, and raised concerns among Nigeria's neighbors. This study will examine how security challenges affect national

development, relying primarily on secondary sources such as textbooks, journal articles, the Internet, and unpublished projects. This paper is organized into four sections, starting with the introduction. Section two presents the conceptual framework of the subject. Section three discusses the effects of security challenges (Boko Haram) on national development, while section four provides conclusions and recommendations.

Conceptual Framework

The Concept of Security: Security in Nigeria and its Challenges. The concept of security has been a subject of debate for over a century. Throughout human history, there has been a search for the best ways to ensure the security of people, territories, states, institutions, and properties. Like many concepts, security has no single specific definition. On this note, various scholarly opinions on security will be examined.

According to Ighomereho, Achumba, and Akpor-Robaro (2013), security is the continuity and stability of income, being safe from crime, and freedom from psychological harm. This may also imply protection from emotional stress and the knowledge that an individual is loved, wanted, and protected within their society or community by those living there.

Adebayo (2011), cited in Iregbenu and Uzonwanne (2015), argued that security can be viewed as a measure that ensures development and peaceful coexistence at large. From Adebayo's perspective, when security exists, there is an absence of tension, fear, anxiety, and apprehension regarding the loss of life, goals, values, or property. Nwanegbo and Odigbo (2013) view security as a pathway for state development, noting that development is difficult to achieve in the absence of security. Brooks (2010) further suggests that security entails the defense of a state through the use of armed forces to control its population. For Brooks, security might also involve public policing conducted by state-employed public servants. Other perspectives define security as crime prevention, risk management, security technology, or loss prevention. Buzan (1991) perceives security as freedom from threat and the capacity of a state to maintain its independent identity. Buzan's contention is that security involves survival as well as the essential conditions for the existence of a society or nation.

The country is currently in dire need of infrastructural development, employment, and other life necessities. However, what is currently happening is the daily loss of human lives due to security challenges. As Iregbenu and Uzonwanne (2015) argue, security must exist for any nation to experience development. Nevertheless, the sect remains active; a recent Boko Haram attack in Borno state resulted in dozens of killings during three days of follow-up attacks, the burning of about forty (40) houses, and the deaths of military personnel (Aljazeera, 2018). These attacks have a broad effect on security in Nigeria.

The Concept of National Development and the State of National Development in Nigeria

The concept of national development is multi-dimensional. However, Odunola and Kolade (2012) view national development as the sustainable growth of a nation toward a more desired state. For them, national development should be centered on the citizens, and its success is measured by its impact on improving people's lives.

Regarding a definition of the concept, FGN (1980), cited in Odoh and Innocent (2014), states that:
True development must mean the development of man, the unfolding and realization of his potentials, enabling him to improve his material conditions of living through the use of resources available to him. It is a process by which man's personality is enhanced; this is the moving force behind the socio-economic transformation of any society (Odoh and Innocent, 2014:170).

According to Lawal and Oluwatoyin (2011), national development is the comprehensive socio-economic, political, and religious advancement of a country, which can be achieved through planning by various leaderships. If this concept of national development is critically compared to Nigeria's present state, it shows that the country is lagging behind. The current state of Nigeria's national development is very alarming.

Various Nigerian administrations since Independence have adopted national development plans at different times. Some of these plans failed to reach their goals due to a lack of consultation with the masses, as planning should involve rural areas as well. Furthermore, where there is no good governance, national development plans will fail (Lawal and Oluwatoyin, 2011). Many Nigerian leaders lack commitment to development. Some of the plans implemented by leaders to achieve development include the Structural Adjustment Programme (SAP) of the 1980s, the National Economic Empowerment and Development (NEEDS), the National Transformation Agenda, and the Seven Point Agenda, among others (Joseph, 2014). Despite these development plans, the status of national development remains mediocre, partly due to security challenges that have increasingly undermined government efforts.

Modern-day Nigeria faces various security issues that have hindered national development initiatives. Corruption and the government's failure to prioritize major projects necessary to revitalize the country also present obstacles to development. Given these factors, this study will examine the emergence and effects of the security challenges triggered by the Boko Haram insurgency on national development.

Historical Evolution of Boko Haram in Nigeria

North-Eastern Nigeria is a Muslim-dominated region with a deep-seated history of Islamic fundamentalism, tracing back to the highly successful Jihad of 'Uthman Dan

Fodio from 1754 to 1817 Hickey, (1984: 251). Usman Dan Fodio launched a holy war against what he perceived as a corrupt and degenerated Hausa ruling class that had abandoned Islam at the time. He established the Sharia-based Sokoto Caliphate, which became one of the most prominent and significant entities in the African continent and much of Northern Nigeria, though it is important to note that the areas now known as the Middle Belt or North Central State resisted the Jihad Marchal, (2012: 2), Agbiboa, (2013c). What began as a quest for religious exploration evolved into a pursuit of political empire Crowder, (1978; ICG 2010), resulting in a situation where 'Islam has remained the primary veneer for the legitimacy of the Northern decision-making class', and 'its government officials have consistently viewed themselves as warriors defending the faith' Udoidem, (1997:156).

Some scholars have noted that British subjugation in 1903, along with ongoing ties to colonial and post-colonial powers, left the region susceptible to the negative influence of external political control Agbiboa, (2013b). Since then, 'the region's Muslims have consistently opposed Western ideas' Marchal, (2012: 2). For example, during the first two decades following the country's independence in October 1960, violent clashes occurred between the Nigeria Police Force and a radical Islamic group known as Maitatsine in Kano in October 1980 and Maiduguri in December 1980. Hickey, (1984: 251) argues that the Maitatsine movements were rooted in the 'deeply preservationist nature of Islam' that has existed in the region since Dan Fodio's Jihad. Marwa Muhammed, also known as the one who cursed Maitatsine, was an Islamic scholar who moved from a city in Cameroon to a town in Kano in 1945. Marwa believed that Islam had been corrupted by Westernization and the establishment of the modern state Agbiboa, (2013d). Toyin Falola (1998: 146), as cited in Agbiboa, (2013d: 68), described Muhammed as follows:

He was a Quranic teacher and minister. Commanding, persuasive, and charismatic, he challenged many mainstream views within Kano's Islamic circles, criticizing specific parts of the Quran and even condemning Prophet Mohammed… He opposed most forms of modernization and all Western influences. He criticized innovations such as radios, wristwatches, bicycles, and even vehicles. To him, people who used such tools or read books other than the Quran were viewed as 'pagans'.

The Maitatsine uprising led to eleven days of intense fighting with state security forces in December 1980 in Kano state. The federal government established a tribunal in 1981 to investigate the violence. The tribunal determined that four thousand one hundred and seventy-seven people died during the conflict. This count excludes members of the police force who also perished in the fighting. Although the Nigerian government deployed its armed forces to crush the Maitatsine revolts and killed their leader, over a hundred people were killed in retaliatory attacks by remaining Maitatsine members against state armed forces over the following five years Agbiboa, (2013c).

Since Nigeria achieved political independence in 1960, power has shifted from the Muslim North to the Christian South. However, the 1979 Iranian revolt sparked growing interest in the adoption of Sharia law throughout Nigeria Agbiboa, (2013c). Additionally, starting in the 1990s, Saudi-backed preachers from Pakistan, Libya, Saudi Arabia, Syria, Sudan, and other nations were sent to Nigeria to promote Wahhabi doctrines and universality. This influence resulted in the implementation of Sharia law in twelve Northern states between 1999 and 2001, with Zamfara state being the first to adopt it Agbiboa, (2013b: 68).

The historical emergence of conflict in Northern Nigeria offers insight into the movement to transform Nigeria into an Islamic State and the resistance against Westernization, a cause championed by 19th-century Jihadists. Boko Haram, formerly known as Jama'atu Ahlis Sunna Lidda'Awati Wal-Jihad, originated in 2001 under the leadership of Mohammed Yusuf. Before arriving in Nigeria, Yusuf, a Nigerian national, spent much of his life studying in Chad and the Republic of Niger. For the first eight years, the movement operated without violence, with Yusuf attracting nearly two hundred and eighty thousand followers (Benjamin, 2012). This organization under Yusuf's leadership is what is recognized as Boko Haram today.

The organization's radicalism intensified in July 2009, when Boko Haram followers participated in an uprising triggered by a law requiring motorcyclists to wear caps. During this unrest, state security forces apprehended Boko Haram members, including Yusuf. Before the day concluded, Yusuf and other Boko Haram figures were killed by security forces. This uprising and its intense resolve are credited with spreading extremism across Nigeria. As their name suggests, Boko Haram's beliefs are aggressively hostile to Western principles, generally meaning "Western culture or education is forbidden or sinful" (Benjamin, 2012). This ideology is reinforced by a radical interpretation of Islam shared with Al-Qaeda, stemming from the connection between the two groups. Notably, the insurgency in Nigeria targets the existing Nigerian state, which is built upon secular and Western concepts due to former British colonial rule. The radical group promotes Sharia law as an alternative to the current state, claiming it would eliminate administrative corruption and better serve the needs of the people (Benjamin, 2012). Although Sharia law has been implemented in specific northern regions, the terrorists have sought to replace common laws with Sharia courts nationwide. This goal necessitates the removal of the state from all government sectors, rendering the terrorists a threat to national security.

The leader, Yusuf, recruited members from the unemployed youth who were already disillusioned with the nation. While alive, Yusuf exploited the corrupt government systems at all levels, as well as unemployment, poverty, and insecurity. As Yusuf highlighted these failures, he recited verses from the Quran. Consequently, the youth viewed Yusuf as a messiah who would lead them to the promised land (Carson, 2012).

Regarding health, children in the north are four times more likely to suffer from malnutrition. Child mortality exceeds two hundred deaths per one thousand live births, resulting in lower life expectancy. The education system is substandard, with northern literacy at thirty-five percent compared to seventy-seven percent in the rest of the country. In the far north, seventy-seven percent of women lack formal education, whereas only seventeen percent in the rest of the country are without it. Youth unemployment is extremely high in the north, and primary school attendance is only forty-one percent (Carson, 2012). All these factors contribute to unemployment and increasing poverty (Cook, 2011). Abdulkarim Mohammed noted that violent attacks in Nigeria result from "the fallout of frustration with corruption and the attendant social dissatisfaction of poverty and joblessness" (Carson, 2012).

Effects of Security Challenges on National Development

Studying the impact of Boko Haram on Nigeria's national development is vital for several reasons. Nigeria's economy, a nation of over 170 million people, requires order, peace, and regional security; similarly, African nations such as Niger, Benin, Cameroon, and Chad rely on the Nigerian economy. Within Africa, Nigeria is too massive to fail, as its collapse would cause widespread suffering and undo the progress and development achieved in the region over recent decades (Gillespie, 2014). Since the group began its attacks, the actions of Boko Haram have significantly impacted national development. The aggressive Islamist group Boko Haram has undermined security and harmony in Nigeria, and its security challenges are well documented (Gillespie, 2014). In fact, academic journals discussing Boko Haram often focus on its damaging consequences from a political perspective. In this regard, the works of Agbiboa (2013b), Cook (2011), Carson (2012), and Udoidem (1997) are relevant. However, these accounts often fail to emphasize that beyond the loss of lives and property, the actions of Boko Haram represent a fundamental threat to national development (Gillespie, 2014).

Although the activities of Boko Haram have been curtailed since Buhari took office in 2015 (Aljazeera, 2018), the sect remains very active, as evidenced by recent attacks in Borno state that killed dozens of citizens and military personnel and destroyed approximately forty homes (Aljazeera, 2018). It is against this backdrop that the effects of Boko Haram on national development will be analyzed. The insurgency of Boko Haram has discouraged Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in Nigeria. The US has advised its citizens against conducting business in Nigeria, which is detrimental to a country that is still developing (Awortu, 2015). However, achieving this is unlikely given the activities of Boko Haram and other security issues in the country. Boko Haram attacks have paralyzed government institutions and fostered an atmosphere of distrust and suspicion within the political class, which is detrimental to democracy. Furthermore, it has prevented the government from fulfilling its developmental commitments in the North-East (Awortu, 2015).

In addition to the tragic loss of life, terrorism has fostered an atmosphere of insecurity with severe economic consequences for Nigeria. It was estimated in 2013 that Boko Haram's activities cost the nation 28.48 billion dollars. This has also influenced Nigeria's performance in recent global competitive indices (Onuoha, Ichite and George, 2015).

Education serves as a panacea for national development across the globe, as no society thrives without giving sufficient attention to its educational growth and development. However, the Boko Haram insurgency has become an obstacle to educational progress in Nigeria, specifically in the North East. One primary reason for these attacks on education is that Boko Haram views western education as a sin. For instance, in Borno State, 882 classrooms had been destroyed by 2013, while in Yobe and Adamawa, thousands of schools have been relocated (Awortu, 2015). Nigeria has already been struggling with educational infrastructure and qualitative manpower to raise its educational standards, and insurgency has compounded these issues through attacks on schools, the kidnapping of schoolchildren, and the killing of students and teachers. This will further increase the number of uneducated people, given that education is what drives development. In the near future, Boko Haram will likely create a generation of unemployed youths in the north to ensure a consistent supply of school dropouts and illiterates for recruitment as fighters and suicide bombers (Awortu, 2015).

Beyond the monetary and economic effects of the insurgency, there is also a psychological cost. Terrorist activities erode trust between communities and destroy the reservoir of social capital essential for building pleasant societies and uniting community efforts for national development. Furthermore, the proliferation of light weapons and the militarization of society creates a vicious cycle of violence that hinders national stability and cohesion. The long-term impact of violence on towns and regions is most evident in Kaduna and Jos. Kaduna used to be one of the most flourishing cities in Nigeria, serving as the industrial hub of the North with various textile firms and prosperous trading companies. Today, Kaduna is tragically divided between the Muslim North and Christian South (Adebayo, 2014). Most textile companies have been shut down and many investors have folded up.

According to Kalu (2012), the ongoing insurgency has negatively affected the economy of the north. Indian and Lebanese expatriates with businesses in Kano have relocated to Abuja and the South. While many have left the country entirely, hotels, banks, and other business sectors have witnessed significant reductions in their activities. Countries sharing borders with Nigeria have also been affected due to restrictions on cross-border traffic. An estimate suggests that 126 industries have shut down in Kano state alone (Kalu, 2012).

Nigeria's quest for industrialization has suffered setbacks over the years due to its security challenges, specifically the attacks by Boko Haram. Global media outlets such as CNN and BBC quickly feature Boko Haram attacks in news headlines at every opportunity. Although the sect's activities are primarily carried out in the North, the whole of Nigeria suffers the global consequences because those outside the country believe the insurgency is widespread, which discourages investors from coming to Nigeria (Awojobi, 2014). When media houses like CNN broadcast bombings in the North, they make the world believe that the whole of Nigeria is on fire, thereby instilling fear in the minds of investors.

The activities of Boko Haram are also worrisome to manufacturers in Nigeria. Goods produced by manufacturers are no longer sold as they were before the emergence of terrorism. This has forced them to produce below capacity, resulting in reduced earnings for manufacturing firms. Consequently, this affects profits, meaning that companies in the stock market will be unable to declare dividends during the financial year. If this continues, the workforce will be threatened by attendant labour agitations (Adebayo, 2014). It is on record that between 2015 and 2018, thousands of Nigerians lost their jobs; the aforementioned cause of insecurity, which affects every sector of a country, is not farfetched. For a company to exist, they may have to let go of some workers, and if losses continue, they will shut down operations completely.

Conclusion and Recommendations

The outcomes presented above demonstrate that Nigeria confronts various security issues, including the Boko Haram insurgency in the North, herdsmen killings, and Niger Delta militants, among other security threats. Based on this paper's findings, it is clear that security challenges in the nation have a negative impact on Nigeria's national development. Insurgency, specifically, has caused both domestic and international investors to shift their investment destinations due to security concerns, resulting in high unemployment rates and low Foreign Direct Investment. This has pushed the country further from the trajectory of development.

However, it is apparent that despite her vast resources, national development remains out of reach due to Boko Haram and general insecurity. Consequently, this paper offers the following recommendations:

1. The Nigerian government should strive to establish robust institutions that react actively to security threats by strengthening security operations with the weaponry necessary to fight terrorism.
2. The struggle against corruption must be strictly enforced through laws that ensure anyone convicted of corruption charges faces imprisonment and the forfeiture of all their properties.
3. The fundamental causes of insecurity must be tackled. The Nigerian government should provide quality governance to its citizens and establish an

institutional framework that ensures the effective management of resources to enhance the lives of the people.The government should focus more on poverty alleviation, including job creation and welfare programs. If the youth are engaged in productive activities, Boko Haram will be unable to persuade them to become suicide bombers.

4. As a matter of urgency, the government should increase allocations to education, particularly in the North. When youths are educated, they will be better equipped to distinguish between right and wrong and will not be as easily deceived by religious beliefs.

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