

Impact of Boko Haram Insurgency on Socio-Political and Economic Activities of North-Eastern States of Nigeria

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Abstract

Insurgency is a worldwide threat which undermines National Development. The North-Eastern part Nigeria was hitherto adjudged one of the safest and peaceful regions in Nigeria until the emergence of Boko Haram in 2009 which claimed thousands of lives and properties worth billions and displaced more than a million people. The research unravels the impact of terrorism on Nigeria's National Development while focusing on the Boko Haram crisis in the North-Eastern States of Adamawa, Borno and Yobe respectively. The research employed a mixed method and adopted secondary sources as a means of gathering data. Findings from the study shows that the activities of Boko Haram have negatively impacted on the socio-economic and political development of Northern Nigeria and as a direct consequence of the insurgency, the three States witnessed decline in economic activities; dwindling internally generated revenue, low output in agricultural productivity and joblessness. Socially, the consequences include broken families and internal displacement of people. Politically it affected the traditional and modern political systems of the affected states. The research recommends that government should put all security measures into place, provide adequate employment to the teeming youth, making education a compulsion at all levels of governance, the Northeast Commission must swing into action by executing people-oriented projects and programmes while avoiding the pitfall of the Niger Delta Development Commission where contracts are signed without execution.

Keywords: Boko Haram, Impacts, Social, Economic, Political.

1. INTRODUCTION

Boko Haram is derived from Hausa words which literally mean western education is sacrilege or sin. It is a corrupt version of Islam which forbids Muslims to partake in anything associated with western values be it political, social or cultural. The dreaded sect's official name in Arabic language is "Jama'atu Ahlus Sunnah Lidda'awati Wal-Jihad" which means people committed to the propagation of the prophets' teachings and Jihad. It was founded in 2002 by Muhammed Yusuf who was its spiritual and temporal leader. The sect initially focused its activities mainly on preaching against the

perceived devilish acts associated with western values before it later resorted to military actions against the authorities in its bid to establish “Islamic empire” (Oyewole, 2015).

Globally, the security landscape witnessed tremendous and unimaginable transformations since the September 11th, 2011 attacks on the United States of America (USA), orchestrated by the Al-Qaeda terrorist elements, led by Osama bin Laden. The globe recorded the prevalence of what the US termed as the Foreign Terrorists Organization’s (FTOs) some of which include, Army of Islam, Indian Mujahideen, Ansar al Dine, Al-Nusra Front, Islamic State in Iraq and Syria (ISIS), ISIS-West Africa (ISWA), Al-Shabaab, ISIS-Greater Sahara and the Boko Haram organization as well as its splinter groups of ISIS-West African Province (ISWAP) and Ansaru Dine, among others (Oriola et al., 2022).

It is over a decade now since the beginning of Boko Haram crisis which resulted in the loss of several lives, destruction of property worth billions of naira, displacement of persons as Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) and refugees. Additionally, they engaged in kidnappings, cattle rustling, armed robbery and other criminal ventures to raise funds for their heinous activities, resulting in worsening humanitarian situation in the North-Eastern States of Adamawa, Borno and Yobe. Thus, between 2014 and 2019, for instance, the dreaded group killed an estimated 31,000 people, enslavement of thousands of girls and women, the force conscription of thousands of boys and young men into the insurgency, the flight of at least 2.2 million internally displaced persons thereby making it one of the world’s deadliest armed groups (Dunn, 2018)

The Boko Haram insurgency has dislocated social, economic and political activities of these states thereby creating a dark cloud on the nation’s image both locally, regionally and internationally. This is owing to the fact that the group operated with intensity in the north eastern part of Nigeria for a long time, desecrating the sovereignty of the country by hoisting its flag in places like Damboa, Gwoza, Sambisa Forest in Borno State and Madagali in Adamawa State (2018). The immediate past administration of President Goodluck Jonathan could not contain the upsurge thereby making the region not safe for lives, business activities and by extension national development. Nigeria since independence has witnessed political and economic growth being held as a result of corruption. Corrupt practices among public officials in alliance with the private sector amounted to a huge scarcity of resources intended to be used for developmental projects which were converted to private gains. Bad leadership is demonstrated through differences related to ethnicity, tribalism, nepotism, “divide and rule” which was adopted by our leaders in ensuring their stay in office. This was done through promoting sectional loyalties and ethnicity instead of nationalism.

Hitherto, the northern part of Nigeria was adjudged one of the safest regions in the country, however Boko Haram activities have made it to be the most vulnerable region where innocent lives are killed and where the government failed in responding to providing solutions to the crisis. The fundamental questions to be asked here are: what went wrong in the north? Are the northern leaders not interested in pooling their strength and resources to fight this scourge? Is the Nigerian government not tired with these indiscriminate killings, maiming innocent and unsuspecting citizens? These are some of the questions which this paper seeks to answer. Considering the amount of wealth or revenue the government was getting from this region, especially in the area of agricultural activities, commerce and trade, custom duties as well as other charges.

2. LITERATURE REVIEW

Boko Haram is derived from Hausa words which literally mean western education is sacrilege or sin. It is a corrupt version of Islam which forbids Muslims to partake in anything associated with western values be it political, social or cultural. The dreaded sect's official name in Arabic language is "Jama'atu Ahlus Sunnah Lidda'awati Wal-Jihad" which means people committed to the propagation of the prophets' teachings and Jihad. It was founded in 2002 by Muhammed Yusuf who was its spiritual and temporal leader. The sect initially focused its activities mainly on preaching against the perceived devilish acts associated with western values before it later resorted to military actions against the authorities in its bid to establish "Islamic empire" (Oyewole, 2015).

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Statement of the Research Problem:

Insurgency in Nigeria has affected lives and properties and created a dark cloud on the nation's image both locally and internationally. This is owing to the fact that the group operated with intensity in the North Eastern part of Nigeria for a long time, desecrating the sovereignty of the country by hoisting its flag in places like Damboa, Gwoza, Sambisa Forest in Borno State and Madagali in Adamawa State. The immediate past administration of President Goodluck Jonathan could not contain the upsurge thereby making the region not safe for lives, business activities and by extension national development. Hitherto, the Northern part of Nigeria was adjudged one of the safest regions in the country before the emergence of this group. However, their activities have made it to be the most vulnerable region where innocent lives are killed and where the government failed in its response to providing solutions to the crisis (Suleiman, 2018). The insurgency has lasted for a decade and has consumed several lives of innocent people, displaced many others and property worth billions of Naira lost. Government has deployed both kinetic and non-kinetic methods of tackling the menace but it persisted.

Theoretical Explanation

The research will employ the use of two theories; political economy theory and relative deprivation theory. The political economic theory of Adam Smith is an interdisciplinary branch of social sciences that focuses on the interrelationships among individuals, government and public policy. It focuses on direct distribution of a finite number of resources in a way that is beneficial for the greatest number of individuals. In essence the wealth of nations provides the earliest comprehensive account of market society as a decentralized well governed system in which prices coordinate the efficient allocation of resources in a competitive economy. The central argument is that insurgency has brought about serious threats to the economy and insecurities to human existence in Nigeria. It has been argued that the main factor that is responsible for the high level of insecurity in northern Nigeria is political corruption. Oladimeji, 2014 argued that despite Nigeria's \$5.4 billion security budget for 2014, selfish interest and corruption prevents the leaders from supplying even the basics as bullets and vehicles for transport for going up to the front lines to combat the struggle against Boko Haram.

“The N2.41 trillion to security and defense is more than the entire allocations to education and health. Statistically, the 7% allocation to education and 5% allocation to health, put together, is less than the 15% allocated to security” (Seye, 2021).

The activities of Boko Haram could also be explained within the relative deprivation theory whose pioneer was Ted Gurr in the 1970s. Gurr argued that dissatisfaction arises when the government always ignores the pressing demands of the people to the extent the people come to realize they will not get what they should have. These

dissatisfactions gradually turned to frustration thereby leading to rebellion against the source of the deprivation (Gurr, 1970). He argued that poverty and social inequalities occasioned by differentials in income which is caused by wide inequalities in countries are the main causes of “*violent political movements in general and terrorism specifically. Religion only provides the fault lines along which inter-group identity and resource competition occurs*” (Agbiboa, 2013, 150)

Economic Impact

Nigeria operates a rentier system of economy which is expressed in its reliance and dependence on oil sector as the major source of the country’s revenue and formulation of policies that are influenced and determined by the dynamics in the oil sector with utter negligence to the development of other sectors (Agbo and Okoli, 2017). At independence, the country sourced its foreign exchange earnings from the sales of agricultural outputs to the world markets which include cocoa, rubber, timber and cotton, among others. With the discovery of oil, the attention was shifted to petro-dollar obtained from the extraction and sales of crude oil. The extent to which Nigeria’s development pace is relatively crawling has often been connected with the phenomenon of the resource curse which has to do with the Nigerian state rentier character, that weakens accountability for development which paves way for political actors to be capable of maneuvering government institutions to retain and sustain weak governance. The main factor for understanding the stumbling block hindering development and breeding unsuccessful governance is the impact of the neopatrimonial nature, post colonialism and political elite’s in terms of allocation of societal resources, revenues and resource-control under the basis of democracy. (Gbyega et-al, 2011).

Ideally, under a federal system of government, the units of government federal, states and local government should have the right of taxing powers to gather enough revenue to manage their affairs, administration and to provide public services to their people no unit should depend heavily on another for its finances. One major problem of the Nigerian federal system is the heavy dependence of both the state governments and local governments on the revenue allocated to them by the federal government, that is the revenue gathered by the federal government alone. (Onuigbo and Emi, 2015). Thus, there are persistent agitations on the need to review the sharing formula in favor of states and local governments, especially from the oil producing states, in order to reflect true fiscal federalism, despite the fact that there is no evidence of judicious utilization of allocated resources. The agitation will continue so long as the leaders are not held accountable by the followers. The Nigerian elite see the country’s wealth as a mere national cake meant to be shared and diverted to serve their private interests at the expense of the citizens’ welfare.

The activities of Boko Haram have effects on the economy and the people (Awojibi, 2014). The impact of the insurgency as captured by Suleiman (2018) ranges from declining trade and commercial activities, dwindling internally generated revenue, decrease in industrial output, demographic shift, job loss and a low output in agricultural activities which hallmarked the region in the past. Borno, Yobe and Adamawa states worst hit by the insurgency are known to produce cowpeas, rice, millet, tomatoes, onions, yams, corns and sorghums, livestock and fish. Farmers are afraid to go to their farms as a result of fear of being attacked. A lecturer in the University of Maiduguri Abba Gambo said, “No one can move a kilometer due to fear, most of them have fled their homes.”

According to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugee, more than 1.5 million people, mostly farmers, have been forced to flee their homes as Boko Haram intensified its insurgency in the past year. Also, the trade routes between the north east and the south are disrupted, hence making transportation and distribution of food very difficult. The Central Bank of Nigeria stated that the disruptions on food distribution because of the insurgency are among the largest inflationary risks faced by the economy. Eme, Onyishio and Uche (2014) noted that Boko Haram has stopped the flow of beans. They further noted that two food items, pepper and tomatoes in particular, which mostly comes from the North and are used in most homes, are in short supply. Consequently, the prices of food have skyrocketed. According to Osagie (2013:24) “A basket of pepper which was sold at the rate of N4000-N5000 (depending on the quality of the pepper) is now being sold for N8000 including transport charges as well and people who are lucky to get it earn little or no gain after they have been sold in retails.” If these violent attacks by the sect continue, it will plunge the country into a state of chronic food insecurity which is persistent and long-termed. The prices of food will continue to rise making it difficult for individuals and households to purchase sufficient and nutritious food for a healthy life. This will put individuals at the risk of hunger, starvation, malnutrition and even death. Malnutrition rates are high in areas worst hit by the insurgency and conflicts in general.

Political Impact

The situation is similar in other sectors of the national economy without any sign of attaining any positive change in the near future. The question one asks is why Nigeria has been in this precarious situation since independence? Many scholars and analysts attempted to answer this question. In his book, “The Trouble with Nigeria” published in 1984, Chinua Achebe, pointed out that the issue with Nigeria is clearly and simply “a failure of leadership”. He further posited that there is absolutely nothing wrong with the Nigerian state. Nigerian land, water, air, climate and anything else is perfectly in good condition, except the unwillingness and incapability of the leaders who failed to meet up to their responsibilities and their unpatriotic nature to lay a good personal example, which is the hallmark of true leadership. (Achebe, 1984)

Bad leadership, unpatriotic nature and selfish interests of political elites which is characterized by corruption and nepotism is one major problem facing Nigeria and the North-East geopolitical zone. The insurgency has been blamed with the problem which threatens the unity of one Nigeria as a country. Many notable individuals have argued that the main factor that is responsible for the high level of insecurity in northern Nigeria is political corruption. Oladimeji, 2014 argued that “despite Nigeria’s \$5.4 billion security budget for 2014, selfish interest and corruption prevents the leaders from supplying even the basics as bullets and vehicles for transport for going up to the front lines to combat the struggle against Boko Haram”. (Oladimeji, 2014)

Daniel Agbibo (2013), in his Article “Why Boko Haram Exists”, argues that one of the fundamental domestic factors that precipitated Nigeria’s hegemonic decline is internal security, especially the insurgent Boko Haram which started in 2009. He explained using the relative deprivation theory, that most of the recruits have deep-seated grievances that revolve around socio-economic and political discrimination. Thus, membership of the group draws largely from the impoverished and under privileged section of the society. For a country like Nigeria that claims regional Hegemony, abject poverty, corruption by the elites and bad governance does not augur

well for the country. Whereas the original intention of Boko Haram (BH) was to establish strict Islamic legal system called Shari'a, which entails wresting power from the existing ruling elites in order to change the status quo; but deteriorating social services and infrastructure, educational decay, youth unemployment combine to exacerbate tension which the Boko Haram architects exploit to recruit members (Agbiboa, 2013).

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Social Impact

Nigeria has a history of religious chauvinism often orchestrated by elites in their quest for power which often resulted in religious crises with attendant loss of lives and property. It is on record that the first two decades after independence were occasioned by pressures and clashes, especially amongst the different religious sects in the country which resulted in the situation where many lives were destroyed and properties worth billions of Naira were lost. In Kano, for instance, large scale incidents of violence took place between 1953 and 2004. Such troubles have been repeating since the 1980, Maitatsine protests. There were also ethno-religious conflicts which have been the hallmark of inter-group relations in Nigeria, especially in the Middle-belt zone. (International Crisis Group, 2010). Indeed, the country has recently been entangled in a number of security challenges which include militancy, pipeline vandalism, piracy and cultism in the South-South, activities of separatists groups in the South-East, arms banditry in the North-West, farmers and herders' conflict in the North-Central, and Boko Haram insurgency in the North-East. These security challenges have a far reaching impact on the affected geopolitical zones in particular and the country at large.

On the social aspect, Boko Haram group has garnered sufficient recruitment and sophistication in organization and access to weapons to engage the military apparatus of Lake Chad Basin Commission countries. The Boko Haram insurgency has not only dislocated social and economic activities of these states but also resulted to the cause of at least 20,000 deaths, the enslavement of thousands of girls and women, the force conscription of thousands of boys and young men into the insurgency, the flight of at least 2.2 million internally displaced persons (Ibrahim and Hamman-Obels 2017).

In Nigeria, the activities of Boko Haram elements have been responsible for the loss of thousands of lives, displacement of millions to become Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) and refugees respectively. The group also engaged in kidnapping, cattle rustling, armed robbery and other criminal ventures to raise funds for their heinous activities. Additionally, Boko Haram sect is responsible for the worsening humanitarian situation in the North-Eastern States of Adamawa, Borno and Yobe. Thus, between 2014 and 2019, for instance, the dreaded group killed an estimated 31,000 people thereby making it one of the world's deadliest armed groups (Relief Web, 2019). The humanitarian crisis in the Area rose from 7.1 million in 2019 to 7.9 in 2020. Similarly, 3.8 million people are estimated to be food insecure in 2020 due to the activities of Boko Haram sect (OCHA, 2020).

3. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

3.1 Research Design

For the purpose of this study, the researchers adopted both secondary and primary sources of data collection. The secondary source includes textbooks, journals, online materials, and newspapers. The primary source involves the interview of selected key informants that are relevant to the study. Group-focused discussion with the Internally Displaced Persons was also utilized in the study. The purposive research technique was adopted for the study. The study area includes the states of Borno, Adamawa and Yobe in North Eastern Nigeria. Thus, this study is a Descriptive Study.

3.2 Population of the study

The population of the study is the Northeast zone of Nigeria which comprises about one third of Nigerian landmass. It lies within 9°-14°N and 8°-15°E. Politically, the zone comprises Borno, Yobe, Adamawa, Taraba, Gombe, and Bauchi. Most of these states share boundaries with international communities like Cameroun, and the Chad Republics. The region's population is made up of both sedentary arable farmers and migratory herdsmen; there are about 200 ethnic groups in the zone. The region has an estimated population of 23.6 Million (14% of Nigerian population) (2012) and a land area of about 280, 419 square kilometers, 33% of Nigeria's landmass (Worldmoters, 2017). The region is abundantly endowed with human and natural resources and is a major producer of livestock, food and cash crops, such as sorghum, millet, cotton, groundnuts and rice. It also houses population with diverse cultures, coupled with significant deposits of many solid minerals. The majority of the people of the North East Region are peasant farmers, with a large number of the population engaged in livestock rearing and fishing. The region's population is predominantly Muslim, members of the Hausa-Fulani and Kanuri. This research will specifically look into the areas that are mostly hit by the insurgency which includes Borno, Adamawa and Yobe states respectively.

3.3 Data Collection

The research work depends on the primary and secondary sources of data collection which help in enhancing the validity of the work. The secondary data was sourced from both library and archive materials such as journals, books, bulletins, you-tube clips, newspapers, etc. Also, secondary data will be sourced from the data of the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA), State Emergency Management Agency (SEMA), United Nations' Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs

(UNOCHA), International Organization for Migration (IOM), Nigerian Defence Headquarters, reports and online data Sources, etc. Some of the established socio-economic indicators of the National Bureau of Statistics were adopted in the study.

The primary source of data was generated through the adoption of purposive research technique; that involve key informant interview with some selected individuals who are very useful to the study, such as eminent scholars in the field of terrorism, military personnel, members of the Boko Haram, members of the communities affected by the Boko Haram crisis, IDPs, career officers in the National Emergency Management Agency, Ministry of Trade and Investment, Ministry of Finance, career officers at the International Organization for Migration (IOM), traditional rulers, media experts, politicians, among others. The study contains ten (6) selected key informants from the academics across Nigeria and ten (5) selected key informants from the military across the 'BAY' states in the North East. Six (6) prominent politicians were selected for an in-depth interview. Three (3) prominent traditional rulers were also selected for an in-depth interview, while four (4) career officers from the International Organization and the National Emergency Management Agency were selected for the interview.

For the focus-group discussion session the researchers also visited different IDP Camps with the help of research assistance, where the application of non participant observation and focused group discussion were utilized to generate firsthand information from IDPs across the region. There were five group-focused discussions in four selected IDP camps in Borno, EL-MISKIN camp, Muna camp, custom house, and Al jigtaf camp. However, the data collection under this study is also hinged on Jeffrey's (2004) submission on four basic types of primary sources of information on terrorism (1) autobiographies, (2) "incident reports," (3) hostage experiences with terrorists and victims, and (4) firsthand accounts of policy implementation. In general, the closer the researchers are to sources of information, the greater will be the potential for reliability.

3.4 Data Analysis Procedures

Collected data were all subjected to substantive and extensive qualitative analysis through the instrumentality of interpretive and thematic analyses. The analyses were based within the contexts of the research questions. The research was hinged on these methods for the purpose of analyzing the data generated from the primary and the secondary sources. In essence, the approach makes use of critical reflection and analysis of the primary and secondary data collected. The secondary data constitute the bulk of the data used in this research. Again, the primary data that was generated through the purposive research method was analyzed, using the interpretive analysis. Moreover, when examining quantitative research on Boko Haram, it becomes clear that the bulk of the work has been done through the statistical analysis of the information collected through the content analyses of newspaper reports on terrorism and the information contained in the incident level databases.

4. DISCUSSIONS

The Nigerian state's sovereignty has been undermined and challenged as a consequence of the attacks made by the Boko Haram insurgents since 2009. The major causes of the Boko Haram crisis have been unveiled in this research; poverty and political schism were the major incubators of the Boko Haram crisis. The Boko Haram members were

brain washed, their minds suffered from Psyche-pathological elements of terrorism. Since from the onset of its activities in 2009, the North East has become a territory of deaths, where the inhabitants died almost on a daily basis. The North East, composed Borno, Bauchi, Gombe, Adamawa, Taraba and Yobe states, have witnessed terrible destructions and damages both in the socio-political and economic spheres most especially in the worst hit areas of Borno, Adamawa and Yobe states, where Boko Haram was initially founded. According to the records of the state emergency management agency (SEMA) the unabated crisis of Boko Haram has been responsible for 25,000 deaths, this figure was disputed by the former Governor of Borno state, Kashim Shetima, which puts the figure to a substantial 100,000. Moreover, Boko Haram insurgency has created a pool of IDPs, which was contrary to Nigeria's peaceful coexistence since after the civil war. Several organizations have published different figures on the enormous strength of the IDPs in the region. However, this research noted that 2.3 million IDPs were displaced between 2009 and 2015.

In addition to the above analysis, the study also revealed that Boko Haram has done devastating damage to the economic system of the region and Nigeria at large. Based on the socio-economic indicators, the North East is the poorest region in Nigeria. As at 2015, the pillar of the North East Economy which was Agriculture, totally collapse. This can be seen as a result of displacement of numerous farmers from their various home across the conflict areas.

Boko Haram insurgency has created a rift in both the academic and public policy spheres, it has become an issue of definitional dilemma, where it remains controversial and fluid. Many believed that, Boko Haram is solely an Islamic faction that believes that Northern Nigerian politics has been seized by a sect of corrupt and unfaithful Muslims. Therefore, the group was determined to create an Islamic state that is pure and ruled by Islamic sharia. Other studies see Boko Haram as a radical Islamic sect indulging in sectarian uprising. Throughout the existence of Boko Haram so far, it has gradually transformed and changed its nature as it has gone through several manifestations. Boko Haram's objectives are often unstable, they advance quickly and changes swiftly. It is an organization that is highly unsecured and dynamic. Boko Haram group has passed through several stages in terms of ideology, leadership and operational connectivity. Based on the findings in this literature review, it was revealed that there was a bit of Islamist extremism under the leadership of Mohammed Yusuf. His charismatic preaching spread the Boko Haram ideology to the inhabitants the region. The contentious issues that characterized the 2009 insurgency and with regards to the killing of the Boko Haram leader, resulted to the surfacing of Abubakar Shekau as the new leader of the sect. Regretably, Abubakar Shekau made Boko Haram group to become radical and brutal in carrying out all its operations, compared to their former leader. The research reviews the three major variables of the study: Social, Political and Economic impacts in the context of Boko Haram insurgency.

On the social grounds of the study, the humanitarian crisis was considered as a major event, out of a series of numerous, that is threatened the safety, wellbeing and health of populace and their communities at large. It was revealed in the reviewed literature that the incidents of Boko Haram insurgencies have been laid towards both the soft and the hard targets. The soft targets victims are now facing critical humanitarian predicaments in the North. The literature review also revealed that Nigeria is ranked as the third country in the hierarchy of countries that are facing serious humanitarian dilemma. The ranking places Nigeria after Syria and Colombia. The Boko Haram insurgency has generated a pool of Internally Displaced Persons and

Refugee crisis in the North and the neighboring countries. It was discovered in the reviewed literature that Boko Haram crisis has twin effects in the area of economy. Both direct and indirect impacts were felt by the people in the North East, the entire Northern region and the country as a whole. Many markets were brought to a standstill, the economic pillars of the hit areas, such as agriculture and fishing were completely collapsed. The Banking sector, the aviation and the entire trading activities of the region was affected. The main focal point of the Boko Haram insurgency was to create social, political and economic impacts that will be extremely difficult for the Nigerian government to contain, and to gain international recognition and audience and support of other international terrorist organizations. By all indices to some extent Boko Haram has achieved its main goals.

5. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

In conclusion, the paper critically examined the impact of Boko Haram insurgency in the frontline states of Adamawa, Borno and Yobe states respectively. At independence in 1960, Nigeria was set on the path of self-determination and national development. However, the incessant military interventions in politics have slowed the pace of the country's progress. Nevertheless, the return to full and uninterrupted democratic system of government in May 1999 was expected to usher in development and stability. Unfortunately, Nigeria has continued to grapple with issues ranging from restructuring/resource control, emergence of groups that threaten our corporate existence such as Indigenous People of Biafra (IPOB) Boko Haram/ISWAP, crime, poverty and deprivation, grand corruption and recently armed bandits. While the paper appreciated the fact that Nigeria has enormous human and material resources which if properly tapped could catalyze to development, it argued that there is no sincerity of purpose on the path of successive administration in properly solving the above challenges.

Although, there are some narratives that vested interest are hell bent to sabotage the present administration's efforts especially in the areas of security, the president and his foot soldiers must as a matter of urgency rise to the occasion to protect the lives of Nigerians. In this regards, the president must be seen not only condemning any act of lawlessness but making deliberate and conscious efforts to end the scourge. The Nigerian army and other security outfit must double its effort to contain the emerging security threats by replicating and sustaining the gains of Operation 'Lafiya Dole' and Operation 'Sharan Daji'.

It is a fact of history that development thrives in a peaceful environment. Consequently, all hands must be on deck to ensure peace and stamp out the Boko Haram terrorism, as it is inimical to sustainable national development. It is quite evident that Nigeria has not fared well in her quest for industrial and technological breakthrough since independence, and this has forced the nation to rely on importation for virtually everything, and terrorism will only worsen the situation the more. The realization that virtually all the countries that have become economically strong and stable, with a high living standard for its people, have attained substantial level of industrialization, has made it important for the government and people of Nigeria to be concerned about the low level of industrialization of the country and make concerted efforts towards arresting the downward trend. Consequently, governments at all levels would need to ensure security of lives and property in order to create the necessary

enabling environment for investment and industrial growth. Insecurity is inimical to industrialization.

Boko Haram terrorism and its cousins such as armed robbery, assassination, kidnapping, which has created palpable fear and grave sense of insecurity in the polity and undermines the country's growth and development, should be tackled with all seriousness by the government. Security agencies must be empowered, motivated and adequately mobilized to combat criminality and insecurity to the barest minimum. Also, effective legislation that will adequately punish offenders and deter potential criminals must be put in place. A situation where criminals are offered amnesty and put on bumper payroll will not only undermine state security, but also encourage more people to take into criminality with the expectation of amnesty and consequent monthly salary from the government, just for being repentant criminals an example of this is the Niger Delta Amnesty Programme and the offer of amnesty to Boko Haram insurgents.

The diversification of the sources of foreign exchange for the Nation by the present administration will go a long way in re-channeling the energy of our youths in to agriculture and mining which will in turn provide them (youth) with sources of earning a livelihood in order to dissuade them from idleness and engagement in unwholesome acts capable of threatening peace and unity of the country. The current stride to end Almajiri system of education is a laudable effort as out of school children will engaged to grow as responsible adult.

Recommendations

1. Government should provide adequate employment for the teeming youth.
2. The Northeast commission must as a matter of urgency swing into action by embarking on people oriented projects/programmes that will heal the wounds and encourage intelligent sharing. It must avoid the pitfall of Niger Delta Development Commission where contracts are signed without execution.
3. Illiteracy, they say, is a disease. Governments at all levels must make a conscious effort to educate citizens. An educated citizen should know and respect the sanctity of human life.
4. Efforts must be intensified to discourage the Almajiri system because oftentimes, these children only end up abandoned by their parents while their teachers exploit them.

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