THE NIGERIAN STATE AND STRATEGIES FOR ELIMINATING SECURITY CHALLENGES IN NIGERIA

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Abstract
The right to life is a fundamental human right that is engrave in the constitution of most independent countries. This make most sovereign state to be the most important and dominant structure within the social system. Security of life and property on the other hand has long been a part of human existence and sustenance and could be aptly viewed as freedom from threat or violence which is also known as peace. Durable peace has remained elusive in Nigeria since the country gained independence. The nature and character of the Nigerian state which has a colonial origin has led to the manifestations of insecurity and violence in different trends which include; youth involvement in crime, collective and targeted violence against individuals, groups and state institutions which have escalated over the years. The major objective of this paper is to examine the nature of Nigerian state and the high level of insecurity challenges, and strategies that can help eliminate them. Exploratory design with data drawn from secondary sources, and a qualitative method of analysis were adopted. Findings revealed that; the Nigerian state is weak and has displayed gross incapacity to deal with various security challenges plaguing the country; also, Nigeria's reliance on the use of coercion, has not been able to fully address the challenges of insecurity in the country. The paper recommends that the Nigerian state must rise up from her slumber, overcome its inherent weakness and give direction to political and economic development of the polity.

1. Introduction

At independence in Nigeria, the basis for industrialization was expanded to include an upper class that dominated the statist structure, and institutions of power and the economy. According to Tordoff (2015), The state thus became a contested terrain where fractions of the political class struggle to control political power, and appropriate resources, to foster private accumulation, peer and group interests. This made Nigeria which was supposed to consolidate on her independence and manage her emerging development prospects became entangled in the contradictions of her past and the errors of colonial history. (Tandu, 2004). This in turn, has affected one of the basic rights of the Nigerian citizens.

One of the fundamental human rights of the people in any given society as guaranteed by the state is the right to life and this is why it is always provided for in the constitution of most sovereign states, thereby making the state to be the most important and dominant structure within the social system. Security of life and property which is supposed to be the primary function of the state on the other hand has long been a part of human existence and sustenance and could be aptly viewed as freedom from danger or violence which is also known as peace. In other words, freedom from threat to life, means of livelihood, safety from bodily harm, diseases, unemployment and human right violations is security and this is guaranteed by the state as enshrined in the constitutions of most countries. Nigeria is not an exception, thus Section 14 (2) (b) of Nigeria's 1999 constitution states clearly that, "the security and welfare of the people shall be the primary purpose of the government".

However, durable peace has remained elusive in Nigeria since the country returned to civil rule in 1999 after almost two decades of continued military rule; the nation has gradually descended into chaos with unparalleled security challenges. Now, hardly a day goes by without a report of one security challenge or the other. Unfortunately, ordinary citizens as well as the economic development are at the receiving end of this wanton destruction (Adeleke, 2013). The great expectation that the state is supposed to play a key role in deepening democratic governance which would engender political stability, national cohesion and ethno-religious tolerance has not been realized, rather, insurgency and other forms of insecurities has remained an abiding feature of state–society relations. Although, insecurity is not peculiar to Nigeria alone (Aghedo & Osumah, 2014), the United States of America, the United Kingdom, Cambodia, India, Pakistan, Somalia, and other countries also experience

the challenges of insecurity on daily basis. The difference however is on the different approach adopted to mitigate it.

For Osumah (2013), political instability is not typical to Nigeria alone, however, the radicalization of Niger Delta militants and other culturally link groups and separatist movement agitating for secession in the south and the Boko Haram insurgents and kidnapping, killer herdsmen and banditry in the three geo-political zones of the north represent disturbing new trends. The growing strategic and operational effectiveness of these groups have engendered enormous human and economic costs. The wave, dynamics and sophistication of security crisis has led to very serious social consequences particularly on the economy, similarly, commercial activities have become skeletal and paralyzed in the areas worst hit by these security challenges (Obarisiagbon, & Akintoye, 2019).

The number of victims of these criminal activities are on the increase, they abound within every social class but mainly among the middle and lower strata of the society. The agencies that are supposed to manage these crises are either ill equipped, overburdened or incapacitated by the enormity of their occurrences. Nigerians are daily faced with the grim realities of being personally or communally responsible for their own peace. The responsibility for checkmating insecurity in Nigeria has always laid with the law enforcement agencies with little or no input from individuals or the civil society except where investigations are made by commissions of inquiry into the remote and immediate causes of ethno-religious conflagrations in the society (Nanji, 2015). Despite the use of force and arms by the state forces, insurgency and its growing lethality have remained a concern for both the government and the people. The ineffectiveness of brutal counterinsurgency has prompted a gradual shift from the traditional military calculus to more liberal and flexible alternatives including the use of dialogue and amnesty deals in some cases (Aghedo, 2013).

Several reasons have been touted for these patterns of insecurity including disenfranchisement resulting in social and economic inequality, high rates of youth unemployment and poverty. The government who ordinarily is charged with the protection of lives and property seems lost and incapable of doing this. In spite of the express provision of Section 14 (2)(1), of the Nigerian constitution, criminal activities and insecurity such as ritual killings, militancy, Biafra agitation, kidnapping, banditry, ethnic cleansing, herdsmen attack, oil bunkering have remained news headlines in Nigeria (Obarisiagbon, & Akintoye, 2019). The nature of the state, the behaviour of the political class, the privatization of the state

domain, the pattern of social relations and social classes have had implications for the nature, character and form of security challenges in Nigeria (Seteolu, 2005).

The focus of this paper is to critically examine the implications of the nature of Nigerian state amidst the rising level of insecurity challenges threatening the foundation of Nigeria and strategies that can help eliminate them. The paper adopted a qualitative research design that is exploratory in nature, with a heavy reliance on documentary sources of data qualitative descriptive method was used in the analysis. To achieve the stated objective, the paper is divided into seven sections namely; introduction, conceptualisation and review of related literature, classification and types of insecurity in Nigeria, causes of insecurity in Nigeria, Nigerian state and the management of security challenges in Nigeria, strategies for eliminating insecurity in Nigeria, conclusion and recommendations.

2. Conceptualisation and Review of Related Literature

2.1. The State

The state is the most complex form of human social organization and therefore requires superior attributes than other primordial organizations such as the family, the clan and the village which emerged before it. The state is a social contract that embodies the nation. Although an abstraction, the state retains the rights and privileges which are exercised by the government of the day. One of the most important privileges of the state is that of sovereignty, being the ultimate locus of political power and independence from all other external and internal political authorities. It is the responsibility of the state to advance the common good and not the good of those with political or economic advantage. The nature of the state may however be determined by its other characteristics. The state can either be called a negative state where by it focuses on the maintenance of law and order or a positive state where by it eliminates poverty, reduces illiteracy and encourages better working conditions in the society. As state institutions are parts of the super-structure determined by the interests of the dominant class. The state then becomes an instrument of the ruling class as defined in terms of control over the means of production and reproduction (Omoyibo, 2012).

2.2. The Nigerian State

The structure of the Nigerian state is a creation of the colonial era, which was arranged by the colonialist to debase their colonial states from productive capacities in order to export and entrenched capitalism. The productive forces were weakened and removed with no room for productive activities so that they could encourage clientele patronage on government and political positions. Soludo (2000, p.5), as cited in Omoyibo 2012, has placed this into a proper perspective when he opined that;

> in Nigeria, the excessive dependence on oil was compounded by the concentration of the commanding heights of the economy in the hands of Government. Government then became the fastest and cheapest means of making quick money, a rentier state emerged, intensifying the politics of 'sharing' rather than 'production'. This created a horde of 'rent-entrepreneur', that is 'Big men' without any productive source of livelihood except proximity to state power.

He further asserted that majority of Nigerian elite do nothing for living other than government patronage and this has led to distortion of the value system (Omoyibo (2012).

As Kukah (2000, p.218) cited in (Ojukwu & Nwaorgu, 2012), captures it, the Nigerian State, in its quest for the personalisation of the instruments of power, has sought to domesticate every area of national life, especially those areas considered to be juicy by the elite. This, he termed, the 'myownisation of power', that is, 'power becomes my own, because I am the one who has taken control'. This mentality was virtually tolerated during the periods the Nigerian State was hijacked by the military for twenty-nine years because of the peculiarity of the military institution. As Enemuo and Momoh (1999, p.74) point out, the Nigerian State, like others in the rest of Africa, underwent no qualitative and transformative restructuring at independence. Consequently, it remains, just like its colonial progenitor, an instrument of exploitation and suppression of the popular classes and a tool for primitive accumulation and class consolidation for the hegemonic groups. They argue that the few who control the State have access to all imaginable perks while the many who are excluded are victims of all forms of abuse. As a result, the struggle to attain and retain power has become a veritable war fought without restraint and with total disregard for the ethos and conventions of democracy.

Sadly, in Nigeria, the monopoly of forces is under serious challenge with the presence today of numerous groups though illegal who also operate with force and are hardly inhibited. The 'cult gangs', 'area boys', ethnic militias, unlicensed vigilante groups, and armed bandits that

operate in rural and urban areas are almost in command with little or no challenge from the state. Even the use of negotiations, amnesty and payoffs have but been able to persuade them or keep them at bay. (Adewale 2005, Pratten 2006, and Fourchard 2008). The armed operations of these groups are aided by the illicit and unrestrained flow of small arms that have given rise to all types security challenges in the country (Hazen & Horner 2007; Nnamani, 2014).

2.3. Security

Aliyu (2012) observed that until recently, most of the mainstream writings on security studies literally defined it in terms of a state's capabilities to defend its territorial integrity from threats, actual and imagined, as well as acts of aggression from other potential enemies. Thus, states have as their responsibility the building up of, maintenance and updating of their, armed forces towards achieving this goal. The ability of a state to rebuff, repel, successfully threaten an enemy removes possible or imagined threat and aggression. At the domestic level, the belief is that internal law-enforcement agencies and other instruments of domestic intelligence are all that is required for a state to be secured. However, the concept of security has been dealt with in extant literature.

2.4. Insecurity

Robert-Okah (2014) argued that insecurity is the presence of and/or apprehension of those tendencies that could undermine internal cohesion and corporate existence of the nation. For him, the inability of a state to maintain its fundamental institutions for the promotion of peace, stability and progress, as well as meet the authentic objectives of its people is insecurity. It also implies the presence or apprehension of danger to life and property, and the presence of a non-conducive atmosphere for the people to pursue their legitimate interest within the society. It is the danger of or presence of or reality of direct violence or disruption of security. It implies threat to personal or collective security, state security and security of the environment.

Beland (2005) defined insecurity "as a state of fear or anxiety stemming from a concrete or alleged lack of protection i.e. lack or inadequate freedom from danger". Here we mean physical insecurity which is the most visible and loud form of insecurity, and it serves into many other forms of insecurity such as financial insecurity and communal insecurity. Nigeria

dispite all these has not been able to develop a reliable security policy in the face of serious, inauspicious, internal security challenges. Onoja (2014) opined that insecurity is peoples' relative feeling of the presence of economic, political, social, cultural and psychological fear.

Agbekaku, P. E., Itakpe, L. & Okoye, U. (2016) noted that insecurity on the other hand, is the antithesis of security. That is, insecurity is a state of being subject to danger or threat. However, because of the very many ways in which insecurity has been described in association with the various ways in which it affects individuals. In describing insecurity, Adagbabiri & Okolie (2018), include: wants to safety, danger, hazard, uncertainty; want to confidence, doubtful, inadequately guarded or protected, lacking stability, troubled, lack protection and unsafe. All of these have been used by different people to define the concept of insecurity. These different descriptors however run into a common reference to a state of vulnerability to harm and loss of life, property or job.

3. Insecurity in Nigeria

Insecurity in Nigeria is a multi-headed dragon that to deal with it as a single whole is everyday getting impossible. Regarding the nature and characteristics of insecurity in Nigeria, Agomuo (2013) posits that the various armed groups in Nigeria have at different eras held the nation to ransom and in each of these different periods, the groups controlled, and the nation's security agencies were incapable of domineering and dealing with them. The different Nigerian government has always reached a form of settlement with these organisations. The tendency therefore is for newer groups to rise up in violence at every point in time that the Nigerian government reaches a compromise with older or other lawless group, to demand for their needs or greed as the case may be. This is almost becoming a business or form of participating in the National larges. It is an expression of a weak security situation in Nigeria. This peace renting or peace buying acts has resulted to the peace of the graveyard like the current situation in the Niger Delta where former militants have been changed into either top level government contractors or emergency crude oil refiners in the creeks or kidnap merchants, despite an amnesty programme that still costs the government billions of Naira every year (Agomuo, 2013).

Achumba, I. C., Ighomereho, O. S. & Akpor-Robaro, M. O. M. (2013) argue further that these common descriptors point to a condition where there exists a liability to harm, loss of life, property or livelihood. Therefore, they consider insecurity to be a state of not knowing, a

lack of control, and the inability to take defensive action against forces that portend harm or danger to an individual or group, or that make them vulnerable. Some common descriptors of insecurity include; want of safety, danger, hazard, uncertainty, want of safety, doubt, inadequately guarded or protected, lack of stability, troubled, lack of protection and being unsafe. According to Agbekaku et al. (2016, p. 295), the insecurity situation in the country has led to many questionings and fears as to Nigeria deteriorating into the state of nature which according Thomas Hobbes, life was solitary, nasty, brutish and short. On the other hand, Imobighe (2003) identified threats to internal security in Nigeria to include: religious/political intolerance, management of resources, subversion and sabotage, espionage, smuggling, alien influx, armed robbery, mutiny/coup d'état, civil unrest, revolutionary insurgency.

Adeleke (2013) out lined the different forms of insecurity in Nigeria to include; for example in the South-West geo-political zone, armed robbery is prevalent especially in cities like Lagos, Ibadan, Akure and Abeokuta; in the South-South and Southeast which is the oil base of the nation, kidnapping is rampant and the activities cover every part of the zone with victims of all ages and all walks of life; in the North, robbery across the border coupled with Boko Haram insurgence is the security challenge.

4. Classification and Types of Insecurity in Nigeria

Some of these security challenges have been briefly highlighted as follows:

4.1. Fulani Herdsmen and Farmers Conflict

Tensed relationship between the herders and the settler/farming communities are not new, Pastoralist in search of grazing land for their cattle have often found themselves in dispute with farmers landowners which have turned violent. This dreadful clash presumed to be predicated by unresolved land dispute, climate change, religious and ethnic sectarianism and lack understanding have resulted in killing, internal displacement, food insecurity and extensive damage to people's properties and livestock within the affected communities, and have metamorphosed into industrial scale occurrence of civil unrest, riots, mass killing, destruction of homes believed to be driven by religious and ethnic differences.

4.2. Terrorism/Religious Extremism

Almost every region in Nigeria is in some way affected by an ongoing security threats, whether in the form of anti-state violence or in criminals waging war against citizens. Of these national security challenges, probably the most perturbing is the insurgency in the North East driven by the Islamist terrorist group, Boko Haram. The conflict has had a devastating impact on the regional economy. Before the elections in 2015, President Buhari, then a presidential candidate, made a bold promise to eradicate Boko Haram by the end of the year 2016, this is 2019, and the Boko Haram insurgency is gradually becoming intractable.

4.3. Ethno-Religious Crises: The Jos Crisis

This is another internal security threat that started as a sectarian violence but has mutated into very radical but ugly shapes in 1999. Oladoyinbo (2010) observed that the crisis in Jos, Plateau state was a very complicated one as it had ethnic, religious, socio-political and economic undertones. The Jos crisis has occasioned unimaginable confrontations, killings, bombings and other forms of violence. Many observers have argued that the root causes of the crisis were the inordinate desire by Muslims to forcefully convert Christians in the area as Muslim faithful (Nwagboso, 2010; Onifade, Imhonopi & Urim, 2013). Although many had rejected the religious and ethnic undertone of the Jos crisis and have preferred to refer to it as cultural and land disputes. The Jos crisis has claimed many lives in Nigerian and property worth millions of naira.

4.4. Niger Delta's Militancy

The inability or failure of the government, particularly during the military era, to address the environmental problems, poverty, unemployment, lack of basic amenities, etc., in the Niger Delta region, resulted in the spawning of ethnic militias of Niger Delta origin leading to the militarisation of nearly the entire region (Nwagboso, 2012). This led to the wave of insecurity that besieged the entire region and spread throughout the tentacles of power. The following are the various institutions and agencies that where raise to address these conflicts; Oil Mineral Producing Areas Development Commission (OMPADEC), Niger Delta Development Commission (NDDC) and Ministry of Niger Delta (MND). Despite these

intervention antidotes, the conflicts and insecurity in the Niger Delta region persisted (Onifade, et al., 2013).

4.5. Secessionist Movement

Avalanche of Separatists movements surfaced and picked up steam immediately Buhari came to power. However, worthy of note is the pro- Biafran movement under the umbrella of Indigenous People of Biafra (IPOB) led by self-acclaimed Director Nnamdi Kanu. The secessionist actions of the IPOB could be said to afflict national unity with hefty threats this time, the battle is against the supporters of Biafran sovereignty. The government responded to the pro-Biafra activities by launching another military drill in the region (Operation Python Dance), a one-month operation launched in December 2017 which was to restore order to the region. Instead, the heavy military presence and checkpoints antagonized people and, again, added to the feeling of distrust towards the President. Many believe Mr. President created the avenue for division through his many discriminatory body languages.

4.6. Kidnapping/Abduction

Kidnapping is the act of abducting somebody and keeping him/her as a prisoner in order to get a ransom for his/her release. In Nigeria, this took a whole new economic attraction in the South-East geopolitical zone before spreading to the Southwest and finally to the Northern part of Nigeria where it's devastating effect cannot be quantified. This new manace has been allowed to thrive in many parts of the country where prominent indigenes and residents of the states were easy targets. Kidnappers went as far as abducting school children, traditional rulers, innocent citizens while attending church services or village meetings, while travelling along the highways, and some even right inside their homes.

4.7. Banditry in the Northern part of Nigeria

The prevalence of big forests that extend across the states of the Northwest zone has facilitated the perpetration of violent acts and rural banditry by criminal gangs who use the expansive and dense forests to terrorise human settlements in the rural areas and the commuters on the highways. The bandits, mostly operating in gangs engaged in serial killings, kidnappings, robberies, rape, cattle-rustling and other forms of terrorism in states

like Zamfara, Kano, Kaduna, Katsina and recently Sokoto, with devastating consequences for the rural population.

5. Causes of Insecurity in Nigeria

Some of the factors causing insecurity in Nigeria are discussed below.

5.1. Inequality and Uneven Development

The increasing inequality and uneven development in the country are helping to fuel the insecurity situation in Nigeria. Former Ghanaian President Kuffour rightly puts it when he said that; "naturally, Imbalanced development that involves horizontal inequalities is an important source of conflict and that is costing Nigeria the opportunity to be the giant nation that it can and should be" (Udeh, Okoroafor & Ihezie, 2013). In Nigeria, the nature of its economy supports and encourages inequality. The economy is primarily raw material and oil export oriented and royalty collecting one. Because of this, a wide gulf exists between a tiny minority who have access to the oil revenues and the majority of Nigerians who continue to wallow in abject poverty (Aliyu, 2012).

5.2. Embedded Corruption

This is one social vice that is the bane of development of Nigeria despite her huge human and material resources. Corruption constitutes a run on the economy of any nation. This is the reason most governments in the world do not treat issues of corruption with kid gloves. In Nigeria, corruption seems to have defied solution despite the measures and campaign against it. Though, government has set up agencies like Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) and Independent Corrupt Practices and other related offences Commission (ICPC) as well as an enabling Act, but there is lack of political will to fight corruption. The global anti-corruption watchdog, Transparency International has consistently ranked Nigeria among the most corrupt countries in the world (Udeh, Okoroafor & Ihezie, 2013).

5.3. Weak Judicial System and Non-Prosecution of Perpetrators of Violence in Nigeria

By the Nigerian Constitution (1999), the judiciary is charged with the interpretation of the law and adjudication in civil and criminal cases. In doing this, it ensures that rules are not broken, and social order is maintained. Fukuyama (2004) noted that the weakness of the Nigerian judicial system has led to increasing impunity and dare devilry of sundry looting

and embezzlement especially of public. Unfortunately, as noted by Obarisiagbon (2017), Many of the offenders and criminals in Nigeria easily find their way home even after being arrested and prosecuted. Which is an indirect way of encouraging criminality by the Nigerian judicial system. Also important is the lack of arrest and prosecution of perpetrators and sponsors of violence which has encouraged many social deviants and their godfathers to throw caution to the wind and has continued in their crime.

5.4. Religious Fanaticism and Ethno-religious conflicts

Most religious groups in Nigeria both Islamic and Christian religion preaches peace and unity, but some religious extremist believe that violence and destruction is the only way to achieve heaven. Good example of this set is Boko Haram insurgency. Current and general state of insecurity in most part of the country today is weighted to different report of Boko Haram (Ezeoha 2011). In fact, before the advent of this dreaded religious sect, there were several instances of security crisis due to the activities of religious fanatics in the North. The maitatsine riot in Kano, Kaitungo crisis (2000), Kala-Kato violence in Bauchi State, Madala, burning of churches in Niger State in 2011 and series of arson and burning of churches in the North remains evergreen in the memories of Nigerians (Obarisiagbon & Akintoye, 2019). Suspicion and mutual distrust among the various ethnic groups as well as the major religions in Nigeria have tended to be a source of security challenges.

5.5. Poverty and Unemployment

A poor economy with high poverty and unemployment rate appears to have been the bane of the Nigerian society (Ogah, Fanimo, Ebosele & Adepetun, 2011). Every year institutions of higher learning produce many graduates who regrettably, are thrown into the labour market with no hope in sight for jobs. In an effort to keep body and soul together, some become frustrated and go into violent and criminal acts such as the "lucrative" kidnapping, militancy and armed robbery. Others have become prey to terrorists and are easily radicalized. The case of Boko Haram, IPOB and Niger Delta militancy easily come to mind. Nwagbosa (2012) on his part believes that past governments have failed to put in place measures that will reduce unemployment and poverty, which have been the major causes of insecurity in Nigeria.

6. Nigerian State and the Management of Security Challenges in Nigeria

The nature and dynamic character of conflicts in reflect the nature of the Nigerian state and have influenced the strategies used to regulate and manage such conflicts in Nigeria over the years. Indeed, the state has developed different mechanisms to manage politically motivated violence. Some of these mechanisms are summarised below.

- Nigeria relies on the constitutional method as a major strategy for resolving conflicts

- Setting up of probe panels and/or judicial commissions of inquiry

- The use of peace and reconciliatory forums and communications

- Offers of amnesty have been proffered for purposes of conflict management and to advance peace talks, as evidenced by the Niger Delta Amnesty Programme in 2009 by the Yar'Adua administration

- The use of coercion. One of the most enduring conflict-management approaches in Nigeria rests on coercion, which involves the deployment of armed forces to enforce law and order. This recourse to repression has roots in the colonial state.

- The establishment of a multi-layer communication structure for implementing National Counter-Terrorism Strategy (NACTEST) in 2014 which was reviewed in 2016.

Despite all the effort summarised above, the rate of insecurity continue to be on the increase with the Nigerian state assuming a repressive nature to sustain the dominance of the political class, its control on the expropriation and appropriation of public resources. The repressive character of the state is replicated through intimidation, harassment, politics of containment of critical opposition groups, divide and rule tactics, illegal detention of opposition leaders, cooptation strategy, arrest, detention and political assassination of critics (Okoli & Okoli, 1990). Achebe (1983) remarks about the failure of the Nigerian state which manifested in failed leadership are succinct, "the trouble with Nigeria is simply and squarely, the failure of leadership". There is nothing wrong with the Nigerian land or climate or water or air.

"Nigeria's problem", noted Achebe, "is unwillingness or inability of its leaders to rise to the responsibility, to the challenge of personal example which is the hallmark of true leadership".

Still about Nigeria, Ray Ekpu commented thus:

> All the ingredients of building a great country are present: land, water, minerals, humanity…. As far as politics and leadership are concerned, Nigeria is still a psychiatric case due in part to the haemorrhage inflicted on it by most of its leaders who have only succeeded in capturing state power (Africa Today: Jan, 2000).

In Nigeria, a large section of the people lack access to opportunities and resources to actualize their potentials. This situation breeds a class of economic marginalized people (mostly youths) who are used to perpetrate electoral violence. This group of people is enticed by the wealthy violent entrepreneurs who sponsor most of the violent political encounters. The electoral violence in Nigeria is mostly carried out by gangs whose members are recruited, financed, and sometimes, armed by state and party officials or their agents. These gangs are mostly illiterate, unemployed and poor young men, who are mobilized to attack their sponsors' rivals, intimidate members of the public, rig elections, and protect their patrons from similar attacks (Aniekwe & Kushie, 2011; Nnamani, 2014).

7. Strategies that should be adopted for eliminating Insecurity in Nigeria

The following strategies discussed below if followed to the later will definitely help in eliminating insecurity and prepare the ground for rapid national development in Nigeria.

7.1. Effective and Proactive Leadership

There is need for effective and proactive leadership with a nationalist outlook that must be inclusive and development-oriented in nature and actions. Paying lip-service to the matters of insecurity in Nigeria by the leadership is sitting on a time-bomb that may soon explode. The governance process must be erected on the pillars of sound moral values and virtues and the Nigerian people must be led by a moral leadership that will strive to secure the commitment and support of all citizens to make the Nigerian project a true success (Onifade, Imhonopi & Urim, 2013).

7.2. Good and Quality Education

Education promotes human development both at individual and collective levels and this enhances better employment and a possible exit from the world of poverty. A formidable education system leads to employment and promotes gradual exit from poverty. In recent times, education in Nigeria has become so expensive that it is unaffordable to the majority of the poor in Nigeria. It only appears that education is for the rich alone. Thereby, government should prioritize and invest more in education.

7.3. Good Governance and Economic Development

Good governance is the foundation upon which a formidable economy and sustainable security is built. Unfortunately, the idea of good governance is a mirage in Nigeria. Bad governance in Nigeria over the years has immensely succeeded in "killing" developmental process and weakening security policies. The political, economic and social well-being of Nigerian people is often largely compromised by the politicians who sing songs of change that ends up in their pocket and for their family members.

Therefore, there is need for the Nigerian state through good governance to address human security issues bordering on several areas including promotion of equitable distribution of resources and power, promotion of peace and prevention of conflict. There is equally the need to meet national economic objectives in order to ensure stability, high employment and sustainable growth as well as job creation and retention through efforts in business finance, marketing, small business development and real estate development. These actions of the Nigerian state if taken to the fullest will go a long way to help eliminate insecurity in Nigeria.

7.4. Unemployment Reduction through Job Creation

The high level of unemployment has served as a catalyst for insecurity in Nigeria over the years as most of those involves are unemployed youngsters who are willing and ready tools in the hands of the harbingers of violence. The federal government should urgently look into the problem-solving skills and creative opportunities as an alternative to fight against poverty and youth unemployment in Nigeria (Nweke & Nwachukwu, 2014). Job creation improves human security and reduces security risk and criminal behaviours. There should be public/private collaboration and resources mobilization at all the levels of government in the

country, employment would be generated, leading to poverty reduction and societal stability (Ani & Onyebukwa, 2016).

7.5. Secure and Improved Funding for an Expanded Armed Force

Nigeria spends far less on security and defence than is stipulated by organisations such as the IMF and the World Bank. Poor accountability for current security spending makes it difficult to argue for an increase. The staff strength of the defence sector of Nigeria is seriously lacking. This is grossly inadequate for a population that is estimated to be over 200 million. According to United Nations, countries need one police officer for every 450 citizens. There is the need to modernize the security agencies through capacity building in advanced training, intelligence sharing, advanced technology, logistics, motivation and change of orientation and proper funding. This will enhance the operational capabilities of the security agencies by identifying avenues that would enable them respond appropriately to internal security challenges and other threats.

7.6. Inter-Agencies Collaboration of Security and Intelligence Agencies

The Inter-agencies collaboration of security and intelligence agencies has to be further encouraged such as National Intelligence Agency (NIA), State Security Services (SSS), Directorate of Military Intelligence (DMI), Defence Intelligence Agency (DIA) and such others should be equipped in all ramifications to be able to cope with contemporary security challenges.

7.7. Tackling the Hydra Headed Monster called Corruption

Successive governments in our nation had always been in the business of fighting corruption, through the instrumentality of Independent Corrupt Practices and Allied Commission (ICPC), Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC), Budget Monitory and Price Intelligence Unit which handles a new process of contract award, otherwise known as due process, Code of Conduct for Public Officers, which prescribes standards for behaviour of public servants (FGN, 2007). However, all the aforementioned policies has not been able to live up to expectation because such remedies alone can hardly cure the malady of corruption that has eaten so profound into the composition of the Nigerian state.

Therefore, the existing order of fighting corruption selectively must change and yield a place to the new structure of a holistic approach of dealing with the menace. Attitudes must experience a change. Values of life must also change. Private property should cease to be the symbol of status and power. The acquisitive and greedy society must give way to a communal society which should believe in equitable distribution of wealth, justice, fairness and the creation of a conducive environment for all and sundry to meet their aspiration within the ambit of the law.

7.8. The Role of Civil Society

Due to inability of government to provide adequate security, there is need for civil society to advance the importance of security in Nigeria. With active involvement of civil society in security management, it is most likely that we could have less violence, human right abuses and social injustice. They have to play the roles of critic, catalysts and advocates of public interest. The civil societies are most likely to raise public awareness on disastrous effects of insecurity on the Nigerian society.

7.9. The Roles of Religious Organizations

Religious organizations in Nigeria can play very prominent roles to ensure security in the country since their teachings are the basis of value development in the modern world. The role of values cannot be overemphasized since values govern behaviours. Where social values and norms governing human rights in both private and public places are distorted, violated and comprised, the people and government live in atmosphere of instability and insecurity (Clifford, 2009). If every religion can tolerate one another, religious crisis is likely to be mitigated. The teaching of good morals by clerics has also been stressed as a panacea to the current insecurity posed to the country by such outlaws as the Boko Haram sect members and militants in the Niger Delta (Abisoye, 2012).

8. Conclusion and Recommendations

Notwithstanding efforts of the different law enforcement agencies, various leadership in Nigeria, social and economic polices that have been implement by successive administration in the fourth republic, Nigeria has remained a foot-dragger in social, economic and political developments. Subsequently, political instability, abject poverty, acute youth unemployment, heightened crime rate, poor health prospects, widespread malnourishment has been the main

features of Nigeria's political economy. The manifestations of insecurity and violence in different trends include youth involvement in crime, collective and targeted violence against individuals, groups and state institutions which have escalated over the years. The responsibility for checkmating insecurity in Nigeria has always laid with the Nigerian state, the government and her law enforcement agencies with little or no input from individuals or the civil society except where investigations are made by commissions of inquiry into the remote and immediate causes of ethno-religious conflagrations in the society. The paper has made an attempt to examine the effect of the nature and character of the Nigerian state on the various security challenges facing Nigeria, the efforts the government have put in place and the strategies we believed that if they are well implemented to the later will in the long run help to eliminate the myriads of insecurities bedevilling the country.

The paper thereby recommends amongst others that the political and other public institutions in Nigeria need to be strengthened and encouraged in order for them to play their respective role effectively. Especially the electoral institution so that patriotic and scrupulous leadership that will be the true representative of the people will emerge and strengthened the Nigerian state to be able to live up to her expectation. Also, as a country with an established history of communal unrest, Nigeria must invest and reinvest in government-led initiatives for peace and conflict management at the federal and state and community levels.

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