

## INSECURITY AND ECONOMIC LOPSIDEDNESS IN NIGERIA

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### **Abstract**

*The policy somersault and insecurity in Nigeria are militating factors for improved business investment and sustainable development. The assessment of the level and aspect of insecurity which was founded on secondary data among writers in diverse places as stated in their remarks, also on tangible signals of insecurity occurrence in diverse zones of Nigeria, specified that the insecurity contest in the nation is colossal and multifaceted and may continue so, if the condition remains persistent. Therefore, there is the need to develop a harmless business arena that consents for real business activities and a sustainable economic growth process. The models in managing security suggested to realize this, are intended at fighting the inventors and perpetuators of conditions of insecurity, and concurrently addressing and eradicating the avenues of discontent and annoyance which spur security gaps and the participation of all stakeholders both in business organizations, religious groups, capacity-government, civil society, communities and individuals- to supply proficiency and information that are required to ensure a nontoxic environment.*

**Keywords:** Business, Security, Stakeholders, Sustainable development.

### **Introduction**

The state has the sanction of security to ensure she exists in order (Omoyibo and Akpomera2013). Incidentally, government on this constitutional responsibility has failed to provide a secured and safe environment for lives, properties and the conduct of business and economic activities. Currently, Nigeria is witnessing an extraordinary insecurity level, which has continued to threaten the nation's security architecture and has in turn pumped enormous funds of the budgetary allocation into it (Achumba and Akpor, 2013).

At the heart of the internal insecurity crisis in Nigeria are two critical issues. First, is the seeming inability of the state to meet up with the challenges of internal security management. Since the return of democracy in 1999, Nigerians have witnessed, on a daily basis, an upsurge of factors of insecurity that threaten their peaceful coexistence despite the assurances of the government to ensure their safety and bring to justice the

perpetrators of various heinous crimes (Adesegun and Olumide, 2015). Equally linked to this problem is that while there appears to be enough organizations meant to look after the country's security, there is still clamour for new ones like Nigerian Peace Corps whose enabling law the President has refused to assent to. Secondly and as a corollary, is the increasing participation of armed non-state actors such as vigilante groups, hunters, private security companies and ethnic militias in security matters. Hence, being pervasive and is gradually eroding the monopoly of the coercive powers of the formal. Fraught with its own challenges, armed non-state actors has itself been identified as a trigger of insecurity.

2017 official gazette of the State of Peace and Security in Africa, in 2016, a total of 17,539 violent events took place in the continent. A total of 8050 conflict-related fatalities and 5098 migrant deaths were also recorded. The continent has also recorded achievements by using African centred solutions in managing armed conflict and insecurity. The insecurity situation in Africa as argued by Nnoli (2006) points to the collapsed character of the state which is caused by the factors of political exclusion, economic marginalisation and social discrimination as the most serious impediment to security. Due to this fact, redesigning the security architecture of most African states because most of them are engrossed in the struggle for survival is not met.

The economic landscape in Nigeria as stated by Akindiyo (2014), has been shattered by the prevalent twin evil of crime. The failure of the successive administration in Nigeria to adequately address issues of unemployment, poverty and unequal distribution of wealth among ethnic nationalities, decisively resulted to agitation anger and violent crimes against the Nigerian state by some groups and individual. Akindiyo (2014) and Otto and Ukpere (2012), since the advent of the present democratic dispensation, raw forms of violence such as militancy, kidnapping for ransom, bombing innocent people, pipeline vandalization, armed robbery and destruction of government properties. Gleditsch and Theisen (2016) state that territorial safety covers crucial dimensions, viz: Food security, Community security, Economic security, Personal security, Environmental security, Health security, Poetical security. In every area making up Nigeria, conflicts in the mode of ethno-religious crisis have reached its crescendo. These crisis majorly have become disparaging social features bullying the peace and stability (Eme and Onyishi, 2011).

### **Economic lopsidedness and Insecurity**

After six decades Nigeria is still perceived as one of the poorest nations globally, also ranks low in all socio economic pointers namely access to water, death rate, life expectancy, poverty rate, mortality rate, and crime rate, and regarded as a third world country developing. Nigeria is a classic illustration of an oxymoron, amidst abundance of both human and natural resources remains poor. This setting has added to security tasks that have affected Nigeria since independence with dire implications for socio-economic growth. There is no nation that can achieve socio-economic development in an environment of socio and physical insecurity. The increasing challenge of insecurity in Nigeria has also been linked to failure of leadership to deliver good governance, and secure the welfare of persons on the principles of freedom, equality, and justice. The governing leaders are dependent, parasitic, mal-administration, and very corrupt in nature be it the military or democratic era (Ali, 2013).

### **National Security**

This is the capability of a government to maintain law and order among its citizen Nwama, (2015). Nigeria faces a daunting task currently over internal security. Internal conflicts, including religious, ethnic and economic, have had debilitating effects on the economy, most notably by scaring investors from certain parts of the country. Even though insecurity of lives and properties had become noticeable following the civil war and the subsequent military regimes which directly intensified urban violence, the recent upsurge of violence and insurgency in the country heightens the necessity to holistically address the continuous reasons of social tension as a risk factor to an investment destination (Ezeoba, 2011).

### **Price of Insecurity to the Economy of Nigeria**

Globally, the rankings of terrorism in 2020, shows Nigeria ranking 1st in Africa and 3rd worldwide, mainly because of Boko Haram, bandits and herdsmen attacks. At least 26 states are currently undergoing violence and turmoil from these groups. These vicious actions exist together with south-south rattles among cults and militant aimed at oil expatriate and facilities.

**Level of crime in Nigeria 2012 to 2020**

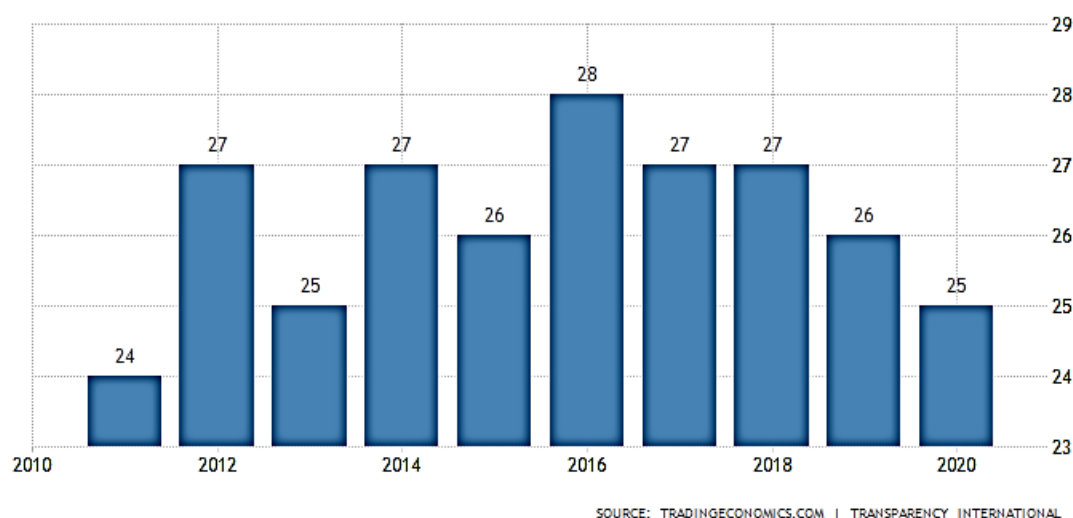
<b>Year</b>	<b>Theft</b>	<b>Armed Robbery</b>	<b>Kidnapping</b>	<b>Fraud</b>
2012	58254	3754	1255	7927
2013	81592	5618	2120	10234
2014	70462	7778	2117	9134
2015	66248	6994	2136	9508
2016	74578	6284	6408	28596
2017	92222	6222	7650	28740
2018	83802	8589	6222	57480
2019	66548	6981	6000	19160
2020	82579	3020	1972	7,195

Source: Trading economics

**Nigeria Corruption Rank**

The Corruption Perception Index (CPI) 2020 report published by Transparency International indicates that Nigeria occupies the 149<sup>th</sup> place of the 180 countries plotted and of 100 points had 25. Presently, Nigeria is seen in West Africa as the second most corrupt country followed by Guinea-Bissau in the sub-region. In 2019, Nigeria was placed 146<sup>th</sup> scoring 26 points of 100 points. This ranking in Nigeria has consistently declined in the last four years.

The CPI ranking presently shows that Nigeria is worse off than she was in 2018 with 27 points and 144<sup>th</sup> placed out of 180 countries. Few countries ranging to about 12 countries are more corrupt than Nigeria in Africa while the countries in Africa seen as the most corrupt are Somalia and South Sudan. Very few countries have been declared less corrupt in the world by CPI namely Finland, Denmark, Germany, New Zealand, Singapore, Norway, Sweden, Luxembourg, Switzerland,.



**Fig 1: Corruption Perception Index for Nigeria**

Figure 1 revealed that Nigeria declined to 25 Points in 2020 from 26 Points in 2019. Transparency International conducts the ranking in countries hinged on the level of corrupt practices of their public sector on a scale of 0 (highly corrupt) to 100 (very clean).

### **Nigeria GDP Growth Slows to 1.9% in Q1**

The economy of Nigeria expanded 1.9 percent year-on-year in the first quarter of 2018, easing from an upwardly revised 2.1 percent growth in the previous period. It is the fourth consecutive quarter of expansion, as the oil sector continued to rise while the non-oil output growth slowed. The oil sector grew 14.7 percent year-on-year in the first quarter of 2018, accelerating from 11.2 percent expansion in the prior period. The country produced 2.0 million barrels of crude oil per day, up from 1.75 mbpd in the same period a year earlier. Hence, the oil sector accounted for 9.6 percent of the GDP compared to 8.5 percent a year ago.

### **Nigeria’s business environment**

Strong institutions provide codes of conduct and governing behaviour; establish and abide by rules of the game and engagement; constitute systems of effective collaboration and cooperation; set, manage and enforce rules and regulations, and the prescribed ways and means of how things are done; achieve high levels of adherence and compliance with rules; and are effective as frameworks for the “production or distribution of public or private goods, or the mobilisation of prized values or resources” (Ikelegbe2016). Strong institutions institute good governance systems—systems of high productivity, performance and morale; systems of merit, discipline, efficiency, integrity, fairness and equity; and are fairly insulated from political interference and primordial values.

Quite unfortunately, there is prevalence of institutional failure and breakdown in Nigeria’s government and private sectors. This manifests in disregard for standard ways of doing things; impropriety of behaviour and conduct; dominance of private and primordial interests and personalized contacting; lack of fairness, equity and justice; disregard for laws, guidelines and processes; excesses such as impunity and indiscipline; and excessive political interference. These have denied public institutions of competent and effective staffing; organisational capacity and productivity; motivated workforce; competent and effective management and political leadership; institutional integrity and legitimacy; public confidence and trust; positive impacts and performance; and desired outcomes, peace, order and social cohesion. At societal level, weak institutions manifest in the failures of social compact, cohesion and capital; rupture of social values and disregard for rules, laws and due processes; indiscipline, lawlessness, impunity and malpractices; breakdown in the

standards of merit, fairness, justice, integrity, ethics, honour and responsibility; rising levels of socio-political rascality and vagrancy; and gradual loss of respect for life and humanity (Ikelegbe 2016), hence, thickening the levels of criminality, conflicts and violence, and weaken the very social basis and capacity for managing security and order.

### **The Security Strategic Management Approach and Models**

This approach is a combination of two models, viz, the two way approach model, and the composite approach model. The two-way approach model aims at combating the creators and perpetrators of situations of insecurity, and simultaneously addressing and removing the causes or sources of dissatisfaction or discontentment which cause security breaches. The composite approach model aims at involving all stakeholders, both in public and private capacity - government, communities, business organizations, civil society, religious groups and individuals – to supply resources, expertise and information that are required to ensure a safe environment.

The two-way approach model, this model is two part model. One part is to remove the factors which cause people to engage in acts of insecurity, and the other part is to combat the perpetrators of insecurity situation. The first part considers and entrenches all of the solution methods from the various views presented above, under solution to insecurity in Nigeria. The second part is to combat the criminals both with the long arm of the law and the force of arms. This is meant to stop or prevent criminals from creating and perpetuating insecurity. It involves being prepared at all times and being proactive, and pursuing them wherever they are. The objective is to protect innocent citizens from harm. A major strategy is to identify and map out black spots on physical insecurity. This requires vigilance on our community hinged on agencies charged with security, particularly with terrorist attacks of the Boko haram, Bandits, killer herdsmen and kidnapers.

### **Government Functions**

Although, the Nigerian government has resolved to adopt the use of Computer-based Closed Circuit Television cameras in public places especially in Abuja to monitor and record events that take place in a particular location, (Ogunleye, et al, 2011) have argued that government should make sure the scheme is well managed for it to be effective, the cameras should be recording, with good quality images, and any incident caught on camera should be followed up by the appropriate authority. Computer-based Closed Circuit Television cameras are cameras used to monitor and record images of what takes place in specific locations in real time. The images collected are sent to a monitor and recorded on video tape or as digital information. It is a surveillance technique that aims to prevent crime by increasing the perceived risks of potential offenders in engaging in criminal acts. They can be very effective in maintaining security through incident reduction or post-incident analysis, to act as a deterrent or to provide valuable support to security.

### **Business Organizations role**

To be successful overtime, a business must be in tune with its environment. Environmental changes have significant effect on operation of business and sustainability. Due to insecurity in the nation today, we emphasize that apart from the government, businesses also have a role to play. According to Elumelu (2004) business enterprises can contribute towards the improvement of security and safety in the nation through long-term strategy of creating and providing jobs especially for the unemployed youths and cooperating with regulatory authorities and security agencies in the fight against crime. Apart from that, business organizations must be socially responsible. Socially responsible firm that does not abuse the host community, may never experience any rudiments of insecurity. The change that the society expects of businesses and what management believes is its role in society must be given priority by management. As such, businesses should not pursue profit only but should also consider social needs. It includes both ethical and discretionary responsibilities (Dionco-Adetayo and Adetayo, 2003). Also, problems of pollution, product safety, job discrimination should be taken seriously. Multi-national companies and large businesses can also assist the government in sponsoring the provision of traffic lights on major streets in our cities and the electrification of towns and villages especially where they are operating. In addition, business owners, managers and

employees should be security conscious and should deliver security through their everyday actions and decisions.

### **Civil organizations**

It is the aggregate of non-governmental organizations and institutions that manifest interests and will of citizens or individuals and organizations in a society which are independent of the government. The incompetency on the side of leadership in providing adequate security, Ebohon, and Ifeadi, (2012) are of the opinion that Nigeria should move from a state-centric to a human security paradigm, move from an elite centered to a people centered security management approach and involve civil society in the state security project. There is need for civil society to advance the importance of security in Nigeria. With the active involvement of civil society in security management, we should have less violence, human rights abuses and social injustice. One of the roles of civil society is to convince other stakeholders that action is better than inaction and that insecurity does not have to be accepted as a necessary evil. They have to play the roles of critic, catalyst and advocate of those interests. It is also essential to raise public awareness, to awaken society to the disastrous effects of insecurity and to get across the message that fighting it is possible. In many countries, it is the watchdog and the vanguard to warrant that other stakeholders respect their boundaries. They also play a major in the area of raising public awareness as well as in lobbying for concrete change or in helping to initiate and carry out a process of reforming national integrity.

### **Religious Organizations**

Nigeria recognizes two main religion and they have a key role in ensuring security. The teachings of religious groups are one of the bases of value development in the contemporary world. It is a known fact that values govern behaviour. Where social values and norms concerning fundamental human right in have been distorted and violated, the citizen and government tend to live in an instability and insecurity sphere (Clifford, 2009). If every religious group can tolerate the other, then religious crisis will be abated. In addition, worship centres should not be used as avenue for instigating members to be violent or to engage in activities that can affect the peace of the country.

### **Community Role**

Noteworthy is the fact that security management can be significantly aided by the cooperation of local communities. Depending on our perceptions and sincere feelings as regards our collective responsibilities towards lasting peace in Nigeria, communities should strive to live peacefully with other communities. The community has to have an eye and ears on the ground for strange people around their localities to ensure that criminals don't have easy access to their communities.

### **Individual's role**

Security should be seen as everybody's business. Security consciousness must be the watchword of individuals and always be ready to report any misguided movement to the relevant authorities. Thereby, exhibiting a huge level of security responsiveness and vigilance. Individuals understand their communities better and any report of suspicious behaviour or activity might lead to actionable intelligence leading to disruption of attacks. Through the early detection of impending conflicts and its prevention, it helps in creating an enabling atmosphere to operate in and for business to thrive.

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