Political Insecurity and Development Challenges in Nigeria

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Abstract
Nigeria since her political independent in 1960 has been battling with series of development challenges. This paper examines political insecurity as one of the major challenges facing development in Nigeria. The paper critically examined how political insecurity undermined the development of Nigeria. The paper explained the concepts of political insecurity, development, and how they are intertwined. The paper examined the causes of political insecurity and its challenges to development of Nigeria. The paper adopted secondary data as its methodological approach. The paper reveals that injustices, leadership failure as a result of bad governance, and political deprivation are responsible for the political insecurity which is a challenge to development in Nigeria. Therefore, the problem of political insecurity can be addressed through proactive and sustained policies by leaders in government.

Key Words: Political Insecurity, Development, Governance

INTRODUCTION

Security is an essential component in the life of any society that desire to develop. Nigeria since her political independent in 1960 has been battling with series of development challenges. This was as a result of insecurity in the country. Political insecurity can be described as those activities of individual persons or group of individuals which result to undermining of the development of the country (Jimoh and Ojalabi, 2006:5).

The political insecurity Nigeria is facing ranges from civil war, military intervention in politics, political assassination, insurgencies, terrorism, ethno-religious conflicts, Niger Delta militancy, the Boko Haram, Herdsmen and farmers clashes, kidnapping, and electoral and post-election violence (Alfa, 2012:4). Kalu, Ajuzie, & Chukwu (2018) argued that insecurity challenges facing development in Nigeria is as a result of poverty, mass youth unemployment, inequality, bad governance and leadership failure which inevitably generate conflicts that engender political insecurity in the political system of Nigeria (Koku, 2017:98).

Similarly, Adejumobi, (2001) opinioned that "lack of commitment to the virtues of honesty, equality, social justice, accountability, trust, peaceful coexistence among co-ethnics and respect for human rights" has contributed to political insecurity in Nigeria.

In order to address the issue of political insecurity as a challenge to development in Nigeria, the paper will therefore, critically examine the causes of the political insecurity such as injustices, leadership failure, and political deprivation which are responsible for the political insecurity and recommend how political insecurity can be solved in Nigeria.

Conceptual Clarification

In order to understand what is political insecurity we have to conceptualize the two concepts of political and insecurity separately before defining political insecurity as a concept. Politics, like any other social science concepts has no general acceptable definition. Various scholars

have their own definitions. Aristotle describe politics as the control without ruining other activities, he sees man as a political animal. Therefore, politics is everywhere and political behavior is seen as part of human activity (Ujo, 2000:59). Naturally, human being cannot live in isolation; there is social interaction or interdependence, individual or group of individuals are being influenced by others. Therefore, all human beings are involved in politics in one way or the other (Omotoso, 2005:27).

According to Mclean, (1996) politics is the science of directing, administrating states or other political units. He further argued that politics is concerned about "civil government, the state and public affairs, human conflict and its resolution and the sources and exercise of power". Anifowose (2005) defined politics as the formulating and executing of governmental decision or actions. Politics can also be defined as an authoritative allocation of resources and a process of reconciliation conflicting interest in organized societies (Ujo, 2000:59). Politics is all about how agitated issues are resolved through negotiation, argument, discussion, use of force and persuasion (Anifowose, 2005:1-15) Political therefore, means the activities concerning the policy or the administration of the government (Udo, 2015:2). As a result of this we can regard all the decisions and actions of previous governments in Nigeria as political activities (Ujo, 2000:59).

To conceptualized insecurity, it is imperative to have explanation on security. The duty of government in any given societies is the protection of the country, citizens properties against attack, danger etc (Nnabugwu, 2015:266). Security therefore, is refers to government institution and processes of protecting lives and properties in any given time (ibid:267). It is as a result of this that people willingly surrendered their sovereignty to government who protect lives and properties of all. Security is seen as any means deliberately designed to relieve the threats that prevent people from carrying out their normal activities. While insecurity can be seen as a situation to be exposed to danger, anxiety, lack of protection of lives and properties. It is a state of lack of control, uncertainty, lack of stability, inadequate protection and unsafe situation (Achumba, Akpor, & Robaro, 2013:79).

Udeh, Okoroafor, & Ihezie (2013) assert that insecurity is a situation whereby a country cannot protect the citizens and their resources both within and outside the territory. Therefore, political insecurity is the inability of government to protect the civil and political rights of it citizens. From politics of suppression of the masses, exclusion and marginalization of some disadvantaged groups, human rights violations, judicial corruption. According to Anifowose (1993) posit that political insecurity assume the following forms, riots, looting, arson, political assassination party clashes, demonstrations resulting in the destruction of property and loss of life.

Development has been viewed in different perspective by various scholars according to their ideological learning. But in general term development encompasses transformation, growth. Development is supposed to improve the living condition of society as a whole. (Stiglitz, 1998:77). OnyeKpe (2004) defined development to mean the transformation of the economy, state and society through the increased capacity to face the challenges of production, expansion, political administration and governance. Political development involves building governments that are accountable and representative with mass political participation and respect for human rights. Social development consists of a process of planned social change that designed to improve the well-being of the community as a whole. While economic development is concerned about improvements of socio economic wellbeing that inform the increases in living condition, improvements in health care, education, and ensuring adequate food, job, security and great reductions in poverty and unemployment (Ezrow, Frantz and Taylor, 2016:6).

Mclean, (1996) posit that development is the achievement of the required conditions for the realization of the potential of human personality, which transform to reductions in poverty, inequality, and unemployment. Rodney (1972) viewed the concept of development in two different levels. At individual level and social groups' level. At the level of individual it includes increase in skill and capacity, greater freedom, creativity, self discipline, responsibility and material well being. At the level of social groups involves increase in capacity to regulate the internal and external relations between the human being in the society and the environment. Todaro and Smith (2004) argued that development consists of physical reality and a state of mind in the society by way of some combination of social, economic and institutional processes for obtaining a better life. They further argued that development in all societies at least must have the following three objectives. To increase the availability and distribution of basic goods such as food, shelter, health and protection, to improve the living conditions, increase the incomes, provision of more jobs, better education, to expand the range of economic and social choices available to individuals and nations. Therefore, development is the process of empowering people to make the best use of their potentials and develop the knowledge capacity to exploit to meet their daily needs (Ewentan and Urhie, 2014:42).

Good Governance
The terms "Governance" and "good" governance are often used nowadays in development literature. Governance has been defined by the Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary, 7th edition as "the activity of governing a country or controlling a company or an organization". Ukadike and Arisi (2013) defined governance as the process of decision making and the process by which decisions are implemented or not implemented. Therefore, governance means how state, societal institutions relate to each other, and also how rules are made in a society and accepted as legitimate by individuals and groups within the society. Governance can be used in several contexts as corporate governance, international governance (Koku, 2017:100). Governance refers to the organization of life in a group or groups of societies. It entails values, institutions norms and rules including procedures for the purpose of security and prosperity (noun, 2014). Adejumobi (2004) posit that governance is the "process of steering state and society towards the realization of collective goals". Governance can be seen as a process of social interaction between the rulers and the ruled in a political community.

The concept of good governance is derived from that of governance. It is believed that in any given society, there are sets of rules and norms. When the overseer of that society administers them according to the societal sets of rules and norms, the constituents will view such an administration as that enjoying the tenets of good governance (Noun, 2014). Good governance served as a scale for measuring the performance of an administrator whether he or she meets the standard or target set for him or her by the community (Noun, 2014). The importance ingredients of good governance are: political rights, civil rights, political participation and enabling rights as members of a free society subject to the strict observance of the rule of law, constitutions and constitutionalism (Noun, 2014).

Mohideen (1997) stated that "government" becomes "good" when it is operated in accordance with legal and ethical principles as conceived by society. Best (2006) described good governance as the handling of government affairs in the positive and progressive manners beneficial to the governed, and which delivers the public goods. Good governance is characterized by democratization, maintenance of law and order, accountability and transparence, responsiveness on the part of the government, due to the process of the rule of law, competence separation and devolution of powers, respect for human rights. Other components of good governance are a free press and a civil society environment, competition

for power and the existence of a formidable opposition and respect for human rights. (Ogundiya 2010:10) Ezife (2002) argued that god governance is the systematic application of government resources to improve the living standard of a given society. He mention further that provision of social amenities like drinking water, roads, power supply, communication facilities, health and education as well as security of lives by government.

Theoretical Framework
The theoretical framework adopted by this study is "frustration-aggression" theory. The theory is of the view that violent behaviors do occur as a result of inability to fulfill needs (Faleti, 2006:35). The proponents of this theory is John Dalland and his associate in 1939. The theory was further expanded by Leonard Berkowitz and Aubery Yates 1962. The scholars relies much on the explanation of the psychological theories of motivation and behavior, as well as Frustration-Aggression (Faleti, 2006:35). The theorist are of the believe that violence behavior do occur as a result of frustration. That is a situation whereby the individual or community who feel disappointed express their anger through the violence means which is always directed to the people or authority responsible for that.
From the above analysis, the theory is relevance for the explanation of the occurrence of the political insecurity and how it is a threat to development in Nigeria. Exponents of this theory are of the believe that the causes of political insecurity is as a result of the inability of the political system to fulfill their needs, due to injustices, exploitation, inequality in distribution of resources and political deprivation.

Causes of Political Insecurity
Political insecurity in Nigeria started from 1960, after her political independence when a federal system was imposed on Nigeria by British colonialist (Ewentan and Urhie, 2014:40-60). The Federal system which was adopted as a "Compromise" formular to solve the problems of ethnic minorities. The structure of federalism increased suspicious among ethnic nationalities rather than reduced them (Elaigwu, 2004:28). The agitations for true federalism, political restructuring by various ethnic nationalities have contributed to violent reactions by aggrieved ethnic minorities in the country. Thereby threatening the security, unity, and peaceful existence of Nigeria as a nation (Ewentan and Urhie 2014:40-63). The introduction of federalism marked the beginning of political insecurity in Nigeria. Omodia and Monday (2013) posit that the period between 1960-1966 Nigeria witness the militarization of politics and ethnic tension which culminated in the outbreak of the 1967-1970 civil war with devastating effect on economic, social and political development of the nation.
According to Afe (2017) absence of institutional capacity as a result of government failure responsible for political insecurity in Nigeria. Igbuzor (2011) viewed political insecurity in Nigeria as a result of government inability to deliver to it citizens. This lack of basic needs by the citizens has created army of frustrated people who can take to violence at the slightest provocation.

Another source of political insecurity in Nigeria is the inequality and lack of justice and fairness which led to the marginalization of larger groups of people in the country by the political class. This in turn created poverty, unemployment. Ibeanu (2015) argues that political instability is the failure of a ruling class to maintain class rule within the political order. This condition of inequality, unfairness and injustices has forced the people to take their destiny into their hands (Onifade, David and Urim 2013:53-63).
Dike (2003) pointed out that political insecurity that is facing development in Nigeria emanated from the irrational actions of political class by playing politics of discrimination and politics

devoid of ideology. He further stated that political corruption, poverty and lack of justice all of these combine led to public desperation and insecurity. Jimoh (2004) opinioned that appointing people in public offices who are incompetent and with questionable character and encroaching on people's rights through intimidation and thuggery it is another contributing factor for political insecurity in Nigeria.

Ethno-religious conflicts are another major source of political insecurity in Nigeria. Suberu (1996) assert that ethnic conflicts have been recognized as one of the fundamental threat to development of Nigeria. He identifies the following conditions as contributing factors for ethnic-religious conflicts in Nigeria. Unequal treatment of minority communities by dominant groups, competition with other groups for access to power in new states, patterns of state building, political power and economic development that channel communal energies into either protest or rebellion, and the emergence of new ethnic minority elites who are willing to, and are adept at mobilizing their constituents in response to changing political opportunities and resources (Suberu, 1996:6) Ethno-religious conflicts is a situation when the social relations between members of one ethnic or religious group and another of such group in a multi-religious society is characterized by lack of cordiality, mutual suspicion and fear, and a tendency towards violent confrontations to resolve their differences (Igbuzor, 2011).

These conflicts are about who gets what and how in the state particularly as it concerns the distribution of resources, power and other essential benefits which are legitimately theirs (Adagba etal 2012:5). These unending political insecurity is as a result of dissatisfaction discomfort and distress within the larger society, higher unemployment rate, economic crisis, paupersation of the masses by the ruling class, decaying infrastructure are the causes of political insecurity (Onifade, David and Urim 2013:61).

Political insecurity as a challenge to development in Nigeria
Security need is the genesis of the social contract between the people and the state, where by people willingly surrendered their sovereignty to government to oversees the survival of all (Ewetan and Urhie, 2014:42).security is the process put in place to avoid, prevent, reduce or resolve violent conflicts and threats that originated from other states, non state actors or structural socio political and economic conditions (Stan, 2004).

The insecurity is the absence of safety, danger, hazard, uncertainty, lack of protection, and lack of safety (Ewentan and Urhie, 2014:43). For the purpose of this study, insecurity can be described as a breach of peace and security, whether historical, religious, ethnic religious, civil, social economic and political that contributes to occurrence of conflicts and led to destruction of lives and properties (Ibid:43).

Development is the process of social and economic transformation in a society. Nwamegbo and Odigbo, 2013 Chandlar, 2007) argued that development cannot be possible in any society where there is insecurity. There is a general believe that development cannot take place where there is insecurity. Therefore, there is a strong connection between political insecurity and development. The two different concepts are inseparable, one affects the others (Ibid: 2014:45). Omodia and Aliu (2013) stated that there is a strong correlation between political security and development, political security enhances the delivery of public goods and improved condition of living of the people, has the capacity to guarantee improved security of lives and properties, and reduce potential risk to national security (Akpan, 2010:10). While political insecurity is the government, political leaders, or institutions failure manifest in perversion of the constitution and constitutionalism, subversion of rule of law and institutions of probity and accountability and the abuse of political power for personal interest of political leadership, and

the attendant devastating challenges of development, poverty, insecurity and conflicts undermine the important of government on development and security (Egwu, 2006:5). Therefore, the failure of Nigeria state is core to the socio-economic and political development challenges confronting Nigeria and the spate of violence like political thuggery, assassination, arson and the activities of kidnappers, terrorism, violent armed robbery, ritual killing, suicide bombing truncate development dream of Nigeria (Omodia, 2012:5). Therefore, political insecurity constitutes a threat to development in Nigeria. It frustrates business activities and demoralizes local and foreign investors and this slow down Nigeria's socio economic development (Ewentan and Urhie 2014:40).

Conclusion and Recommendation

From the discussion it is now clear that there is a link between political insecurity and development in Nigeria. The paper argued that there is a strong connection between political insecurity and development. This is as a result of recklessness of political leadership, failure of the ruling class to provide purposeful and responsible political leadership has affected delivery of public goods and services undermining the process of development. Therefore political security is crucial for creating an enabling environment for development in Nigeria.

Attempt has been made to identify the challenges facing development in Nigeria, which include political deprivation, injustices, leadership failure as a result of bad government. The elimination of all these obstacles should be the number one target of governments at all levels as development cannot be achieved amidst of insecurity and violence. Therefore, the paper recommends that, the problem of political insecurity can be addressed through the tenets of good governance such as accountability, transparency and popular participation in the political process, rule of law, protection of human rights and equality of access to all citizens and groups to state power and resources, and constitutionalism that have to be strictly observed by the elected or appointed political leaders in government in decision making. It is through this that in my opinion political insecurity as a challenge to development in Nigeria can be solved.

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