

**GOVERNANCE, INSECURITY AND SOCIO-ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OF
NIGERIA SINCE 1999**

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Abstract

The paper exams the critical importance of good governance to social economic development of Nigeria. The major sources of data is secondary and the descriptive analysis was used. It is the contention of the paper that the absence of good governance in the country is responsible for the insecurity situation. The presence of bad governance in the country has impacted negatively on the social economic development of the nation. The paper recommends that the Nigerian government should rule the country according to the constitution and make and implement people friendly policies for the social economic development of the county.

Keywords: Development; Good Governance; Insecurity; Security; Socio-Economic

1. Introduction

Nigeria is a constructed state. It is a product of a conglomeration of ethnic groups which are heterogeneous in many respects such as religion, language, political, social and economic formations as well as administrative styles, personality type and social norms. Good governance and administration efficiency are *sin-quo non* to national development and economic growth of any country. As it were, socio-economic development can only be achieved within the confines of security. A secured society is a peaceful society that engenders socio-economic development for the benefits of the citizens. Security provides the necessary atmosphere for peaceful co-existence that guarantees free movement of people and commodities without hindrance. These high quality of society are presumed to be obtainable in a stable democratic society especially under liberal democratic system of government. Thus, the ability of any nation to secure the lives and property of its citizen attract local, regional and international investors. Security remains fundamental to the development of any nation such as Nigeria. The emerging trend of insecurity in Nigeria, can be traced to the decline in good governance and ineffective administration. The situation has become a subject of great concern to the country.

Insecurity in Nigeria has spread like wildfire around every state of the federation, and the increasing cases of activities of these extremists have become alarming as the threat remains ever-present (Ocheni and Jacob, 2019; Onimisi, 2014). The activities of these groups have led to the loss of life and properties, increase emotional trauma and psychological trauma which has negative effect on the psych and social relations of the people especially the children. The activities of these

elements in Nigeria, for example, under the terrorist sects Boko Haram has brought a new dimension to the activities of extremism which has almost brought the nation to its knees.

Since security is the foundation upon which a county can record meaningful development and sustained such development (Davies, 1995), the absence of security in a nation presents not only a lack of socio-economic development but a state of anarchy. The activities of these agents of destabilization in Nigeria have further heightened the already existing economic-insecurity in the country. The unprecedented cases of kidnapping, rape in some section of the country, bombing in the Northeast, abduction for ransom, and robberies are as a result of worsening insecurity in Nigeria. Although scholars have attributed the heightened insecurity in Nigeria to unemployment, terrible administration, absence of value instruction, debasement and degenerate acts of government, destitution amidst abundance, ethnicity, and materialism, but insecurity plays the major role in the citizens of poverty and showcase it without any potential repercussions. The insecurity as a result of bad governance is certainly one core reason for the rampant insecurity in Nigeria today.

The trust of this paper is to argue that the socio-economic development of any nation is achievable only in the presence of good governance, security and administrative efficiency. The corollary to this is, that bad governance, insecurity and administrative inefficiency are the bane to socio-economic development of any nation, Nigeria inclusive. The paper is framed into six sections as follows, introduction, conceptual clarification, theoretical framework, impact of governance and insecurity on the socio-economic development of Nigeria, the way forward, and conclusion.

2. Conceptual Clarification

According to Chafe (1994), the first and foremost requirement for debating an issue is understanding what is being talked about. It is on this note that this paper provides scholarly positions on concepts such as extremism, insecurity, and socio-economic development to minimize and avoid the tendency of a misunderstanding of the issue at hand.

Good Governance: Governance is an important concept that is relevant to corporate existence of any nation. Governance according to World Bank (1993) is an organized system through which ‘power is exercised in the management of a country’s political, economic and social resources for development’. The IMF (2016) sees governance as ‘all aspects of the way a country is governed, its economic policies and regulatory framework’. Governance is the totality of governmental

actions, inaction in some cases and activities that are geared toward promoting the socio-economic development of any nation. Thus, good governance is the foundation for socio-economic development of any nation. Good governance is the backbone of the nation's stability and development. Good governance according to Downer (2000:27) is the process whereby public officers and institutions conduct public affairs, manage public resources and guarantee the realization of human rights.

Considering the relevance of good governance to countries of the world especially in Africa the former United Nations Secretary-General Kofi Annan sees it as 'the single most important factor in eradicating poverty and promoting development' (Annan, cited in UN 1998). To Annan, the lack of good governance is an invitation to hunger, underdevelopment, insecurity and lack of basic needs of life. Thus, good governance is very essential for socio-economic efficiency and development of a country. Good governance entails the existence of rule of law, transparency, equity, effectiveness/efficiency, accountability, and strategic vision in the exercise of political, economic, and administrative authority. In other words, good governance involves the process by which governmental officers and public institutions conduct their affairs, and manage the available public resources effectively for the overall socio-economic development of the citizens

Insecurity: Within the context of this paper insecurity can be viewed as decreased limit and ability of the government to defend and ensure the safety of the nation, property and its citizens against assaults from extremist, kidnapers, and herdsmen in Nigeria. Insecurity occurs when the government cannot ensure its citizens safety from all forms of danger. Furthermore, a nation is uncertain not just when its ways and limits are abused yet also when the individual and the aggregate privileges of the individuals to life are continually threatened as a result of activities of extremists and agents of destabilization. A country encounters insecurity when the fundamental human rights, financial status and the sacredness of the lives of its citizens are continually disregarded with zero or weak responses from the government to stop its escalation (Ezeani & Chilaka, 2013). Thus we can appropriately say that Nigeria of today is shaky as there is sensible proof to show that fierce fanatics are currently having a field day in wanton and unjustifiable annihilation of lives and property.

Socio-Economic Development: Development is the planned and comprehensive economic, social, cultural and political process, in a defined geographic area, that is rights-based and ecologically oriented and aims to continually improve the well-being of the entire population and

all of its individuals. Economic development is the process of raising the level of prosperity through increased production, distribution and consumption of goods and services. While social development, is refer to the complexity of social dynamics, social concerns of the people and approaches to development. On the whole socioeconomic development, is that progress made in the area of economic and social space within a geographic unit. Socio-economic development involves social and economic development in a society. Socio-economic development is thus, measured with indicators, such as GDP, life expectancy, literacy and levels of employment. Socio-economic development can propel new technologies, changes in laws, changes in the physical environment and ecological changes. Socio-economic development is about inclusiveness, social justice, and high income, reduction in poverty, unemployment, adequate security, and provision of social amenities.

3. The Theoretical Framework

The theoretical framework of this paper is based on systems theory. System theory attempts to understand the wholeness of social problems and human experience through scientific inquiry into human history. The theory opined that every system is bounded by space and time, and influenced by its environment, defined purpose, and expressed through its functioning. And a change in one part of a system affect other parts or the whole system. The goals of the theory is to model a system's dynamics, constraints, conditions, and to elucidate principles that can be explained and applied to other systems (Beven, 2006). The theory aims to explicate dynamic relationships and interdependence between components system and the organization–environment relationships. And a system is established based on the structure and patterns of the relationships arising from interactions among components unit.

The system theory has been the driving force in understanding the wholeness social and governance issues through scientific inquiry since the 1950s (Checkland, 2000). Scholars of this theory maintain that all problems existence in the society are fundamentally systemic in nature (Wheatley, 2006). The theory adequately fits into this paper because, the theory helps to explain the Nigerian security, governance and socio-economic development problems holistically, which differs from the way in which Western scholar would traditionally applied. According to Banathy

(2006:5) the theory became so specialized since the Scientific Revolution of the 17th century, thus, allowing researchers to “encapsulate in their private universe”.

This cornerstone of theory, is the assumption that social problems can be broken into parts, interactions and relationships between the parts and can be used to understand the wholeness of a phenomena. Checkland (1981:12) argued that “systems thinking...starts from noticing the unquestioned Cartesian assumption: namely that a component part is the same when separated out as when it is part of the whole”. Furthermore, systems theory fits the present paper because it does not exclude the method and practice of traditional inquiry, but builds upon it. Systems theory complements, rather than excludes, traditional believes. The theory allows the use of scientific inquiry use in examining phenomena such as insecurity and good governance under a microscope, and allows a wide-angle lens to see the main gist of the issue. Furthermore, the theory offers researchers a means to understand phenomena in a fundamentally different way and significantly different from those that underpin traditional believes. System purposes are achieved through control and reinforcing mechanisms commonly called balancing or reinforcing feedback

4. Insecurity and Socio-economic Development in Nigeria: A Brief Review

Like corruption, government has institutionalized insecurity in the country. The Nigerian constitution provides for secularity of the state as enshrined in section 10 (1) of the 1979 constitution. While the Nigerian 1999 constitution as amended provided for secularity in (1) section 10, in an attempt to establish the secularity of the country stated thus: “The government of the federation or of a state shall not adopt any religion as the state religion.” The policies of the Nigerian government, unfortunately, has helped to strengthen the activities of extremist in the country. For example, the massive killings of some people recently in Kaduna state, Northwest, if not carefully and adequately handled could lead to another socio-economic crisis, just like the emergence of Boko Haram which is traced to poor handling of the crises that erupted in Borno state, Northeast, Nigeria in 2002.

The action and inaction of the Nigerian government towards insecurity in the country itself has thrown up new security and socio-economic development issues in the county. It is imperative to note that despite the proclamation of Nigeria as a secular state the current administration attitude of appointing all the service chiefs from the Northern part of the country can be tag as a

manifestation of bad governance. It is important to note that this disposition of government helped to create a seemly sense of “cooperative responsibility or social responsibility”, thus jettisoning the secular nature of the Nigerian state.

The taxpayers’ money which ordinarily would have been used to acquire the much-needed technology and increase the country’s intelligence capacity to fight criminality and insecurity is spent on other unimportant issues that did not support the socio-economic development of the country. It is disturbing to note that even states and local government that are struggling to pay salaries have chosen to sponsor people to Holy land, in the midst of insecurity. The Nigerian state has unfortunately contributed to insecurity and worsening socio-economic development through its policy decisions. We observed that over the years after independence in 1960, the federal and state governments have been consistently pursuing policies that undermined good governance and the secularity of the Nigerian state.

More importantly, the bias in the appointment of Nigerian service chiefs by President Muhammadu Buhari administration where almost all the top security personals are from the North is highly apprehensive because it is not justifiable in a secular state. This singular act of the President has thrown up a lot of questions. The Service Chiefs and a National Security Adviser appointed by the president are illustrated on the table below:

Top Security Appointment under President Muhammadu Buhari’s administration

S/N	Name	Position	Region
1	Major-General Lucky E. O. Irabor	Chief of Defense Staff	Southerner
2	Major-General Farouk Yahaya	Chief of Army Staff	Northerner
3	Rear Admiral Awwal Zubairu Gambo	Chief of Naval Staff	Northerner
4	Air Vice Marshal Isiaka Oladayo	Chief of Air Staff	Northerner
5	Rtd. Gen. Muhammad Buba Marwa	National Drug Law Enforcement Agency	Northerner
6	Yusuf Magaji Bichi	Director-General State Security Service	Northerner
7	Col. Hameed Ibrahim Ali (Rtd)	Nigeria Customs Service	Northerner

8	Abdullahi Gana Muhammadu	Nigeria Security And Civil Defense Corps	Northerner
9	Usman Alkali Baba	Inspector General of Nigeria Police Force	Northerner
10	Muhammed Babandede	Nigeria Immigration Service	Northerner
11	Maj. Gen. S. A. Adebayo	Defense Intelligence Agency (DIA)	Southerner
12	Ja'afaru Admed	Nigerian Correctional Service	Northerner
13	General Mohammed Babagana Monguno	National Security Adviser	Northerner
14	Ahmed Rufai Abubakar	National Intelligent Agency	Northerner

Source: Compiled by the Author 2021

The analysis from the above table revealed that of the fourteen security chiefs only two are from the Southern region, the remaining twelve are from the Northern region. This is obviously not fair in a federation as it empowers one region over the other.

5. Impact of Governance and Insecurity on the Socio-economic Development of Nigeria

The presence of bad governance, insecurity and administrative inefficiency has incontrovertibly taken a predominant stage in current socio-economic problems bedeviling Nigeria. The consequences and damages of insecurity in the country is remarkably high. The insecurity situation in the country have threatened the cooperative existence of Nigeria. And the activities of these agents of destabilization is one of the greatest threat to Nigeria security because peace, safety, lives and properties of its citizens is no longer guaranteed (Ocheni and Jacob, 2019). Few of the effects are briefly discussed below:

***Effective Economic Growth:** Successive activities of terrorism through bombings and continuous conflicts between these sects and the Nigerian security operators have affected intensely businesses and organizations whose enterprises lie in the cities where the extremists operate thus business have apparently disintegrated while numerous individuals have fled the state. Economic growth and its sustenance cannot be guaranteed in an atmosphere of insecurity. This situation has in turn disrupted the development plans of the government as well as those of private investors.

***Hindrance to Foreign Investment:** The activities of the terrorist / extremists have hindered foreign investment in Nigeria because of the negative influence it has on the country to the outside world. No foreign investor will come to put resources into Nigeria particularly in the North with the present security challenges bedeviling the geopolitical zone. The World Investment Report (WIR) of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) showed that the Nigerian economy has lost an enormous amount of N1.33 trillion Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) inferable from the issue of weakness (Ezeani & Chilaka, 2013; Omotosho, 2003). The report demonstrates that FDI income to Nigeria tumbled to \$6.1 billion (N933.3 billion) in 2010, with near 30 percent from the \$8.65 billion (N1.33 trillion) in 2009.

***Threatened Peaceful Co-existence:** The activities of terrorist / extremists have continued to pose as a great threat to the very peaceful co-existence of Nigeria. The national security issue that extremists present in Nigeria cannot be quantified as it has threatened and continue to threaten the peaceful co-existence of the country. Truth be told, for example, the rate at which the savage radicalism of the extremists, herdsmen, kidnappers, armed robbers, smugglers etc have devoured the peaceful co-existence of the citizens of the country and the lives and properties have led to a feeling of frustration of honest call for peaceful co-existence.

***Psychological Trauma:** The psychological trauma as a result of the activities of kidnappers' herdsmen / extremists has been high and is now a regular occurrence amongst the citizens of Nigeria. Insecurity from the activities of extremists has brought about mental injury and psychological trauma to families in Nigeria (Udoh, 2015). The psychological and emotional trauma the activities of these elements have caused the people cannot be measured as the daily burden resulting from the lifeless/mutilated bodies of members of immediate and extended family, colleagues and associate littered public places especially the stress in some section of the country remains worrisome (Omede & Omede, 2015).

*** Educational Effects:** The effects of the destructive actions of these group of people can be seen in the disruption of the academic calendar of most areas where the activities of these groups are well felt. Besides the disruption of calendar looting of educational materials was the order of the day. The vandalization of school buildings was mainly prominent in Northern Nigeria. While students were psychologically traumatized as a result of the loss of life of staff, students, close and extended relations thus majority were basically discouraged from going to school. For example Irefin, Naphtali and Salihu (2019) pointed out that in Mubi North and South local government

areas of Taraba State a total number of 70 primary and secondary schools were closed down due to the activities of these groups of destabilizer of the state security in 2015.

6. The Way Forward

***Education:** Education is an important tool for fighting insecurity. The importance of education to national security cannot be overemphasized because it helps to accomplish the great task of insecurity in Nigeria if adequately and effectively used in the right direction. Since there are "different sides to a coin" in practically all circles of life, ill-advised instruction can similarly be a factor for extremism hence the same tool can be used to enlighten the public especially the youths about the ill of extremism (Omede & Omede, 2015). Moral ethics, for example, trustworthiness, duty, and regard for other people, that are the spaces of good training are disregarded as an important starting point for educating young minds. Sound educational policies and profound quality education will go a long way in fighting insecurity and in turn reduced the insecurity issue to the barest minimum.

***Inclusion of Relevant Stakeholders:** The fight against insecurity requires the inclusion of key and relevant stakeholders such as leaders of all religious organizations, community leaders and the youths. These key stakeholders can be used as a measure to getting those perpetuating the mayhem on society, through advocacy. The leaders of religious organizations should be encouraged and engage to reach out to the people through the organization of events where issues of morality would be the focus of discussion. While the youth should be meaningfully and thoughtfully engaged in the entire process.

7. Conclusion

Governance deficit is a related issue. Governance in the context of a modern nation-state is first and foremost about providing for the fundamental needs and aspirations of citizens, through governmental institutions and processes, steered, driven and guided by chosen representatives of the people through competitive elections, which are free, fair and credible (Egwu, 2021). The popular view, is that good governance ultimately promotes human security as opposed to state security. The overwhelming view is that what appear as indicators of a failed or weakened state in Nigeria are a pointer to the absence of effective governance on a scale likely to undermine the legitimacy and the existence of the state. With good governance and administrative efficiency the

insecurity in the country can be curbed thereby paving the way for smooth way for the social economic development of the country

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