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## Threats To Internal Security In Nigeria: An Examination Of Security Challenges In Nigeria And The Implications

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### Abstract

Internal security has attracted very little attention among Nigerian academics. Even though, internal security forms the baseline of a nation's defence, it has at best, received only a peripheral treatment in strategic literature, and in most cases, it is treated to the extent that it has some bearing on the more attractive issue of national defence. Since external security presents more dreadful challenges than internal security, priority concern is usually given to the nation's preparedness to meet its external adversaries. This bias in favour of external defence is reflected not only in the paucity of intellectual works devoted to internal security, but also in the area of resources support, where the armed forces invariably get the lion share of the security budget to the detriment of Nigeria Police Force who are in charge of the nation's internal security. This work is on threats to internal security in Nigeria; an examination of security challenges in Nigeria and their implications. The methodology used in carrying out the work was documentary approach, while our framework of analysis was the socio-economic theory which in summary postulates that poverty, begets terrorism and other crimes. We examined the doctrines, if any, governing Nigeria's internal security, discussed various security challenges and X-rayed the implications of these challenges to Nigeria's developmental efforts. The work discovered that these unfortunate development constrains more than many others, aggravate the suffering of Nigerians, make the poor even more vulnerable, distort economic values, rob national budgets, discourage foreign investments, promote capital flight, perpetuate human suffering, result in loss of lives and property and general sense of insecurity in the country. The work made some recommendations that will reduce insecurity in the country.

### Introduction

Criminals are in minority in every society. They are an infinitesimal percentage of the nation's population. But every country has them. Few though they may be in number, criminals are so toxic that they poison the larger society. They can give a country a very bad name. In a rather cynical way, Agbese (2008) noted, that the level of security in a country is measured almost entirely by the activities of its criminals. The fewer their activities the greater the chance for everyone to feel safe. The more violent their activities, the greater the

induced sense of insecurity. Even the level of foreign investments in a country, is based on investor's reading of the criminal barometer there. All societies are victims of the criminals among them because they pose serious security challenges.

Internal security has attracted very little scholarly attention among Nigerian academics despite the number of criminals Nigeria has and the number of criminal activities going on in Nigeria. Even though, internal security forms the baseline of a nation's defence, it has, at best, received only a peripheral treatment in strategic literature, and in most case, it is treated to the extent that it has some bearing on the more attractive issue of national defence. Emphasis has been on external security. This bias in favour of external defence is reflected not only in the paucity of intellectual works devoted to internal security, but also in the area of resource support, where the armed forces invariably get the lion share of the security budget to the detriment of Nigeria police force who are in charge of the nation's internal security.

The above observation is particularly relevant to the Nigerian situation where possible due to lack of basic information about defence and security matters, the exploration of security issues is not particularly attractive to many scholars. Thus, most of what is available about Nigeria's internal security are mainly official memoranda, commission reports, and individual write ups about particular emergency situations rather than a proper articulation of internal security. Given the relative neglect of internal security by strategic analysts, little or nothing has been done in Nigeria by way of evolving any meaningful doctrine of internal security. The result is that fifty-two years after the country's independence Nigeria still lacks well articulated internal security policy. This, probable made Nigerians to be taken unaware by Boko Haram sect that has been theorizing our people for sometime now; kidnapers who have made life difficult for an average Nigerian; armed robbers who have reduced our lives to a mere vegetable existence; hired assassins who have made everybody to live in perpetual fear in Nigeria etc.

This paper will therefore, attempt to look into the relatively neglected issue of internal security in the country with a view to examining its implications. In doing this, the paper tends to raise the following questions:

- I) What are security and threats to security all about?
- II) What is the attitude of Nigerian government to the doctrine of internal security?
- III) What are the security challenges to Nigerian Government?
- IV) What are the implications of these security challenges to our nation's developmental efforts?
- V) What measures can we adopt to curb these security challenges in Nigeria?
- VI) These and more constitute the main thrust of this paper.

### **Security and Threats to Security: A Theoretical Discourse**

The term security is a delicate and important issue to other developing and developed nations. The word security conveys a different meaning to scholars, policy analysts, organisations etc. Nwankwo (2012) sees it as the state of being safe or protected against danger or risk. Aluko (1989) views it as a property of value promised to a lender in case repayment is not made or agreed conditions are not met. This is mortgage in banking or other lending organization. In the words of Alahara (2011), it is a protection against law breaking, violence and enemy acts, escape from prison, etc. one could say for security reasons (i.e. reasons of security) for example, tight security was in force during the president's visit.

The concept of security, according to Ogban-Iyan (1991) can be aptly described as that of change and no change. The simple definition of security according to Heritage dictionary (1977), is freedom from risk or danger, safety, freedom from doubt, anxiety or fear; confidence. Anything that gives or assures safety. It also does not mean absence of conflict. However, such conflict must be solved by peaceful means.

Although this definition is unlikely to be faulted by experts yet they are bound to disagree over what state of affairs constitutes freedom from doubt, risks, danger or what assures safety for a person, group of persons and nation-states. What is fairly clear is that these issues are not going to be solved in the foreseeable future. Change pervades every aspect of life including security. What guarantees security has undergone one of the most rapid changes mankind has witnessed.

Generally, security is taken to mean freedom from risk or danger or fear; safety; confidence and the ability of a nation to protect and defend itself; promote its cherished values and legitimate interest and enhance the well-being of its people. Thus internal security could be seen as the freedom from or absence of those tendencies which could undermine internal cohesion and the corporate existence of the nation and its ability to maintain its vital institutions for the promotion of its core values and socio-political and economic objectives, as well as meet the legitimate aspiration of the people.

Threat on its part, represent anything that can undermine the security of the nation, or anything that constitutes danger to its survival as a corporate entity, as well as undermine the prospects of the harmonious relationship of the various communities that make up the nation or the peaceful co-existence of the people. Any act or intention that has the potential of undermining the peace, stability and progress of the nation could be regarded as threat to security.

In the remote past, the sources of threats to security could be pinned down to nature, including wild animals and man himself. Overtime, wild animals have receded to the background as threats to security even nature is not longer a threat in the same sense as in the pre-industrial age. Today nature is seen as a threat to security in so far as man has interfered with nature's well known cycles. Here we are talking about the depletion of the atmospheric ozone layer, global warming, environmental pollution, acid rain, deforestation, desertification, nuclear wars and radiation. We are really dealing with threats to man's security by man's activities.

It would appear that as man minimizes the threat to his security in the area of food and disease through the application of scientific and technological innovations the same activities heighten his insecurity from the environment and his fellow man. His science and technology have both increased and decreased his security. This is the paradox of change and no change.

### **The Attitude of Nigeria Government to Doctrine of Internal Security**

Doctrine means a body of teaching, or principles, accepted beliefs, tenets or dogma; a principle that is accepted as valid and authoritative. In this sense, a doctrine could be seen as an accepted body of principle or the guiding rules for performing a particular task. Holley (1979) refers to doctrine as an authoritative rule or precept which is officially recognised and taught as the best way to achieve optimum result. Grechiko (1978), sees it as perspectives... as product of a national and synthesis and broader policy goal.

When we talk about a doctrine for internal security, we are referring to the articulated fundamental principles governing the management of a nation's internal security.

Such principles governing the nation's security should flow from the national ideology, or the basic philosophy of public affairs management. According to Imobighe (1990), doctrine of internal security should seek to answer not only the why and how of internal security management, but also the question of the basic nature of the internal security goals desired.

With particular reference to doctrine of internal security, Nigeria seems to lack clearly defined national security policy. Nweke (1990) noted that while periodic reviews of Nigeria foreign policy were undertaken and result implemented, one can confidently assert that officially and for several years, Nigeria operated without an obvious doctrine of internal security policy. Given the relative neglect of internal security policy by successive governments, little or nothing has been done in Nigeria by way of evolving any meaningful doctrine of internal security. Imobighe (1990) noted that what is generally available by way of doctrines of internal security are more or less principles meant for handling particular internal emergencies. Since internal security hardly attract exclusive, thorough and scholarly examinations in its own right, theories of internal security are generally subsumed in the ones governing the wide issues of national defence. The result is that internal security management in Nigeria simply responds to the same conservative and coercive power politics doctrines that apply to the wider issues of national and global defence. Given this basic conservative doctrine of national security, it is understandable why the general tendency is for national security planners to respond by strengthening the coercive apparatus of government anytime the nation is faced with internal security challenges. In most cases, little attention is paid to the non-coercive responses which, at time, are most cost-effective, apart from the fact that they have the salutary effect of saving the nation the unnecessary anxiety of anxiety of partial, if not full, mobilization of the country's security forces. As Imobighe (1997) and Gambo (1988) noted, Nigeria is a victim of this conservative and coercive approach to internal security management as distinct from the positive non-coercive response which seeks to remove the causes of discontent and internal strife, by minimizing socio-economic hardship and inequalities. Nigeria's approach is aptly but by Gambo (1988) when he said;

*To achieve this goal of internal security, every country has always invested a lot of money and material. In Nigeria, this has been done by increased budget spending on the military, police and other security agencies whose focus is ore often than not on ability and realistic preparedness to counter threats (apparent and real), to internal security.*

Excessive manifestation of the coercive doctrine in the management of internal security easily leads a country's security enforcement efforts to charges of fratricidal action. It must be pointed out that the management of internal security on the basis of a coercive doctrine could be particularly tasking for a non-industrial nation, like Nigeria, that has to rely on external sourcing of the needed equipment.

### **Security Challenges Confronting the Nigerian Nation**

**1) Kidnapping:** though kidnapping started in the oil-rich Niger Delta area when it was used a tool to address the wanton neglect of their communities by successive administration, it has since grown to become the new multimillion naira business now thriving outside the region. As Nwankwo (2012), noted, for the south-east, kidnapping is now a tool for settling personal and political scores. Besides, the pecuniary gains accruing from the ransom collected from the families of victims, usually in huge millions of naira, many desperate politicians in Igbo

land are now using kidnapping as a tool of vendetta on perceived political enemies. Kidnapping has made Nigerians to live in perpetual fear. Even in the northern parts of the country where the wave of kidnapping is not rampant, living has continually slipped to the Hobession state of nature where life is brutish, nasty and short.

**2) Armed Robbery:** Apart from the scourge of kidnapping Nigeria has become a fertile ground for dare devil robbers and all sorts of criminalities. There is no evidence to show that all security measures put on ground by Nigeria government has shown any appreciable drop in the incidents of armed robbery. Rather, it would seem armed robbery is on the increase. The situation is such that virtually every Nigerian now lives inside highly walled fences and barricaded compound, a sort of self imposed prison yard.

In its 2008 report, the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) said armed robbery cases were more pronounced in seven states in the country. The figures which the NBS said were based on cases reported to the police in 2007 identified the crime-prone states as Oyo, Imo, Rivers, Kano, Ogun, cross River and the FCT. The breakdown of armed robbery cases showed that in 2009, Oyo state had 244 cases; Imo (176); FCT (172); Rivers (145), Cross River (137) Kano (108) Ogun (107) Anambra (96) Adamawa (96) Abia (89) Akwa Ibom (88) ekiti (85) Edo (79) Lagos (70) while each of Gombe, Benue, Plateau, Kwara, Sokoto, Jigawa, Kebbi and Yobe states had less than 28 cases. Robbers have remained like the nation's albatross. Unfortunately, security agencies, especially that police that are responsible for internal security often seem helpless in the face of increasing crime wave in the country.

**3) Hired Assassins:** Another big security challenges facing Nigeria today is the rampart cases of hired assassins. Many Nigerians including law-abiding citizens continue to be cut down by bullets from either the guns of the assassins, or the armed robberies and occasionally from the ransom-seeking kidnapers. Although these heinous crimes carry capital punishment in the nation's various laws and statues, the situation continues to deteriorate as a result of the helplessness of the law enforcement agents to bring the perpetrators of these dastardly acts to book. The Nigeria government has failed in their basic responsibility to the citizens to protect lives and property.

Since 1999, Nigerians have witnessed many unresolved high profile killings. The first was Bola Ige, Attorney-General and Minister of Justice under President Obasanjo. Ige was killed on December 23, 2002 in Ibadan. To the dismay of Nigerians, the government could not unravel the killings of the chief law custodian of the country. Similarly, Funsho Williams, a frontline Lagos politician, was mowed down on July 27, 2006 by killers in his bedroom at the Dolphin Estate, Ikoyi, Lagos. Earlier, A.J. Dikko, National Vice-chairman of PDP, was murdered in cold blood in 2004 while travelling from port-Harcourt to Asaba to attend a meeting. Philip Olorunmipa, chairman Kogi state independent electoral Commission (SIEC), was gunned down in Kaba in 2004 while Daramola, a PDP governorship aspirant in Ekiti state was also killed. Ahmed Pategi, a former PDP chairman in Kwara, was also killed in 2005. In Anambra state, Barnabas Igwe and his wife Abigail both of them were lawyers and members of the Onitsha branch of the Nigerian Bar Association were killed in broad day light. Like most assassination before and after them, the killers have not been found or brought to book. Journalists have not been left out in the wave of assassination that is sweeping across the nation. Since the gruesome murder of Dele Giwa, the editor-in-chief of the Newswatch magazine on October 19, 1986, some other journalists have been felled by the assassin's bullet. Godwin Agboroko, a former chairman of the editorial board of This

Day newspapers was murdered in December 22, 2006. The police promised to unmask his killers but nothing has been heard of the case of to date. Hired assassin has posed serious security challenges to successive governments in Nigeria.

**4) Religious Intolerance:** Religious intolerance has to do with the unwillingness by some people of particular religious beliefs to put up with other who have different religious beliefs from theirs. Incidents of religious intolerance have manifested in Nigeria on a number of occasions. The maitaistine episode in certain parts of northern Nigeria and the March 1987 religious riots in Kaduna are some instances and ever since then many religious crises have occurred in various parts of the northern Nigeria.

Recently, the nation was held hostage by the onslaught of members of Boko Haram, a religious gang that believed that western education and culture were sinful. Besides, destroying property worth millions of naira in Maiduguri metropolis, Kano, Kaduna, Niger, Bauchi, Gombe and other northern parts of the country, the fundamentalists killed and maimed innocent Nigerians as well as security personnel to the extent that fear now grips every Nigerian. In fact, religious fundamentalism of Boko Haram sect has become a major threat to internal security in Nigeria following mass attacks on the general public. Unfortunately, these attacks could not be contained by the Nigeria police hence, the involvement of the armed forces.

One of the greatest worry about the activities of Boko Haram is that it may degenerate into religious war' Dunmony (2011), argued that experience of other countries in dealing with religious crisis shows that; (1) religious wars can hardly ever be completely contained, they often lead to wars of attrition which are difficult to deal with Enloe (1980), in a similar observation asserts that religious war is dangerous because religious divisions are often open to exploitation by internal and external actors who may support and finance the various factions so that the crisis soon assumed an international dimension or that it may take on dimensions that are quite different from the issues which started the problem. Ogwu (1986) equally noted that such a crisis in Nigeria will quickly engulf the whole country as religious groups are likely to align in patterns that cut across geographical boundaries.

Nweke (1985), seems to summarise the consequences of religious crisis when he opined that religious crisis weakens leadership groups as they too may become stratified and parochial in the handling of issues. It is therefore important to advocate clear strategy for containing the various crises that may erupt as a result of religious crisis.

**5) Subversion:** Subversion has to do with a calculated move or series of move, usually clandestine, designed to undermine a nation's governmental set-up. It includes all those subtle actions meant to undermine not only the military, but also the economic, political, psychological and moral strength of the nation. Subversion is used not only by those who want to destroy a particular system, but also by revolutionary elements who want to bring about change in an unsatisfactory system, especially when the normal process of democratic change is rendered impossible. Under such circumstances, the revolutionaries simply go underground and adopt subversive methods to bring about the demise of the discredited regime and thereby pave the ways for their own ascendancy to power.

As a threat to internal security, subversion is particularly effective in Nigeria due to the way and manner elections are being rigged in Nigeria and the bad leadership style of our successive governments. Given the gross mismanagement of the country's resources and the attendant socio-economic hardship imposed on Nigerians, which has partly led to the erosion of national consciousness and patriotism, it is obvious that Nigeria would be susceptible to

subversive tendencies. Many people has been employing this strategy to grap power by all means.

**6) Cross Border Crimes:** Another big security challenge confronting Nigeria is the issue of cross border crimes like circulation and trafficking of small arms and light weapons, drug and human trafficking, and terrorism constitute various threats to internal security and stability. According to Ngoa (2012), these hamper the harmonious economic and social development of not only Nigeria but the continent as a while. This according to Ngoa was noted in Lome Declaration of the African Union Assembly in 12<sup>th</sup> July 2000. This view was equally reiterated in April 2005, in the African common position presented at the 11<sup>th</sup> United Nations congress on crime prevention and criminal justice in Bangkok.

These unspoken development constraints more than many others, aggravate the suffering of the Nigeria people in particular and African people in general, it makes the poor even more vulnerable. It equally distort economic values, rob national budgets, dampen the entrepreneurial spirit, discourage foreign investments, promote capital flight and perpetuate human suffering.

**7) Sabotage:** As the name implies, sabotage is the deliberate destruction of an industrial process, including the human and natural resources, or public utilities, as well as sensitive, including military installations in order to slow down their operations or bring them to a halt. Sabotage is however, not limited to the destruction of public property; it could also cover acts of obstruction such as refusal to work and preventing others from working, as well as deliberate distortion and violation of working and professional ethics. Sabotage is usually one of the techniques used by subversive and revolutionary elements, as well as anarchist and opposition groups who want to discredit the incumbent regime in order to wrest political power from the latter.

Nigeria is prone to sabotage not only because of the political intolerance that is widespread in the society, but also because of its great dependence on external labour in the key sector of the economy like oil; bad leadership; election rigging, economic mismanagement; avarice, greediness of its citizens etc. it is on record that all public utilities in Nigeria have either collapsed or are working at under utilization. Sabotage has made electricity in Nigeria to be highly epileptic.

**8) Espionage:** Espionage is simply the business of spying on one another by nations. It has to do with using secret agents who operate under various pretences to secure information about another state that is not usually available through normal channels. Of course, the business of spying is not limited to nation-states. Industrial Corporation, political parties and other groups often use clandestine means to obtain information about their competitors or rivals.

Every state has certain strategic information which it guards jealously from actual and potential enemies. Should such information which usually relate, among others, to the country's areas of strength and vulnerabilities as well as its strategic intentions, fall into the hands of the enemy, then its security could be jeopardized.

Due to the vital nature of such strategic information, actual and potential enemies are prepared to go to any length to obtain such information. In this regard, their secret agents will be prepared to bribe their way through, use violence, or various forms of threat and blackmail to get nationals of the targeted state to divulge such information. They could even infiltrate the relevant establishments and steal such information. As Imbobighe (1990) noted, modern technology has added new techniques to the art, thereby rendering the business of

espionage much easier. Many of our neighbouring countries have been using this strategy to undermine Nigeria's developmental efforts.

**9) Smuggling:** Another yet serious security challenge confronting Nigeria nation is the issue of smuggling. Smuggling represents the illegal and usually subterranean transportation of goods across state borders in contravention of the laws prohibiting commerce in such goods. Smuggling also involves the movement of persons barred by the immigration laws of a state across that state's national boundary.

Nigeria is particularly vulnerable to smuggling because of the insatiable appetite of Nigerians for foreign goods. The porousness of the country's international borders also helps to facilitate the illegal business. Along the coastal belt, smuggling is facilitated by the cross-crossing nature of the creeks. The numerous creeks provide smugglers with many escape routes for their illegal activity. The situation has not been helped by the country's leaders who prefer to shop in celebrated capitals of the world during their frequent foreign tours only to come and claim immunity at the ports. Today so much small arms and light weapons are smuggled into Nigeria by politicians in preparation for election or to use it to sponsor terrorism or religious fanaticism. This has posed a serious security challenge for our law enforcement agents.

**10) Mismanagement of the Nation's Resources:** Mismanagement of the nation's resources affects internal security to the extent that it impinges on the very important issue of creating the right internal atmosphere for the promotion of National Security. Resources Management within this national context has to do with organising and directing the total resources of men and materials towards the realization of national goals. Proper and judicious resource management will seek to utilize the available resources in a way to maximize the benefits accruing to the nation and satisfy the basic aspiration and needs to the people. Since we live in a world of limited resources, efficient and judicious management of the country's resources is necessary, if we are to eliminate hardship in Nigeria.

So far, experience at national resources management has been marked by inefficiency, corruption, pursuit of elitist taste, discriminatory utilization of the nation's talents, foreign penetration at the commanding heights of the economy and other vices in high place. Nigeria economy in the words of late General Sani Abacha has been hopelessly mismanaged to the extent that we have become a beggar and a debtor nation. Unemployment has reached an embarrassing proportion; there is an unacceptable level of poverty in the land, corruption and uneven distribution of national wealth characterises management of Nigeria's resources. These are at the very heart of Nigeria's development challenges. As Ngoa (2012) rightly pointed out, Nigeria leaders should recognize the fact that mass poverty and under development interact with and exacerbate crime. In the word of former South African president Nelson Mandela.

*...crime can only be effectively dealt with in the context of successful socio-economic programmes, but economic growth and programmes which will banish poverty are themselves subverted by crime and corruption.*

Thus most people believe that Mandela's wise counsel should be seen as a clarion call to Nigeria leaders that promoting the well-being of the people and good governance can together create a virtuous circle of continuous improvement and reduce insecurity.

**11) Alien Influx:** alien influx into Nigeria recorded an unprecedented increase in the seventies due to the oil boom which opened up many job opportunities in the country. The



effect of drought and political unrest on some of our neighbouring countries especially Chad, helped to aggravate the problem. The ease with which people cross the international boundaries between Nigeria and her neighbours due to the porous nature of the country's borders are also a contributory factor. There is, of course, the problem of identifying people from the opposite side of the border due to the ethno-cultural linkages between the border inhabitants on both sides.

The security-related problem about alien influx is that apart from aggravating Nigeria's unemployment problem, such illegal immigrants could easily serve as agents of destabilization. This is exactly what is happening today where most of the suicide Boko Haram bombers are from our neighbouring countries. Alien influx has helped to promote, sustain and nature the notorious activities of Boko Haram.

### **Implications of Security Challenges to the Nation's Development Efforts**

The multi-dimensional but dangerously evolving security challenges in Nigeria especially as manifested by terrorism, ethno-religious orgies of violence, kidnapping, armed militancy and other acts of criminality have continued to generate national and international concerns due to its implications to our nation. The followings are some of the implications of those security challenges.

**1. Loss of Morale in Nigerian Nation:** Votg (1990), noted that most important constraints to effective defence policy formulation lies in the worsening of internal security breaches and especially in the low morale of the average Nigeria. As Adams (1976) argued, the current economic depression which has produced a large number of unemployed persons cannot be adequate platform on which to build effective security. Unemployment is a prime trigger and sustainers of terrorism. Where there is preponderance of the unemployed there is infestation of disenchantment. Profoundly, these idle hands made ready and easy recruits. If Nigeria is to face an invading army, they are finished because it will have to first overcome the problem of morale of its citizens and their lack of faith in the system as it is now. Simply put, Nigeria government cannot be assured of the full allegiance of its people when confronted by external attacks.

**2. Exposure of Weakness of our Security Agents:** Scholars Like Ajayi (1988); Basse and Elagwu (1990) Eliagwu (2005) argued that several incidents have exposed the inadequacies of Nigeria's security forces in dealing with threats of vital nature to the country's security. These inadequacies, Yaki-Bellow (2012) noted stem on the most part, from lack of clarity of the strategic doctrine that should guide the deployment of forces. The observations of the above scholars are in conformity with the communiqué of Security Summit held in Abuja recently which noted that there is lack of synergy in Nigeria security arrangement. The summit noted that there is lack of fusion among security agencies. Specifically, Nigeria security agencies hardly corporate and collaborate in intelligence sharing. Rather they compete much more than they collaborate. This is equally in line with the views expressed by Amujiri (2011) that when the Nigeria citizens were massacred by Boko Haram people, the absence of a clear contingency plan designed to deal with the security of life and property of Nigerians even within her country was exposed.

If there is a clearly defined doctrine to govern internal security operations and there is a clearly enunciated plan for each stage of the operations, it is most likely that more lives and properties would be saved in Nigeria during any security crisis/breaches. In fact, in most cases, more lives have been lost either as a result of the abuse in the use of force which led to

escalation of the problems or the police, discovering that they lack the capability to contain the crisis, were too slow in handing the situation over to the military.

**3. Exploitation of the Situation:** The malcontents of security policy in Nigerian which finds practical expression in lack of viable defence policy; fragmentation of the defence policy formulation, strategic and tactical planning at the service level etc can always be exploited by some people to ignite pockets of resistance to government action. The activities of Save Nigeria Group; (SNG) Civil Society Organizations, Organized Labour are cases in point.

**4. Elitist Defence Policy:** Over the years, National security has been seen as elitist preserve of a few individuals in the state who have consequently succeeded in situating it mainly within the state security paradigm. Within a state security perspective, security is perceived to mean that the state is protected from external aggression, while the government, of the day and its acolytes in the business of governance are shielded.

Oyebode (2012) and Shettima (2012) argued that Nigeria should move away from the state-centred approach to a more holistic approach that includes human security as a major aspect of national security. By human security, we mean a situation where, rather than the state, the people remain at the centre of national security planning and implementation.

In Nigeria, instrument of state and financial resources were devoted to protecting few segment of the society at the expense of the rest of the citizenry. This concept and orientation of society alienated the citizenry from the security community and this has created serious confidence gap in articulating an effective national security policy for the country while providing conditions for the germination of insecurity.

**5. Exposed Level of Poverty in Nigeria:** Experts in security matters are of the opinion that terrorism germinate, takes root and festers in an environment of abject poverty, mass illiteracy, corruption, and a yawning gap in socio-economic parity. The socio-economic thesis can be used to explain Nigeria situation. By this, it is argued that poverty, begets terrorism and other crimes. This argument is not new especially when located within the context of the theories of revolution and social change as encapsulated in the rising expectation-frustration thesis. Simply put, when people expect that a lot but merely gets a little, the platform for violence is laid. In the Nigeria case, 1999 gave Nigerians hope but as at today, the society has not changed for the best. Poverty continues to rise, standard of education drops, the best brains are drained by more serious countries, power is under-produced and life expectation and standard of living remains sympathetic. Thus, for proponents of the socio-economic thesis, Nigeria has all the conditions for violent dangerous outburst against the state.

The socio-economic thesis is in line with the communiqué of Security Summit in Abuja which recommended that government should, as a matter of urgency, address the socio-economic and political triggers of insecurity like poverty, unemployment corruption, inequality, bad governance etc. Nwankwo (2012) had earlier argued that fundamental root cause of most of the security challenges in Nigeria has been rooted in socio-economic. According to him, since underlying many of these crises have been economic and political issues, the use of force cannot be an enduring solution to the problem, it can only abuse the crisis or prevent escalation. These tallies with the postulations of Ezeani (2012) that if the fundamental problem (poverty) is not addressed, we are more likely to encourage the formation of better organised and to confront more aggressive law enforcement agency. The unacceptable level of poverty in the land should be realistically addressed. Nigeria leaders

have failed to recognize that mass poverty and underdevelopment interact and exacerbate crime.

**6. Conservative Defence Policy:** Scholars like Mohammed (1986), Danjuma (1979) Brathwait (1988) and Nweke (1985) among others argued that given Nigeria's conservative doctrine of national security, it is understandable why the general tendency is for national security planners to respond by strengthening the coercive apparatus of government anytime the nations faced with internal security challenges. Brathwait (1988) noted that in most cases, little attention is paid to the non-coercive responses which at times, are most cost-effective, apart from the fact that they have the salutary effect of saving the nation the unnecessary anxiety of partial, if not full, mobilization of the country's security forces.

The views of above scholars were in total agreement with that expressed by national security summit participants held in Abuja recently. Without mincing words, the participants, agreed that Nigeria has no national security policy that has clearly defined objectives of protecting its national assets, delineating the roles of the different security agencies to avoid duplication of agencies and overlapping function as well as inter-agencies competition for supremacy. This was brought to the fore in the presentation by General Sarkin Bellow who represented the National security. Adviser (NSA) at the recent Abuja Security Summit.

**7. Lack of National Security Data:** Etiowo and Oshodi (2012) posit that another major missing link in Nigeria Security Issue is the absence of a functional national data base that will facilitate co-ordination of intelligence about crime and possible breach of security in the county. The summit participants argued that in redefining our National security; there is the need to look beyond the present acts of terrorism to articulate a national security policy that will take all aspects of our national lives into consideration. According to the participants, our national security therefore comprises of both tangible and intangible assets, hard and soft security, natural resources and human capabilities. Once there is a crisis in any of these areas, it will trigger off serious social discontent that will threaten our national security. This realisation will provide the government the basis to embark on full citizen's awareness of the need for them to be proactive and protect these assets as a mark of their obligations to the state, their own welfare and survival. The relative absence of a common perception of doctrine of internal security policy has resulted in security lapses. In fact, it is due to lack of well articulated internal security policy that made Nigerian to be taken unaware by Boko Haram sect.

Poor security data gathering, security experts have argued results in Ibal lack of central national intelligence gathering centre similar to the national counter-terrorism centre in the United States where intelligence reports are gathered for analysis and distributed to the relevant agencies for action. This has compounded the security challenges in Nigeria. The central activities of such a centre will include interception of communications and tracing of persons connected with acts of terrorism, analysis and management of intelligence report gathered by different security agencies, initiation of action through the relevant agencies etc.

Nweke (1985) argued that as a result of paucity of intelligence report on the strength and capability of the insurgents security operatives have been caught unawares. Yaki-Bello (2012) in his paper presentation to security summit advocated for establishment of national security data gathering centre. According to him, building counter-terrorism strategies include intelligence gathering, management and analyses, effective security information management to counter the propaganda and indoctrination that is the core of terrorism understanding their profile and functions which in turn, increases ability to counter-terrorism

more effectively. The Boko Haram incidence exposed further poor intelligence security information gathering in Nigeria.

Ngoa (2012) argued that the absence of efficient lines of communication and the lack of clearly understood internal security doctrine have resulted in situations of near anarchy, with more lives lost than when a quicker intervention by military would have brought problem under control sooner. More often than not, criminals use to take Nigeria security agents unawares due to poor intelligence network.

**8. Other Implications:** Other consequence of these security challenges includes loss of lives and property; loss of man-hours due to shortened working hours by banks and commercial institutions; closure of business by those who work at night due to the curfew consequent upon state of emergency in some parts of the country; proliferation of arms and ammunitions in the country which has empowered and strengthened the present state of insecurity, scaring away foreign investors and grave economic predicament and uncertainty in the country.

### **Conclusion**

Security challenges were until recently thought of as a distant phenomenon. Today, it has come upon the country in all its sinister details. Therefore it has become the most potent challenges confronting Nigeria today. The Nigeria security challenge gemminates, takes root and festers in an environment of abject poverty, mass illiteracy, corruption and a yawning gap in socio-economic parity. It is given impetus by bad governance, weak socio-political and economic institutions and absence of free, fair and credible elections. Unemployment is a prime trigger and sustainers of this unfortunate situation. It was observed that where there is a preponderance of the unemployed, there is infestation of disenchantment. Profoundly, these idle hands make ready and easy recruits for terrorism and other related criminalities.

Internal security has attracted very little scholarly attention among Nigerian academics despite the number of criminals Nigeria has until the recent upsurge of Boko Haram sects, kidnappers, Armed robbers, hired assassins, cross border crimes, illicit proliferation, circulation and trafficking of small arm and light weapons all of which constitute various threats to security and national stability. It equally hampers the harmonious economic and social development of the country and makes every Nigerian to live in perpetual fear.

These unfortunate development constrain more than many others, aggravate the suffering of Nigeria, make the poor even more vulnerable, distort economic values, rob national budgets, dampen the entrepreneurial spirit, discourage foreign investments, promote capital flight, perpetuate human suffering, leads to loss of lives and property and general sense of insecurity in all nook and cranny in the country. They are at the very heart of Nigeria development challenges. We therefore recommend that there is urgent need to enthrone good governance, accountability, shun corruption, provide employment opportunities, empower the youth and pursue people oriented programmes.

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