Security Challenges and Its Implications for Nigeria's National Development

By

Awortu, B.E. PhD
Department of History & Diplomatic Studies
Faculty of Humanities
Ignatius Ajuru University of Education
P.M.B. 5047, Rumuolumeni, Port Harcourt, Nigeria
Tel : 12348037142281
Email : bawortu@yahoo.com

N-ue, UeBari Samuel, Ph.D
Department of History & Diplomatic Studies
Faculty of Humanities
Ignatius Ajuru University of Education
P.M.B. 5047, Rumuolumeni, Port Harcourt, Nigeria
Tel : 12348037465667
Email : samueluebari4real@yahoo.com
&
Emeka Innocent Ozurumba
Department of History and Diplomatic studies, Faculty of Humanities,
Ignatius Ajuru University of Education, Rumuolumeni,
Port Harcourt. Rivers state.
Email: Chukwuemekaozuruba042@gmail.com
Phone: 08037072042

Abstract

The paper seeks to examine the role of security in Nigeria's development. Security and development are intertwined whenever the subject of security comes up in the society it is given urgent attention because no society can attain or achieve meaningful development in the absence of security. The work, which adopted the frustration aggression theory, revealed that security and welfare are the primary responsibility of any Government in the world. This is also contained in the chapter two, section 14 of the 1999 constitution of Nigeria as amended. Development of any society can thrive in a situation where there is a formidable security

structure in place. Security is the bedrock of any sustainable development in any progressive society, as such no developed society undermine their security importance. Further maintains that insecurity in the society. The findings of the study revealed that insecurity has negative impact on the national development, of Nigeria, and the paper further revealed that bad government, unemployment, poverty, porous borders, inadequate funding of security personnel are some of the causes of insecurity in Nigeria. The paper argued that there is strong relationship between security and development in Nigeria, and there can be no development without formidable security structure, because no foreign investor can invest in a society that is not save for their investment, and national development can be sustained with adequate and formidable security structure in a society. Therefore, the paper, recommended that adequate funding of security personnel's, strong border control system, partnership with international or foreign organizations in curbing insecurity and recruiting of more personnel in to the security forces will all go a long way to strengthens security in Nigeria thereby paving way for development.

Keywords: Security, Insecurity, National Development, Peace

Introduction

Security is a fundamental pillar for the stability, development and prosperity of any nation. Nigeria is a country characterized by its vast population, diverse cultures and significant economic potentials. According to Edita and Shuaibu, (2018) the economic survival of a state hugely depends on the security of its environment. Security is an indispensable asset to national economic development of a country. They further maintained that most states with economic fortunes today are not only the result of their institutional capacity to build a nation, but as a result of the secured environment suitable for investment, because no foreign investor will invest in a state/society that is not save. A secured environment allows for the stability and growth necessary for progress in various sectors of the economy. Without security, investment and productivity are hampered, hindering overall national development (Madobi, 2022).

Security and Welfare of citizens are the primary responsibility of every government all over the globe. It follows therefore that no government should

undermine the security of its citizens. According to Robert McNamara (1968), security is development and development is security. This connotes that security is not all about the protection of a state and its sovereign territories. It is an inclusive policy field for the well-being, the welfare and security of the people quoted in (Zabadi, 2013: p.54) Philosophers have established that the chief end of any responsible and responsive government is to guarantee welfare and security of the people, otherwise that government seems irrelevant. Aja-Akpuru-Aja 2020) The 1999 Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, as amended, particularly in Chapter two, Section 14 provides for the security and welfare of the citizen as the primary responsibility of the government. Security and well-being are twin-like. Both are the cornerstones for the conditions of order, stability, growth and development in a society. As a matter of fact, no state can attain meaningful development without security and the wellbeing of its citizens.

Security does not in the final analysis resides in awesome military weapons, as McNamara (1968), informs:

> Security comes from providing the needs of the citizenry, as a product of national development, creating jobs, having functioning pubic utilities, and delivering good governance which ensures even development and equitable distribution of national resources to give all groups a sense of belonging. A state must be alive to distributive justice to be peaceful and secure internally cited in (Nwolise, 2018: p. 145).

The government of Nigeria has over the time allocated huge amount of its national budget to security and defence. For instance, ₦6.11 trillion was budget for national security in the 2025 budget, making it the highest defence allocation in Nigeria's history. (https://statehouse. gou.ng).

However, despite this huge allocation to national security, the issue of insecurity is still on the rise, thereby stunting national development. Nigeria has consistently ranked low in the Global Peace Index (GPI, 2012), signifying a worsened state of insecurity in the country. According Edita and Shuaibu, (2018) the viable security measures as adopted in many societies is a social security where every living being in a country is satisfied with the distribution of wealth, capable of eliminating abject poverty. Security provides the foundation for economic activity, businesses

thrive in a secured environment and state. A secure environment allows for infrastructure development, trade and foreign investment.

Development means economic, social and political progress, and development cannot be achieved without security. In 2005 the UN secretary General, Kofi Anna echoed the same sentiment when he stated that, "In an increasingly interconnected world, progress in the area of development, security and human right must go hand in hand. He further argued that there will be no development without security and no security without development.

Theoretical Framework

Theories are set of principles, ideas or believe adopted by scholars in the study of scholarship which help to guide or explain a given concept or socio-political phenomenon. Theory thus, is a guiding tool of analysis.

Frustration-Aggression Theory

Frustration-aggression theories have been instrumental in understanding the dynamics of national security and development in Nigeria. These theories help to explain how unmet expectations, economic hardship, corruption, political marginalization, bad leadership, and socio-cultural grievances can lead to unrest, conflicts, and hinder national development.

Frustration theory originated from the broader field of social psychology, notably Frustration-Aggression theory. (Dollard, 1939). This theory posits that frustration-stemming from the blocking of goals, bad leadership, hardship can lead to aggressive responses, which may manifest as protest, insurgencies or violence. In the context of national security and development, frustration theory suggests that when citizens perceive persistent grievance, ethnic marginalization, or economic inequality, they become frustrated, which can escalate into conflict or insurgency. Nigeria's complex socio-political landscape, characterized by ethnic diversity, economic disparities, and historical injustices, provides fertile ground for frustration- driven conflicts. Scholars have applied frustration theory to analyze Nigeria's security and development challenges. Nigeria has over 250 ethnic groups. According to Obi, (2009) ethnic diversity has often been a source of tension; when some groups are marginalized, they perceive exclusions from

political power or economic resources. Hence frustration builds up. Indeed, Persistent poverty, unemployment and inequality create frustration among Nigeria's youth, fueling unrest, agitation for resource control, or participation in insurgent groups. (Ekearayawu, 2014).

Political Marginalization: According to Udoh and Udoh, (2018) frustration arising from political exclusion, especially among minority groups, has historically led to insurgencies like the Niger Delta militancy, and IPOB insurgency in the south eastern part of Nigeria.

Development Challenge: frustration theories also highlight barriers to Nigeria's development, citizens become frustrated when their economic expectations are unmet, and this could result in apathy, resistance, or violent opposition to development projects, as such discouraging, potential foreign investors from investing in Nigeria. Frustration Aggression theory provides a valuable framework for understanding the root causes of security and underdevelopment challenges in Nigeria. It emphasizes the importance of addressing socio-economic, political and ethnic grievances to enhance security and foster national sustainable development.

Conceptual Framework

This section examines the key concepts in this work.

Security: According to Muyiwa, (2023) security is a fragile and significant issue which conveys different meanings to scholars, analysts, policy makers and organizations across the globe. Primarily, security has to do with safety, peace, gladness, protection from fear and danger. Security is the absent of threat from general welfare of human.

The meaning of security is ambiguous, its scope continues to expand every day. According to Barry Buzan, (1991) who describes security as an ambiguous and multidimensional concept in which military factors have attracted misappropriate attention. The contemporary ideas and views of scholars about security are all encompassing as rightly captured by Ochoche (1997 p. 27):

> Security is more than military security or security from external attacks. For many inhabitants in the developing countries, security

> is conceived as the basic level of the struggle for survival. Therefore, in order to provide an integrated African Security Assessment, the non-military dimension of security should be added. Henceforth, security as a concept should be applied in its broader sense to include economic security, social security, environmental security, food security, equality of life, security and technological security" (Ochoche, 1997: p.27).

According to Nwolise (2018), security remains not just a sacred value, for all times, individuals, groups and nations, it is the utmost value. This arises from the incontrovertible truth that one must be alive for any other value to be meaningful. Gee (2016), defined security as a shared freedom from fear and want, and the freedom to live in dignity. It implies social and ecological health, rather than the absence of risk.

Baldwin, (1997) defined security as a low probability of damage to acquire values. Security is generally agreed to be about feeling of being safe from harm, fear anxiety, oppression, danger, poverty, defence, protection and preservation of core values, and threat to those values (Afolabi, 2015).

Ethan submitted that security mean more than the absence of conflict, lasting peace, and requires a broader vision encompassing areas such as education, health, democracy and human rights, protections against environmental degradation and the proliferation of deadly weapons. We cannot be secured amidst starvation, and we cannot build peace without alleviating poverty, and we cannot build freedom on foundations of injustice. These pillars we understand as the people-centered concept of human security are interrelated and neutrally reinforcing (cited in Nwolise, 2018). According to Aja Akpuru-Aja (2020), security provides the enabling atmosphere for progressive social and political order in a system. He further submits that every other sector of the state system, including human existence hings on the functions of security.

National Security

According to Lipmann, (1945 P.51) "a nation is secure to the extent that it is not in a position to lose core values, life, property and liberty. Nations of the world

prioritize the safety of its territorial integrity, resources and its entire citizenry". This informs the belief that national security is the preservation of independence and sovereignty of a nation state. In reality, every country has a large number of interests to protect (Muyiwa, 2023). Recalling Walter Lipmann's view, a nation is secure to the extent that it is not in a situation to lose its national sovereignty and core values. "National security presupposes the existence of a nation with shared consciousness as people who have agreed to live and work together" (Aja-Akpum-Aja, 2020 P.66).

This view is in tandem with Harold Brown's (US secretary of Defence from 1977 to 1981) definition. He defined national security as the ability to preserve the nation's physical integrity and territory, to maintain its economic relations with the rest of the world on reasonable terms; to preserve it nature, institutions and governance from disruption from outside and control its borders. (Abolurin, 2011). In the view of Orwa, (1984) he defined national security as comprising the protections of the national interest, including national values, political and economic ways of life against internal threat and challenges.

According to Muyiwa, (2023) national security has no universally accepted definitions, but there are two schools of thought to it – the old school (Traditional security paradigm) and the new school (contemporary perspective). The old school which is referred to as the realist school views national security from militarist angle with emphasis on military response and management of national threat. The new school of thought has moved national security beyond military realm to include non-military factor. It maintains that old school conception of security cannot capture modern day security threats, like hunger, unemployment, poverty, environmental humiliation and so on. This informed McNamara, when observed that:

> Any society that seek to attain adequate military security against the background of acute paucity of food, population explosion, low level of production, low per capital income, low technological development, inadequate and insufficient public utilities and chronic problem of unemployment has a false sense of security cited in (Nwolise, 2008 P.250).

This position exposes the importance of contemporary or new school of thought on national security, which provides for the totality of human welfare. This informed the position of Nwolise cited in Muyiwa, 2023, P.8) when he postulates that:

> A country may have the best arrived forces in terms of training and equipment, the most efficient police force, the most efficient custom men. The most active secret agents and best quality prisons, but yet be the most insecure nation in the world as a result of defence and security problems within bad governments, alienated and suffering masses, ignorance, hunger, unemployment or even activities from foreign residents or companies". (cited in Muyiwa, 2023: P.8).

Obasnjo conceives national security as the aggregate of the security interest of all individuals, communities, ethnic groups and the entire political entity. (Obasanjo, 1999 P.3). the Reviewed Draft National Defence Policy (RDNDP) defined national security as:

> All-encompassing condition in which citizens can live in freedom, peace and safety, participate fully in the process of governance, enjoy the protection of fundamental human rights, have access to resources and necessities of life and inhabit in environment which is conducive to their health and well-being" (RDNDP, 2002 P.1).

Security is the most importance asset of any society, an insecure society cannot guarantee a secure economy. National Security is the sum total of national interest which entails, environmental security, food security, economic security, job security, health security, financial security, and so on.

National Development

According to Edita and Shuaibu (2018), Development is a continuous process. it is a multidimensional concept that consists of various part of a whole, as a concept development embraces both economic variables and non-economic variables. National development, according to Logman dictionary of contemporary English, refers it to a phenomenon that embraces a whole nation. National development therefore can be described as the overall development or a collective socio-

economic, political as well as religious advancement of a country or national (Lawal & Oluwatoyin, 2017).

According Zakari, (2019) National Development can imply strategic, systematic, gradual or radical transformation of a nation from the state of national irrelevance, inconsequential, in activeness, redundancy, degradation, slumber, nothingness, non-progression, belatedness, and retardation to the desired state of relevance, growth and advancement in strategic national sectors which includes, but not limited to the: Economy, education, Literacy, Science and Technology; Law and Security, Politics and International Relations. etc.

The term, national development, refers to the improvement of a country in all areas, including the political, economic, social, cultural, scientific and material spheres. The capacity of a nation to enhance its citizens' standard of living is an indicator of the nation's level of development, (Ibrahim, 2023).

National Development, is defined by Bamgbose, (2022) as the growth of a nation in terms of internal cohesion, integration, unity, economic well-being, mass participation in government and educational growth. National Development is measured in terms of total transformation or qualitative advancement of the lives of the citizens, and all-round positive transformation of the country. Ibrahim, (2023). Further observed that National Development is explained in terms of measurable growth which results in an improved standard of living. some commonly used indicators of national development include Gross Domestic Product (GDP), Human Development Index (HDI), Poverty rate, unemployment rate, and good governance. Interrogating the issue of development, Dudley Seers, posits thus: "the questions to ask about a country's development are therefore: what has been happening to poverty? What has been happening to unemployment? What has been happening to inequality? If all three of these have declined from high levels, then beyond doubt this has been a period of development for the country concerned, if one or two of those central problems have been growing worse, especially if all three have, it would be strange to call the result "development" even if per capita income double. (1969, P.3) Dudley Seers Definition of development is a shining light of what national development is all about. The development of any nation is not the result of physical

infrastructures but to a great extent elimination of poverty, eradication of inequality and provision of social security (employment) and human capital development.

Forms of Security

Security in Nigeria is often perceived through a multifaceted lens that includes.

1. **National Defence:** National defence or security entails the protection of the state/nation sovereignty from external threat through military paredness and defence strategies, which is regarded as a duty of government.
2. **Internal Security:** Refers to the measures a state or organization takes to protect itself from threats and risks originating within its own borders or system (Aja Akpuru-Aja, 2020). It is also the maintenance of law and order within the country, addressing issues such as, insurgency organized crime and communal conflict.
3. **Economic Security:** This entails the protection of critical economic infrastructure, such as oil pipeline, market and financial institutions from economic sabotage and conflict.
4. **Social Security:** This entails promoting social welfare and protecting citizens from poverty, unemployment, and the ability to maintain a reasonable standard of living.
5. **Environmental Security:** This entails addressing environmental challenges that could lead or result to environmental conflicts, such as flooding and desertification.
6. **Cyber Security:** This entails protecting the nations digital infrastructure from cyberthreats and ensuring the integrity of information systems.
7. **Human Security:** Human security is tied up in the protection and defence of human dignity. it is people-centred, and entails the right to live in a healthy environment (Mateos 2009, P. 114).

Importance of Security in Nigeria National Development

The importance of security on the national development of Nigeria, cannot be over emphasize, because security is crucial for national development, it creates a stable environment where individuals and businesses can thrive, fostering economic growth and development.

- **Economic Stability and Growth:** Security is a prerequisite for economic development in any society. (Gylfason, 1999) Vulnerable environment deter both domestic and foreign investments, disrupt business operations and increase the cost of doing business. For instance, the persistent insecurity in the Niger-Delta Region, characterized by oil theft and pipeline vandalism, has led to significant revenue losses for the country and hindered economic growth.

- **Protection of Lives and Properties:** According to Aja Kapuru-Aja (2020, P. 50). Governance issues touch fundamentally on how to guarantee welfare and security of the people. Every constitution emphasizes the people, not the state. The primary responsibility of any government is to protect lives and properties, as provided in chapter two section 14 of the 1999 constitution of Nigeria as amended. The rising incidence of kidnapping, banditry, and insurgency in the northern part Nigeria, have led to the loss of thousands of lives and displacement of people, with casualties recorded, and also destruction of properties.

- **Social Cohesion and National unity:** Nigeria's diverse ethnic and religious composition can mitigate these tensions by promoting inclusivity, justice and equal opportunities for all citizens. Conversely, insecurity can exacerbate division and lead to communal clashes, as seen in the recurring farmers-herder's conflict in the various parts of Nigeria.

- **Sustainable development:** According to Robert McNamara, (1968) Security is not all about the protection of the state and its sovereign territories (Aja Akpuru-Aja, 2020). security is intrinsically linked to sustainable development. Insecure environments impede access to education, healthcare services, and other essential services, thereby perpetuating cycles of poverty and unemployment. the disruption of educational activities due to insecurity, such as the abduction of school children in the northern part of Nigeria (Chibok School girl's), has long term implication for human capital development and national progress.

- **Governance and Rule of Law:** The effectiveness of governance is tied to the state's ability to maintain security. Weak security institutions, corruptions and lack of accountability undermine public trust and hinder the implementation of policies geared towards strengthening security agencies and promoting the rule of law and fostering a peaceful society.

Challenges of Security in Nigeria National Development

Despite the efforts and huge amount budgeted for security to enhance affective security system in the country; Nigeria still faces pockets of security challenges, which at the long run affect national development in the country. However, Nigeria's journey to national development has been hampered by various security issues, including insurgency, terrorism, ethnic and communal conflicts, kidnapping, cyber threat, weak institutions etc.

1. **Insurgency and Terrorism:** One of Nigeria most prominent security threats is the Boko-Haram insurgency is the north-east region. According to Onuoha (2014). Boko-Haram, which means "Western education is forbidden "in Hausa land", emerged in 2002 and escalated into a violent insurgency by 2009, leading to thousands of losses of lives and properties and displacements of many. The insurgency has divested infrastructure, displaced thousands, and curtailed economic activities in the region, thereby impeding development effort.

2. **Ethnic-Religious conflicts:** Nigeria is characterized by ethnic and religious diversity, which, coupled with historical grievances, has sometimes resulted in violet conflicts. for example, the hender-farmer's clashes have escalated into deadly violence, especially in the middle Belt and Southern regions (Ikelegbe, 2010), such conflicts undermine social cohesion, hinder agricultural productivity and divert resources from developmental projects.

3. **Banditry and Kidnapping:** In recent years banditry and kidnapping has become prevalent, kidnapping for ransom, particularly in the Niger-Delta and Northern regions. According to Akinbami, (2012) kidnapping not only endangers lives but also discourages investment, tourism, and economic activities, thereby slowing development.

4. **Cyber Security threats:** With Nigeria's growing digital economy, cyber threats have emerged as a new security concern is the country. Cyber-crime activities, including fraud, and hacking, theater financial institutions, businesses and government operations (Oke & Ojo, 2020). These threats compromises trust and economic stability.

Causes of Insecurity to Nigeria National Development

According to Ibrahim, (2023) several factors have been attributed to the rising state of insecurity in Nigeria. These factors include bad governance, unemployment and poverty, porous borders and arms proliferation, weak and overburdened security apparatus, poor funding etc.

1. **Bad Governance/Inept Leadership:** According to Nwolise, (2018) Leadership is the most critical aspect of a nation's elements of national power. it determines everything else including whether a nation will be peaceful or conflict ridden; will progress, stagnate, retrogress or even disintegrate into historical oblivion. Nigeria despite the natural resource blessings, has over time suffered from leadership disaster, bad governance is government's incapacity to manage public affairs and resources, as well as a government's failure to meet societal requirements while making the best use of all available resources (Jega, 2021). According to Kobani and Mba (2022) bad governance is being increasingly regarded as one of the root causes of all evil within our societies. Achebe, in his book, the trouble with Nigeria, opined that the problem with Nigeria is bad leadership, and not the country.
2. **Unemployment and Poverty:** High unemployment rates, particularly among the youth, are significant drivers of insecurity in Nigeria. Studies have revealed that unemployment breads poverty and hunger, leading to increased involvement in various forms of criminality. Unemployment has a severe negative implication on sustainable national development in Nigeria (Madobi, 2021). The presence of poverty with lack of food makes the poor to result in violence and other vices social that impact negatively on the security of the country (Egbefo & Salihu, 2014). Unemployment, poverty and illiteracy contribute largely to insecurity in the society.

3. **Porous Borders and Arms Proliferation:** Nigeria's borders are poorly policed. The Porous nature of these borders heightens the potentials spread of terrorist activities into the country (Ojewale, 2021). Nigeria, border security system, particularly in the north, remains weak, allowing individuals from neighboring countries such as Niger, Chad and other Sahel nations to enter effortlessly. over the years these unchecked movements have fueled criminal activities, including banditry, terrorism, and smuggling of arms, which has continued to worsening Nigeria's security crisis. Akinola Ayobani, an international relations analyst, describes Nigeria's borders as "vulnerable to illegal crossings, smuggling, and other criminal activity, especially with the states in the north". He added that these unchecked movements have significantly contributed to the rise in terrorism, banditry and organized crime. (*Business Day*, Feb. 9 2025).
4. **Weak and Overburdened Security Apparatus:** The Nigeria police force, is the leading principal law enforcement agency in Nigeria internal security agent, saddled with the responsibility of maintenance of laws and order, and protections of lives and properties within the shores of nation. (Ibrahim, 2023). The Nigeria police force, like other security agencies, derives its powers, functions and responsibilities from the 1999 constitution as amended (Bakare, 2021). They are the closest law enforcement agent to the public, unlike other security agencies, they work hand in hand with other sister agencies to curtail security challenges in the country. However, security agencies have not live upto expectation in confronting insecurity in the country, as a result of weak security system or institutions, which is characterized many factor's like corruption, poor funding, insufficient police man power, lack of modern equipment, poor safety, poor healthcare for personnel etc. the Nigeria populations is approximately at 220 million, with the personnel strength of the Nigeria police at 370,000 (Bakare, 2021) Olorisakin, (2008) opined that the police population ratio in Nigeria is 1:450 which falls below the United Nations Standard (cited in Abralim, 2023). This position shows that Nigeria is poorly policed. The Military on the other hand appears to be overwhelmed by the insecurity in the country, giving by the report we get on daily basis from the insurgent attacks in the Northern part of the country.

5. **Poor intelligence gathering and coordination:** Intelligence gathering entails collection, collation, identification, analysis, evaluation and interpretation of information's received from field officers, by security formations; according to Nwagboso and Nwagboso, (2021) effective information gathering through intelligence government agencies and security agents far above enemies or adversaries; poor intelligence gathering and analysis will still put the enemies on the top of their grave. according to Ashaolu, (2021) "the dearth of intelligence gathering capabilities will continue to stall Nigeria's search for a lasting solution to insecurity". Raimi and Ene, (2019) observe that security agencies themselves sabotage the intelligence gathering process by acting as snitches for the dreaded non-state actors, making it difficult to effectively combat insecurity (cited in Ibrahim, 2023).

Recommendations

Insecurity in Nigeria poses a threat to lives and properties and can as well hinder national development, therefore it will be imperative to adopt a comprehensive strategy that will enhance security improvement, and based on the findings, the study makes the following recommendations and the way forward in curbing security challenges in Nigeria.

- **Good leadership/Governance:** According to Nwolise, (2018) leadership is the most critical aspect of a nation's element of national development. It determines everything else including development and underdevelopment. There is need for good leadership/governance to tackle the menace of insecurity in the nation, by ensuring transparency and accountability in all aspect of governance. This will help to promote trust between the government and the citizens, and also ensure that resources or funding for security purpose are effectively utilize, and it will further prevent corruption in the system.
- **Training and Funding:** There is need to modernize the security agencies with training, intelligence gathering/sharing, advanced technological systems, motivation, and change of orientation. This effort will enhance the operational capabilities of the Nigerian security agencies in their fight against insecurity. In addition, there should be a state of emergency or complete overhaul of the country's security institutions to effect international standard of best practices so as to pre-empt security breaches,

in particular the failure of the intelligence services to curtail the recurring security breaches in the country. Adequate funding and training of security personnel will assist to enhance their operational capabilities and effectiveness.

- **Community Policing:** There is need for community policing to enhance security in Nigeria. Engaging local communities in security matters will help to build trust among the people, other than using foreign bodies, local bodies, within the communities helps to improve intelligent gathering, also it helps them to be more active in securing the neighbourhood.
- **Economic Empowerment:** Poverty and unemployment are some of the root causes of insecurity in Nigeria, therefore to address these causes there is need for government to empower the citizen's economically, through economic development programs, job creation and infrastructural development.
- **Strong Border Control System:** Strong border control system or policing is strongly recommended as most of the weapons (arms), and detonated bombs used by insurgents and ethnic militias are brought into the country through the borders. The porous nature of Nigeria boarders have enormously exposed the country to series of threat from both within and outside the country, hence the need for strong border policing is recommended.
- **Regional cooperation:** Collaborating with neighboring counties to curtail transnational threat like, terrorism and organized crimes can be nipped through regional cooperation by sister countries. Therefore, is highly recommended that the country should collaborate with other neighbouring countries, organizations in the fight against insurgency and terrorism.
- **Judicial Reform:** Strong and effective judiciary system is needed in the fight against insecurity, for timely and fair trials of criminals. This will help to promote the role of law and also to deter citizens from engaging in criminal activities. The fear of sanctions helps to deter people from engaging or committing crimes.

Conclusion

In conclusion, security is intertwined with development, and it the bedrock upon which a country's stability and development can achieved. A country's ability to overcome its security challenges will determine its trajectory towards achieving sustainable development, social harmony and economic prosperity. Scholars have identified strong link between security and development. They have argued that development cannot be achieved in any society where there are conflict, and war. There is a consensus in literatures that security and development are two different and inseparable concepts that affect each other. Just as Robert McNamara, (1968) argued that security is development and development is security. Security is not all about the protection of state and its sovereign territories, it encompasses the social wellbeing or welfare of the citizen (human security, food security, environmental security, economic security, financial security, cyber security, etc). Therefore, it is imperative for the government, security agencies, civil society organizations and the citizens to work collaboratively in fastening a secure environment for sustainable national development in Nigeria.

References

Akinbami, J.F. (2012). Kidnapping in Nigeria: The emerging threat to national security. *Journal of Security Studies, 15*(2), 45-60.

Akpuru-Aja, A. (2020). *Policy fields and contemporary strategic studies:* Checks Consult and Publishers.

Ashaolu, D.D (2021). Solving security challenges in Nigeria through intelligence gathering and surveillance https://papers.ssrn.com/abstract.

Bakare, B. (2021). Perspective on the Nigeria Police Force. Vanguard. https://www.vanguard -ngr.com/2021/07/perspectives-on-the-nigeria-police/amp/

Dollard, J. et al., (1939). *Frustration-agression.* New Haven Yale University Press.

Edita, N & Shuaibu, S. (2018). National security strategies: A panacea to national economic development in Nigeria. *Lapai Journal of International Polities 5*(1),

Ekeanyanwu, N. (2014). Poverty and conflict in Nigeria: The role of socio-economic frustration. *African Journal of Political Science and International Relations 8*(2), 36-44.

Gylfason, T. (1999). *Principles of economic growth.* Oxford university Press.

Ibrahim M.S (2023). Security and national development in contemporary Nigeria: Issues, challenges and prospects. *African Journal of Social and Behavioural Science (AJSBS) 13*(1), 231-243.

Ikelegbe, A. (2010). The economy of conflict in Nigeria. *African Journal of Political Science, 5*(2), 45-68.

Imobigthe, J. (1998). *The management of national security.* Inaugural Lecture, Edo State University, Ekpoma

Jega, A.M. (2021). Responsibilities of the state for a stable democratic polity in Nigeria. Challenges and prospects. A paper presented at a public lecture of the Sokoto State Branch of the Alumni Association of the National Institute (AANI).

Lipmann, W. (1943). *U.S foreign policy: Shield of republic Boston.* Little Brown and Co.

Madobi, M.Y. (2022). Insecurity, unemployment and the rest of US. Punch. https://www.google.com/aiu/s/punchng.com/insecurity-unemployment.

Mateos, Q.O. (2009). *Peace and security in the sub-Saharan Africa*. CASA

McNamara, R. (1968). *The essences of security: Reflections in Office.* Oxford Press.

Nwagboso, C.I. & Nwagboso, N.S. (2021). The challenges of intelligence gathering in the Third World. A critique of the nexus between poverty and public policy process. *International Journal of Public Administration and Management Research (IJPAMR), 6*(2), 55-71. Doi:https://doi.org/10.36758/pamr/v6n2.2021/05

Nwolise, O.B.C. (2018). *Security challenges, peace building and nation building in Nigeria*. Book Point Educational Ltd

Obi, C.I. (2009). *Ethnic identity and polities in Nigeria.* Spectrum Books Ltd.

Oke, O. & Ojo, O. (2020). Cybersecurity threats and Nigeria's digital economy. *Journal of Information Security, 12*(1), 33-50.

Onuoha, F. (2014). Boko-Haram insurgency in Nigeria: An appraisal. *Africa Security Review, 23*(4), 400-416.

Punch Editorial (2022). Military deployment in 36 states dangerous. https://www.google. com/awp/s/punchng.con/military-deployment-in-36states.

Raimi, L & Ene, W.R (2019). Intelligence failure and insecurity in Nigeria: An analysis of the bokoharam insurgency. *International Journal of Strategic Research in Education, Technology and Humanities, 7*(1), 106-120.

Seers, D. (1969). Economic growth and income inequality. AER.

Taofeek, O. & Ladi, J. (2025). How porous borders worsen Nigeria's security challenges business day. https://www.businessday.ng.

Zabadi, L.S. (2013). The national security decision making processes in a democracy in O. Mbachu and U. Bature eds. *Internal security management in Nigeria:* A study in terrorism and convte-terrorism. Medusa Press.