

Insurgency and Public Service Delivery in Nigeria: A Critique of Boko Haram

Ogbonnaya, Dorcas C.

Department of Public Administration, Faculty of Management and Social Sciences, Godfrey Okoye University, Ugwuomu, Enugu | E-mail: chinyeredorcas@gmail.com | Phone: 07032146631

Abstract: *The study examined the impact of insurgency on public service delivery in Nigeria with a focus on Boko Haram. The data is secondary in nature, sourced through secondary materials by way of content analysis. The findings revealed that extreme religious belief, unemployment, illiteracy, bad governance, and corruption have greatly contributed to the occurrence of insurgency in Nigeria especially in the North East where Boko Haram insurgency mostly operates. The paper concluded that poverty and misrepresentation of religious doctrines are the key propelling factors to insurgency in Northern Nigeria. The study therefore recommended among others that the government should formulate and implement policies which will create employment opportunities for the unemployed and desperate youths of the country.*

Key words: *Insurgency, Public Service, Boko haram, North East, Nigeria*

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Introduction

The problems of the transitional societies of Africa are multi-dimensional, ranging from underdevelopment, poor economy and poverty; high levels of inflation, unemployment, rampant corruption, insurrections and insurgencies. Regarding the latter, some writers attribute the incessant conflicts in the developing world to poverty. For instance, (Guitta, & Simcox, 2014) have argued that poverty is the root cause of conflict and by extension; people in conflict situations tend to be driven not by grievances but by the desire for primitive accumulation of wealth. Economic development, while representing increases in industrial productivity, must also include increases in the quality of life of the people. Efforts to pursue the latter goal would require forceful governmental intervention in the form of policies and programmes to eradicate poverty; or at least reduce it to manageable levels. In other words, economic growth and development will provide the needed palliative to end conflicts.

The nature of politics in these emerging societies also contributes to the emergence of conflict situations, and the absence of sustainable peace. Many of them have a Neopatrimonial system of governance characterized by elites who masquerade as politicians, and who engage in

primitive accumulation of wealth. Neopatrimonial governance is common in Africa (Imaralu, 2014). In Nigeria, the high level of insecurity leads to the establishment of extreme forms of neopatrimonial systems. The system of neopatrimonial governance has created situations of extreme poverty, low economic growth, high levels of corruption, and youth restiveness. It has reawakened the minds of the oppressed to seek for justice and equity outside the framework of the nation state. Dangerous weapons including explosives are now readily available to criminals and terrorist groups. The result has been violent conflicts in one form or the other, leading to massive losses in lives and properties.

From the time of independence in 1960 to now, Nigeria has had to grapple with these conflicts. In 1964, for instance, a state of emergency was declared in the then Western Region due to rioting that broke out there in the aftermath of the general elections of the previous year, and that led to loss of lives and properties. The military coups of 1966 were accompanied by wholesale massacres and pogroms directed against people of Eastern Nigeria origin who resided in the North. The unfortunate carnage snowballed into the Nigerian civil war of 1967 – 1970. The attempt to introduce Sharia law in Kaduna State led to rioting between the year 2000 and 2001, and left thousands dead and properties destroyed. In the late 1990s, militants in the Niger Delta region took up arms against the Nigerian state. The region is where 80% of Nigeria's crude oil is extracted. It is the goose that lays the golden egg but is one of the least developed areas of the country, pointing to elite insensitivity and marginalization. This has also been the major grouse of the militants.

In 2014, the group kidnapped about 200 girls from a government school in Chibok, Borno State, the whereabouts of which is still unknown. The current wave of insurgency now poses a danger than ever before. It has caused sufficient harm to the social order in areas of loss of lives and property, economic defeat by diverting foreign direct investment (FDI) from target countries to fighting insurgency. The humankind has recorded a lot of insurgents' attacks. Nigeria has observed extraordinary security challenges. These challenges varies from kidnapping, assassinations, armed robbery, suicide attacks, bombings, and this has led to the devastation of lives and properties, hindered local and foreign investors, increased government spending on security, thereby retarding Nigeria's socio-economic development.

Boko Haram's four-year-old insurgency has pitted neighbour against neighbour, cost more than 4,000 lives, displaced close to half a million, destroyed hundreds of schools and government buildings and devastated an already ravaged economy in the North East, one of Nigeria's poorest regions. It overstretches federal security services, with no end in sight, spills over to other parts of the north and risks reaching Niger and Cameroon. Boko Haram is both a serious challenge and manifestation of more profound threats to Nigeria's security. Yet, the government's response is largely military, and political will to do more than that appears entirely lacking.

Boko Haram (usually translated loosely as "Western education is forbidden") is an Islamic sect that believes corrupt, false Muslims control northern Nigeria. The group (in its view) wants to remedy this by establishing an Islamic state in the north with strict adherence to Sharia (Islamic law).

Statement of the Problem

The height of insurgency in Nigeria especially by the fundamentalist set (Boko Haram) has heightened fears among the populace and the global society and has eaten deep hooked on our economy and as a subject of fact; the antagonism has gone beyond religious or political shadow. Several meetings, high point conferences etc, have been held in a bid to curb the menace in the

country but all to no avail. Also, distant from the fact that meetings have been held, the Federal Government has spent millions of naira in ensuring that safety is brought back to the country but that has never seem to work. The ideology and funding source as the fundamental factor that propels insurgency in Nigeria is a source of worry. Boko Haram crisis is a source of threat to Nigerian's economy. Military option is seen as not yielding probable solution in tackling the menace.

The seemingly intractability of the insurgents saga is exerting a very high cost on the people affected particularly, in terms of high loss of lives, properties and disruption of socio – economic activities of people. It has also affected the family settings in many communities. Re-union of such affected families is difficult because so many have lost their loved ones. In fact, men could not trace the where about of their wives and women could not also trace their children. These have negatively affected the image of the country in the international communities. Economically, Maiduguri where the crisis originated and frequent bombings and clashes between the insurgents and the security agents have weighed down seriously on commercial and business activities in the city. Many businesses have reportedly crumbled and many people have fled the state to southern part of the country. Banks and their customers are said to be operating under difficult conditions and have reduced their business hours to guard against being attacked by the insurgents. It is on the bases of the above problems that the study intends to find answers to such nagging questions like; what is the ideology of boko that haram propels them to perpetrate insurgency in Nigeria? What are the impact of insurgency on the delivery of public services in Nigeria? What efforts have the government made towards tackling insurgency in Nigeria?

Objective of the study

The general objective of the study is to evaluate the activities of insurgents in Nigeria with particular focus on boko haram insurgent so as to determine their impact on the provision of social services in Nigeria. The specific objectives of the study are;

- i. To unravel the ideology of boko haram which propels them to perpetrate insurgency in Nigeria
- ii. To examine the impact of insurgency on the delivery of public services in Nigeria.
- iii. To determine government's efforts towards tackling insurgency in Nigeria

Conceptual clarification

Insurgency: Insurgency refers to attempts by a group to take political control of their country by force. An insurgent therefore, is a person who is fighting against the government or armed forces of his own country (Oxford Dictionary, 2010). Thus, it involves the deliberate creation and exploitation of fear through violence or the threat of violence in the pursuit of political change.

Insurgency is a movement within a country dedicated to overthrowing the government recognized by the United Nations when those taking part in the rebellion are not recognized as a legitimate authority (United Nation 2008). In the words of Ahmadu, Hussaini, & Maryamu, (2017) an insurgency can be thought via counter insurgency welfare and may also be opposed to by measures to protect the population and by political and economic action of various kinds aimed at undermining the insurgents' claims against the incumbent regime. For Ewetan, & Urhie, (2014). Insurgency can be understood as an attempt to provoke fear and intimidation, He also defines it as a "struggle between a non-ruling group and the ruling authorities in which the non-ruling group consciously uses political resources and violence to destroy, reformulate, or

sustain the basis of one or more aspects of politics. Bernburg, (2002) opines that insurgents have the nihilist goal of ensuring the government cannot function and it is easier to achieve insurgent goal than governing, as it is easier and more directed to use military power than to apply political, economic and social techniques. This means that while the insurgents can use violence to delegitimize a government, simple application of violence cannot restore that legitimacy.

Public Service: This generally means the activities of government employees and institutions aimed at formulating and implementing governmental policies and programmes for the interests of the masses (public). Thus, civil service or public service is responsible for the management of the machinery of government and carrying out the day-to-day duties that public administrations demand. For Ezeani, (2006) public service is much broader than the term civil service as the former (public service) refers to the totality of services that are organized under public (that is, government) authority. Reduced to practical terms, public service comprises of civil service, local government, the military and other security forces, the judiciary, public agencies and other government or quasi-governmental agencies. As change agent and mechanism for rapid socio-economic transformation of any country, it becomes inevitable for the public service to be very much affected in event of attack on the citizens who the government serve through the public service.

Theoretical Review

The ideology and Activities of the Insurgency in Nigeria

Boko Haram materialized as a radical fundamentalist Islamic sect, fashioned by Ustaz Mohammed Yusuf, in 2002 in Maiduguri, Borno states. When Boko Haram first formed, their actions were nonviolent. Their main goal was to "purify Islam in northern Nigeria." In 2004, it stirred to Kanamma, Yobe state, where it set up a base called Afghanistan, Ikenga and Efebeh (2013). The sect formally calls itself "Jama'atul Alhul Sunnah Liddo' wati Wal Jihad" which means "people committed to the propagation of the prophet's teachings and Jihad" (Nwanegbo and Odigbo, 2013; Ikenga, and Efebeh, 2013). Their violent action started in 2009.

Boko Haram was founded upon the principles of the Salafism advocating Sharia law. It developed into a Jihadist group in 2009. The movement is diffuse, and fighters associated with it follow the Salafi doctrine. Their beliefs tend to be centered on strict adherence to Wahhibism, which is an extremely strict form of Sunni Islam that sees many other forms of Islam as idolatrous Lauren, (2014), Johnson, (2011), Cook,(2011), Onuoha, (2014). Boko Haram seeks the establishment of an Islamic state in Nigeria. It opposes the Westernization of Nigerian society and the concentration of the wealth of the country among members of a small political elite, mainly in the Christian south of the country (Bartolotta, 2011).

Many analysts have attributed the emergence and recognition of the Boko Haram Sect in the North East to be as a result of socio-economic neglect of the region. For instance, Azar (1990) argues that the Boko-Haram issue is a consequence of a protracted social conflict that has particularly afflicted the North East region from where the crisis domiciled before its spread to other parts of the country. A protracted social conflict exists when a community is deprived of the basic satisfaction of their primary needs on the basis of the shared socio-economic and political aspirations that define its communal identity. The deprivation in this case is the result of a complicated causal chain involving the role of traditional institutions, religious institutions, the state and the pattern of international relations.

Poverty and deprivation in the North East and indeed other parts of Nigeria is seen as a direct consequence of bad governance, corruption, poverty and violence. The nature of politics is mainly characterized by crony-affiliation and money with little or no consideration given to

merit and motivation, thereby making elected officials unaccountable to citizens. Therefore, the activities of violent extremism cannot be separated from the crises affecting the North East Nigeria (Fawole, 2015). Furthermore, the North East lacks adequate border security which allows unregulated movements in the border communities. This in turn through trade gives the extremists too much access to target areas unnoticed.

In trying to identify the causes of violent extremism in the NE Nigeria Chiroma, (2017) asserts that violent extremism in Nigeria is largely as a result of the people's frustration with corruption and the underlying social malaise of poverty and unemployment. One can therefore rightly say from Chiroma's postulation that the extremists are idle due to high level of unemployment in the North East and can easily be persuaded to becoming the devils workshop of violent extremism to the inhabitants of the region. This thought clearly illustrate that high levels of unemployment in the region is as a result of corruption and this leads to violent extremist activities as a product of the people's frustration with the corrupt political elite. Hence the popular saying that a hungry man is an angry man.

To Kukah, (2012) Nigeria has laws that bestow regional political leaders with the power to qualify people as original inhabitants or not. This ascertains whether citizens can participate in politics, own land, obtain a job, or attend school. This system is usually abused to ensure political support and exclude others. The extent of relative poverty and inequality in the north has made many scholars argue that socio-economic deprivation is the main factor behind violent extremism in Northern Nigeria. One can rightly say from the above opinion that violent extremist activities in North East Nigeria are based on the economic crises that have ravaged the region for year. Equally Agbiboa, (2014) identified some socio-economic factors that breed violent extremism such as illiteracy, chronic poverty, corruption, abuse by the security forces and longstanding impunity for the perpetrators of human right violations.

The activities of the insurgents are very glaring and constitute a crime against humanity in the state and also pose a serious threat to national security. The group has intensified its attacks on security agents and their formations, attacking top governmental establishments, mosques, churches, markets, business centres, and motor parks, attacking and kidnapping the general populace (Ajah, 2011). This has claimed the lives of more than 15 thousand people (NEMA, SEMA, 2014). These attacks have led to the killings of 15,000 people and displacement of 2,000,000 people in Adamawa, Borno and Yobe state (Displacement Tracking Matrix, 2014).

Boko Haram is deeply entrenched in the social and economic marginalization of a large section of the North East region. In executing their agenda, the insurgent groups have bombed Churches, Mosques, Police Stations, Schools, and other Government owned properties as well as privately owned property usually through the machinery of suicide bombers, slaughtering, and kidnapping of people (Dauda, 2014, Akinbi, 2015). From the above, one can easily deduce that the violent extremist activities of Boko Haram in the North East have generally affected normal activities in the region thereby bringing negative effect to all developmental activities.

Efforts of Government at Tackling Insurgency in Nigeria

In response to the activities of the insurgents, federal government once declared a state of emergency at different stages, but this did not stop the group from the continuation of bombings, killings, kidnappings, and destruction of lives and properties. However, the attacks by the group in period of the state of emergency surpassed when there was no state of emergency .making some Nigerians ask "what is the purpose of the state of emergency when the insurgents continue to intensify its attacks on innocent Nigerians?"

In the summer of 2013, the Nigerian military shut down mobile phone coverage in the

three north-eastern states to disrupt the group's communication and ability to detonate IEDs. Accounts from military insiders and data of Boko Haram incidences before, during and after the mobile phone blackout suggest that the shutdown was 'successful' from a military- tactical point of view. However it incensed citizens in the region (owing to negative social and economic consequences of the mobile shutdown) and engendered negative opinions toward the state and new emergency policies.

After a series of meetings over many months, Cameroon's foreign minister announced on 30 November 2014 that a coalition force to fight terrorism, including Boko Haram, would soon be operational. The forces included 3,500 soldiers from Benin, Chad, Cameroon, Niger and Nigeria. In May 2014, China also offered Nigeria assistance that included satellite data, and possibly military equipment.

On 24 September 2015, the White House announced a military aid package for African allies fighting Boko Haram. The package included up to \$45 million for training and other support for Benin, Cameroon, Chad, Niger and Nigeria.

In October 2015, Colombia sent a delegation of security experts to assist the Nigerian authorities and share expertise on security and counter terrorism. In January 2016, a delegation led by Lieutenant General Tukur Yusuf Buratai also visited Colombia to exchange information in regards to the war against Boko Haram (Talatu, 2015).

In 2017, the United Kingdom enforced an emergency assistance package worth \$259 million. The United Kingdom has also aided Nigeria through military support and counter-terrorism training. The British government has provided training to 28,000 Nigerian military troops to aid against Boko Haram. More than 40 British troops have also been sent long term to Nigeria.

The Effects of Insurgency on Public Service Delivery in Nigeria

In spite of the natural and mineral resources with which many governmental policies and programmes foster peaceful co-existence among the multi ethno religious entities which make up Nigeria, the country has virtually become a combat field where incessant ethno-religious and political crisis are staged. The insinuation of Boko Haram crisis or terrorist activities on economic development is that the instrument which is supposed to be used for sustainable development is conversely being used for destruction and vandalization purposes (Mohammed, 2002).

There has been devastations of property; houses, farmland and crops, farm equipment, live stocks and vehicles e.t.c. In additions, there has been increased urban violence coordinated by the insurgents. The government normally sets up commissions of enquiry to examine the remote and immediate causes of these conflicts. All of these activities have led to a diversion of scares resources, human, material and finance to resolve such conflicts.

There is also the problem of subversion - a calculated move or series of clandestine activities designed to undermine the nation's governmental set-up. Sabotage/ vandalization, the deliberate destructions of an industrial process, including the human and natural resources or public utilities as well as sensitive military, oil installation in order to grind the nations to a halt. Moreover, espionage, smuggling, influx of alien and political assassination constitute real threat to the provision of public services.

The international community deals with nations with security threat with a lot of deep-seated fear and suspicions. Poor image in the international community has also become very prevalent. Internal security threat has lowered the image of the country and makes it unattractive in the eyes of the international community. Nigeria is no longer respected globally and many investors are forced to relocate to other African countries due to threat to lives and properties.

This has contributed to retarding the country's development effort. It is responsible for poor standard and lack of public utilities such as roads, unstable electricity supply, and low standard of schools.

Insurgency has discouraged investors especially the private sector. Foreign investors become discouraged in investing in nations that will reduce the investors' competitive advantage. Nigeria since the intensification of insurgency has been losing the benefit of the current globalization dividends and phenomenon. Consequently the teeming youths who graduate from educational institutions remain unemployment and idle in many cities of Nigeria. These youths engage in anti-social vices such as armed robbery, drug abuse, prostitution, vandalism, cultism etc, and generally making themselves so dependent on the government to eke a living. This has further caused talented, able bodied, and skilled people to seek employment outside the country resulting in brain drain.

The activities of the insurgents have definitely retarded development initiatives of Borno state government. The frequent attacks of public structures, like the government establishments, shelters, market structures and infrastructure like roads, bridges, electricity cables and the GSM masts are quite devastating (Ajah, 2011). The effects of the attacks have left so many viable projects uncompleted. Had these projects been completed, they would have touched the lives of people and facilitated development in the area.

The activities of the group have resulted in large number of people relocating to Maiduguri causing shortages in accommodations and over-stretching the available facilities and social services. About 604,260 people from 13 Local governments have moved to Maiduguri, which recorded the highest number of refugees in the Northern states, (Displacement Tracking Matrix, 2014).

According to Guitta, etal (2014) "the constant threat posed by the insurgents has resulted to number of schools to close down. In some cases, school enrolment has dropped drastically. In fact, whoever survived their attack will not like to go back to school having considered students who lost their lives and number of classmates kidnapped at government girls' secondary school Chibok. Lecturers and teachers were also not left out as they are also killed during these attacks". According to the report, Borno state has only 29 children in school out of every 120 children (British Journal of Education, 2013).

Other economic activities affected by the insurgency include the abandonment of vast irrigation lands, fishing activities of the inhabitants and fertile agricultural lands for years thereby rendering the inhabitations jobless. The neglect of border communities in Nigeria by the government had made most of them swap allegiance to other neighbouring countries. In addition, some of the consequences of neglecting border communities include the exposure of Nigerian borders to all kind of insecurity issues which also aids violent extremist activities and other trans-border security threats.

The evolution of violent extremist activities by Boko Haram has no doubt significantly limited the socio-economic development of the North East and the country in general. The group's numerous assaults on traders, farmers and even original inhabitants have to a great extent impacted negatively on the lives of the people, and the shut-down of the major markets. The ravaging of the Sambisa forest that not only served as a national reserve but a great land for cultivation that supported the livelihood of farmers and others have led to the internal displacement of many persons who are presently restricted to places that are not only un-conducive but also make the people restricted to a lifestyle that is different from normal (Duruji, and Oviasogie, 2013).

Empirical Review

Njoku, and Nwachukwu, (2015) investigated the effects of Boko Haram's insecurity on Nigeria's economy. Data used for this study was sourced from online questionnaire, using Analysis of Variance (ANOVA) method of analysis. The result showed that Ideology and funding are the significant basic factors that propelled the Boko Haram sect in Nigeria. The paper stressed that the Boko Haram disaster poses a significant threat to Nigeria's economy and that the military is the best option and solution in tackling the Boko Haram menace in Nigeria. The study recommended that the government should declare war on terrorism and seek support from international communities who have in the time past faced this kind of challenge and were capable to tackle it. The paper also advised the government to beef up security in the country to curb the threat of insecurity.

Also, Ahmadu, et al (2017) studied the effects of Insurgency on the Physical and Socio-Economic Activities in Maiduguri. The research was carried out to determine the effect of the insurgency on physical, social and economic activities of the residents of Maiduguri, with the view to proffer physical planning measures that would reduce the problems to barest minimal. This was achieved through careful interviews with some police officers, Military personnel, Civilian JTF, Wards heads and some residents of Maiduguri. Use of internet services and Newspapers greatly contributed in compiling of the write-up which shaded more lights on the effect of the insurgency on physical, social and economic activities of residents of Maiduguri. The paper observed that activities of the insurgents have led to destructions of Houses, Schools, mosques, Churches, market centres and even the military and paramilitary formations. From the research, it was discovered that the crisis and violence are not unconnected to poverty, unemployment and misinterpretation of the teaching of the Holy Quran by some Islamic "Ulamas". It is these combined factors that worked against the faith and morals of every member of the group that resulted to such violence. Finally the research considered some of the causes and effects of the attacks before designing some physical planning measures as recommendations to the key issues such as social, economic and physical factors affected by the insurgency.

Mohammed, Baba, and Suleiman (2002) examined the impact of Boko Haram insurgency on education in Adamawa state. The data was primary in nature, sourced through the distribution of 372 questionnaires to the affected local governments. Structural Equation Model (SEM) model was used in analysis of data collected. The findings indicated that, educational output (human capital investment) is affected by school enrolment, school attendance and school infrastructure by 71%, 84% and 82% as a result of any 1% increase in Boko Haram. It also revealed that, extreme religious beliefs, unemployment, and illiteracy contributed to the occurrence of Boko Haram insurgency. The study concluded that Boko Haram insurgency indirectly and significantly affects human capital investment through school enrolments, school attendance and school infrastructure. The study therefore recommended that, Government should provide employment opportunities for the citizens and encourage self-reliance in programmes such as agricultural borrower's schemes, free education to increase literacy rate to every citizen, and that government should be in constant dialogue with religious scholars/leaders (Muslims and Christians) on religious issues.

Similarly Egefo, and Salihu, (2014) studied Internal Security Crisis in Nigeria: Causes, Types, Effects and Solutions. The main objective of the research was to show that the causes of internal security are inevitable and it is part of the fabrics of the society. The paper stressed that what the society should strive for is regulation of crisis or its amicable settlement whenever it arises. Since the extinction of security crisis seems impossible, all the society needs is a

mechanism for security crisis management and control. Security crisis is inevitable because it can originate in individual and group reactions to situations of scarce resources, to division of function within society and differentiation of power and resultant competition for scarce supplies of goods, states, valued roles and power as an end itself. A society without security threat is a dead society since security crisis is a reality of human existence and therefore a means of understanding social behavior. Thus in the paper, internal security crisis as it relates to its causes, types, effects and solutions seems a more sensible starting point in addressing the threat to Nigeria's existence.

Furthermore Godwin, (2018) studied anatomy of rebellion: insurgency, insurrection, and militancy in Nigeria. The paper stressed that transitional societies face a myriad of problems which include incessant conflicts. While not disputing the role of economic growth in a country's development, the paper was of the view that a holistic approach that recognizes good governance can do more to promote sustainable peace and development. The methodology for the paper was content analysis of official documents, articles and other written sources. The paper observed that the absence of good governance has provided a fertile ground for some of these conflicts to emerge such as insurrections, insurgencies, and general insecurity of lives and property. It concluded that a developmental model that takes cognizance of this can provide the best option for emerging societies in need of lasting peace.

Maureen, and Ngozi, (2018) studied Insurgency and its implication on Nigeria economic growth. The study dealt with the implication of insurgency on Nigeria economic growth. The objective was to investigate the implication of insurgency on Nigeria economic growth. Secondary source of data collection was employed to collect the data and OLS regression was used to analyse the data. Gross domestic product was the dependent variable, and its proxies' economic growth, while human development index, Global peace index, corruption rank, corruption perception index and relative corruption rank proxies insurgency which was the independent variable. The result of the findings indicated that there is a linear relationship between GDP and the five independent variables. The economy responds favorably to measures taken to improve human capital development in Nigeria. The GPI has negatively affected economic performance in the last 10yrs; the RCI has positive relationship with GDP until late 2014 when there was fall in oil price and the demand for Nigeria oil. The negative impact of CR and CPI has critically brought a downturn in economic performance generally. Government must discourage the attractiveness of public offices by running a low cost government and invest more in public goods for the benefit of her citizenry. Public offices should be less attractive, proactive measure should be put in place to tackle insurgency both tactically and institutionally, the military must be strengthened.

Finally, Joseph and Nwogbaga, (2017) investigated Insurgency and the Crisis of Sustainable Socio-Economic Development in Africa: A Study of Nigeria. The paper aimed at investigating the activities of insurgency in Africa with particular attention on its effects on the sustainable development of the continent. An examination of the origin, forms and dimensions of insurgency was essential to the study.

Theoretical framework

This study is anchored on the Strain theory propounded by Robert K Merton in 1938. The theory states that society puts pressure on individuals to achieve socially accepted goals though they lack the means. This leads to strain which may lead the individuals to commit crime. Robert King Merton was an American sociologist who argued that society can encourage deviance to a

large degree. Merton believed that socially accepted goals put pressure on people to conform. He maintained that when individuals are faced with a gap between their goals (usually finances/money related) and their current status, strain occurs. In essence therefore, one may infer that the activities of the insurgents could be as a result of 'strain' from our society.

Concluding Remarks

This paper is of the view that poverty and misrepresentation of religious doctrines are the key propelling factors to insurgency in Northern Nigeria. The activities of insurgents especially the Islamic sect known as Boko Haram had led to enormous loss of lives and properties in the country, particularly in the North Eastern part of Nigeria. Some of these activities include intimidation, bombings, suicide attacks, sporadic gunfire of unarmed, blameless and innocent Nigerian citizens, burning of police stations and churches, kidnapping, raping of school girls and women. Nigeria has also been included amongst one of the terrorist countries of the world. To this end, it is high time Governments at all levels ensured that abject poverty indices is reduced and a realistic social welfare programme adopted and systematically implemented to ensure that the populace meet their basic needs. Government should explore more proactive ways in dealing with security issues and threats, through modern methods of intelligence gathering, and intelligence sharing, training, logistics, motivation, and deploying advanced technology in managing security challenges.

Recommendations

- i. There is need to intensify the sensitization of the people especially in the North Eastern part of the country against the ideology of Boko Haram and the dangers of insurgency.
- ii. The government should formulate and implement policies which will create employment opportunities for the unemployed and desperate youths of the country.
- iii. Engagement of international cooperation and collaboration between Nigeria and other countries at bilateral and multilateral levels to ensure joint counter insurgency operations, in order to win the hearts and minds of the people would be of great help.

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