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The issue of Insecurity in Nigeria

In recent times, Nigeria has witnessed an unprecedented plaque of crisis and insecurity, each leading to loss of lives and destruction of properties. According to Ezeoha in Causes and effects of insecurity in Nigeria, insecurity is the antithesis of security. It has been ascribed in different interpretations in association with the various ways which it affects individuals. Insecurity is a stat of vulnerability to harm and loss of life, property or livelihood; it refers to basis throughout the country. Right thinking and sane Nigerians are really concerned about this ugly trend which is gradually becoming a serious threat to its sovereignty and existence as a state.

Thus, many pundits are meant to believe that the current state of insecurity in Nigeria has a connection with the crisis of poverty currently facing the country as it were. Insecurity in Nigeria have numerous effects on the country including Boko Haram menace, the ravaging Fulani herdsmen versus community residents, we also have kidnapping and ritual killings, cases of armed robbery, increasing unemployment and many more.

Insecurity in Nigeria is a significant reason why the growth and development of the country are affected. The overwhelming unemployment rate in the country is capable of causing panic. The issue is especially obvious when it comes to Nigerian youths; the unemployment rate in the country has risen to 23.1.if unemployment is considered in Nigeria, it is evident that rapid growth in population is a significant cause of this menace. Also, the recent decline in the country’s economy is another cause. Unfortunately, a lot of people have been laid off, while new jobs are not created. In combating this situation, it is the responsibility of the government to create new jobs as well as the citizens to create their own opportunities through entrepreneurship.

In terms of corruption, in 2019, Transparency International placed Nigeria on 146th position out of 198 countries in the Corruption Perceptions index with a score of 26 out of 100. Corruption has already become a part of life in the country. Corruption is not only a security problem but also an economic problem. Therefore, corruption is a major cause of conflicts and insecurity which continue to pose a challenge to development in the country. There is a strong link between corruption and insecurity. When a country’s institutions are weak, its security forces are not trusted and its borders are not strong, as in the case in Nigeria, giving terrorist organizations room to flourish.

Terrorism in the country is not a new problem. Boko Haram and Niger Delta Avengers are two prominent terrorist organizations that cause the most damage to the country. Terrorism has a big toll on Nigeria’s economy. The activities of the Islamic sect had led to loss of lives and properties in Nigeria especially in the Northern part of Nigeria. Kidnapping, rape, armed robbery and political crises, murder, destruction of oil facilities by Niger Delta militants alongside the attacks carried out by Fulani Herdsmen on some communities in the North and South have another major insecurity challenge facing the country.

The weak judicial system causes insecurity in Nigeria. People feel insecure when criminals and terrorist go free. Many evil-minded people think that money can buy freedom in the country, and unfortunately, the corrupt system proves this line of thought. Therefore, the judicial system should be more transparent.

The country has borders that are poorly guarded. Insurgents from other countries can infiltrate the country with no problem. This situation is especially dangerous in the North East. Smugglers use porous coastal borders of the country to sell arms.

The only solution for the issue of insecurity in Nigeria is for the Nigerian government to govern in a way that fosters development. Developments in this context consist of creating an economy with relevant social, economic and physical infrastructure for business operations and industrial growth, to provide gainful employment, functional and useful education, and quality healthcare for the people. Furthermore, there is a need for governments to ensure that rising poverty indices are reversed to ensure that the Nigerians meet their basic needs.