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**TERRORISM AND INSECURITY**

Terrorism is the unlawful use of force or violence against persons or property to intimidate or coerce a government or its citizens to further certain political or social objectives. Law enforcement generally recognizes two types of terrorism: domestic and international. Domestic terrorism is based and executed in the United States by our own citizens without foreign direction. International terrorism, which is connected to foreign governments or groups, transcends our nation’s boundaries.Firstly, Nigerian terrorism did not develop in a vacuum. Many factors have been postulated as causing unrest in Nigeria, some writers put their blames on the government while some others pass the blame on parents. Some even hold the youths as being responsible while others settle on the combination of these factors. Putting these factors together will provide other factors such as bad governance, unemployment, lack of quality education, corrupt practices of government officials, ethnic superiority, poverty etcetera.

In addition, the activities of the Islamic sect (Boko Haram) had led to loss of lives and properties in the country especially in the Northern part of Nigeria. Some of these activities include bombing, suicide bomb attacks, sporadic shooting unarmed and innocent citizens, burning of police stations, churches, kidnapping of school girls and women, etc. 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 been another major insecurity challenge facing the country. Nigeria has been included among one of the terrorist countries of the world. Many lives and properties have been lost and a large number of citizens rendered homeless. Families have lost their loved ones. Many women are now widows. Children become orphans with no hope of the future. This has implications for national development. Government had made frantic efforts to tackle these challenges posed by terrorism and insecurity in the country and put an end to it but the rate of insurgency and insecurity is still alarming. The economic growth and technological advancements of the nation is retarding, apart from the destruction of physical infrastructure and human capital, terrorism has also lagged effect on investments, ultimately dampening the position and further affects the economic growth. The amplification of news coverage on insecurity in a nation can make things look worse to outsiders than they really are. This can reduce confidence of foreign investors in a country like Nigeria. Insecurity is one of the major reasons for Nigeria’s un-attractiveness for inward foreign investments in the last few years amongst other factors such as policy dysfunction including multiple exchange rates of the central bank of Nigeria. Also, Nigeria is losing it’s best brains on a daily basis through mass emigration to western countries. Canada however seems to be the country preference for most Nigerians at the moment due to its open door policy for qualified migrants. The search for a better quality of life is the main reason for the emigration of Nigerian doctors and other professionals because the prospect for good life is being jeopardized in the country by insecurity and its negative impact on economic opportunities.

A long-term solution for containing Boko Haram’s terrorism, and for neutralizing them along with other insurgency groups in Nigeria, is to resolve the crisis in the country’s nation-building processes. Terrorism will end when Nigerians come to see themselves as one. As Nigeria’s economy develops, the various parts of the country could develop organic economic linkages that will help further the cause of the nation-building process. For instance, if the groundnuts produced in the north are used in the manufacture of peanut butter in the southeast, and the cocoa produced in the west is used for manufacturing chocolate drinks in the north, such economic linkages will help blunt interregional animosities and thus further the cause of national unity.