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**INSECURITY AND INTERNAL CRISIS IN NIGERIA**

In Nigeria today, no other problem threatens the corporate existence of the nation as insecurity and internal crises. There is popular discontent of the masses with the ruling class and the society at large due to mass unemployment and endemic poverty amidst abundance of human and material resources. The agile, but dormant and underutilized or out rightly unemployed human resources become willing collaborators with criminals as a way of venting their grievances or an alternative way of earning a living.

This paper contends that a reversion of the precarious state of unemployment and dire poverty would greatly ameliorate, if not eradicate, the security challenge the Nigerian nation is facing.

**The Condition of Security in Nigeria**

A lot of measures are put in place to bolster state security with groups like the State Security Service (SSS), the Nigeria Police Force (NPF), the Joint Task Force (JTF); large numbers of people incarcerated like lager beers in a cooler; frequent declaration of curfews and sometimes, state of emergencies; periodic dismissals of National Security Advisers (NSA), Defence Ministers, Inspectors General of Police (IGP); and vast sums of money appropriated and expended to tame insecurity. In the 2012 budget alone, an incredible 25% of the planned expenditure of government is allocated to security. Yet, terrorism, insecurity, wanton wastage of lives and indiscriminate spillage of innocent blood are commonplace.

From the Maitatsine mayhem of the 80’s, the recurrent Oodua Peoples Congress’s (OPC) bedlam, the Niger Delta uprisings to the present Boko Haram’s raging carnage and God knows what next, Nigeria has always groaned under the stiff grip of insecurity and breakdown of law.

There are daily reports of brutal attacks, concerted kidnapping, heartless maiming of innocent citizens, killing of women, children and disabled, indiscriminate burning of houses and vehicles, destruction of business enterprises and disruption of peaceful social and community life by one group of disgruntled citizens or the other.

In Nigeria the popular belief when you want to cross a road you are expected to look left and right to avoid vehicles; look front and back to avoid kidnappers; look up to avoid planes; look down to avoid bombs.

**The Reasons of Security Failure**

The failure of all the security measures in ensuring safety of lives and property is inextricably linked to the breakdown of governance, the hallmark of which is mass unemployment and widespread poverty in a country which prides herself as the top exporter of crude oil in West Africa. Poverty is classified as a behavioural disease by the World Health Organization in its International Statistical Classification of Diseases and Related Health Problems. Financial servitude is a disease which often opens the doors to an ocean of atrocities. An impoverished fellow is a potential, if not an actual, thief, mendicant, armed robber, sex hawker, cultist, kidnapper, suicide bomber or even a murderer. The Niger Delta unrest for instance sprouted when concerted oil spillage hindered farming and fishing – the two traditional occupations in the region – and engendered unemployment and pervasive penury.

With over ten million almajiris (child beggars) wandering the streets of Northern Nigeria 23.9% of employable Nigerians unemployed and the findings of the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) in January, 2012 that 112 million Nigerians (61%) live on less than a dollar per day, the Fund For Peace (FFP) is justified in its recent ranking of Nigeria as the 14th most failed nation on earth

Aside the failure of the government to provide reasonable and sufficient employment opportunities, a lot of avoidable and redundant artificial restrictions are further placed on self employment and job creation opportunities. Social services like roads, bridges, water systems, electricity networks and other facilities that enhance job creation are out rightly lacking or grossly inadequate. Currently, Nigeria is ranked 108 out of 175 countries in the IFC Ease of Doing Business Index, a position far lower to those of Morocco, Egypt, Cameroon, Senegal and the Gambia.

From a modest 5.3% in December, 2005, the unemployed population of Nigeria – the number of people actively looking for a job as a percentage of the labour force – quadrupled to 23.9% in December, 2011. When the government failed the impoverished people of the Niger Delta region and the frustrated members of the Boko Haram, they each found solace and a belonging in militancy and terrorism. They lost faith in themselves, the government and society, so they sought meaning elsewhere and it was called the creation of an “alternative society”.

**Possible solutions to insecurity and internal crisis**

**Creation of job opportunities**

**Make security forces tighter**

**Creation of each state security such as amotekun**