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**TOPIC – INSECURITY IN NIGERIA**

In the world today, the security of the citizens of each country is very important and in Nigeria the rate of security is very low. With the Boko Haram insurgency, the herdsmen killing innocent people and burning up their houses and the recent cases of rape all over the lives of Nigerian citizens are no longer safe and the government is not putting in enough effort to stop it and also the increasing rate of other crimes.

Security is the state of being free from danger or threat or the procedures followed or measures taken to ensure the security of a state or organization. On the other hand, insecurity is the state of being open to danger or threat; lack of protection.

**Causes of insecurity in Nigeria**

Many factors have led to insecurity in Nigeria namely;

* **Unemployment** - the rate of unemployment in the country is increasing drastically and with thousands of youths graduating every year there is uncertainty that all of them will secure a well-paid job in Nigeria and most of them have no choice to engage in criminal activities. According to statistics, every tenth young citizen of the country is unemployed and the rate of unemployment has risen to 23.1%.
* **Corruption** – Nigerian politicians are corrupt and it has led to insecurity in Nigeria which has formed part of the economic problems Nigeria is facing today. The politicians are the ones embezzling the country’s money for their own benefit without caring about the citizens.
* **Weak judicial system** – this causes insecurity in Nigeria because criminals and terrorists are not given the right punishment because the judiciary is also corrupt and when these people are set free it puts fear into the hearts of the citizen because it is very possible for them to still continue committing crime.
* Other causes of insecurity are; bad governance, imbalance, inadequate basic infrastructures and terrorist threats, terrorism etc.

**Effects of insecurity in Nigeria**

* **Disruption of economic activities** – during the Boko Haram insurgency and the clash between farmers and the herdsmen in the northern parts of Nigeria, many lives were lost and those that were displaced will no longer be able to contribute in the economic activities of the country.
* **Increase in brain drain** – many Nigerians today travel to other western countries for greener pastures and insecurity also had led to this. Nigeria has lost many of their citizens due to unemployment and also lack of security and they want to have a better quality of life.
* **Poverty** – terrorists attacks have left many Nigerians displaced and they are left with nothing, most of them are left to fend for themselves mostly in the northern parts of Nigeria and they have no means to get a good source of livelihood.
* **Decline in productivity** – continued insecurity has led to a feeling of helplessness and hopelessness to the victims and families which got affected and this has led to a decline in productivity because of the increase in kidnapping along the highways and borders and people will be afraid to travel in the country and many business opportunities will be lost.
* **Insecurity has led to national isolation** – insecurity in Nigeria has led many countries advising their citizens to avoid going to certain places in Nigeria be of increase in crime rate in some parts of the country and tourist will not visit unsafe places, now less people travel to Nigeria because of this reason.

**Solutions to insecurity in Nigeria**

* The federal government and the security agencies should do all they can to stop the unnecessary killings in the country mostly the northern part of Nigeria
* The federal government should apply the rule of law and new advance technologies to tackle insecurity challenges like in other developed countries.
* They should also create economic opportunities for the people especially the youths in other for them to have something doing and this will help reduce the increasing rate of crimes in Nigeria.
* The judicial system in the country needs to be changed because they are biased, rich people can buy their freedom in the country. The federal government should make sure that a judge’s decision and power is transparent.
* Corruption can only be stopped in Nigeria if we have selfless leaders who are ready to change the different tiers of government and this is possible only when the citizens elect good and sensible leaders in the country.
* The federal government can deal will the problem of imbalance by having a balance on the development of all regions of the country.