

CORRUPTION AND THE LINGERING OF INSECURITY CHALLENGES IN NIGERIA

Ejiroghene Augustine OGHUVBU

Department of History and International Studies, Faculty of Arts, Delta State University,
Abraka, Nigeria
augustine4best@yahoo.com

Blessing Oluwatobi OGHUVBU

Department of Library and Information Science, Faculty of Education, Delta State
University, Abraka, Nigeria
bfamuti@gmail.com

Abstract: *Corruption has been a persistent theme in the culture and history of mankind. In both emerging and developed democracies, it is seen in every forms and in various political system. It has always existed in one form or the other in human culture. The "agent provocatua" of Nigeria's lingering instability is corruption. The rising influence of Nigeria's twin concepts of corruption and insecurity presents major challenges to governance and has thus become a matter of public concern. The aim of this study, however, is to examine how corruption has affected and contributed to the lingering challenges of insecurity in Nigeria. Nevertheless, the study will be able to extend the frontiers of awareness towards the reconceptualization of the definitions of corruption as the core "actor provocatua" of socially, economically and politically retarding Nigeria. This study revealed that corruption and instability have done more harm than any other phenomena to the reputation of the nation globally. The study therefore, advises the need for Nigeria's urgent eradication of corruption and insecurity in order for the country to play its position effectively as Africa's giant and a force to be reckoned with globally.*

Keywords: Corruption, Lingering Insecurity, Security, Governance, Nigeria.

INTRODUCTION

Corruption has been a persistent theme in the culture and history of mankind. In both emerging and developed democracies, it is seen in every political system and in various forms. Although, the effects of corruption varies, in the destructive effects of corruption are disproportionately apparent from one political system to another in developing countries, where the economic base is often poor, political institutions are fragile and there are insufficient control mechanisms (Igiebor, 2019, p. 493). According to Transparency International (TI) (2018) cited in Igiebor, (2019, p. 494) in partner with the Afrobarometer survey was conducted between March 2014 and September 2015 in 28 sub-Saharan African nations. Over 43,000 participants given their views on government corruption in their respective countries during this study. In their attempts to stop corruption in their nations, many governments have been negatively ranked by these respondents. For example, in Zimbabwe, South Africa and Nigeria, about three out of four respondents rated their governments' anti-corruption efforts to be very low. This is as a result of corruption in the political space. This has endangered national security and has contributed to a large allocation of the national budget to the security sector (Krishnan, 2020). Despite all economic and social policies that have been implemented by various

government since Nigeria returned to democratic rule, the country has remained laggard in economic, political and social developments (Adagbabiri & Okolie, 2016, p. 107). Subsequently, the main characteristics of Nigeria's political economy were political turmoil, abject poverty, acute youth unemployment, poor health opportunities, elevated crime rate and widespread malnutrition (Ogundiya, 2010) cited in (Adagbabiri & Okolie, 2016, p. 107). Corruption is one of the most dangerous ills in Nigeria and it's seen in the high rate of poverty, disease, unemployment, hunger, infrastructural decay, insecurity and deficit all over Nigeria (Agbekaku, Hakpe & Okoye, 2016, p. 291). Painting the evils of corruption in Nigeria, Ngwube & Okoli (2013, p. 92) espoused that: Corruption is a plague that has eaten deeply into the structure of the political system in Nigeria. The global political understanding of corruption in Nigeria is that corrupt practices are widely accepted to be prevalent and systematic in both Nigeria's public and private sectors. It is apparent from the foregoing that corruption threatens Nigeria's security and integrity. It's also an obstacle to development which is responsible for the poverty of the citizens."

In combating corruption, successive administration have introduced agencies, such agencies includes: Allied Commission (ICPC), Expenditure Monitoring , Independent Corrupt Practices and Price Intelligence Unit concerned with a new contract award process, otherwise referred to as due process, Code of Conduct for Public Officers, the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC), which sets guidelines for public servants conduct (FGN, 2007). Be as it may, all the policies mentioned above did not achieve the answers needed, because such remedies alone can hardly cure the malady of corruption in Nigeria.

A massive feature of government failure that can be traced to political and systemic corruption is the current state of insecurity in the country. In Nigeria, human protection is highly endangered by a variety of factors, including corruption. Corruption in Nigeria has a negative effect on safety, impacting everyone because of their interconnections (Agbekaku, et al., 2016, p. 292). According to Mustapha (2015, p. 19) "no state is free from the scourge of insecurity." Corruption has contributed immensely to the lingering insecurity in Nigeria as a result of its frequent occurrence. The rampant of the concepts of corruption and the lingering insecurity in Nigeria poses a serious challenge to leadership and have thus; made headlines in news media, making it a public focus. It is on this note that this study seeks to address the effects of corruption on the lingering insecurity in Nigeria.

THE CONCEPT OF CORRUPTION

Different scholars have conceptualized corruption from various points of view. The concept of corruption much like other ideas in the Social Sciences and Humanities is not free from controversy as to what really constitutes corruption. However, Yelwa (2011) cited in Ibrahim (2014, p. 2) defined corruption as: "A multi-dimensional phenomenon and has thus been conceptualized in many respects. Corruption in the public sector is usually simply the misuse by public officials of power to make personal profits in the performance of their official duties. This covers practices ranging from fraud, bribery, embezzlement, favouritism, extortion, dishonesty to unethical or unethical actions in pursuit of personal goals."

While Onwuka & Eme (2019, p. 117) defined corruption as thus: 'A departure from the formal obligations of a public position in relation to private (close kin, personal, private clique) pecuniary exercise of certain forms of private power. This involves actions such as bribery, nepotism (appointment on the basis of an abstractive relationship rather than merit) and misappropriation (illegal use of public resources for private uses). The definition of corruption by Onwuka & Eme as seen above appears fumbling for evaluation, mainly by the choice of syntax or phrases. Nevertheless, its utility lies in the attempt to define corruption as deviation from the standard, intent, bribery, nepotism, financial and misappropriation of public resources in order to obtain personal benefits. Another way for corruption to be conceptualized is to view it as: "An art performed in order to provide some advantage in compliance with the official duty and rights of others, the act of an official or fiduciary person who unlawfully and unlawfully uses his station or character to gain some advantage for himself or for another person contrary to the duty and rights of others" (Agbakor, 2010, p. 52).

From the definition above, it shows that failing to do what is correct or pure is corrupt. Corruption is the benefit of employment, contract, status, power, money, financial/material resources, or physiological satisfaction through immoral or illegal application such as robbery, fraud, abuse of office, bribery and so on (Adababiri & Okolie, 2018, p. 43). Contributing to the concept of corruption Ijiwere & Dunmade (cited) in Alimi & Isiramen (2016, p. 300) defines corruption as depending on the arena it takes place namely: economic, bureaucratic, political, moral and judicial." Political corruption can take place during elections, leading to electorate bribery to hold on to office or power." Degradation of virtues, beliefs, moral and a shift or pervasion of the general rules for selfish gain." Corroborating this Ibietan (2013, p. 43) viewed "Corruption in politics to be the use of legislative powers by those in government for personal gains or illegitimate personal gains. It has stigmatized the government's reputation, undermined its legitimacy and reduced the efficacy of policies, development programs, and also weakens the economy (Ibrahim, 2014). While corruption in respect to the economy can take place in the form of circumventing procedures to get unmerited advantage. Corruption at the Bureaucratic level is far from mere pecuniary gains. It encompass nepotism, cronyism, favouritism and associated ills that leads the slaughter of merit on the altar of mediocrity in the recruitment, encouragement and promotion of staff as necessary planks on which the management of staff rests and offers cardinal reasons for inefficiency, poor delivery of services in the public sector and low productivity. On the other hand, judicial corruption connotes compromising attitudinal disposition of law enforcement agencies/agents, perversion of justice, avoidable human errors in the administration of justice and sundry ills. Moral corruption is a crucial issue. Corruption in Nigeria crosses across organizations in the private and public sectors, managers of these organizations are not to be blamed. This is so as corruption in Nigeria is an environmental issue. Citizens of Nigeria are used to governments who criticize corruption but who themselves partake in corrupt activities. Corroborating this, Adagbabiri & Okolie (2016, p. 114) concluded that the implementation of the anti-corruption programme by Obasanjo while in power was a witch hurting of political opponents who were threat to his third term agenda and leadership style. Even the present administration of President Buhari anti-corruption war which is in its top most agenda, has been termed to be selective and therefore seen by citizens as witch hurting of political opponents. According to Bishop Simeon Okah; "the ongoing anti-corruption war

of the president Mohammadu Buhari would not be taken seriously if all his cabinet members alleged to have looted billions of Naira belonging to their states for the 2015 and 2019 general elections were not being tried'' (Punch March 4th, 2017) cited in Adagbabiri & Okolie, (2018, p. 44).

Corruption in Nigeria is characterized by the looting and secrecy of public funds and money, i.e. misappropriation, flight of capital and mismanagement of public assets; drug and child trafficking; money laundering (earn money through dishonest); illegal arms deals; physical or material favour as a prerequisite for performing an oath of office and nepotism that gives underserved favour to one's relationships, is officially suppressed and breached (Kwasau, 2013, p. 187). "Events in Nigeria since 1999 have shown that the tidal waves of reversal have been contending with the political project of Nigeria," according to Oguniye (2010, p. 235). The enormity of corruption in Nigeria is depressing and worrying. Corruption infiltrates and is found among the educated and uneducated in all sectors of the Nigerian economy, between the poor and the rich (Ajodo-Adebanjoko & Okorie, 2014). Corruption remains a crucial reason for the lingering insecurity witnessed in Nigeria despite over twenty years of democratic rule.

CAUSES OF CORRUPTION IN NIGERIA

Different reasons abound to be responsible for corrupt practices in Nigeria. These reasons cut across ethno-linguistic differences, socio-cultural and political variables. Some of these reasons are responsible for why corruption has remained endemic in Nigeria. According to Ajie & Wokekoro (2012) cited in Adagbabiri & Okolie (2018, p. 45) outlined the following reasons as promoting corruption in the country: the prevalence of soft state and unaccountable leadership, weak institutions of government and informal structure, incursion of politics into the administration, dysfunctional legal system, the lack of a clear sense of national commitment and national attention, lack of probity, openness, and accountability, the failure of social and governmental compliance mechanisms, the great disparity in the distribution of resources, low wages and poor working conditions, with little incentives and rewards for efficient results, widespread poverty and culture and weird value. Ngwube & Okoli (2013, p. 97-98) noted that "the reasons for corruption, in Nigeria varies from non-conformity to religious beliefs, ideals imparted to our society, concepts and ideas foreign to our society, ethnicity that facilitates favouritism and nepotism, a poor legal structure that is honoured in breach rather than observance. Other causes of corruption are: poverty, illiteracy, get-richmania, statism, and incorrect attitude to public property, lack of a welfare system that cushions the impact of unemployment, retirement, large families, and quest for double standards of power and low level of patriotism." It is significant in itself; it seems that poverty is the single most important factor that encourages the broad distribution of the country's illicit financial inducements to give and take bribes. Okolie (2013, p. 99) posited that "Nigeria must be one of the very few countries in the world where the source of wealth of a man does not affect his neighbour, the public, or the state. Communities, religious bodies, social clubs and other private entities routinely court and reward rich individuals who are considered to be corrupt. In Nigeria, while traditional values of gift giving and tributes to leaders often lead to what Browns Berger (1983) defines as polite corruption, the scale of such corruption is relatively small. This means that people who profit from the greatness of these corrupt people seldom ask questions. Jimo (2001, p.

83) attributed " corruption within the public administration of the African regions to over-centralization of power, lack of freedom of the media to reveal scandals, the impunity of well-connected officials, and lack of transparency in the management of public funds, clients, and low wages."

Another cause of corruption in Nigeria is bad compliance on the part of mechanisms for government regulation. According to Igiebor (2019, p. 499), "Nigeria 's various anti-corruption agencies and government corruption prevention programs have been ineffective and the country continues to rate as very corrupt on the world corruption index, ranking 144th out of 180 countries in the Transparency International (TI) index in 2018." According to Krishnan (2020, p. 98) in Nigeria, the 'Electoral Act' (2010) stipulates the ceiling of expenses for specific elective positions by candidates and political parties. The overall limits are set at: 1 billion for presidential candidates, and 40 million Naira and 20 million for Senate and House of Representative candidates, respectively. As one of the reasons responsible for corruption in the political system, Igiebor (2019, p. 500-501)' went on to state the high cost of securing party nomination forms for political offices in Nigeria. "For example, the presidential forms of the People's Democratic Party (PDP) in the 2015 general election cost 22 million Naira, Senate seat forms cost 2.5 million and 1.2 million Naira, respectively, while the governor-ship was 11 million Naira (Abu & Staniewski, 2019).

The citizens in Nigeria do not participate actively in government decision making. When citizens take part in the political system it ensures political influence is used to favour most people, protect vulnerable people, and add equality to socio-economic growth (Okolie, 2013). The poor attitude of people towards government involvement after voting during elections is a major obstacle to controlling corruption in Nigeria. However, it is difficult for the masses to monitor leadership efficiently and maintain openness and accountability in policy making and policy execution (Okolie, 2013, p. 99). In Nigeria, the rapid growth in population has contributed to the issue. The campaigns on family planning is yet to fully succeed. Those who earn little having no other source of recreation take part in sex increasing the population of families. When this happens, parents would not want their children to suffer in abject poverty and helplessness, leading them to get involved in corrupt practices.

THE CONCEPT OF SECURITY AND INSECURITY

Different views have been postulated by various scholars on the concept of security and insecurity. According to Adagbabiri & Okolie (2018, p. 48) security is seen as "Freeing a person or a country from danger or threats. It is the ability, of a nation or a person, to protect and defend itself, its cherished values and legitimate interests and the improvement of well-being". There are different forms of security. We have national security, human security, food security and so on. Protecting people from poverty, hunger, unemployment, disease, natural disasters and so on is part of human security. Although national security, on the other hand, means the deployment of coercive-force state apparatus to deal with crisis situations, globally or nationally. However, both of these can only occur when there is harmony and stability in the political system. (Ighodalo, 2012, p. 169). According to Ewetan (2014, p. 43) identify insecurity as "the absence of safety; danger; hazard; uncertainty; lack of defence and lack of security." While Achumba, Ighomereho & Akpan-

Robaro (2013, p. 82) viewed insecurity from two perspective. First of all, "vulnerability is the state of being exposed or prone to danger of danger, where danger is the situation of being vulnerable to injury or harm. Secondly, insecurity is the state of risk or anxiety, where anxiety is a vague uncomfortable emotion encountered in anticipation of any misfortune. "This definition of insecurity illustrates a significant point because when they arise, those impacted by insecurity are not only unsure or unaware of what will happen, but often susceptible to the threats and hazards.

Human security could be described as "protection from secret and hurtful disturbance in daily activities, at home, office or in communities, according to the United Nations Development Programme (1994) cited in Adagbabiri & Okolie (2018, p. 48) "security is the secure and safe vulnerability state, it may also be safety from persistent dangers such as poverty , disease and repression". "Insecurity is a threat or danger state of being. On the other hand, insecurity is the antithesis of stability. However, in accordance with the different ways in which it affects people, because of the many ways in which insecurity has been identified. Some of the common definitions of insecurity include: desire for security, risk, uncertainty; desire for trust; questionable; inadequately secured or secured; lack of stability; troubled; lack of safety and unsafe etc.... According to Oghuvbu & Chidozie (2018, p. 294) they argue that ‘security is the alleviation of danger to the survival of persons or groups who are generally associated with it. Security may therefore, be equated with freedom from present and future risk, harm or distress for them." Ajodo-Adebanjoko & Okorie (2014, p. 2) regard 'insecurity as a situation of fear or something that causes fear, harm or the potential to trigger a person’s fear or harm. These may be politico-strategic, socio-economic or environmental problems, such as political turmoil, poverty, and environmental degradation, lack of access to education, gender-based inequality, disease and unemployment.

The security situation in Nigeria has come under threat more than ever before in the administration of President Buhari. In Nigeria politics of impunity pervades. Never before has the security of the country been so stretched, and this challenge to national security is not unrelated to the prevalence of corruption and injustice ruling the body's politics. It is as a result of this, that the Nigerian youths have come out into the streets to protest insecurity melted on them by security agents who are met to protect them. All these are triggered because of corruption which has prompted insecurity in Nigeria. Since independence, flawed development policies followed have left individuals pauperized and decimated. Failure to abide by the rules of the party's political game, however, takes the nation back to the state of nature (Ighodalo, 2012, p. 169). These are demonstrated by the rise in poverty, inadequate medical care, unemployment, illnesses, inadequate housing services, lack of mobile water, and lack of access to electricity, the supply of epileptic power and energy by minority groups and their exclusion from policy making (Ake, 2000, p. 32). However, having protection means being safe, stable, secured and enjoying the peace of life. That is, the secure state of feeling, freedom from fear , doubt, threat, and anxiety, which gives or guarantees stability, tranquillity, certainty, safety and protection.

CAUSES OF THE LINGERING INSECURITY IN NIGERIA

Several reasons have been advanced regarding the causes of insecurity in Nigeria. The factors responsible for incidences of insecurity as discussed below are not peculiar to

Nigeria alone but may apply to other parts of the world. According to Otto & Ukpere (2012, p. 6762), "insecurity is a product of a malignant world governed by the insensitivity of man to man. In order to push down policies that impoverish the masses, many people in power take advantage of their positions as much as it benefits them and a few others. High handedness is also another problem with the entity called Nigeria, Nigerians see themselves as adventures and so are primarily concerned with how much enters their pockets no matter how that happens. Ethnicity and corruption are also causes of insecurity". Furthermore, the framework for the administration of justice does not promote the battle against insecurity. Offenders in grievous cases, where they are not absolutely let go, can obtain very light sentences. In Nigeria, poverty and the proliferation of small arms have also been blamed. In Nigeria about about 70 percent of the population lives in abject poverty. This predisposes the poor to violence, fuelled by the ease of access to small arms. Developing countries' imports of weapons have increased dramatically (Otto & Ukpere, 2012:6763).

For Ewetan & Urhie (2014, p. 46) espoused that insecurity problems can be traced to the early years of military rule when, during and after the Nigerian civil war, vast quantities of firearms were smuggled into the country for the use of the military, some of which came into the hands of civilians. Soon after the civil war, civilians and ex-military men used these guns for mischievous reasons, such as armed robbery and kidnapping. The army of unemployed young people, some of whom lost their jobs during the civil war, was also present (Eme & Onyishi, 2011). In the prolonged years of military rule starting from 1970, during which citizens procure arms and light weapons for personal protection, the degree of insecurity assumed dangerous dimensions, some of these weapons and light weapons came into the hands of unemployed young people who used them for deviant purposes (Eme & Onyishi, 2011). While some researchers attributes youth violence to peer group control and other growing-related psychological factors, others highlighted the effect of political and economic factors such as ethnic agitation, political agitation, unemployment, the Structural Adjustment Program (SAP) as triggers of youth violence. Eme & Onyishi (2011:176) identified the causes of insecurity to the culture of militarism that has precedents in military rule includes the collapse of the state and its institution, economic disempowerment, the nature of the state and federalism of Nigeria, non-separation of state and religion, politics of exclusion, ignorance of the culture of hegemony and gerontocracy and weak political consciousness. Albert (2012) sees the following as some of the real and imagined causes of the crisis of insecurity:

a. Resources

(i) Lack of adequate resources for all.

(ii) There are questions regarding the allocation of the little that are available.

(iii) Our leaders steal the nation's resources and promote horizontal inequality.

b. Leaders' competition for powers in a disorganized manner.

c. Values:

The elites promote ethnicity and idle religiosity.

Lack of positive leadership values makes the society to be conflict genic.

d. Communication processes.

Lack of open access to information fuels rumour-mongering and misinformation

The media commoditize "bad news".

Ogah (nd) identified the variables that cause possible threats to national security to include acute food shortages, population explosions, low productivity and capital income levels,

low technology, insufficient and inadequate public utilities, and persistent unemployment problems.

According to Bina, Mbaya & Dlakwa (2020, p. 33) views the cause of insecurity in Nigeria ‘‘as the fanaticism due mainly to elite manipulation and greater deprivation and discontent within society, among the various ethno-cultural and religious groups in the country. This has consequently led to an increase in inter-tribal and communal clashes and violence’’. On the other hand Ali (2013) identify the causes of lingering insecurity in Nigeria, as the product of illegal financing of the police and other security forces, non-payment of allowances and salaries of the security agencies. Labour market monetization that has forced many unemployed graduates to go through a lot of mental torment in the security job process: gross party indiscipline and internal struggle among political gladiators, weak police welfare, military and paramilitary personnel, lack of adequate working instruments, and inadequate workers.

THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

‘‘This study adopts the Prebendal and Frustration-Aggression theory which would give a better understanding on the issues of corruption and insecurity. The Prebendal theory was popularized by Joseph, A. Richard (1996). The Prebendal theory refers to primitive acquisition of monumental wealth which stifles political, technological and socio-economic development of a country. Joseph depicts corruption in Nigerian politics where members or cronies of when a member from the party comes into power or where an ethnic party is compensated; State officers are considered to be prebends that can be appropriated by office holders who use them to generate material benefits for themselves and their constituents and relatives (Joseph, 1996). This patron-client or identification policy has facilitated corruption in the nation to the degree that appointments, admissions, contract awards, promotions, among others, are made with regard to one's group, ethnic or religion affiliations’’ (Alimi & Isiramen, 2016, p. 300-301).

The Frustration-Aggression theory popularized in 1939, and later founded by Neal Miller in 1941 and Leonard Berkowitz in 1969, by John Dollard, Leonard Doob, Neal Miller, Orval Mowrer and Robert Sears. The theory suggests that, as a result frustration leads to violence which is an offshoot of the inability of an individual to attain their goals. In other words, insecurity in Nigeria is due to aggressive behaviour which results from challenges like unemployment, poverty (Ajodo-Adebanjoko & Okorie, 2014). Relating this to the study, corruption in Nigeria is as a result of unemployment, injustice, degradation of the environment, ethnic conflicts, abject poverty, and absence of infrastructure, militancy, terrorism which in turn has resulted to lingering insecurity in Nigeria.

CORRUPTION AND THE LINGERING INSECURITY CHALLENGES IN NIGERIA

The issue of insecurity and corruption in Nigeria are ‘‘twin Evils’’ and hydra-headed monsters that has held the nation state hostage. These have brought about the collapse of governments and the breakdown of institutional infrastructures. The lingering insecurity issue in Nigeria is due to government failure, linked to political and systematic corruption. The issue of corruption is a great threat to Nigeria's development because it

undermines good governance and democratic processes (Agbekaku et al., 2016, p. 295). For those in the legislature and executive, corruption makes transparency, accountability and representation, which are good ingredients for good governance in the policy making process, are almost unlikely. It erodes governance's institutional ability because processes are overlooked, resources are siphoned, and official promotion without regard to performance (Adagbabiri & Okolie, 2018, p. 52).

It is imperative to note that greed recreates corruption and replicates rewards for power and wealth to compete unregulated. It also undermines Nigeria's ability to mitigate normal social tensions and create avenues to address inequality, as with Boko Haram (Agbekaku et al., 2016, p. 180). The activities of traditional rulers, vigilante groups and politicians, electoral fraud, poor management of the economy, the challenge posed by poverty, dilapidated infrastructures, bad roads especially on the high ways, the underperformance of the law enforcement and criminal justice system, the insecurity caused by security agents and most recently, the insurgency of Boko Haram sect (Adagbabiri & Okolie, 2018, p. 53).

Albert (2012) views security challenges in Nigeria as:

- Poor inter-agency collaboration
- Lack of well-defined early warning system;
- There is little coordination between the lack of consistency in the government's handling of security issues using conflict and traditional problem solving techniques.
- Low civil society participation in security management.

According to Shehu (2011) cited in Adagbabiri & Okolie (2016, p. 53) "the Niger Delta offers a graphic image of how corruption in Nigeria, as the cause of youth resilience in the country, intensifies desperate socio-economic exclusion." The security sector in Nigeria has been diminished by corruption, the Nigerian police was rated among the most corrupt public institution in the country. According to Odia (2016, p. 330) "security agencies are faced with challenges that have made them not to be able to discharge their duties and responsibilities towards ensuring national security." Some of the challenges includes: inadequate man power i.e. both quality and quantity, obsolete equipment, lack of political will, leadership problems and corruption.

Ladan-Baki (2014, p. 296) his of the opinion that the security threats of a nation can include low-level civil disorder, large-scale conflict, armed insurrection or terrorism. These threats to security can be directed toward residents or the state's organs and infrastructure. Via either committing or sponsoring terrorism or rebellion without actually declaring war, foreign powers can also act as a threat to the security of a nation. Some of the lingering security issues in Nigeria include: herds men attacks, terrorism, kidnapping, armed robbery, youth unemployment, illegal bunkering, climate change, porous borders and corruption. Hence, the populous nation is bedevilled with insecurity and conflict. Without good leadership, there would be no development; without development, there will be no security in Nigeria. Corruption remains one of the greatest challenge to the lingering of security issues in Nigeria. The relationship between insecurity and corruption is not farfetched. Corruption forms the embers of poverty, crime and by extension insecurity. For example, acute youth unemployment, terrorism, diseases, armed robbery, poor health sector, wide spread malnourishment and abject poverty which lead to the lingering security issues in Nigeria are directly or indirectly related to corruption.

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

From the forgoing on corruption and the lingering insecurity in Nigeria, it is clear that insecurity continues to pose a serious challenge to Nigeria sixty years after independence. Corruption is the source of instability in Nigeria. This “evil” called corruption has generated unimaginable level of poverty, crime and by extension insecurity. Socially, corruption and instability have done more harm than any other phenomena to Nigeria’s reputation globally. Therefore, corruption and insecurity are twin development problems in Nigeria and need to be eliminated in order for the nation to be able to effectively play its role as the giant of Africa. Eradicating insecurity and corruption should therefore not be left in the hands of government alone, rather every citizen of Nigeria should cooperate with government to get rid of this evil destroying the country. However, the Nigerian government must tackle the problem of hunger, unemployment, poverty, and social injustice to reduce the high rate of insecurity.

For the above issues to be addressed from the country the study recommends the following:

- The fight against corruption must be value oriented as well as passion-driven and should not be driven by selective judgement and political vendetta. Besides, the anti-corruption agencies (EFCC and ICPC) alone can hardly cure the malady of corruption. They are mere mechanical devices to eradicate corruption. They may be considered short-term devices. A long-term proposal may also be envisaged. The existing order must change and yield a place to the new. Attitudes of politicians in Nigeria must undergo a change. Values of life must also change. Private property should cease to be the symbol of status and power. The socialist society that should believe in equal distribution of income, equity and fairness must replace acquisitive society. If the social attitudes towards the organization of private property attempt such a reform, widespread corruption is apt to be abolished.
- Collaboration with the government and non-government agencies. That is, the Nigerian police should collaborate with other security agencies such as the Armed Forces, State Security Service (SSS), Immigration and Customs Services, The National Drug Law Enforcement Agency (NDLEA), the Commission for Economic and Financial Crimes (EFCC), the National Intelligence Agency (NIA), the Federal Road Safety Commission (FRSC), and several others.
- Governance institutions, once established, take their own lives. Therefore, it is important to make concerted attempts to ensure that these organizations are founded on strong ethical principles and orientations, that their operators are made to go through and imbibe lasting moral training and virtues that can be passed on to future generations in order to ensure fairness, openness and public service accountability. This can remedy the decadence of government agencies and bodies, especially watchdog institutions such as the judiciary, police, and anti-graft bodies.
- A crucial step designed to enhance the readiness of the nation to fight all types of insecurity is the preparation and procurement for threats that are likely but have not yet materialized.
- Exchange of information and community policing. Security should be every person’s business. Thus, individuals and groups should work collaboratively to ensure that lives and properties are secured.

- Sustained surveillance. This refers to proactive measure, integrated surveillance operations, and the deployment of highly trained and responsible security operatives.
- Embracing a government method in improving security in the country. In other words, all the levels of government (Local, State and Federal levels) must support the national security establishment in combating insecurity.
- Provision of proper conditions of service, viz., healthy home and office environments, adequate salaries and alluring pension benefits, better promotion facilities, periodical raise in dearness allowance to neutralize the rising price index, opportunities for mobility, adequate regards for integrity and conscientious work can go a long way in the eradication of corruption on economic grounds.

Corruption can be weeded out at the political level, which is actually the root cause of corruption among civil servants if citizens are diligent, if opposition parties are strong and successful, and if the crooked politicians in the country can be turned to the search light of impartial press. An improved effort is required to track the movement of commodities and individuals within the federation.

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