A Review on the Security Challenges in Northern Nigeria and its Implications for Business Survival and Sustainable Development

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ABSTRACT

Northern Nigeria amongst other regions has witnessed high level of insecurity with its resultant effect on business survival and sustainable development. This has made national security threat to be a major issue for the government and has prompted huge allocation of the national budget to security. Security just like other elements in the business environment enhances and optimizes business activities but insecurity hinders these activities and so it constitutes a threat to business organizations and their survivals. This paper examined the insecurity in Northern Nigeria and its implication for business survival and sustainable development. The sources and causes of insecurity were examined through the methodology of evaluation using secondary data. The researcher presented attacks by Boko Haram in Northern Nigeria from 2009 to 2013. The paper further examined the conceptual perspective of insecurity, Business survival and Sustainable development and as well the functional areas of business that are likely to be affected as s result of insecurity. Detail analysis of the way- out to curb the effect of insecurity on business and to enhance sustainable development in Nigeria was outlined. Issues raised include provision of good leadership, good governance and value re-orientation. The paper concludes that insecurity poses a great threat to business organizations and its survival; hence this menace may affect the realization of becoming the 20 most developed countries by the year 2020. Recommendations were given which include the need for government to be more proactive in security management, intelligence gathering and surveillance. Business Organizations should be socially responsible and individuals need to be security cautious.

Keywords: Security Challenges, Business Survival and Sustainable Development

INTRODUCTION

Northern Nigeria amongst other regions has witnessed high level of insecurity. This has made national security threat to be a major issue for the government and has prompted huge allocation of the national budget to security. In order to reduce the incidence of crime, the federal government has embarked on criminalization of terrorism by passing the Anti-Terrorism Act in 2011, installation of Computer-Based Closed Circuit Television Cameras (CCTV), in some parts of the country, enhancement of surveillance as well as investigation of criminal related offences, heightening of physical security measures around the country aimed at deterring or disrupting potential attacks, strengthening of security agencies through the provision of security facilities and the development and broadcast of security tips in mass media (Azazi, 2011). Despite these

efforts, the level of insecurity in the country is still high. Apparently, the security situation in Northern Nigeria appears or at least have remained insurmountable and many people have argued that government at all levels has not done enough by not confronting the situation head on and dealing with it decisively, others have argued that the situation has a political undertone or inclination calculated to serve the interest of certain political gods. This paper intends to provide a synergy of current knowledge on insecurity in Nothern Nigeria and its implications. The paper further dwell on the concept of insecurity, Business survival, Sustainable development, and the causes of insecurity in the Northern Nigeria so as to provide the basis for understanding the problem.

CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK
The Concept of Insecurity, Business Survival and Sustainable Development
Akin (2008), opine that security refers to "the situation that exists as a result of the establishment of measures for the protection of persons, information and property against hostile persons, influences and actions". It is the existence of conditions within which people in a society can go about their normal daily activities without any threats to their lives or properties. Igbuzor (2011) it demands safety from chronic threats and protection from harmful disruption. Security however, can be described as stability and continuity of livelihood (stable and steady income), predictability of daily life (knowing what to expect), protection from crime (feeling safe), and freedom from psychological harm (safety or protection from emotional stress which results from the assurance or knowing that one is wanted, accepted, loved and protected in one's community or neighborhood and by people around. Insecurity on the other hand, is the antithesis of security. Beland (2005) defined insecurity as "the state of fear or anxiety stemming from a concrete or alleged lack of protection" It refers to lack or inadequate freedom from danger. This definition reflects physical insecurity which is the most visible form of insecurity, and it feeds into many other forms of insecurity such as economic security and social security.

The concept of Business Survival: According to Achumba *et al* (2013), Business Survival is an integrated strategy which involves innovative application of effective resource allocation, competition, reputation and efficiency, quality, proper marketing and sales realization in a most favorable business environment.

Concept of Sustainable Development: According to the classical definition given by the United Nations World Commission on Environment and Development (UN, 2010), development is sustainable if it "meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs." It is usually understood that this "intergenerational" equity would be impossible to achieve in the absence of present-day social equity, if the economic activities of some groups of people continue to jeopardize the well-being of people belonging to other groups or living in other parts of the world. Sustainable development could probably be otherwise called "equitable and balanced," meaning that, in order for development to continue indefinitely, it should balance the interests of different groups of people, within the same generation and among generations, and do so simultaneously in three major interrelated areas, economic, social, and environmental. Sustainable development is about equity, defined

as equality of opportunities for well-being of people as well as about comprehensiveness of objectives Aina (2006).

SOURCES/CAUSES OF INSECURITY IN NORTHERN NIGERIA
There is the need to understand the causes of insecurity as well as to investigate their sources of social disorder and instability. Like in many other societies, the sources of insecurity in Northern Nigeria have been traced to a number of factors and explained by different people.

ROOT CAUSES
Lack of institutional capacity resulting in government failure
Igbuzor (2011) observed, the state of insecurity in Northern Nigeria is greatly a function of government failure, or can be linked to government failure. This is manifested by the incapacity of government to deliver public services and to provide for basic needs of the masses. The lack of basic necessities by the people in Northern Nigeria has created a pool of frustrated people who are ignited easily by any event to be violent. The argument here, is that, Northern Nigeria has the resources to provide for the needs of its people, but corruption in public offices at all levels has made it impossible for office holders to focus on the provision of basic needs for the people.

Material inequalities and unfairness
Disparities in life chances are a major root cause of insecurity in Northern Nigeria which creates negative perception. This is a rooted general perception of inequality and unfairness which has resulted in grievance by a large number of people. This perception stems from the perception of marginalization by a section of the people in the region, government development policies and political offices and this has become a primary source of disaffection and resentment. As opined by Onuoha (2011), a large number of the Northern Nigeria population is frustrated and have lost hope, especially the youths, and have now emerged to express their disatisfaction about the pervasive state of inequality.

Ethics/Religious Conflict
These have arisen from distrust among various ethnic groups and among the major religions in the country. Igbuzor, (2011) identified ethno-religious conflict as a major source of insecurity in Northern Nigeria. Ethno-religious conflict is defined as a situation in which the relationship between members of one ethnic or religious group and another of such group in a multi-ethnic and multi-religious society is characterized by lack of cordiality, mutual suspicion and fear, and a tendency towards violent confrontation.

Weak Security system
Poor attitudinal and behavioral disposition of security personnel. In many cases, security personnel assigned to deal with given security situations lack the expertise and equipment to handle the situations in a way to prevent them from occurring. And even when these exist, some personnel get influenced by ethnic, religious or communal sentiment and are easily swallowed by their personal interest to serve their people, rather than the nation.

Loss of value system

The traditional value system of the Nigerian society like most African societies is characterized by such endearing features as collectivism, loyalty to authority and community, truthfulness, honesty, hard work, tolerance, love for others, Mutual harmony and coexistence, and identification of individual with one another (Clifford, 2009). New values have taken over their place over the years, with the so called 'Modern civilization'. All our known values and morals have been traded off for western values. The importance of a people's value system to their survival was explained by Obama, when he challenged all societies to go back to their traditional values. In his word cited by Clifford (2009), *"Our challenges may be new, the instrument with which we meet them may be new. But those values upon which our success depends are hard work and honesty, courage and fair play, tolerance and curiosity, loyalty and patriotism, these things are old. These things are true. They have been the quick force of progress throughout our history, what is demanded then is a return to these truths".*

Terrorism

Terrorism is the most fundamental source of insecurity in Nigeria today, and its primary bases and sources of support have generally been located in religious fanaticism and intolerance particularly in Islam dominated states of Nigeria. Terrorism which is a global phenomenon where no one is safe was defined by Sampson and Onuoha (2011) as "the premeditated use or threat of use of violence by an individual or group to cause fear, destruction or death, especially against unarmed targets, property or infrastructure in a state, intended to compel those in authority to respond to the demands and expectations of the individual or group behind such violent acts".

LIST OF MAJOR BOKO HARAM ATTACKS IN NORTHERN NIGERIA FROM 2009-2013

S/N	DATE OF ATTACK	STATE	LOCATION OF ATTACK	CASUALITIES
1	27, JULY 2009	YOBE	Attack on Potiskum, Yobe state Divisional Headquaters	4 people killed
2	13, March 2010	PLATEAU	Another Sect Operation in the Noerthern Part of Jos Pl	300 people Killed
3	1, OCT, 2010	ABUJA	Explosion Near Eagle Square, Abuja	12 people killed and many injured
4	24, Dec, 2010	PLATEAU	A bomb attack in Barkin ladi, Jos Plateau State	8 People killed
5	31, Dece, 2010	ABUJA	Explosion at Mogadishu Mammy Market, Abuja	10 people killed
6	21, Jan , 2011	BORNO	Attack on Borno State Governorship Aspirant of ANPP,	7 people Killed
7	2, March, 2011	KADUNA	Attack on Mustapha Sandamu House, Kaduna	2 People Killed
8	30 March, 2011	YOBE	Bomb planted by book haram I Damaturu	1 injured
9	8, April , 2011	NIGER	Bomb at INEC Office Suleja	8 People Killed
10	26, April, 2011	BAUCHI	Army Barrack in Bauchii Bombed	3 killed and many

				injured
11	26, August, 2011	ABUJA	Bombing of United Nations Building in Abuja	25 killed and 45 injured
12	25, Dec, 2011	NIGER	Christmas Day Bombing in Abuja	50 people Killed
13	20, Jan, 2012	KANO	Multiple attacks in Kano	250 above killed
14	8, April, 2012	KADUNA	Easter Day Church Bombing	38 people Killed
15	7, August, 2012	KOGI/OKENE	Deeper life Church Attack	19 people Killed
16	19, April 2013	BORNO	Baga Massacre	228 people killed
17	6, july, 2013	YOBE	School shooting	30 people killed
18	29, sept, 2013	YOBE	Gujba College massacre	50 people killrd
19	April, 2014	BORNO	GOVT GIRLS SEC SCHOOL, CHIBOK, BORNO	276 Girls Kidnapped
20	3, January, 2015	BORNO	BAGA MASSACRE	150 KILLED

Source 1: Adapted from Adagba, Ugwu and Eme (2012:86-89)
Source 2: www.google.search.com
Source 3: www.wikipedia.org/wiki/boko_Haram, 23 January, 2015

IMPLICATIONS OF INSECURITY ON BUSINESS SURVIVAL
Potential Business Investment
Insecurity discourages investment as it makes investment unattractive to business people. This is because it increases the cost of doing business either through direct loss of goods and properties or the cost of taking precautions against business risks and uncertainty. These costs could have a negative impact on business development and progress. The thick arrow connecting the insecurity environment and business investment means that insecurity can be a huge blockade to business investment. Ujah and Eboh (2006) reported a study by World Bank on investment climate in nine African countries in which it was found that 29% of business operators in Africa and 36% in Nigeria perceived insecurity as a major constraint on investment.

Existing Business Enterprise
The insecurity in Northern Nigeria in many cases affects and distracts business operations during the periods of violence and also caused the outright closure of many enterprises or businesses in other to protect lives of operators and business property. Generally, if there is no peace and security, it is extremely difficult for businesses to survive. Persons operating small and medium scale businesses cannot open shops for business transactions. Insecurity is a risk factor which business owners and managers wish to avoid by relocating their businesses elsewhere. In the case of Nigeria, there is also evidence of some businessmen and manufacturing companies having to relocate particularly from the North in recent time, to other peaceful parts of the country (Nwagbosa (2012)). Non indigenes especially Igbos and Yorubas have to return to their home states before they are killed by Boko Haram (Suleiman, 2012). In addition, some firms may shift their operations to other countries which are deemed to be more peaceful. An existing business can also be affected in the four functional areas of business as follows.

Production: Business enterprises rely on availability and regular supply of raw materials for production. When a firm is unable to access raw materials needed for production due to insecurity in the source, it can disrupt production activities. There is no doubt that businesses whose source of raw materials are in the North would be faced with that threat, if the insecurity situation becomes worse.

Marketing: It is not only that a business enterprise must get raw materials for production; it also must dispose off their output. Insecurity limits market availability and customer patronage. Migration of people from the affected areas to other parts or outside as a result of insecurity will affect the customer base of businesses operating in the environment where the insecurity exists.

Finance: Insecurity also increases security spending by business organizations. This arises from the cost of taking precautions and payment for private security services. Most business organizations operating in Nigeria maintain security personnel as well as security infrastructure in order to ensure the security of their properties and the lives of their staff and customers. It could also result to the loss of capital through burning of business buildings and properties.

Human Resource: There are circumstances when employees of a business enterprise become victims of attack and the firm losses its experienced staff through death or injury. As such, workers resign to run away from such areas and fresh people do not want to go there for employment. The implication is manpower shortage for the business which ultimately affects the success and survival of the business.

IMPLICATIONS OF THE INSECURITY ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Insecurity has been identified as one of the obstacles to sustainable development. Igbuzor, 2011). The term sustainable development was popularized in a report by the Brundtland Commission published by the World Commission on Environment and Development in 1987. In the report, sustainable development was defined as "development which meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs (UN, 2010). Since then, the concept has been variously conceived in terms of vision expression, value change, moral development, social reorganization or transformational process toward a desired future or better world. It is people who interact to carry out economic activities through their businesses. Businesses are the vehicle for economic activities that would lead to national economic development. It therefore follows that businesses play a great role in the process of development and such role can be hampered in the absence of adequate security as we now find in Nigeria. The aims of sustainable development are to ensure a safe and healthy environment for all and sundry and to maximize simultaneously national goals, organizational goals and individual goals that can persist over generations. For instance, the former president of Ghana, John Kufour stated that the bane of Nigeria development is insecurity (Kufour, 2012). He observed that insecurity situation in Northern Nigeria is costing Nigeria its leadership role in Africa in terms of development. As a result, it is unable to claim its rightful position as 'giant of Africa' from which other African nations could benefit or copy as a role model and that "if there is no security, there is no liberty, and if there is no liberty, life is not meaningful and

society reverts back to the law of the jungle and man's primary objective of forming a state is defeated".

THE WAY –OUT TO INSECURITY CHALLENGES IN NOTHERN NIGERIA

Having considered and understood the implications of insecurity in Northern Nigeria for business survival and sustainable development, the question that arises before every one of us as Nigerians, is what to do to overcome the challenge? How can the Nigerian nation and economy be made safe for all of us? The following factors are worthy of consideration.

Leadership development: It is viewed that Nigeria will have to develop visionary leadership, a leadership that is detribalized such that it has at leadership positions only people who are able to inculcate in their people or followers, the ideal of common citizenship as the transcendent factor among all Nigerians, no matter the tribe, gender, religion, economic and social status. In other words, it is imperative that we have leaders who "would not be limited to championing the causes of their home state, tribe or religious groups, but rather focused on deeds and pronouncements which convincingly and positively impact on the entire citizenry of the federal republic"(Kufour, 2012).

Good governance: Oluwa (2012) has pointed out that, good governance is a function of effective, visionary, transparent, trustworthy and credible political leadership whose driving force is an improvement in the collective wellbeing of the citizens through well conceived, effectively implemented economic policies and human development programmes. The underlying principle of good governance is the focus on people as the ultimate objective of governance. The result of good governance could bring about social development and reduction in corruption tendencies.

Value re-orientation: It is argued that except our values are right, we cannot get it right as a nation in all of the areas that we have itemized, and except we get it right in those areas, the people will continue to suffer deprivation and injustice which will cause dissatisfaction and disaffection and consequently create an insecure environment.

CONCLUSION

Security just like other elements in the business environment enhances and optimizes business activities but insecurity hinders these activities and so it constitutes a threat to business organizations and their survivals. If the level of insecurity in our country is not scaled down, our vision to be among the best 20 countries of the world by the year 2020 may be aborted."The approach towards curbing this menace has been to respond when the crime has been committed and the harm has been done. This paper dwells on the need for change in attitude and approach by being proactive. Therefore, the government, civil society groups, business organization and individuals must fight insecurity so as to create an enabling environment where business organizations will feel free and secured to achieve their full potentials and the country will itself be safe to achieve sustainable development.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- To overcome insecurity there is need for intelligence gathering and surveillance so that law enforcement agents could be proactive and reasonably predict potential crime with near perfect accuracy rather than being reactive.
- Business enterprises can and should contribute towards the enhancement of security and safety in the country through long-term strategy of creating and providing jobs especially for the unemployed youths. Businesses should learn to be socially responsible.
- Local communities should be vigilant of strangers in their localities to ensure that criminals and suspected persons do not have easy access to their communities. However, security should be seen as everybody's business.
- The religious groups should learn how to tolerate one another and ensure that the choice of selection, nomination and election of who lead us should be seen from competency and credibility.

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