



CONTEMPORARY SOCIO-ECONOMIC CHALLENGES FACING NIGERIA: THEIR
IMPACT ON ECONOMIC GROWTH AND
DEVELOPMENT

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Abstract

This work is a library research that gathers materials from textbooks, news media such as newspapers, magazines, journal papers, radio and television news, internet and the personal experiences of the researcher, since he is an adult Nigerian and feels the impact of some of the problems or challenges. From the reviews, he agrees with the authors that Nigeria is experiencing perilous and turbulent times that seem to mean that our political leaders do not know what to do. One source identified the challenges as the economy, insecurity, unemployment and corruption--four in number--and that they demand competence and political will to handle. Another source identified them to include insecurity, corruption which enhances mass poverty in the North and South of Nigeria, volatile monolithic economy, environmental degradation and faulty educational system. The researcher believes that the challenges facing Nigeria include monoculture economy, unstable power supply; corruption that breeds poor leadership, insecurity caused by Boko Haram and armed robbery, unemployment, environmental pollution in the Niger Delta region, neglect of agriculture and faulty educational system. At the end of the work, some suggestions have been made as to how the challenges should be tamed such as attacking the base of corruption, provision of power, overhaul of the educational system, diversification of the economy, more emphasis on agriculture and provision of adequate infrastructure, among others.

*Keywords: Monoculture Economy, Corruption, Insecurity,
Poverty and Terrorism.*

Background to the Study

Nigeria is facing a lot of socio-economic challenges presently and they are pervasive and debilitating. Ero (2015) states that Nigeria is indeed experiencing perilous and turbulent times and identifies Boko Haram, faulty and terribly wobbling democracy and non-separation of religion from the state. Babatunde (2015) identifies three principal enemies facing Nigeria namely insecurity, corruption which leads to mass poverty and a volatile monolithic economy. George and Ukpung (2013) identify the following as contemporary social problems in Nigeria: misuse of science and technology, cultism, large family size, marginal workers, examination malpractice, dubious admission policy, government over-emphasis on certificates, drug abuse, and films and movies. Some other authors add unemployment, monolithic economy, energy crisis (power

instability) and poverty. The researcher personally chooses to look at some of the challenges in this paper, namely; poverty, insecurity, corruption, monolithic or monoculture economy, and terrorism. According to George and Ukpong (2013), in a modern society like Nigeria, many contemporary problems have emerged which are against the morals, norms and ethic of our society and of course, make life uncomfortable. Such problems include our deviant behaviour towards the commandments of God, for example, as in our struggle for the control of available scarce resources wrongly and violently. This in turn creates problems in the society among the haves and the have-nots. The paper shall try to discuss these problems, dig more into them and also try to proffer suggestions as to how some, if not all of these problems could be solved or reduced to the barest minimum.

In connection with these contemporary challenges, Ewetan and Urhie (2014) remarked that among the deteriorating security situation in the country, Nigeria is also confronted with doubting developmental challenges which poses serious threat to her socio-economic development. These developmental challenges include endemic rural and urban poverty, high rate of unemployment, debilitating youth unemployment, low industrial output, unstable and deteriorating exchange rate, high inflation rate, inadequate physical and social infrastructure, very large domestic debt, and rising stock of external debt.

The United Nations Children's Fund reports cited in Ewetan and Urhie (2014) that every-day, Nigeria loses about 2,300 under-five year olds, and 145 women of child-bearing age, making the country the second largest contributor to the under five and maternal mortality rates in the world. A greater proportion of this population does not have access to pipe-borne water, health care facilities, electricity and affordable quality education. Although Nigeria is a signatory to the UN resolution on the MDG goals, the attainment of these goals by 2015 remains elusive and doubtful.

Statement of the Problem

Nigeria is currently facing the above identified socio-economic challenges which, over the years, have prevented her from going forward like the countries that are of her age. Babatunde (2015) remarks that apart from the broad tripod of evil plaguing our county, issues such as poor provision of power, poor business development, inequitable tax administration, non-qualitative education and poor building of local capacity, unemployment and obvious skills gap, poor foreign relations, bad management of our God-given resources for the benefit of all, non-promotion of indigenous technology, inequitable framework for foreign investment that makes local businessmen regret their status, poor judicial system and inequitable justice delivery system, poor health system, poor transportation and grossly inadequate infrastructure, poor agriculture system, monoculture economy, non-workable federalism, corrupt and inept civil service, and environmental degradation, among others are plaguing Nigeria presently. All these tend to bring Nigeria down, make her to be backward and generally underdeveloped. These calls for concern and this paper try to look into them with a view to suggesting possible solutions.

Objectives of the Study

The objectives of the study are to identify and explain the main challenges plaguing Nigeria currently, bringing out their causes, the scope, possible solution, as well as generally making suggestions as to how to solve the challenges completely or at least, reduce them to the barest minimum.

Methodology

The paper is a library research type as the author derives his materials from newspapers, journals, magazines, textbooks, the internet and views from opinion and political leaders, among others.

The author reviews over 45 works to use in completing this research.

The paper is divided into three non-equal sections. Following section one which introduces the work, section two treats the major socio-economic challenges facing Nigeria such as Insecurity, Poverty, Terrorism, Corruption and monoculture economy. Section three summarizes and concludes the paper and also proffers suggested remedies to the problems.

Literature Review

Insecurity: This is one of the most pressing and debilitating challenges facing Nigeria today. It connotes absence of safety; dangers; hazard; uncertainty; lack of protection and lack of safety. Beland (2005) sees insecurity as a state of fear or anxiety due to absence or lack of protection. Achumba, Ighomereho and Akpan-Robero (2013) have two views about insecurity: either as being open or subject to danger or threat of danger, where danger is the condition of being susceptible to harm or injury or it is the state of being exposed to risk or anxiety, where anxiety is a vague unpleasant emotion that is being experienced in anticipation of some misfortune. Omoyibo and Akpomera (2013) state that the state exists in order to provide security and Thomas Hobbes (1996) confirmed that security is the prime responsibility of the state. The 1999 Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria (FRN) states that the security and welfare of the people shall be the primary purpose of government.

Unfortunately, government in recent times has failed to provide a secured and safe environment for lives, properties, and the conduct of business and economic activities. The alarming level of insecurity in Nigeria has fuelled the crime rate and terrorist attacks in different parts of the country, leaving unpalatable consequences for the nation's economy and its growth. To address this threat, the Federal Government of Nigeria (FGN) in the 2013 budget made a huge allocation to security and the National Assembly passed the Anti-Terrorism Act in 2011 (Ewetan, 2013). Despite these efforts, the level of insecurity in the country is still high, and a confirmation of this is the low ranking of Nigeria in the Global Peace Index (GPI, 2012).

From the write up of Thomas Hobbies (1998), security need was the basis of the social contract between the people and the state in which people willingly surrendered their rights to the government who oversees the survival of all. Security thus embodies the mechanism put in place to avoid, prevent, reduce, or resolve violent conflicts and threats that, originate from other states, non-state actors or structural socio-political and economic condition (Stan, 2004). Since the cold war ended, there have been attempts to deepen and widen the concept of security from the level of the states to individuals, and from military to non-military issues (Nwanegbo and Odigbo, 2013; Krumann, 2013). The definitions of security underscore a major point that those affected by it are not only uncertain or unaware of what would happen but they are also vulnerable to the threat and dangers when they occur.

Scholars have identified strong links between security and development since the cold war ended. They argued that development cannot be achieved in any nation where there are conflicts, crisis and war. There is a consensus in the literature that security and development are two different and inseparable concepts that affect each other, and this has naturally triggered debates on security-development nexus (Chandler, 2007; Stan, 2004; and Nwanegbo and Odigbo, 2013).

Origin and Causes of Insecurity in Nigeria

Ali (2013) postulates that the fear of insecurity in Nigeria is on the increase and this has been compounded by the rising waves of terrorism since the country returned to democratic rule in 1999. Violent crime has a root and history in Nigeria and could be traced back to the period from 1960 to 1970 (Ewetan and Urhie, 2014). Insecurity challenge can be traced to the early year of military rule when large quantities of arms were imported into the country for the use of military

during and after the civil war, for the use of which got into the hands of the civilians. Many scholars have identified several causes of conflict and insecurity in Nigeria that are inimical to socio-economic and national development. According to Ewetan and Urhie (2014), these causes of insecurity can be classified into external and internal but this work focuses on the internal causes which are itemized below.

- (a) Ethno-religious conflicts: This is a situation in which the relationship between members of one ethnic or religious and another such group in multi-ethnic and multi-religious society is characterized by lack of cordiality, mutual suspicion and fear and the tendency towards violent confrontation. It is also traceable to the inability of Nigerian leaders to tackle development challenges and distribute state resources equitably. These crises have become disintegrative and destructive social element threatening the peace, stability and security in Nigeria (Eme and Onyishi, 2011).
- (B) Politically-based violence: the electoral politics in Nigeria right from the 1960s till date have been characterized with violent conflicts, political thuggery, assassinations and so on. Nigerian politician do not accommodate dialogue, negotiation and consensus and this brings decimation of innocent lives, disruption of economic activities, and the destruction of properties, among others.
- (c) Systemic and political corruption: This has contributed to government failure and breakdown of institutional infrastructure. It is very bad because it privatizes valuable aspects of public life, by-passing processes of representation, debate and choice. It hampers economic growth, disproportionately burdens the poor and undermines the effectiveness of investment and aid (Iyare, 2008).
- (d) Economic-based violence: Cries of resource control and revenue sharing regularly rent the air between proponents and opponents also leading to violent agitations among the contending actors and between the state and proponents. The most prevalent campaign about the link between resources and conflict in Nigeria focuses on the oil and the delta region. Assets such as grazing and farming, and water resources, have tended to give rise to horizontal conflicts that involve communities across the geo-political zones.
- (e) Pervasive material inequalities and unfairness: The growing awareness to inequalities and disparities in life choices also leads to violent reactions by a large number of people. Marginalization by a section of people in area of government development policies, political patronage, and these are triggers of disaffection, resentment and revolt (Achumba et al, 2013).
- (f) Unemployment/Poverty: According to Adagba, Ugwu, and Eme (2012), unemployment and poverty are a major cause of insecurity and violent crimes in Nigeria. Failure of successive administration to address challenges of poverty, unemployment and inequitable distribution of wealth among ethnic nationalities, also cause insecurity.
- (g) Organized violent groups such as ethnic militias, vigilantes, secret cults in tertiary institutions and political thugs, contribute significantly to security challenges in Nigeria in different dimensions and forms. Their emergence have been linked to a number of factors which include the culture of militarism, the failure of the state and its institutions, economic disempowerment, the structure of the state and Nigeria's federalism, non-separation of state and religion, politics of exclusion, culture of patriarchy, ignorance and poor political consciousness (Eme and Onyishi, 2011).
- (h) Weak Security System: This can be attributed to a number of factors which include inadequate funding of the police and other security agencies, lack of modern equipment both in weaponry and training, poor welfare of security personnel, and inadequate personnel. Olonisakin (2008) reported that the police-population ratio in Nigeria is 1:450 which falls below the standard set by the United Nation and thus, Nigeria is under-policed to effectively fight crime and criminality.

- (i) Porous Borders: The porous frontiers of the country, where individual movements are largely untracked, have contributed to the level of insecurity in Nigeria and there is an unchecked inflow of light weapons into the country which has aided militancy and criminality (Hazen and Horner, 2007). Available data show that Nigeria hosts over 70% of about 8 million illegal weapons in West Africa (Edeko, 2011). The porosity of the borders has encouraged uncontrollable influx of migrants from neighbouring countries (Adeola and Oluyemi, 2012).
- (j) Terrorism: The most fundamental source of insecurity in Nigeria today is traceable to religious fanaticism and intolerance particularly in Islam-dominated states of Nigeria. Terrorism is a global phenomenon and it is ravaging the whole world. Sampson and Onuoha (2011) define it as “the premeditated use or threat or 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”.

Poverty

Black (2002) states that poverty is inability to afford an adequate standard of consumption. What this standard is, once actual starvation is avoided, is very much subject to variation between countries and over time. Karla (2006) maintains that poverty exists when certain sections of people cannot even satisfy their basic primary needs in terms of food, cloth and shelter. Poverty has been an uninvestigated curse of the underdeveloped nations which they have been fighting hard to remove. According to George and Ukpog (2013), poverty is one of the contemporary social problems affecting Nigeria as a third world country and it refers to a complete lack of minimal means of livelihood. Judging by the American standard, about eighty five percent (85%) of Nigerians are poor. This gives birth to incidence of high involvement of her citizens in criminal activities such as corruption, bribery and all types of immoral conducts. Poverty has become a global phenomenon that has plague nations like Nigeria with seemingly no workable solution in sight. Attempts at reducing poverty and deprivation seemed to have defied domestic and international programmes (Garga, 2014).

Poverty is not a new phenomenon but the consciousness is relatively new as a result of the sudden economic meltdown, devaluation of naira, civil unrest, ethnic and tribal crisis. The poor lack the means to satisfy the basic needs of life. They do not have personal assets necessary to produce income and wealth (Famoyin 2007). Corbet (2009) defines poverty as a condition of having insufficient resources or income. In its extreme form, it is characterized by lack basic needs such as adequate and nutritious foods, clothing, clean water and health services. Ravalion and Bidani (1994) see poverty as a condition where there is lack of command over basic needs, that is, a situation of inadequate level of consumption, giving rise to insufficient food, clothing, and shelter.

Furthermore, Edozien (1975) sees poverty with reference to basic human needs which the individual must have in order to survive. Thus, a family may be said to live in poverty when it is unable to satisfy its basic needs. Atoloye (1997) and Englama and Bamidele (1997) view poverty as the lack of basic needs for normal living standard. It is the inability to attain to normal standard of living measured in terms of basic consumption needs or income required to satisfy them. According to Garga (2014), poverty is a multi dimensional concept and its definition could be culturally and geographically based, depending on the particular society we are dealing with due mainly to variations in the society's welfare.

An average Nigerian family may not be able to afford three square meals. In many parts of the world, poor people are regarded as those who cannot, for one reason or the other, have Economically two lines relative to the standard of living in Nigeria: a moderate poverty line

equivalent to two thirds of the mean per capita expenditure and a core poverty line, equivalent to one-third of the mean per capita expenditure. These lines were used in the assessment of poverty by the Bureau to separate households for classification into one of the three mutually exclusive groups namely, core poor, moderately poor or non-poor.

According to Igun (1998), the majority of the inhabitants of the third world countries live in deplorable poverty, largely, in rural or remote areas or in urban slums, there is high rate of morbidity and mortality of environmental sanitation, a major determinant of health status is poor in most of the countries. Nutritional state is also poor among the majority of the population of the societies; they suffer from a great burden of diseases, disability and death.

The World Bank (2002) posited that using poverty indicators such as literacy level, unemployment, access to safe water, nutrition, infant and maternal mortality, and the people living on less than one dollar a day, Nigeria is found to rank among the 25th poorest nations in the world below Kenya, Ghana and Gambia. According to the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) (2006), poverty level in Nigeria was rated as very high with about two thirds of the population living below the poverty line. Poverty appears to be more concentrated in the rural areas. The number of rural people is roughly thrice that of the urban poor. More than 85% of the poor live in the rural areas and more than two thirds live on farms.

The distribution of poverty is also inequitable on geographical basis. Regionally, the north-west geographical zone has the largest population of its population living in poverty and three northern geopolitical zones have 65% of the nation's population but account for only 35% of GDP. Out of the country's six geopolitical zones, the north-west zone has the least figure of N2,941.00. The Eastern zone had the highest figure of N 5,194.00 in terms of consumption expenditure as per the 1997 National Consumer Survey. Also, the North-west recorded the lowest figure of household income of N3,769.00 while the highest figure of N7,211.00 was for the Eastern region.

According to the World Bank (2007), poverty can be viewed in terms of hunger, lack of shelter, being sick and not knowing how to read, not being able to speak properly, not having a job, having serious fear for the future and living one day at a time. It is losing a child for illness, brought about by unclean water; it includes also powerlessness, lack of representation and freedom. Garba (2006) noted that the most commonly used method of measuring poverty by the World Bank is based on income and consumption level. A person is said to be poor if his income or consumption level falls below some minimum level known as poverty line.

Poverty Reduction Strategies

The fight against poverty was directed on rural development together with town and country planning as the approach to dealing with the problem (Garga, 2014). This approach was changed after independence and emphasis was placed in transferring the rural sector, particularly, the enhancement of agricultural productivity and farm income. The war on poverty alleviation was formally embarked on by the FGn in 1990 when poverty assumed an endemic dimension. The FGn and its agencies introduced various developmental projects that had beneficial impact on the rural inhabitants. Some of these programmes include: River Basin Development Authorities (RBDAs), Agricultural Development Programmes (ADPs), Operation Feed the Nation (OFN), Directorate of Foods, Roads and Rural Infrastructure (DFRRI), Family Support Programme (FSP), Family Economic Advancement Programme (FEAP), National Directorate of Employment (NDE), and Poverty Alleviation Programme (PAP).

The PAP, like other poverty reduction programmes introduced earlier on failed to achieve the target for which it was set. This motivated the government to embark on an elaborate anti-poverty initiative known as National Poverty Eradication Programme (NAPEP) in 2001, through

streamlining and rationalization of the existing institutions and the co-ordination of relevant schemes and programmes. In order to make the institution more powerful and functional, twelve ministries were co-opted into NAPEP. These are the Ministries: Ministries of Agriculture and Rural Development, Education, Water Resources, Industry, Power and Steel, Employment, Health, Works and Housing, Environment, Finance and National Planning Commission. Nine agencies were also made integral part of NAPEP. There are: Nigeria Agriculture Cooperative and Rural Development Bank (NACRDB), Universal Basic Education (UBE), River Basin Development Authorities (RBDAs), Small and Medium Scale Industries Development Authorities (SMLDA), Bank of Industry (BOI), Power Holding Company of Nigeria (PHCN), National Directorate of Employment (NDE), National Primary Health Care Development Agency (NPHCDA) and Federal Mortgage Bank of Nigeria (FMBN).

Attempts to eradicate poverty in Nigeria have never shown any positive results. Instead, the gap between the haves and the have-nots is so wide and alarming. The weak nature of the leadership in its failure to effectively distribute the nation's resources among the existing classes is responsible for the impoverishment of Nigeria's population. No nation can succeed in her various government reforms programmes if it continues to neglect the poverty alleviation programmes in the country because poverty is a disease that can stagnate growth and development in the country.

Implications of Poverty in Nigeria

Poverty leads to worsening of the living conditions in Nigeria. the deteriorating living standards among the Nigerian poor and sub-standard housing, overcrowding in the urban centres, proliferation of shanty towns and slum areas, inadequate clothing, poor health facilities, and lack of access to quality education. The severity of poverty in Nigeria is so high that it has even affected social cohesion in the country. It creates a tense environment which threatens the stability of the nation. Supporting this argument, the UNDP Human Development Report (2005) which confirmed the rate of poverty in Africa stated that the average American was 38 times richer than an average Tanzanian and that it was even more unacceptable where a Sub-Saharan African lives on \$1 day as a cow in Europe or Japan receives \$2 or nearly \$4 a day.

Terrorism

According to Hornby (2006), terrorism is the use of the violent action in order to achieve political aims or to force a government to act, while a terrorist is one who takes part in terrorism. Ewetan and Urhie (2014) report that terrorism is not a recent phenomenon in Nigeria, it started with the notorious Islamic sect in the Northern part of Nigeria called Maitasine during the Alhaji Shehu Shagari's civilian regime of 1979-1984. Terrorism reared its ugly head again during the Chief Obasanjo regime of the Fourth Republic which witnessed religious riots in Plateau State in Northern Nigeria. Recently, it has assumed a political undertone and is being spearheaded by Boko Haram group that has claimed thousands of lives in the north since 2009.

Terrorism in Nigeria has been linked to religious, socio-political, economic and cultural factors. Even though terrorism originated from Islamic fanaticism, it now driven by factors such as inequality within the country and lack among Nigerians, in terms of livelihood (economic) resources, education or access to education and good values. The current challenge of terrorism to physical security is threatening the Nigeria society on all fronts. Some foreign observers have linked terrorism in Nigeria to a number of factors which include political conflicts, unbalanced development that involves horizontal inequalities, religious/ethnic distrust, poor governance linked to leadership failure, and high level corruption (Kufour, 2012 and Oluwarotimi, 2012).

Insecurity and Socio-Economic Development in Nigeria

After 53 years of independence, Nigeria still ranks among the poorest in the world, also ranks low in all socio-economic indicators such as life expectancy, death rate, access to water, poverty rate,

mortality rate, and crime rate and still carries the tag of a developing country. She is a classic illustration of an oxymoron, a poor country in the midst of abundant human and natural resources. In fact, in development articles, Nigeria is said to be suffering from Death Disease Syndrome also called commodity or oil curse or devil's excrement (Ntoiden, 2013). The Dutch Disease erodes core societal values required for nation building, accompanied by disregard for law and order, with disrespect for human values and norms, which make leaders, feel that they are not accountable to the people. The various constitutions that Nigeria has operated including the 1999 Constitution makes provision for the rights of citizens. Regrettably, previous and present governments have failed to guarantee these rights and thus the onus is on individuals to seek to provide the basic necessities for life for himself and his family.

The table below shows available data on the level of some of the crimes from 2000-2008.

Table 1: Level of Crimes from 2000 to 2008

Year	Theft	Armed Robbery	Kidnapping	Assassination	Fraud
2000	29127	1877	243	1255	7927
2001	40796	2809	349	2120	10234
2002	35231	3889	337	2117	9134
2003	33124	3497	410	2136	9508
2004	37289	3142	349	2550	9532
2005	46111	2074	798	2074	9580
2006	41901	2863	372	2000	6395
2007	21082	2327	277	2007	5860
2008	23927	2340	309	1956	5058

Source: Adapted from Achumba et al. (2013)

Table 1 show that on the average the rate of all the insecurity variables increased between 2000 and 2008 with the exception of fraud which decreased within the same period. In recent time there has been an increase in the rate of theft, armed robbery especially in the banks, kidnapping and assassination in different parts of the country. However these vices are not equally distributed in the country. For instance, the South East states of Nigeria have the highest incidence of kidnapping, the South South and South West states of Nigeria have the highest incidence of armed robbery and fraud, while the Northern states are characterized by bombing by the Islamic sect, Boko Hararn (CLEEN, 2012).

Table 2. Attacks by Boko Haram Sect in Nigeria from 2009 to 2012

S/N	Date of Attack	State	Location of Attack	Impact
1	July 27 2009	Yobe	Attack on Potiskum, Yobe State Divisional Headquarters.	4 people killed
2.	March 13, 2018	Plateau	Another sect operation in the northern part of Jos, Plateau State.	300 people killed
3.	Oct. 1 2010	Abuja	Explosions near the Eagle Square, Abuja	12 people killed And many injured
4.	Dec. 24, 2010	Plateau	A bomb attack, in Barkin Ladi, Jos, Plateau	8 people killed
5.	Dec.31, 2010	Abuja	Explosions in Mogadishu Mammy Market, Abuja.	10 people killed
6.	Jan. 21, 2011	Borno	Attack on Borno state Governorship candidate of all Nigeria Peoples Party (ANPP), for the 2011 election, Alhaji Mxlii Gubio.	7 people killed
7.	Mar. 2, 2011	Kaduna	Boko Haram killed policemen attached to the Residence of Mustapha Sandamu, at Rigasa	2 people killed
8.	Mar. 30, 2011	Yobe	Bomb planted by Boko Haram in Damaturu, Yobe State, exploded and injured police officer.	1 injured
9.	April 8, 2011	Niger	Bomb at INEC office in Suleja	8 people killed
10.	April 26, 2011	Bauchi	Army Barracks in Bauchi bombed	3 people killed And many injured
11.	May 29 2011	Abuja Bauchi And Zaria	Multiple bombings in different locations in Northern Nigeria.	13 people killed And 40 injured
12.	June 7, 2011	Borne	Series of bomb blasts occurred in Maiduguri	5 killed and several injured
13.	June 16, 2011	Abuja and Borno	Nigerian Police Headquarters, Abuja, bombed by A suspected suicide bomber. A bomb blast also Occurred at Damboa town, Maiduguri.	7 killed and many Vehicles damaged
14.	June 20, 2011	Kaduna	Boko Haram stormed Kankara Police station in Katsina state.	7 policemen killed and 2 security men
15.	July 9, 2011	Borno and Niger	A clash between Boko Haram and the military in Maiduguri, Borne State, also in Suleja, Niger State, a bomb was targeted at a church.	35 killed and many injured

16.	July 12, 2011	Borne	Boko Haram threw an explosive device on a moving Military patrol vehicle.	5 people killed
17.	July 15, 2011	Borne	Explosion in Maiduguri.	5 people injured
18.	July 25, 2011	Maiduguri	Bomb explosion near the palace of traditional ruler in Maiduguri.	8 people killed
19.	Aug. 26, 2011	Abuja	A suicide Bomber drove into The United Nations building in Abuja	25 people killed and 60 injured
20.	Sep. 12, 2011	Bauchi	A bomb attack on a police station in Misau	7 people killed
21.	Sep. 17, 2011	Borne	Brother in-law of Mohammed Yusuf, the slain leader of Boko Haram, Babakura Fugu, shot dead in front of his house in Maiduguri by two members of the sect two days after he was visited by former President Olusegun Obasanjo.	1 person killed
22.	Oct. 3, 2011	Borno	Boko Haram attacked Baga Market in Maiduguri	3 people killed
23.	Nov. 4, 2011	Yobe	Attack by Boko Haram in Damaturu, Yobe state.	150 people killed
24.	Nov. 27,	Yobe	Attacks in Gendam.	7 people killed
25.	Dec. 24 2011	Plateau	Bombings in Jos	80 people killed
26.	Dec. 25, 2011	Niger	Christmas Day bombing in Madalla.	50 people killed
27.	Jan. 6, 2012	Adamawa	Christ Apostolic Church was attacked and Igbo People were also killed in Mubi in the same state.	37 people killed
28.	Jan. 20, 2012	Kano	Multiple attacks in Kano.	150 people killed
29.	Jan. 26, 2012	Kano	The Sabon Gari of Kano State witnessed another Explosion, which caused another pandemonium in the state,	Many injured and Some luxury buses damaged
30.	Feb. 7, 2012	Kano	A bomb blast in Kano market and military barracks	5 people killed
31.	April 8, 2012	Kaduna	Easter Day Church bombing.	38 people killed
32.	June 17, 2012	Kaduna	Multiple attacks on churches.	12 people killed and 80 injured
33.	Aug. 7, 2012	Kogi	Deeper Life Church.	19 people killed

Source: Adapted from Achumba et al. (2013)

The data in Table 2 above illustrate graphically the high level of insecurity in Nigeria from 2009 to 2012, and this situation has not improved but rather it is getting worse. The worsening security situation in the country has caused enormous loss of life and property and created general atmosphere of fear and social tension in the country.

Table 3: Data on Global Peace Index/Rank, Human Development Index and Corruption Perception Index for Nigeria

Year	Human Development Index (HD1)	Global Peace Index (GP1)	Global Peace Rank	Corruption Perception Index (CPT)
2000	0.462			1.2
2001	0.463			1.0
2002	0.466			1.6
2003	0.453			1.4
2004	0.448			1.6
2005	0.434			1.9
2006	0.444			2.2
2007	0.448	2.898	117 th	2.2
2008	0.453	2.724	129 th	2.7
2009	0.457	2.602	129 th	2.5
2010	0.462	2.756	137 th	2.4
2011	0.467	2.743	142 nd	2.4
2012	0.471	2.801	146 th	2.7

Sources: Human Development Report (Various Issues);

Global Peace Index (2012) Retrieved from Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia; Transparency International.

The data in Table 3 above show that between 2007 and 2012 there is a significant decline in peace in Nigeria in terms of the Peace Index and Rank in the Global Peace Ranking. The Peace Index declined from 2.898 in 2007 to 2.801 in 2012. Also Nigeria's position on Global Peace Ranking dropped from 117th in 2007 to 146th position in 2012. Also the values of the Corruption Perception Index between 2000 and 2012 increased from 1.2 in 2000 to 2.7 in 2012 indicating an increase in the level of corruption during this period. The implication of this is that since Nigeria returned to democratic system of government in 1999 corruption has been on the increase despite the establishment of a number of anti-corruption agencies such as Economic and Financial Crime Commission (EFCC) and Independent Corrupt Practices Commission (ICPC). Thus the high level of insecurity between 2007 and 2012 was accompanied by high level of corruption indicating a positive correlation between insecurity and corruption in the country. During this same period data on Nigeria's Human Development Index, an indicator of socio-economic development, is below 0.5 indicating low level of socio economic development. Thus a high level of insecurity and corruption, was accompanied by a low level of socioeconomic development, confirming a negative correlation between insecurity and socio-economic on one hand, and negative correlation between corruption and socio-economic development.

Insecurity in Nigeria has retarded socio economic development in Nigeria in various ways. These include:

- a. Social dislocation and population displacement
- b. Social tensions and new pattern of settlements which encourages Muslims/Christians or members of an ethnic group moving to Muslim/Christian dominated enclaves.
- c. Heightens citizenship question which encourages hostility between “indigene” and “settlers”.
- d. Dislocation and disruption of family and communal life.
- e. General atmosphere of mistrust, fear, anxiety and frenzy
- f. Dehumanization of women, children, and men especially in areas where rape, child abuse and neglect are used as instruments of war.
- g. Deepening of hunger and poverty in the polity.
- h. Discourages local and foreign investment as it makes investment unattractive to business people.
- i. Halts business operations during period of violence and outright closure of many enterprises in the areas or zones where incidence of insecurity is rife and are on daily occurrence.
- j. Increases security spending by business organizations and governments.
- k. Migration of people from area or region where there is prevalence of insecurity.

Corruption

Hornby (2006) regards corruption as dishonest or illegal behaviours, especially of people in authority: the act or effect of making somebody change from moral to immoral standards of behaviour. Akpakpan (1999) considers corruption as all practices by people in position of authority, that amount to abuse of office, for examples, asking and receiving of bribes, embezzlements of public funds, inflation of contracts, and dubious manipulation of procedures in order to make personal gains, among others. Umo (1986) defines corruption as impairment of integrity, virtues or moral principles, and includes bribery, extortion, graft, smuggling, negligence, and embezzlement, among others. Odunuga (2001) is of the view that corruption has led to social conflict and violence, as competing groups vie for state power, which is the source of distribution of resources and social amenities.

Corruption has been described as a hydra-headed monster and a twin evil that has held the Nigerian state captive. This has contributed to government failure and breakdown of institutional infrastructure. The state of insecurity in Nigeria is greatly a function of government failure, traceable to systemic and political corruption. It has added another dimension to violent conflict which has eroded national values. Corruption is bad not only because money and benefits change hands, and not because of the motives of participants, but because it privatizes valuable aspects of public life, bypassing process of representation, debate, and choice (Ewetan and Urhie, 2014). It has been described as a cancer militating against Nigeria's development, because corruption deeply threatens the fabric of the Nigerian society (Nwanegbo and Odigbo, 2013). Corruption hampers economic growth, disproportionately burdens the poor and undermines the effectiveness of investment and aid (Iyare, 2008).

Since 1996 when Nigeria first featured in the Corruption Perception Index (CPI), a research carried out by Transparency International (TI), a Non-Governmental Organization (NGO), that assesses the level of corruption all over the world, Nigeria has always been staying at the bottom of the ranking and has more than once ranked as the most corrupt in the world (Ntoiden, Okposin and Udo, 2015). Despite having the world's seventh largest reserve of crude oil coupled with other resources, poverty, social inequality/deprivation, unemployment and underdevelopment still ravage the economy.

The major reason given for the above episode is the prevalence of corruption in the attitude of Nigerian government officials are well known for their self-serving style of governance. Ogbeide (2012) examined political leadership and corruption in Nigeria since 1960, and concluded that it is an incontrovertible fact that corruption has been the bane of Nigeria's development. Pervasive corruption has remained a serious obstacle to economic development in Nigeria as it inhibits human and social development. Public institutions are only public in name because they are for the purpose of private accumulation of wealth.

The Effects of Corruption

On the effects of corruption in Nigeria, Len (2000) has these to state:

1. It distorts the composition of public expenditure by diverting it towards those activities from which the largest bribes can be extorted, especially those that it is possible to keep secret because the goods are produced in countries where competition is low or whose prices are hard to monitor.
2. It leads to specific goods and services being brought that would otherwise not have been bought at all, and to permitting contract variations that would otherwise not have been allowed.
3. It leads to some companies or even some countries being preferred on the basis solely of their willingness to pay kick back to government officials that are engaged in the negotiation.
4. By reducing government regulations, it can lead to environmental or health and safety welfare damage by encouraging regulatory arbitrage. Examples include excessive logging and the fast burning of fields in Indonesia to maximize profits at the expense of safety.
5. Corrupt governments spend less on education and health and more on public investment than do less corrupt ones, confirming the point about distortions which is especially relevant because education promotes economic growth. An IMF economist, Mauro (1997) has demonstrated that corruption does not help countries with a lot of red tape. Ekanem (2015) agrees that corruption in Nigeria is at the heart of all our fundamental problems. There can be no meaningful development if corruption is not tackled head-on.

Ntoiden (2008 and 2015) agrees that corruption is the bane of the Nigerian economy, the single greatest factor that contributes significantly to the backwardness and underdevelopment of the Nigerian economy.

Monoculture Economy

Nigeria is a monoculture economy with strong dependence on the oil sector; this dependence makes the economy to be vulnerable to external manipulation and adversity affects the planning horizons in the country, The recent global crises in the world has brought to the fore the need to know that this overdependence on oil creates unnecessary shocks and thus, the need for diversification of the nation's resource base on long term growth path. Oil is an exhaustible resource which will one day get finished and despite this dominant position of the oil counter-productive, confirming the Dutch Disease Syndrome where net beneficiaries of explorative resources do not benefit much from the net transfer of wealth.

According to Todaro and Smith (2007), Nigeria exhibits most of the characteristics of low-income developing countries. It is primarily rural, depends on primary product exports, has high population growth, and suffers from widespread poverty and rising unemployment. The Nigerian economy underwent profound changes during the 1970s and 1980s. Once an agriculturally based economy and a major exporter of cocoa, peanuts and palm products, Nigeria now relies on oil for

more than 90% of its export earnings, 30% of its GDP, and 70% of its federal budget resources. A combination of declining oil prices, neglect of the agricultural sector, excessive foreign borrowing and widespread economic corruption and mismanagement during past decades, caused the Nigerian economy to experience a prolonged period of economic stagnation and decline.

Prior to the oil boom of the 1970s, Nigeria was one of the world's poorest and least economically developed countries. It had a per capita GDP of only \$90 in 1968. But with the oil boom of the 1970s and the discovery of large new deposits, Nigeria embarked on a decade of rapid economic expansion and major structural transformation. Significantly, the oil boom and the consequent neglect of agriculture in the 1970s and early 1980s caused a massive movement of people from rural to urban centers and a major problem of high urban unemployment. Moreover, regional income disparities are among the worst in the world. For example, the gap in capita income between a rich state and a poor one is close to 5:1

As at 2005, oil alone accounts for 40% of the country's GDP, 70% of budget revenues and 95% of foreign exchange earnings. Nigeria's dependence on petroleum is much greater than that of many other major oil producing countries. The table below gives the contribution to total revenue collected by the different countries. In 1970, the non-oil revenue was higher than the oil revenue, however from the mid 1970s, the share of the oil sector in total revenue became high and substantial.

Table 4: Relative Importance of Petroleum as at 2005

S/N	Country	Oil as a % of GDP	Oil as a % of Government Revenue	Oil as a % of Exports
1.	Nigeria	40	70	95
2.	Norway	10	25	15
3.	Algeria	35	65	80
4.	Venezuela	28	65	70
5.	Mexico	2	30	6
6.	Indonesia	10	25	15

Source: Adapted from IFS and OECD Reports.

There is an urgent need for the reversal of this trend if Nigeria wishes to actualize her dream of becoming one of the best twenty economies in the world. One source that can make the nation to actualize the vision 2020 is to diversify the economy in order to be able to raise revenue with minimum welfare cost.

According to Ayeni (2013), Nigeria is one of the many countries which have long been a monoculture economy, depending on the exploitation of crude oil as its main source of foreign exchange earnings. Unfortunately, many of its citizens still live in poverty in spite of the huge resources from oil. The need to diversify the Nigerian economy needs not be over-emphasized, especially, going by the unstable and fluctuating global oil prices in order to minimize the country's vulnerability to macroeconomic risks, such as production fall, fall in demand and price and also a run out of resources, since oil is a sinking, exhaustive and a non-renewable resource.

In spite of the abundant oil, Nigerians are among the poorest in the world because of corruption, government mismanagement and failure to diversify the economy. For rapid development, there is the need to move from its monoculture economy status in order to ensure the development of the three tiers of government and to be able to measure up with other nations.

Nigeria has abundance of resources that can be diversified and enough to transform the socio-economic life of the populace. Despite the abundance of other resources, for example tourism, Nigeria is not listed among the major destinations in Africa, due mainly because of the several problems such as inadequacies in standard development efforts, capacity building, and lack of basic tourism infrastructure, improper implementation of tourism policies and lack of skilled personnel in the tourism sector.

Conclusion

The fact that Nigeria is indeed experiencing perilous and turbulent times need not be overemphasized. Some opinion leaders and authors identified the elements of these times to include monoculture economy, insecurity, unemployment and poverty. Other authorities identified the contemporary socio-economic challenges facing Nigeria to include insecurity, corruption, volatile monolithic economy, faulty federalism, mismanagement of the economy, power instability, faulty educational system, and unemployment, neglect of agriculture, armed robbery and misuse of technology, among others. This author believes that the most pressing problems facing Nigeria today are insecurity, violent crimes occasioned by Boko Haram insurgents, poverty, corruption, monoculture economy and unemployment, among others. The scope of this work could not accommodate unemployment. The other socio-economic challenges have been painstakingly discussed and at the end, suggested remedies have been proffered which, if and when implemented by the authorities, they could either be completely eliminated or reduced to the barest minimum.

Recommendations

1. If Nigeria is to turn the tide of its economic misfortunes and mismanagement, it will have to take steps to raise domestic food production and labour productivity; use oil revenues more rationally to diversify economic activity and reduce the burden of its foreign debt; lower population growth through a combination of effective family planning programme, improved rural health and education, and a reduction in absolute poverty; seek increased foreign aid and investment including significant debt relief make greater use of market price incentives to allocate resources while endeavoring to improve public and private decision making; and maintain political stability between rural and ethnic groups. Only then will Nigeria begin to achieve its potential as the major economic force on the African continent and a leader of the developing nations (Todaro and Smith, 2007). This author agrees with these prescriptions.
2. There is the need for Nigeria to be diversified away from crude oil in order to have other sources of revenue generation. For example, tourism could play many roles such as opportunities in various developments, as a source of revenue generation, infrastructure development in and around the destination and also the development and relevance of catering facilities.
3. Babatunde (2015) adds that the new government that is about to take over power at the federal level with effect from May 29, 2015, should tackle the following issues: provision of power, business development, equitable tax administration, qualitative education and building of local capacity, bridging the unemployment and obvious skills gap, good foreign relations, good management of our God-given resources for the benefit of all, promoting indigenous technology, equitable framework to attract and sustain foreign investment, judicial reform and equitable justice delivery, complete overhaul of health transportation, agriculture and land administration systems, diversification of the economy, stemming urban/rural migration, constitutional reforms and more workable federalism, public service reforms; better care for the elderly, the weak and disabled, stemming environmental degradation, restoring the dignity of the green passport. All these deserve qualitative attention as to why and how to meaningfully address them within a short time. The government must strive to balance our democracy on a scale of

sound reasoning and internationally established norms of the rule of law, freedom of worship, freedom of expression, equality, fairness, justice, accountability and transparency. This requires political will and sound analytical skills on the part of the powers that be.

4. One of the major reasons for the failure of many poverty alleviation programmes in Nigeria is the non-involvement of the poor who resides in the rural areas in the initiation and implementation of such government programmes. For a genuine and sustainable poverty reduction strategy, there is the need for wide consultations with different segments of the intended recipient population particularly the poor, who should be considered as the focus of the programme (Garga, 2013).
5. The real panacea for solving insecurity challenge in Nigeria is for the governments at all levels to accelerate the pace of development. Development in this context consists of creating an economy with relevant social, economic and physical infrastructure for business operations and industrial growth, to provide gainful employment, provide educational facilities and fund medical care for the people (Ewetan and Urhie, 2014).
6. Corruption would be effectively tackled if steps are taken to “reduce the opportunities for corruption by cutting back on officials' discretionary authority, increase accountability by strengthening mechanism of monitoring and promotion” (Akpakpan). This author agrees with this postulation. Since grand and petty corruptions are inherent in every Nigerian, the price to be paid for corrupt acts should be made very expensive when caught. The culprit should be made to pay for it with all that he/she has when caught, as it is the case in Tanzania. The EFCC and ICPC should be encouraged and strengthened to be able to seize all the known properties of the culprit and sold to recover the full amount of the corrupt acts.

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