

Traditional and Non-Traditional Security Issues in Nigeria: A Panoramic View of Contemporary Issues

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Abstract

From the literal depiction of security landscape in Nigeria so far, there is nothing new on the lexicon of security issues except for the perspectives and the methodologies through which Nigerian security watchers and scholars argue and presents some of these enduring threats.

As a pillar of difference, this paper applies an inclusive and sustainable approach towards the studies and management of security issues as it presents a panoramic view of burning sectoral security files in Nigeria. On the methodology, the study adopts qualitative descriptive method of analysis.

One of the major takeaways from this study is on the argument that the optics of today's security issues around the globe calls for a collective effort not only in extending but democratizing security studies and management to every component of a given system. Some of the findings points to historical issues like political co-option of different conservative ethnic and religious entities to forge unity in diversity without deep understanding of its political, economic, and socio-cultural implications and this answers the missing puzzle to the impasse of persistent violent crisis in Nigeria.

In conclusion, this paper recommends the need to employ the mix of digital security and hard data in fighting security issues through pinpointing of flashpoints, hotbeds and typologies of security threats available in which state or region per time. This is what the Nigerian state needs to advance its security from the existing negative state to a positive and sustainable state that can guarantee comprehensive development.

Keywords: Traditional security, Non-Traditional security, Nigeria, Military, Political, Economic, Societal, Human, and Environmental security Issues.

1. Introduction/Literature review

A critical look at the various segments that holds the Nigerian state together, one might be greeted with the impression that things are falling apart.

The above impression is quickly supported by the ongoing multifaceted violent fonts of security challenges opened across the country, from chronic ethno-religious crisis around the middle belt, Boko Haram insurgency in the North-Eastern Nigeria, Militancy in the South-South region of the country, poverty blow-out around every look and cranny of the country and to make matters worse is the crop of irresponsible leadership and the gradual normalization of the abuse of public trust plagued around its decentralised system from local, state to the federal government.

Nigeria is a complex and culturally diverse country housing over 198 million population according to the recent figures given out by National Population Commission (NPC), with over 250 different ethnic groups spread across the country cohabiting as one nation forging unity in diversity.

Nigeria's traditional and non-traditional security issues have taken several dimensions inimical to the security and continued survival of the Nigerian state as a sovereign nation. Myriad of security issues dominates the charts of local, national and international media coverage of not only Nigeria but most of the countries around the globe today.

The perception of the state of security in Nigeria which is at its lowest point ever, will be formed by the pervasive insecurity walloping the country through the daily evidence of incessant security challenges which has culminate into relegating the status of the Nigerian state from the so called “giant of Africa” to that of “giant bull without a horn” to fend for its internal security monsters.

The rising spate of higher level aggression against the Nigerian state in the recent times testifies to this. Although this has been the case ever since Nigeria was formed and it also continued throughout the colonial period, contemporary security issues witnessed in the country has further justified the need to enhance and expedite novel security interventions as ‘security’ is termed the ultimate in today’s scheme of things in international politics, hence the motivation for the study.

Previous studies conducted on some of the parameters in this study have indicted instability and threat to national security as the unfortunate legacies of security challenges and emphasized more on the solutions to some of the security challenges in Nigeria looking at some of the issues individually or one at a time (see Ufoeze, 2018; Moses and Ngomba, 2017; Alimba, 2014 Tayo, 2017; Michael, 2012; Ebo, 2006; Iyare, 2008; Tayler, 2006; Edward, 2014; Asumi, 2009; Esther, 2015; Rasaki, 2016; Albert and Bethel, 2016; Paul, 2015; Anthony, 2013; Oludare, 2012; jumoke, 2016; Adewale, 2011; Ajie and Wokekoro, 2012; Anah, Funmi and Julius, 2012; Baghebo and Atima, 2013; Muhuda, 2013; etc.), but non has taken a holistic and systemic view of sectoral security files in Nigeria.

Secondly, no attempt has been made to look and engage Nigeria’s security issues from the theoretic lines of traditional and non-traditional security issues in security studies of international relations.

Thirdly, there are other security issues raise in this study that are gaining momentum but seems to receive less academic consideration in Nigeria, and that is the pillar of difference between this study and other existing studies on security issues in Nigeria.

Therefore, the charged for this study is to give a panoramic view of contemporary security issues in the Nigerian sectors from a traditional and non-traditional perspectives of security studies and finding sustainable policy options to the impasse of security issues.

1.1 Objective

1. To showcase sectoral contemporary security issues facing the Nigeria state.
2. To apply the traditional and non-traditional security paradigm in analysing Nigeria’s security challenges.
3. To search for fresh approaches to the impasse of security issues in the Nigerian state.

1.2 Methodology

This study deals with views, opinions, observations, analysis and less to do with statistics. Therefore, it is a descriptive qualitative research.

1.2.1 Sources of data

In as much as the number of studies done on security issues in Nigeria, there is still rarity of database on the existing security threats and this is owed to their density and constant changing nature. This in most cases compel researchers to hang on to the existing literatures for analysis. Therefore, sourcing of data for this study was achieved through the evaluation of Nigeria’s political communications, the media (both old and new), use of libraries, journals, and targeted use of the internet.

1.3 Significance of the study

1. This paper will popularize the concept of democratizing security studies and its application in international politics.
2. The paper is a pace setting endeavor emphasizing the importance of inclusive security in international relations.
3. This study is intended to catalyze and stimulate change in the approach and management of security issues from an intellectual approach through systemic deconstruction.

1.4 Definition of concepts

For the resolve of clarity and comprehension, the following terms are explained as used in the study:

1. Security issues

Security issues here refers to those happenings, events or developments undermining the measures or efforts in ensuring comprehensive security and inclusive development.

It is imperative to bring to light here that ‘security’ is a contested topic in international relations both in practice and the academia as it is interpreted or classified based on time, place, political orientation, ideology, beliefs, trending popular opinions and unfolding event. Therefore, the agenda of security issues in this paper is based on the character of security realities in Nigeria.

2. Traditional security issues

Traditional security issues under this paper refers to high level security issues bothering or threatening the security of the military, politics and state’s welfare.

3. Non-traditional security issues

Non-traditional security issue(s) here is concern with non-military threat to embrace issues that threaten the safety of a component of a state or the entire system. It includes factors that threatens comprehensive security and inclusive development of a state.

4. Military security issues (MSIs)

Military security issues in this study denotes those issues or existential threats undermining the armed forces constitutional mandate of ensuring peace, national cohesion or unity, national security and territorial integrity of a state.

The agenda of Military Security Issues in this study, is the focus on systematized violence with ‘political’ interest or purpose against national cohesion (or unity) of the state.

5. Political security issues

Political security issues under this paper are in the context of existential threats that are challenging or affecting authority, legitimacy, and comprehensive development due to fragile political institutions.

6. Economic security issues

Economic security issues are those micro or macro factors threatening the desired operation or functioning of a nations’ economic system.

The path of economic security issues in this paper is focused on micro or internal existential threats challenging stability and proper functioning of national economic structure.

7. Societal security issues

Societal security is simply the preservation and continuity of ethnic and religious identities as a means of strengthening national security.

Societal security issues here therefore, are referent to specific threats challenging the preservation and continuity of ethnic and religious identities leading to national insecurity.

8. Environmental security issues

Environmental security issues in this study are referent to issues threatening our immediate environment. The direction of environmental security issues here is on the argument that sees' environmental threats as factors challenging human security and as imminent threat to national security.

9. Human security issues.

Human security issues are here simply exposes the varieties of security issues threatening human security and development that is being ignored by the state centric view of security.

The approach in this study is on the concerned that state centric security in many countries especially in under-develop and developing countries does not satisfactorily discourse or address the security challenges of its people. Thus, the departure of human security from the state (or political) security.

2. Theoretical underpinning

This study is based on the combination of traditional and non-traditional theoretic lens of security issues in international security studies. Security issues in international security studies of international relations are usually categorized within the umbrella of either traditional or non-traditional security seminars.

2.1 The traditional security paradigm:

This paradigm portrays the state and its military as central in managing its security challenges. Security issues here mainly refers to **military security**, **political security** and diplomatic security related with regime and sovereignty. The advocates of this paradigm hold that security issues should be the affairs of the state through its military. The proponents of this paradigm are scholars in the realist school of thought which includes Thucydides, Niccolò Machiavelli, Hans Morgenthau, John Mearsheimer, Stephen Walt, Joseph Grieco, Kenneth waltz and many others.

The traditional security issues in this paper are military and political security issues as they undermined national security through the questioning of legitimacy, sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Nigerian state. Some of the traditional security issues under the lens of this study includes Boko-Haram insurgency, electoral (political) violence, succession calls etc.

2.2 Non-traditional security paradigm:

Non-traditional security paradigm is also known as the 'critical approach' to the study of security issues. Security challenges here encompasses any other security issues outside the traditional security issues mentioned above.

The paradigm argues for the inclusion of other strategic referent points like the environmental security, societal security, human security etc. into the field of security studies as they can be used to challenged national security. Proponents of this paradigm are from the critical school of thought which includes Barry Buzan, Amitav Acharya, Jessica Mathews, Richard Ullman, Ole Waever, Ken Booth and so much more.

The Nigerian state since independence has been battling non-traditional security issues. The non-traditional security issues in Nigeria falls within societal, environmental and human security sectors as they affect preservation of ethnicity and religious identity, environmental protection, and human development. Some of the existential threats under this theoretical lens in Nigeria includes ethno-religious crisis, SALW proliferation flood, climate change, energy insecurity, human trafficking etc.

3. Discussions

3.1 Military Security Issues (MSIs)

Military security issues here focus on parameters with negative effect on the territorial integrity, national unity, and security of the Nigerian state.

1 Boko haram insurgency

Boko haram insurgency is being argued to be the most challenging military security issue in Nigeria and it is no joke at this juncture to point out that the challenges of boko haram insurgency is threatening the Nigerian society on all fronts. In fact, the cost of boko haram insurgency on the Nigerian state is huge, the implications range from food security, internal displaced persons, refugees and surge of migration into Europe, destruction of Nigeria's international business environment image, increase in school dropouts, collapse of tourism, suffocation of business activities especially in the North-eastern region and undermining Nigeria's development efforts.

A recent report by United Nations children's fund (UNICEF) indicates that more than 1,000 children have been abducted by Boko-haram insurgents as from 2013 to date. The statement also put forward that insurgency in the north eastern part of Nigeria has destroyed at least 20,000 human lives while more than two million innocent citizens are displaced. The breakdown also indicates that more than 2,295 teachers have been killed with more than 1,400 schools destroyed since the inception of the crisis in 2009 (The Telegraph, 2018).

2. Calls for succession (to the Biafran state)

With the bitter experience of 1967-1970 civil war that resulted in killing of 3 million people and many more displaced internally and otherwise, the Nigerian military are leaving no stone un-turned in the South Eastern region where there is a growing call for the independence of the Republic of Biafra by two popular secessionist groups; the Indigenous People of Biafra and the Movement for the Actualization of the Sovereign State of Biafra operating in the South east Nigeria.

According to Tayo (2017) the return and increasing calls for independence from the south eastern part of Nigeria is because of feeling of marginalization and unequal distribution of national infrastructure by the federal government whom they feel does not represent their interest.

The anti-state activities of these secessionist groups like the sit-at-home and many more which cripples the commercial activities during such celebrations, led to the arrest of the leader of IPOB in 2015 and the subsequent wide demonstration across Eastern part of Nigeria demanding his release. His release in 2017 did not help the situation as his supporters continue to clash with the security instruments of the state. It is unfortunate that the 2018 IPOB sit-at-home order has cost the Nigerian state more than N224 billion in revenue (The Guardian, 2018).

3.2 Political Security Issues (PSIs)

Political security issues in this paper are from a 'regime' perspective focusing on internal threats bothering authoritative allocation of power and resources, legitimacy, and stability of the Nigeria state.

1. Electoral Violence

Politicians usually during election employ the services of thugs, militants or Insurgents to manipulate votes either in support of their political party or against their opposition creating a sense of uncivilized and unhealthy political competition leading to conflict among opposing members of the same communities (Bebibiafai, 2007; Lubeck, Watts, and Lipschutz, 2007; Tayler, 2006; Ebo, 2006).

It is unfortunate to bring to note here that electoral violence has reduced Nigerian democratic experience to that of undemocratic state, owed to the pointing reasons of the inability achieves free, fair, and credible elections devoid of frauds, intimidation or violence. In fact, electoral violence and many

other irregularities has pinned the Nigerian state firmly to a status of a hybrid regime, as against the status of a full democracy or at least flawed democracy.

2. Political corruption

Political corruption especially illicit finance as a national security threat in Nigeria has quickly find its way to the top of the scale of preference of existential threats affecting political and comprehensive development in Nigeria. From all the political communications and speech act of the present-day administration on Nigeria's challenges, political corruption seems to top the chart.

Today, the said 'puritanical nature' of the Nigerian military is in serious question due to its inability to purge itself of corrupt practices in high places as most of the military regimes were also accused of mismanagement of resources and guilty of illicit finance practices.

Corruption is indeed a threat not only to political security but to the existential reality of the state. Nigeria's litany of problems can be argued to be in symbiotic relations with corruption. Corruption devastates national development, disintegrate and destabilise the socio-political order.

Therefore, the correlation between political corruption and political security crisis in Nigeria comes a long way. Corruption creates room for vicious circle of poverty, low economic activities, high unemployment, implementation lag, social unrest, crime and so much more in suffocating comprehensive development (Micheal, 2012).

3.3 Economic Security Issues (ESIs)

Economic security issues here are those events, developments, happenings or activities going against the efforts and commitment of the state to safeguards its system of production and national resources to ensure the continuous functioning of its economic engine leading to the maximization of economic growth vis-à-vis its national interest.

It is important to bring to note here that a state without a relatively secure economy is a state in anarchy.

1. Niger-Delta militancy:

Militancy in the Niger-Delta from another point of view also fits into both political and military security threats, but with Nigeria being an oil mono economy operational system making oil the number one source of national income, it is clear to see why militant activities in the Niger-delta is more threatening to the Nigeria's economy and its welfare when compared to any other sector. Therefore, the biggest threats to the economy and welfare of the Nigerian state is Niger-Delta militancy.

Apart from the damage to the Nigeria's economy and state's welfare, hundredths of lives being lost annually in bloody encounters between militants, communities, and the Nigerian security personnel as well as communal and ethnic conflicts including many other issues.

Recently, the Nigerian army announced that the joint military task force in the Niger-Delta region under the codename Operation Delta Safe, has arrested more than 1,846 criminals and recovered 1,389 different calibers of arms and 20,352 items of munitions from militants and other criminal elements from early 2017 to May 2018. The disclosure further indicates that Operation Delta Safe has destroyed; 1,437 illegal refineries, 795 wooden cargo boats, 3,872 metal surface tanks, 1,019 plastic tanks, 13,129 drums and more than 13,343 jerry cans (Punch Newspaper, 2018). This success have indeed reduced the level economic sabotage by militants and other criminal elements in the Niger-Delta region.

2. Energy insecurity (energy poverty)

The role plays by the availability, generation, distribution and consumption of energy in economic growth and national security cannot be over-emphasized especially in our contemporary information and technology era. Energy insecurity today, is among the many non-military security challenges confronting the under-develop and developing countries including the Nigerian state, finds itself on top of the priority list. The dynamic of energy security to human and national development cannot be over-emphasized.

Therefore, it is important to note here that the explanation of energy poverty in Nigeria is political, social and economic, the situation is generating popular anger and frustration that is increasingly finding expression in violent related activities towards the state and its institution by armed groups, inter and intra-tribal conflict, ethno-religious violence, as well as speedy rising of urban crimes and public insecurity leading to the state losing its legitimacy of force application, thereby compromising its development efforts.

According to the Manufacturers Association of Nigeria (MAN) for example identified insufficient power supply among other factors to be the top notch hindering manufacturing development in Nigeria. They argued that the importance of energy security from generation, supply to affordable accessibility in the processes of production cannot be exaggerated (Tribune Newspaper, 2018).

3. Foreign exchange scarcity and instability (FX issues):

A major threat affecting economic security in Nigeria especially in the 21st century in foreign exchange scarcity and instability. The role of import and export in an open economy cannot be over emphasized, and it demands not only availability of foreign exchange but its stability within the official exchange rate.

From a traditional security point of view, one may wonder how foreign exchange can be a security issue? The answer is not far fetch as no country is an island of its own. Therefore, foreign exchange being the means payment for transactions across international boarder can be used to create discouraging atmosphere on international trade, ease of doing business, undermining international competitiveness, employment cuts, strangulation of enterprises, increased in cost of production, cumbersome clearance of goods, congestion at ports, declining standard of living and so much more. Thereby, threatening the normal functioning of the economic system and the welfare of the state.

There are many studies buttressing the correlation between foreign exchange on economic growth particularly in Nigeria. See (Ufoeze, 2018; Eme and Johnson, 2012; Bosun, 2016; Owolabi and Adegbite, 2013; Olugbenga, 2011; Opaluwa, Umeh, and Abu, 2010).

3.4 Societal Security Issues (SSIs)

Societal security studies in this research focuses on existing and emerging existential threats challenging both the society and its ethnic cultural identity through which national security is challenged. The fusion of cultural identity into societal security here is to showcase how society and culture are closely knitted, and how it is almost impossible to separate the two as activities in most societies across the Nigerian state are influenced by its dominant ethnic cultural identity.

1. Ethno-religious violence:

Ethnic and religious crisis remains a top notch from the list of issues challenging social and cultural security in Nigeria with the notable one being herder's vs farmers violence.

There are ethno-religious conflicts in all parts of Nigeria and these have emerged because of new and particularistic forms of political consciousness and identity often structured around ethno-religious identity. The composition of these different ethnic nationalities presents a huge challenge in keeping Nigeria as one nation since independence. The fabrics of the Nigerian society have been under the threat of persistent ethnic and religious crisis (Omede, 2012).

2. Population Explosion:

A threat affecting societal security in Nigeria is the unparalleled or uneven relationship between exponential population growth and the stagnated or declining basic infrastructure. This indeed is an existential threat to societal security as it continues to put pressure on the fragile social infrastructure.

A worrying development here is that societal settlements across most societies in Nigeria are based on ethnic or religious lines except for areas know as government reserved areas (GRA) being occupied by elite of the Nigerian political class.

Across many cities in Nigeria today, there is a sharp contrast between existing infrastructure and burgeoning population. This reality continues to make any development effort by the Nigerian state a child's play. While the Nigerian Gross Domestic Product (GDP) is going down the hill, the Nigerian population is going through the ceiling, this is no doubt a monumental disaster waiting ahead of the country if nothing is being done to bring the two to parity or at least set them in the same direction. Sustainability is when infrastructural building goes hand in hand with its emerging population.

In confirmation of the above assertion, The Ooni of Ife, Oba Adeyeye Ogunwusi cautioned that the Federal Government should control the birth rate in the country or be prepared to face the consequences occasioned by overpopulation. He points out that "Nobody is talking about birth control in Nigeria and that is a huge keg of gunpowder which we are all sitting on" (Daily Post Nigeria, 2018).

3.5 Human Security Issues (HSIs)

Human security according to the United Nations Development Program is safety from habitual threats like hunger, disease and repression. Also, it means protection from hurtful disruptions in the patterns of everyday life be it at homes, place of work or within the community (UNDP report 1994, p. 23).

Human security issues in this paper are referent to security threats challenging human security and development in Nigeria.

1. Small arms and light weapons proliferations:

The illegal weapons proliferating in Nigeria are demonstrated in the degree of human fatality and destruction of properties recorded in the aftermath of their use. More so, it portends how they are being used to encourage violence of sorts, human underdevelopment especially in instilling fear, denial of wants and other human freedoms.

It is reported that Nigeria has lost about \$100 billion to oil theft between 2003 and 2008, and at least 50 per cent of the stolen oil and funds made were exchanged for arms and ammunitions (Asumi, 2009).

2. Poverty

To put it simple, the implications of Poverty in the Nigeria state are multifaceted. Poverty has far reaching consequences on human, socio-cultural, political, economic and environmental security. More so, it has an overarching impact on previous, on-going, and emerging security threats and the quest for development in Nigeria.

On the individual front, poverty is obvious in its ability to limit access to good education, affordable health care services, encourages drug trafficking, corruption, sex trafficking, armed robbery, healthy lifestyle, principal to social rejection or detachment, physical and mental instability leading to either short life expectancy or menace to the society.

Therefore, poverty is not only human security issue but can be used as tool in encouraging parameters threatening national security and comprehensive development. There are good numbers of studies confirming the negative implications of poverty in Nigeria. See (Yunusa, 2008; Chimobi, 2010; Olowa et al, 2013; Okoroafor and Nwaeze, 2013; Baghebo and Emmanuel, 2015; Esther, 2015; Rasaki, 2016; Babatunde and Emilia, 2017).

3. Human trafficking:

Human trafficking is a global issue and not a new phenomenon (Oshadare, 2004; Linus, 2011;) in Nigeria it has a far-reaching effects and manifest in different shapes and sizes. Human trafficking here is defined as an act or a practice of scouting, manipulating, recruiting, abduction, harbouring or transporting a person with the sole aim of exploitation using deceit, framing, control, coercion or force.

Among other factors human trafficking in Nigeria is due fragile economic system, poverty, lack of good education, poor parental up-bringing, gender inequality, lack of job or employment opportunities, get rich quick syndrome, promises of better opportunities abroad, conflicts, corruption etc. it also comes in

different arrangements ranging from child soldering, child labour, force labour, unintentional domestic help, illegal migration, bonded labour, prostitution and many others.

Existing literatures showing the multidimensional effects of human trafficking on human development also indicates that Nigeria no doubt is a spring, transit and destination point for human trafficking. See (Amujiri, 2009; Samuel, 2012; Paul, 2015; Alphonsus, 2015; Ogugua and Sylvia, 2015; Albert and Bethel, 2016; Dauda and Muhammad, 2016; Anthony, Agnes and Patrick, 2017).

4. Human right violations:

Any time the concept of human right appears in international relations, some mind-boggling questions like, should countries have different definitions of human rights based on their peculiar experience? Or better yet, should human right lexicons be allowed to be defined according to the way of life in a given society that is not universal? Well, these are no doubt pertinent questions worthy of debate.

Some of the factors affecting human rights in Nigeria include bribery and corruption, conservative religious and cultural practices, personalization of the law, security personnel brutality etc.

In commemoration of the 2018 Democracy Day celebration, the Nigerian Senate President Dr Bukola Saraki, revealed that there are significant challenges we face as a nation “These includes abuse of office in a manner that suggest persecution and oppression of perceived enemies, stifling of free expression, undermining of democratic institutions, and impunity on the part of certain individuals who behave as though they are above the laws of the land” (Channels Television, 2018).

In summary, the argument for here is that any security agenda that does not take into cognizance human rights issues is intoned to be dangerous, unconstitutional and will create a breeding for an oppressive governance to flourish. Therefore, there is the need to continually review the concept of human rights in view of unfolding events to minimize the manipulation of the concept by wrong doers or its use to achieve heinous hidden motive.

5. Crime (violent and non-violent):

Crime be it violent or non-violent has never been fair to victims of such activities either to their family or their society at large. Some of the burning or trending crimes in Nigeria includes kidnapping, armed robbery, cattle rustling, cultism, cybercrime, drug trafficking, homicide, fraud, vandalism, theft, Ponzi scheme, armed bandits etc.

The consequences of crime in its entirety on a nation can be hard to quantify but several studies one crime have indicated that crime decrease business income and other incentives, thereby reducing revenue generation, assets values, hampers tourism, forcing businesses to change location or fold up. It also increases poverty, raises insecurity, proliferations of small arms and light weapons, psychological and emotional breakdown, reduction of trust between people and security operatives and so much more. See (Moses and Ngomba, 2017; Adenuga and Abdulrazak, 2017; Johnson and Adeyinka, 2014; Anthony, 2013; Anah, Funmi and Julius, 2012).

6. Epidemics

The effect of epidemics on human security cannot be overemphasized. Top trending and persistent diseases affecting human security in Nigeria are many, but this study brief only three diseases on the criteria of wide coverage, impact on it victims, their family, society and the country at large:

- 1. Malaria:** Malaria is considered by many Nigerians as a common disease but is not known to many is the number of deaths and other impairments reported because of malaria across the country. It is safe to say that malaria is one of the greatest killer in Nigeria as it is responsible for more deaths than any other country in the world. It is roughly estimated that up to 200,000 lives are lost annually due to malaria. In addition is the financial loss of N132 billion naira annually (Punch Newspaper, 2018). While reducing the country’s Gross Domestic Product (GDP) by around 20 to 30 per cent annually (This Day Newspaper, 2018).

2. **Lassa Fever:** Lassa fever is a priority disease that has gradually reach an epidemic level in Nigeria. A disease which has killed up to 142 people just in the early part of 2018 according to the report from the Nigerian Centre for Disease Control indicating a rise of 32 fatalities in a month. The epidemic belongs to the same family as Marburg and Ebola. According to World Health Organization (WHO), from January to April 2018, there have been an increase in reported cases of Lassa fever from 21 states in Nigeria, with a confirmed figure of 413 patients out of which 114 were reported death (World Health Organization, 2018).
3. **HIV/AIDS:** HIV/AIDS epidemic in Nigeria is indeed troubling as 3.2 million people are reported to be living with HIV across the country. The good news is that since 2010 report cases of new infections has been on the decrease by 21 per cent. In the same light deaths related to AIDS epidemic have also reduced by 6 per cent (UN AIDS, 2018). However, there is much needs to be done especially in bringing the epidemic to an end as it continues to exert its distressing effects on the people and the country.

3.6 Environmental Security Issues (ESIs)

The increasing public enlightenment and the pragmatic shift from economic gains to the safety of the environment has no doubt changed our collective perception about our ecosystem and remained vital takeaway lessons in the ongoing environmental security seminars.

Therefore, environmental security issues here are issues or happenings that continues to challenge environmental security in Nigeria.

1. Flooding

Flood as an environmental security issue here is one of the most disturbing and re-occurring 'natural disaster' in Nigeria. Flood has been creating havoc across in Nigeria on a yearly basis threatening economic growth and national development. The menace of flooding includes: destruction of public and private properties, business activities, disruption of power supply, loss of lives, and exposing victims and affected areas to disease like malaria, cholera diarrhea, typhoid, psychological pressures and so much more.

The connection between flooding and food insecurity is very strong not only in Nigeria but across many countries around the world. The damage on farmers and their farm produce (including livestock's also) by torrential rainfall and flooding clearly spells a challenge to wards food production and food security.

2. Climate change

The Increase in human activities and abuse of our planet has come with its own price which include torrential rain fall leading to flooding, land and mud slides, erosion, desertification, deforestation, extreme weather temperatures, food insecurity, mass migration, water scarcity, health concerns and many others.

Therefore, climate change is a global existential threat. The impact of climate change in Nigeria is not left behind. As desertification intensifies in the northern part of Nigeria, pastorals are compelled to move their livestock to greener areas leading to unprecedented violent confrontations with farmers especially in the middle-belt region. Flooding, gully-erosion and rising sea level continues to threaten the southern and coastal regions of Nigeria, destroying lives and properties (Idowu et al, 2011; Olaniyi, Funmilayo and Olutimehin, 2014; Nwankwoala, 2015; Jumoke, 2016;).

Today, climate change serves as the missing puzzle in the increasing herders and farmers violent clashes as it cannot be unconnected to the growing changes in the Northern-Nigeria's physical environment especially in the 21st century. Another example is the lake Chad Basin which used to be a hotbed of rich economic activities but now has been shrinking over time from over 40,000 kilometers to less than 1,000 kilometers and still going down.

Other major environmental issues under the influence of climate change in Nigeria that this paper did not address in detail or exclusively includes desertification, erosion, and deforestation.

3. Environmental pollution

Crude oil exploration is the number source of environmental pollution in Nigeria. The discovery coupled with the oil boom seen in the 1970s consolidated the pragmatic shift from Agriculture to crude oil as the backbone of the economy in Nigeria. Pollution glazed with lack of adherence to social responsibility regarding oil exploration by Multi National Corporations is one of the major cause of Niger Delta militancy in Nigeria.

Facets of environmental pollution in Nigeria includes water pollution, air pollution, land degradation, and destruction of habitat due to constant oil spillage, gas flaring, oil bunkering, industrial activities etc.

Some of the consequences of environmental pollution in Nigeria includes militancy in the Niger Delta, food insecurity, health complications, and so much more (Evelyn and Tyav, 2012; Comfort and Jonadab, 2016).

4. Findings

This study presents the following findings:

1. The impact of Boko haram insurgency especially in the 21st century eclipses any other security threat in the Nigerian state. This fact is buttressed by the growing military task force activities in containing Boko-haram insurgency as well as an increase in national security budget since 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, and 2015, 2016 and 2017 respectively (Muriana, 2014, Moses and Ngomba, 2017).
2. The human security sector is having the most challenges in all the sectors analyzed. The is not surprising as human development in Nigeria is left far behind and has a long way to go.
2. There is lack of security vision and strategic action plan to undo the state of automation of security issues in the Nigerian state.
3. Historical background, environmental changes, lack of hard data on evolving and emerging security issues, Irresponsibility of the political leader, Irresponsibility of the Nigerian security personnel are factors fueling security crisis in Nigeria.
4. Injustice and oppression leads to additional security challenges for the Nigerian state. When people are sure that they can seek redress and get justice in the court of law they won't resort to violent expression.
5. Security issues in Nigeria has reshape both political arrangement and political economy of the Nigerian state, elevating and co-opting new members on one hand while downgrading and demoting others into an opposing class. This is due to the change of debates around politics, electoral process, and performance based on harsh security realities of the day.
6. There is an increase in high instances of crime and criminal related activities from petty crime, homicide, armed robbery to an overwhelming increase in kidnapping especially on high ways. In addition, there is an increase in internal displaced persons centers (IDP), mass migration, and killings by security personnel.
7. Corruption is the common denominator challenging the management of all the security parameters in Nigeria including the fight against corruption itself.
8. The causes of Nigeria's security issues are long time and very complex or intertwine in their nature, and this has help in establishing a significant correlation between security realities and comprehensive development in Nigeria.

5. Conclusion

The contemporary security outlook in Nigeria is not only worrying but in a crumbling state going down the hill as the optics of security issues portrays a resemblance of a failed state if not so. Security issues in Nigeria are diverse and unfolds in various permutations. In other words, it is not safe to say that their trends and patterns are

not linear. The results showed that Boko-haram insurgency is out-trumping other issues on our security threats analysis meter.

The argument from this paper is that not until the Nigerian state begins to build its security institutional architecture on inclusive digitization in mapping and containing its security challenges, the idea of security will continue to be an illusion or a mirage. The country should be able to be a pace setter given its deep experience in handling hydra-like security issues.

Another factor that is mostly overlooked in Nigeria today is its historical pass, it is an open secret in Nigeria today that society, culture and religion in the face of politics creates and deepens polarization given the numbers of Nigerian cultures with conservative leanings. In as much as the Nigerian diversity is being trumpeted as its own source of strength it is also its source of insecurity as major findings from this study indicate that ethnic and religious hate speech is a bane to Nigeria's peace processes. Many believe it is a product of colonial force marriage of unity.

In view of Nigeria's constant electoral challenges either before, during or after elections, there is a need to reset the practice of democracy in Nigeria to reflect the unique Nigerian characteristics. There is no doubt if that is achieved most of the challenges facing Nigeria will fade away.

6. Recommendations

For the Nigerian state and its military to increase its clout in containing existing and emerging security issues the following policy options need to be considered.

1. There is a need for the Nigerian government to establish an internal security public private partnership. This project can be achieved by making sure that businesses include internal security a priority in their business growth plan. It can also be achieved through the establishment of 'public-private security trust fund' to supplement the gap usually created by unforeseen emergent situations as well as ensuring equitable security for all.
2. There is a need for a strategic approach to containing the myriad security challenges suffocating the Nigerian state. There should be an active security project that is measurable over time that can be analysed and ascertain if there is an improvement or not in the security atmosphere of the Nigerian state.
3. Most perpetrators of violence in Nigeria are the youths. Therefore, there is a serious need for the government to review its spending to fund development in economy and human sectors that can tickle and jumpstart skills and jobs which can immediately absorb the youths from the streets and engage them towards national development.
4. To strengthen our democracy the government needs to as a matter of policy to prohibit or criminalise the use of government funds/resources in financing political campaigns and activities of political parties in any guise.
5. The Federal government needs to establish an information resource centre on Nigeria's security issues. This will not only help in security management, policy making process but will aid targeted academic research.

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