

National Security and Development in Nigeria: A Study of Bayelsa State of Nigeria

PIUS SELEKE-OWEI JONAH (LECTURER)

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY, FACULTY OF SOCIAL SCIENCES, NIGER DELTA UNIVERSITY,
WILBERFORCE ISLAND, P.M.B. 071 YENAGOAm BAYELSA STATE, NIGERIA

Email: jonahpius@yahoo.com

Phone No. [08034736839](tel:08034736839)

Abstract

Security is presently a major challenge in Nigeria especially in Northern Nigeria. Nigerians and non-Nigerians are killed on daily basis and in their numbers even the United Nations building and the Police Headquarters at the Federal Capital were bombed. Though the government claims to be on top of the situation, the problem persists. This work examines the nexus between National security and development in Nigeria. It uses public spending on security as proxy for security and the gross domestic product (GDP) as proxy for development. The work observes that there is a positive relationship between security and development in accordance with literature. The study is confined to Bayelsa State of Nigeria. The research design adopted for this study is the cross-sectional survey method. To ensure that the twelve (12) communities chosen from the six (6) local government areas that were chosen out of the eight (8) local government areas of Bayelsa State of Nigeria and their respondents were truly representative of the population. The stratified random and purposive sampling techniques were adopted. The researcher used 180 questionnaires, and the questionnaire was the major instrument for the collection of data for this study. The theoretical framework for this study employed Ralf Dahrendorf's conflict perspective paradigm. In the data analysis the researcher employed the statistical package for social sciences (SPSS) and the chi-square statistics was used to test the hypotheses of the study.

Keywords: National security, development, and economic growth.

1. Introduction

The Nigerian society is getting more and more insecure, more people are getting into crimes and they are getting more ruthless, desperate and sophisticated. In Nigeria today especially since the advent of the present democratic dispensation, new forms of violent crimes have become common; these include kidnapping (actually adult or privileged people's napping) for ransom, pipeline vandalization, Boko Haram bombings, rape, political violence and more. In some instances, whole villages are sacked because of minor political differences. For example, Okuru, a village a few metres away from the Government House in Port-Harcourt was sacked between 2003 to 2007; villagers get displaced and become refugees. Public and private institutions are attacked and vandalized by gangs, even the United Nations building and Nigeria Police Headquarters in Abuja were bombed and scores of people killed, and something needs to be done urgently.

It is widely agreed that security should be the responsibility of all and sundry, not restricted to government alone, the police force or security agencies. This work attempts to identify the impact of National security on Economic Development in Nigeria. More specifically, how has the emergent security concerns impacted on economic development in Nigeria? Since the end of the cold war, it is believed that security and development are interlinked, interdependent and mutually reinforcing. And this may have informed the rise in security expenditure in many countries in the world (Joseph, 2011). Many theorists as Rostow (1952) and Harrod & Domar (1957), among others proposed models of development, generally identifying structural changes, savings and investments as the source of economic development and growth. It was assumed that as the economy grows and output increases, there will be more happiness and improved welfare arising from larger pull of resources which if well distributed would have generally improved the wellbeing of the masses. The basic assumption was that in so much as the economy grows, trickledown effect will at least lead to improvement for everybody in the economy and standard of living would generally improve.

The 1960s was seen as the development decade. Growth targets were set and in several cases achieved. To the consternation of these theorists, sometimes referred to as high development theorists (Krugman, 1992). It was discovered that misery, poverty, unemployment etc. grew worse vis-a-vis economic growth. This prompted a redefinition of development. Sustainable development of today (the present) that does not compromise the development of tomorrow (the next generation). To say Nigeria is developed, we would be saying that its capacity to meet its need had increased significantly.

2. Definition of Concepts

The basic concepts which have been used in this study needs clarifications. These include the followings National Security, Development and Economic growth.

National Security

According to the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP, 1994) human security may be defined to include such chronic threats as hunger, disease and repression. Security means protection from hidden and hurtful disruptions in the patterns of daily life in homes, offices or communities. Security may also be defined as the state of being or making safe secure from danger, etc.

Security may also be defined as protection against something that might happen in the future or as the activities involved in protecting a country, a building or persons against threats, danger, etc. (Wehmeier & Ashby, 2002).

Essentially, security must be related to the presence of peace, safety, happiness and the protection of human and physical resources or the absence of crisis, threat to human injury among others. The presence of peace could facilitate progress. This work examines National Security and Development in Nigeria. Security is not a discrete or measurable variable in quantitative terms. But spending on security can be used as proxy to quantify the volume of security especially if the spending is effective.

At the inception of every government, the president or governor swears to an oath to among other things protect life and property. So security is a key concern of government (at all tiers) of government in Nigeria.

Development

Development generally has to do with dynamics: positive development connotes progressive changes in everyday usage of the term. However, the focus of this discourse is on national development. Development economics emerged in the post second world war years, since then, the meaning of economic (national) development had really not been fixed and consistent. Between the 1940s to the early 1960s, development was seen as synonymous with economic growth. Many theorists as Rostow (1952) and Harrod and Domar (1957), among others proposed models of development, generally identifying structural changes, savings and investments as the source of economic development and growth. It was assumed that as the economy grows and output increases, there will be more happiness and improved welfare arising from the larger pull of resources which if well distributed would have generally improved the well-being of the masses. The basic assumption was that in so much as the economy grows, trickledown effect will at least lead to improvement for everybody in the economy and standard of living would generally improve. This culminated in a redefinition of development to mean a growing economy in addition to even distribution of resources and reduction in poverty, unemployment, inflation among other social undesirables. In the 1970s, capacity became a key determinant in the definition of development. At this time, the ability to understand nature and transform it to meet human needs became the focus of the definition. In other words, a developed economy was one that had a high capacity to transform nature and its inter-human environment to meet the needs of man. In fact according to Nnoli (1981) opined Development as a dialectical phenomenon in which man and society interact with their physical, biological and inter-human environments transforming them to better humanity at large and being transformed in the process. Development therefore connotes a high ability to exploit nature for the improvement of the greatest good of the greatest number in society.

In recent times, intergenerational consideration has become part of that definition with the introduction of the adjective “sustainable” to development. Sustainable development defines development of today (the present) that does not compromise the development of tomorrow (the next generation). To say Nigeria is developed, we would be saying that its capacity to meet its need had increased significantly.

Economic growth

Economic growth is the increase in the inflation-adjusted market value of the goods and services produced by an economy overtime. It is conventionally measured as the percentage rate of increase in real gross domestic product, or real GDP, usually in per capita terms. Economic growth is an increase in the capacity of an economy to produce goods and services, compared from one period of time to another. It can be measured in normal or real terms, the latter of which is adjusted for inflation. However, economic growth could also be defined as an increase in what an economy can produce if it is using all its scarce resources. An increase in an economy’s productive potential can be shown by an outward shift in the economy’s production possibility frontiers. The simplest way to show economic growth is to bundle all goods into two basic categories, consumer and capital goods. An outward shift of a PPF means that an economy has increased its capacity to produce (Egunjobi, 2013:62).

3. Data, Methodology and the Study Area

The study is restricted to Bayelsa State which is in the south-south geo-political zone of Nigeria and is one of the 36 states in Nigeria. Bayelsa State was created on the 1st of October, 1996, during the regime of military president late General Sani Abacha (BYSG, 2001). This study adopted the cross-sectional survey design method. Obikeze (1990) has described the design as the type of research that tries to get an overview of all the subjects, a total perception of the situation of things at a given point in time. The study has been discerned to use a sample size of 180 respondents aged 18 years and above. To ensure that the local government areas, communities and their respondents were truly representative of the population, the stratified random and purposive sampling methods were adopted. Out of the eight local government areas of the state, six (6) local government areas were chosen, two each from the three (3) senatorial zones of the state. The questionnaire was the major instrument for data collection for this study. The researcher used both unstructured and structured questions which were made as simple as possible. The hypotheses were analyzed with a chi-square statistics to reduce the raw data.

4. Results and Discussions

Table 1: there is a positive relationship between public security spending and economic growth in Bayelsa State of Nigeria.

Responses on whether there is a relationship between public security spending and economic growth in Bayelsa State of Nigeria.

Categories	Responses		Total
	Yes	No	
Male folk	65	25	90
Female folk	62	28	90
Total	127	53	180

Table 2: there is an inverse relationship between development and economic growth in Bayelsa State of Nigeria.

Responses on whether there is an inverse relationship between development and economic growth in Bayelsa State of Nigeria.

Categories	Responses		Total
	Yes	No	
Male folk	70	20	90
Female folk	65	25	90
Total	135	45	180

Table 3: there is a significant relationship between employment and economic growth in Bayelsa State of Nigeria.

Responses on whether there is a significant relationship between employment and economic growth in Bayelsa State of Nigeria.

Categories	Responses		Total
	Yes	No	
Male folk	68	22	90
Female folk	62	28	90
Total	130	50	180

Table 1, the result revealed that out of 90 in the male category, 65 of the respondents gave answers in the affirmative of the statement in the hypothesis while the remaining 25 of the respondents reacted to the contrary. Also out of 90 in the female category 62 of the respondents supported the statement in the hypothesis while the remaining 28 of the respondents gave different opinion. From the foregone analysis, it could be asserted that public security spending has a positive relationship with economic growth in Bayelsa State of Nigeria.

Table 2, the result from the study had shown that out of 90 in the male category 70 of the respondents affirmed the statement in the hypothesis while the remaining 20 of the respondents gave different viewpoints. Also out of 90 in the female category 65 of the respondents gave their support to the statement in the hypothesis

while the remaining 25 of the respondents reacted to the contrary. From the foregone analysis, it could be concluded that development had an inverse relationship with economic growth in Bayelsa State of Nigeria.

Table 3, the result from the study had revealed that out of 90 in the male category 68 of the respondents gave affirmative to the statement in the hypothesis while 22 of the respondents gave different viewpoints. Also out of 90 in the female category 62 of the respondents supported the statement in the hypothesis while the remaining 28 of the respondents reacted to the contrary. From the foregone analysis it could be asserted that employment had a high significant relationship with economic growth since a majority of the stakeholders from both categories had the same view that good employment had correlation with economic growth in Bayelsa State of Nigeria.

5. Implications of the Results of the Study

Many implications could be derived from the results presented in this study. But we will concern ourselves with a few of the important implications. According to our data, one of the dependent variables was public security spending had a positive relationship with economic growth in Bayelsa State of Nigeria. The co-efficient of determination is 0.97. The calculated statistics greater than the T – critical at 5 percent (%) level of significance (that is, $9.17 > 5.61$), this is in conformity with expectation; although, the data are time series, which could suffer from serial correlation and ultimately render these results spuriously.

Secondly, Nigeria is largely a monocultural economy with much reliance on petroleum. Between 1999 and 2008 petroleum production was negatively affected by security challenges.

Put differently, a stagnating economy is not likely to offer welfare improvements with development proxies. Though this work is about security and National development in Nigeria, the work was able to juxtapose the national security expenditure with economic growth to see whether there is any correlation between the spending pattern and growth is critical to development.

According to the Sage Awo (1982, cited in Gbena & Augoye 2011) insecurity is a result of malignant environment dominated by man's insensitivity to man. Many people in authority take advantage of their positions to force down policies that impoverish 'the many' in so much as it benefits them and a few others. The current discourse is about petroleum subsidy a case in point.

6. Policy Thrust or the Ways Forward

Based on the outcome of the findings, the following are the ways forward for this study.

1. Implementation of policies should be people oriented and deeply rooted.
2. Government should invest more on agriculture and power sector.
3. Political allegiance and continuity of programmes, projects and services.
4. Broad-based economic growth and equality.
5. Harmonization of agricultural and industrial strategies.
6. Government should take security matters serious and security policies should be implemented to protect lives and property.

7. Conclusion

Insecurity is debilitating to the economic development of many developing economies. In fact, in the last 15 years, intra-state conflicts have by far outnumbered international conflicts causing several millions of deaths including civilians and annihilating basic public services, state institutions and generating extensive poverty among the populace. The examples of such countries include Libya, Egypt, and Ivory-coast, are common place, Nigeria must not be allowed to slide to that level especially in view of its own experienced between 1967 to 1970. Those who are in authority and claim to represent the people should listen and follow the aspiration of the wider majority including deepening democratic processes and experiences.

8. References

- Abdulsalami, I. (2011). Why Court Faced Army Chief. *The Guardian*. Adeshina (eds) Lagos, vol. 29 No. 4, 969.
- Central Bank of Nigeria (1980-2010). Annual Reports. (nsd).
- Egunjobi, T.A. (2013). Report of the commission of inquiry into the Administration of Lagos Town Council. Lagos: Government printer, Sule, M. (2010, August 02).
- Ekpimah, E. (2011). Man Arrested with Pistols on Way to PDP primaries: *The Punch* vol. 17 No. 20015.

-
- Gbenga, A.G, Augoye, J. (2011). Ibru, Astute Businessman takes a Bow: The Punch, 21 November: 3.
- Harrod, R.F. & Domar, E. (1957). Essays on the Theory of Economic Growth. Oxford University Press London.
- Joseph, A. (2011). JTF Arrests Boko Haram member over shooting. The Punch 21 November: 15.
- Krugman, P. (1992). Toward a Counter Revolution in Development Theory, in: Proceedings of the World Bank. Washington, US.
- Rostow, W.W. (1952). The Process of Economic Growth Norton and co. inc. New York.
- Wehmeier, S. & Ashby, M. (eds) (2002). Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary, New Delhi: Oxford University Press.
- UNDP, (1994). Human Development Report. New York: Oxford University Press.