IMPROVING GOVERNMENT SECURITY POLICY FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN LAGOS STATE

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ABSTRACT

The prevalence of insecurity in Nigeria especially in Lagos State is alarming. The cases of insecurity, ranging from armed robbery, kidnapping, pipeline vandalism, burglary, theft, rape have adverse effects on socio-economic development of the State. The paper, therefore, examines the government security policies such as the establishment of the Security Trust Fund (STF), increase in security allocations, provision of modern security equipment and gadgets, and operation light-up-Lagos. The secondary data method is adopted by making use of Police records, the internet, newspaper and academic journals for data collection. The paper is anchored on social contract theory for its theoretical framework. The findings of this paper revealed that the effect of insecurity can hinder sustainable development, loss of lives and properties and even discourage foreign investors. This paper, therefore, recommends that government security policy should be properly planned and implemented. In addition, all stake holders (Religious leaders, Market leaders, Traditional leaders, Elites, Transport Union leaders etc.) should be involved in the government security policies.

Keywords: Insecurity, Sustainable development, Lagos State, Crime, Security Policies.

INTRODUCTION

Security is one of the most fundamental phenomena across the global world. The international community, every nation state, tribe, family and each individual is concerned about their security. Section 14(2) (a) of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria declares that the security and welfare of the people shall be the primary purpose of government.

The rising of criminal activities and prevalence of insecurity in mega city like Lagos, Nigeria call for serious attention. The cases of violent crimes such as armed robbery, kidnapping, pipeline vandalism, burglary, theft, rape and other forms of criminal activities in the country is becoming increasingly regular occurrence.

Onifade, Imhonogi and Urim (2013) assert that the challenges of insecurity has assumed formidable dimensions, forcing the country's political and economic managers and, indeed, the entire nation to rue, the loss of their loved ones, investment and absence of safety in most parts of the country. The rate at which innocent blood is wasted on a daily basis and the display of bottled-up frustration by the citizens is alarming.

Onifade et al (2013) posited that there is a connection between increasing ethnicity, religious bigotry, political rivalry and a growing population of disgruntled citizens in the country who felt short-changed and having limited or no access to the common inheritance. The observation of Egwu (2001) in Onifade et al express the fact that the primordial tendencies of various eruption of the ethnic militias and the pre-ponderant religious fundamentalism in places, given expression to by some sections of the dominant religious establishments in Nigeria, have inevitably aggravated the scale and propensity of insecurity and hindered its scope in various ramifications.

In addition to the above, various scholars such as Odekunle (2005), Aderinde (2007) Arinze (2010) and Ajibade, Olapade and Erinosho (2011) pointed out some factors that are responsible for the spate of the insecurity in Nigeria. They argued that the response of the Nigerian state to the crises of the mass unemployment, and fuel crisis have led to the worsening of the crime situation in Nigeria. Also, poverty, declining income, and low savings, which have pushed many retrenched people into a struggle for survival, high rate of inflation, political intolerance on the part of the ruling party, have contributed, not in a small measure, to the rate of insecurity in the country.

STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

The freedom from danger, care intimidation, apprehension, the feeling or assurance of safety, peace of mind or absence of fear and the certainty or assurance of the good life or welfare constituted on the fundamental objectives and indeed the foremost responsibility of every government and the state. (Robert Okah, 2014). In no aspect of life has the duty, responsibility and obligation of government towards its citizens been put to task than the aspect of safeguarding, enhancing/ protecting lives and property as well as providing security to citizens (Bello, 2015). According to Bello (2015), this has resulted in increase in the number of the various acts that endanger the lives of citizens and persons living

in a state. It accounts for the pride of place and priority given to issues of national security in most countries especially now when development and growth.

It is, however, argued that security may not be the absence of threats or security issues but the ability to rise to the challenges posed by threats with expediency and expertise (Robert-Okah, 2014).In Nigeria today, the average home has additional burglary proofed window and doors, high electrified barbed wire fences and much more. In the more developed countries, homes are fitted with security cameras and door peep holes. Some homes even have pre-authentication on their telephones before calls can be connected (Ndukwe, 2009).

The measures taken by government to ensure national security only come about after government has determined that there is a threat/problem that need to be addressed. Identifying various threats to security as problems, and taking measures to address them is generally done by ways of policy, especially considering the fact that such threats are deemed not only to affect individuals in particular, but the public as a whole (Bello, 2015).

This paper therefore examines how to improve the government security policy for sustainable development in Nigeria, with a special reference to Lagos State. It examines the following Objectives: to analyse the factors that contribute to insecurity in the country; to examine government security policies; to examine ways of sustaining the government security policies. The secondary data method is adopted by making use of police records, internets, newspapers and academic journals for data collection.

BRIEF HISTORY OF LAGOS STATE

The city of Lagos was founded before the 15th century by the Aworis and Benin people, who named it Eko. In 1572, the name Lagos was given to the city by the Portuguese explorer Rui de Sequwire because of its many Lagoons. Lagos was an important part for the export of millions of slaves from the eighteenth century until the mid-nineteenth century, when the British abolished the nefarious trade.

Lagos is a classic example of a modern city, having transformed from a small farming and fishing village in the fifteen century to a burgeoning megacity in 2010, when its population rose to over 10 million people (Filani, 2012).

The seat of Nigeria's government until 1986, Lagos remains the nation's commercial capital, contributing more to its economic growth than any other city. With an estimated population of 12 million, the city is the most populous conurbation in Nigeria as well as the second most populous and fastest growing city in Africa after Cairo. The Lagos megacity comprises most of the local government areas of Lagos State and four local governments in Ogun State: Ado-Odo Otta, Ifo, Obafemi Owode and Sagamu. Since Nigeria returned to democratic governance in 1999, the successive governors of Lagos State have initiated and pursued a knowledge-based approach to critical reforms.

Prevalence of miscreants that is, Area boys, crime and juvenile, ethnic clashes, high population density, political violence, public ignorance and apathy, as well as environmental health crises are common. All these issues are dominant in the **shanty** towns. Area boys are mainly located in the slums of Mushin, Oshodi, Ketu, Onipanu, Yaba, Shita and Isale Eko. Land disputes and extortion, usually accompanied by widespread violence, are quite common among the omo-

oniles of Ajah and other emerging settlements around the metropolis. High incidence of sexually transmitted disease were recorded in the low income settlements of Ipodo-Ikeja and Tolu-Ajegunle (Nwokoro & Okusipe, 2002). Political skirmishes are also widespread in low income area. Crime is also higher in low income areas of Agege and Somolu compared to the middle and higher income area of Surulere, Apapa and Eti-osa (Oduwaye, Ganiu & Kaka, 2007).

CONCEPTUAL CLARIFICATIONS

Security

The term security has been used to mean protection against or safety from a future risk of severe deprivation injury or death and requires rules, order and impartial adjudication and application (Robert-Okay 2014). Achumba, Ighomerelo and Akpo-Robaro (2013) defined security as a situation that exists as a result of the establishment of measure for the protection of persons, information and property against hostile persons, influences and actions. It is the existence of conditions within which people in a society can go about their normal daily activities without any threat to their lives or properties. It embraces all measures designed to protect and safeguard the citizenry and the resources of individuals, groups, businesses and the nation against sabotage or violence occurrence (Achumbo et al, 2013).

Thomas Hobbes (1962) see security as the protection of lives and properties and entire law and order through political sovereign and monopoly of violence which state/government provide. Okwori (1995) posits further that it is state's capabilities to defend its territorial integrity from threats, actual and imagined, as well as acts of aggression from other potential enemies. At the domestic level, the belief is that internal law enforcement agencies and other instruments of domestic intelligences are all that is required for a state to be secured (Katsina, 2012).

On the other hand, insecurity according to Achuba, Ighomereho and Akporobaro (2013) is the antithesis of security and has attracted some common description and want of safety, danger, hazard, uncertainty, want of confidence, state of doubt, inadequately guarded or protected, instability, trouble, lack of protection and being unsafe and others.

Achumba et al in Onifade et al(2013) argued further noted that these common descriptions point to a condition where there exists a vulnerability to harm, loss of life, property and livelihood. So, insecurity is therefore considered as a state of not knowing, a lack of control and the inability to take defensive action against forces that portend harm or danger to an individual or group, or that make them vulnerable. Furthermore, Beland (2005) aver that insecurity is ''the state of fear or anxiety steaming from a concrete or alleged lack of protection.

Security Policy

The term policy describes a plan, strategy or guideline that had been laid down to address or forestall a certain problem. It can be public, organisational or private (Cannon, 2011). According to Cannon (2011), policy also generally refers to ' a purposive course of action that an individual or a group consistently follows in dealing with a problem' The focus of public policy is the general public as opposed to a specific group of individuals. Hence, public interest is the also crux of public policy.

Public policy had also been described as various actions taken by government to address problems and as a statement of what the government intends to do about a public problem.(Bello, 2015)

This paper is concerned with the public policy issues relating to security policies. Security policy is the master plan and strategy that is laid down to address the problem of insecurity in the state. It is an absolute right of a state to protect lives and properties of its citizens although with assistance of both private and community security groups in some cases. Government generally go about providing its citizens, with the above described security by way of designing policies which identify what is wrong, what needs to be done, how it should be done and the supervision needed to do it.

Sustainable Development

The concept of sustainable development came into general usage following the publication of the 1987 report of the Bruntland Commission in an effort to link the issues of economic development and environmental stability. It defines sustainable development as 'development that meets the needs of the present generation without compromising future generations to meet their own needs. (WCED, 1987).

However, several other definitions have been given to explain this concept. It is the process of building our communities so that we can live comfortably without consuming all of our resources. It can also be defined as the right that ensures everybody 'the right to improvement and advancement of economic, social, political and cultural conditions' as well as its eradication and alleviation of poverty, unemployment and inequitable social conditions (Uzoh, 2013).

Sustainable development ensures the well-being of the human person by integrating social development, economic development and environmental conservation and protection. Social development includes basic needs of human beings such as: access to education, health services, food, housing, employment and fair distribution of income while Economic development includes industry, sustainable agriculture, integration and full participation in the global economy. In a nutshell, human beings are at the centre of the concern for sustainable development. (Uzoh, 2013).

Sustainable development is a process of change in which the exploitation of resources, investments, application of technology and institutional change are in harmony and enhances both current and future potential to meet human needs and aspirations (Adeyinka, 2005).

Theoretical Framework - Social contract theory

Thomas Hobbes (1588-1679) was the first person to articulate a detailed contract theory. According to Hobbes, the lives of individuals in the state of nature were solitary, poor, nasty, brutish and short, a state in which self interest and the absence of rights and contracts prevented the social or society. Life in the state of nature was anarchic, apolitical and asocial. It was followed by the social contract.

The theory of the social contract presents the state as a product of the mutual agreement of men, created with a definite purpose to serve certain social needs.

The social contract was an occurrence during which individual rights so that others would cede theirs. This resulted in the establishment of the state, a sovereign entity like the individuals now under its rule used to be, which would create laws to regulate social interactions. Human life was thus no longer a war of all against all.

Thomas Hobbes viewed social contract as being between the people and the constituted authority (state) after unsatisfactory experience in the state of nature. The social contract is designed to provide collective security among the individual that surrender the rights.

By application of this theory to the title of this topic, it means that government is the representative of collective rights of the people. That people surrender their rights for collective purpose in order that the government will provide security for them. Hence, in order to meet the security challenges, the government must prepare security policy. These security policies must meet both present and future needs. There must be constant improvement on the security policy of government.

Factors contributing to Insecurity in Nigeria

It has been argued that the failure of successive administration in Nigeria to address challenges of poverty, unemployment and inequitable distribution of wealth among ethnic nationalities are the major causes of insecurity in Nigeria.(Nwagboso, 2012) . While Nweze (2004) identified sources of security threats in Nigeria to include: militarism and military experience, ethnic/religious pluralism, unemployment, poverty, failure of governance, socio-economic inequalities and demographic factors, arms and ammunition trafficking, migration and indigene question in Nigeria.

 Poverty

As stated earlier, poverty has been identified as one of the factors that have contributed to the rate of insecurity in the country. Defining poverty, Aigbakhon (2008) define poverty as a state of long-term deprivation of wellbeing, a situation considered inadequate for decent living. Decent living in this context can be narrowed down to mean access to things like qualitative education, safe drinking water, affordable health care and sanitary facilities, nutrition, shelter and clothing.

Katsina (2012) argued that taking this as indices of poverty is however not adequate. In some societies, these are not luxuries; poor people have access to them and can even take them for granted. In some other societies they are luxuries that only few people have access to. Katsina submit that poverty is a situation where majority members of a country lack access to these indices that make their life distinguishable from that of animals.

Poverty is a complex phenomenon with multi-dimensional facets. It is a dynamic process of socio-economic, political or other form of deprivations, which affects the individuals, households, or societies and usually brings back lack of access to basic and elementary requirements of human survival. Absolute poverty, according to National Poverty Eradication Programme (NAPEP), denotes a condition of lack of physical mineral requirements for a person or household for existence. This is also extreme in that those affected are no longer in a position to live a worthy life of human dignity. The link between poverty and some criminal activities is undeniable. Crime offers a way in which impoverished people can obtain material possession that they cannot attain through legitimate means. By adding threat or force to their criminal acts it will enable them to acquire even more goods. This can be seen in the way some violent crime like robbery are committed. For many poor people, the prize that crime yields may outweigh the risk of being caught, especially, given that their opportunity cost is lower than that of a wealthy person.

The income of a community which in sub-division among families and kindred is less than 40%. Recent of the norm which manifest more in poor infrastructure, poor health, poor nutrition, poor self esteem, low hygienic standards, low intellectual development and lack of capital income. The picture of Nigeria society today is that an elite minority of its citizens are living in affluence, while the majority is wallowing in poverty. This is rather a product of greed, injustice and selfishness (Ngwube, 2013).

Unemployment

Poverty and unemployment are Siamese twins. They give support to each other. In Nigeria, unemployment is one of the most enduring social problems (Aigbakhon, 2010). Katsina (2012) argues that employment means the number of people working for wages in cash or kind in public and private enterprises. This include those that are gainfully self employed while the unemployable are those lacking in necessary skills who cannot find jobs .The categories of unemployment outlined above can be found in large quantity in Nigeria, this can be blamed upon the government in ability to equip its people with requisite skills that will help them get employment and also the creation of necessary environment for meaningful employment opportunities. The effect these have on Nigeria security is beyond the focusin this paper. As the saying goes that "the idle hand is the devils workshop". It is a fact that people that are daily recruited by the Boko Haram terrorist group to unleash mayhem on the nation are a crop of youths who are not gainfully unemployed, not to even mention other criminal activities that pose a threat to national security. All of these can be directly or indirectly linked with the unemployment situation in the country. For these people to meet up with their demand for livelihood, they resort into illegitimate means. And once they have tasted the handsome reward that come from such illicit engagement to stop it then become a problem. Looking at the age range of those that engage in criminal activities in Nigeria one will see that they are between the ages of 21-40 or there about. These are the most productive segment of Nigeria population. El-Rufai (2011) posits that the labour market is ever expanding, with about 3 million people joining annually. Then, if 1 percent of this group resort into series of criminal activities every year as a result of unemployment, it is obvious that in no distant time, Nigeria will be inhabitable. Moveover, reality of the police's inability to contain crime will become very clear.

Unemployment constitutes one of the challenges to insecurity in Nigeria. In Lagos, the restiveness and destructive tendencies among the youth, especially the area boys, has been a problem.

Poor Border Control

Border is a boundary that exists between one or more countries and the other or other areas. The Nigerian borders with other neighbouring countries has been categorised as being porous. This has stood as a major boost for the influx of criminal activities into the country, which overtime, has continued to engender instability and insecurity within the country. Hardly can one identify any violence or criminal acts that is not directly or indirectly linked with the easy way in which armed gangs move in and out of the country. It has been reported overtime that the loose nature of the Nigerian border in the North –East Region contributed largely to the success of the operations of Boko Haram terrorist group in Nigeria.Willie (2008) avers that the predicaments that Nigeria faces with insecurity calls for critical investigations of the border at every points, whether they are performing strategic functions.

Nigeria is confronted with a myriad of security challenges that has a direct link with the loose nature of its borders .The crimes range from terrorism, kidnapping, trafficking, small arms and light weapons proliferation or smuggling, armed robbery to political assassination and the likes

Government Security Policies in Curbing Insecurity in Lagos

Government security policies are the arrangement made by the government that involves the planning and execution of policy that stem down the insecurity of lives and properties in the country.

These government security policies ranges from the establishment of a Security Trust Fund, provision of CCTV and Cameras, provision of modern security equipment and gadgets, lighting up of city etc.

The issue of security is more critical in Lagos. The mega city has a high incidence of armed robbery and violent crime including assassination attempts, carjacking, riots, vandalisation of pipelines and other installation and Area boys menace.

Over the years, governments have undertaken numerous efforts to keep Lagos secure.

- The State Security Trust Fund, in partnership with the private sector
- A comprehensive security strategy (the safe city project) to enable Central Security Surveillance.
- Expanding, reorganising, rekitting and renovating the State's Rapid Response Squad
- More than 200 new patrol vehicles.
- A new communication system for security agencies
- Nigeria's first dedication emergency call centre
- A joint military-police patrol code name Operation Mesa to complement state police efforts
- Improved road signs to facilitate expedient emergency relief to crisis points and centres
- New street lights on major roads to deter criminals and increase effectiveness of security cameras
- Beefing up the Neighbourhood watch, a complementary community security initiative
- The Community Security Assembly, a programme to educate people about safety
- Publication of telephone numbers of senior police officers for public usage in case of distress
- New police information and complaints boxes at strategic locations all over the state

Achumba et al (2013) suggested a security management approach that accommodates both long term and immediate solutions called the security strategic management approach. It is a combination of two models

The two way approach model and the composite approach model. While the two way approach model aims at combating the creators and perpetrators of insecurity, and simultaneously addresses and removes the causes or sources of dissatisfaction or discontent, the composite approach model aims at involving all stakeholders, both in public and private capacity to supply resources, expertise and information required to ensure a safe environment.

Despite the provision of the above security infrastructure, it has been observed that government have not made deliberate efforts in improving policies guiding the management of the infrastructure

Nexus between Government Security Policies and Sustainable Development

Provision of security environment is a key ingredient for sustainable development. Individuals in the society need a secured environment, one that would enable them to plan now and for the future, and that encourages businesses to flourish and encourage entrepreneurs to invest. It would enhance income growth, economic growth and sustainable development at all levels of the economy.

No investor will do business in an environment that is not secured. Therefore, security is a critical infrastructure that is sine qua none for sustainable development. The healthy living of the citizens will promote increased productivity growth and economic stability, which will be realizable through the provision of basic needs (Uzoh 2013).

The provision of adequate security definitely enhances investment, improve income and basic needs provision. Economic property thrives only with safety and security.

CONCLUSION

Security policy is the process of identifying security problems with the ways of addressing the problems. It means that security policy is concerned about the government's worry with safety and stability of the state. The states are concerned with the protection of their citizens through the formulation of security policies, which addresses the issues of insecurity. The issue of planning the strategy to forestall the problems of insecurity in the state should be paramount to the government. The need for security is further strengthened by the belief that the concept of security is tied to the concept of freedom- and in this case, freedom from attack, from oppression, freedom from fear and freedom from the feeling of being a victim. (Ndukwe 2009). The impacts of insecurity on the economy, social and political are great. The ability of any government to provide security policy couple implementation is beneficiary. However, most the government lack of sustaining the policy. The sustainability of the security policy help in the sustainable development since a secured environment promotes development and growth of the economy, which reduces poverty, unemployment, and crime. The import of internal security in a state has been carefully articulated by Gbanite (2001) '... when our citizens' right to safety from all kinds of man-made threats are reduced considerably, the government will inherent an increase in foreign investments...most countries would likely become trading partners to secure the lives and property of their citizens first before they themselves allow theirs to move into such territories...'

RECOMMENDATIONS

This paper therefore recommends the following:

- Government should properly planned and implemented security policy.
- The government should encourage the development of private security companies in order to complement the existing law enforcement agencies.
- To encourage sustainable development, the government should discourage government officials from diverting the resources or fund meant for security purpose.
- There should be increase in the amount allocated for security vote in order to ensure greater efficiency and more effectiveness of security management.

- The government should always review their security policies to meet the emerging challenges.

- In addition, all stake holders (Religious leaders, Market leaders, Traditional leaders, Elites, Transport Union leaders etc.) should be involved in the government security policies.

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