

Socio-Economic Implications of Boko haram Insurgency in Northern Nigeria

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Abstract. Boko Haram insurgency in northern Nigeria has posed a multifaceted threat to the nation since 2009. Successive governments have tried all possible measures to curtail it with no significant success recorded. The academia has also not been passive; hence the phenomenon has been approached from religious and political viewpoints. However, adequate attention has not been paid to its socio-economic implications. Therefore, this paper examined the Boko Haram insurgency and the challenges it poses to social and economic development of Nigeria and the implications of such for communities free from its activities. The work adopted historical method, which involved archival search, use of other academic materials such as journal articles, books and newspapers. Oral interviews were conducted with victims of Boko Haram who have relocated from affected places to southern part of the country. It was established that Boko Haram insurgency has wreaked much havoc on social and economic activities, culminating in retardation of growth and development in the country. The paper recommended the need for serious commitment on the part of the government in equipping the security agents and fighting corruption in the security system. More importantly, prosecution of identified Boko Haram sponsors must be done without fear or favour.

Keywords: Religious relations, Boko Haram insurgency, Northern Nigeria, social effects, economic effects

1. Introduction

Since the return to civil rule in 1999, religious intolerance has assumed a new dimension in Nigeria. The current wave of Boko Haram sect raises fundamental issues whether Nigeria is a lawless society or the problem of lawlessness has been part of the tradition and style of living of the people before the advent of the two major foreign religions (Islam and Christianity). Lenshie, Edward and Abel 2012: 10-30, opined that one of the major problems confronting Nigeria today as a nation is sectarian crises manifesting in various ways. However, solution proffered to the evident devastating effects has not yield positive results, hence successive administrations have had distractions of religious crises characterised by mistrust, suspicion and destruction of lives and properties.

Boko Haram (figuratively, “Western or non-Islamic education is a sin”) is an Islamic group that is seeking for the imposition of sharia law in Nigeria. The original name of the group is Jama’atu Ahlis Sunna Lidda ‘awatiwat-Jihad, which in Arabic means people committed to the propagation of the Prophet Mohammed’s teaching (Danjibo 2010: 13-16). Therefore, It should be noted that the emergence of Boko

Haram crises in July 2009 changed the familiar phase and pattern of religious violence, riots and disturbances in Nigeria. However, aside the daily loss of lives and properties, the fear and animosities among the Nigerian populace particularly the threat posed to the security, economy, democracy and integration of the corporate society are alarming. This situation has made it difficult for the citizens and residents in some parts of northern Nigeria such as Borno and Yobe states to carry out their legitimate businesses. Various scholars have attributed Boko Haram crises to bad governance in Nigeria. According to them, Nigerians have been denied good governance for long and the youths that are mostly engaged in acts of violence, are the first victim of bad governance and acute corruption. (Onuoha 2012: 2, Bamidele 2012: 32-42, Danjibo 2010: 13-16). However, It should be noted that poverty and corruption in Nigeria are not limited to northern Nigeria alone but nationwide. This work, therefore, goes beyond poverty and corruption as the remote causes of Boko Haram crises in Nigeria. It contends that the current wave of religious fundamentalism became recurrent through religious manipulation and politicisation in the post-colonial era. The work concludes that unless the country's policies, cultural norms, law and value are enforced to redirect behavioural attitude toward governance in Nigeria, religious fundamentalism would thrive on. In this piece, we shall discuss the problem by focusing on how Boko Haram insurgency has affected Nigeria in the areas of politics, economy and corporate existence in this order.

2. Boko Haram Insurgency in Nigeria

Boko Haram insurgency has confronted Nigeria with massive assaults, which undoubtedly have led to the death of many Nigerians and valuable properties destroyed. The sect has been described as the world deadliest and destructive terrorist, both in terms of brutality, mindless savagery and flagrant disobedience to the principles of peace and stability (Punch Newspaper 2015: 8). The sect unleashes terror, tension and fear in the mind of every Nigerian

and the international community does not feel unaffected.

Boko Haram as a group of Islamic fundamentalists is committed to carrying out holy war (jihad) and Islamising northern states of Nigeria and probably conquering the entire country through Jihad. In Borno, the stronghold of the sect, many lives and properties have been lost to the sect attacks. On the 28th January 2011, the governorship candidate of the All Nigerians People Party (ANPP) Engineer Modu Fannami Gubio and six other persons including the brother of the then Borno State Governor, Alhaji Goni Modu Sheriff were killed by the insurgents (The Nation Newspaper 2011: 15). Its activities started with the clash with Nigerian police in July 2009. According to Okpaga, the investigation by the Nigerian police which was engineered by the report that the group was arming itself to wage holy war (Jihad) against the state led to the deadly clash between the two groups (Okpaga, Chigiote, Innocent 2012: 82-85). Attacks have focused largely on state security forces, police, soldiers, civil defence, and prison wardens, worship centres, community and religious leaders, politicians and other civilians who they consider as "enemies". However, the attack on the United Nations Building at Nigeria's capital city Abuja, on 26 August 2011, which drew global attention, marked a departure from Boko Haram's traditional target of government facilities and indeed signposts the possibility of a change in target (Akande 2012: 1).

There is evidence that some of the detailed elements of Boko Haram have link with foreign militant groups, including north- Africa based Alqaeda in the Islamic Magreb (AQIM). At the same time, Boko Haram remains firmly focused on domestic Nigerian issues. Whenever its spokesman claims responsibility for attack, he points at national grievances which are not similar to the ideology of Alqaeda. But its anger is directed not at America or Europe but at the Nigerian government. The sect has always claimed that its focus is on targeting officials of the government who have misused state funds hence, there are numerous cases of attacks in different parts of the country, which have wreaked much havoc.

The Table Below Captures some of the attacks of Boko Haram in Northern Nigeria

Date	STATE	LOCATION OF ATTACK AND NUMBER OF DEATH
July 27,2009	Yobe state	Attack on potiskun, divisional police headquarters three policemen and one fire service officer died.
September 8, 2010	Bauchi state	Bauchi central prison was set ablaze and members of the sect freed.
March 13, 2010	Plateau state	Another set of operation in the northern part of Jos, Plateau state led to the death of 300 people
October 1, 2010	Abuja	Explosion near the Eagle square, Abuja claimed 12 lives, leaving many injured.
December 24, 2010	Plateau state	A bomb attack, in BarkinLadi, Jos, Plateau state, killed eight people.
December 31, 2010	Abuja	Explosion at Mogadishu mammy market, Abuja, claimed about 10 lives.
January 21, 2010	Borno state	The Borno state governorship candidate of All Nigerian Peoples Party (ANPP), for the 2011 election, AlhajiModuGubio, brother to the former governor of the state, ModuSherif, killed by the sect members alongside six others in Maiduguri, Borno state.
March 2, 2011	Kaduna state	Boko Haram killed two policemen attached to the residence of the Divisional Police Officer, MustapherSandamu, at Rigasa area of Kaduna state.
March 30,2011	Yobe State	Bomb planted by Boko Haram in Damaturu, Yobe state, exploded and injured a Police officer.
April 8, 2011	Niger state	Bomb at INEC office in Suleja, Niger state, Claimed lives of eight corps members and a suicide bomber respectively.
April 9, 2011	Borno state	Bomb explosion occurred at a polling unit in UnguwarDoki Maiduguri, Borno State, killing the suicide bomber.
April 26, 2011	Bauchi state	Three people killed and scores injured in Bomb attack
April 29, 2011	Bauchi state	Army Barracks in Bauchi bombed.
May 19, 2011	Bauchi state	Three policemen killed and two soldiers injured in bomb attack.
May 29, 2011	Bauchi state	Explosion at mammy market of Shandawanka barracks in Bauchi state claimed lives and left many injured.
May 30, 2011	Borno State	Bomb exploded early morning on Baga road in Maiduguri, Borno state, 13 dead and 4 injured.
June 7, 2011	Borno state	Series of bomb blasts occurred in Maiduguri, Borno state, claiming five lives and living several others injured.
June 16, 2011	Abuja	Nigerian Police Headquarters, Abuja, bombed by suspected suicide bomber, three killed and many vehicles damaged.
June 16, 2011	Borno state	Four children killed in a bomb blast at Danboe town, Maiduguri, Borno state.
June 20, 2011	Katsina state	Seven Policemen killed when BBoko Haram stormed Kankara police station in Katsina state. Two of the security men guarding a bank opposite the state were also killed.
July 9, 2011	Borno state	A clash between Boko Haram and the military left about 31 people dead in Maiduguri, Borno state, also in Suleja, Niger state, a bomb targeted at a church killed four and injured many others.
July 11, 2011	Kaduna state	Tragic explosion at a relaxation joint in Fokados street, Kaduna.
July 12, 2011	Borno state	Boko Haram threw an explosive device on a moving military patrol vehicle, which claimed five lives.
July 15, 2011	Borno state	Explosion in Maiduguri injured five people.
July 23, 2011	Borno state	An explosion close to the palace of the Shehu of Borno, AbubakarGarbaiElkanem, injured three soldiers.
March 5, 2013	Adamawa state	25 people were killed in the two-hour assault, including the deputy chief of the local prison, where 127 inmates were freed.
March18, 2013	Kano state	A suicide bomber attacked a bus station in a predominantly Christian area of Kano, killing 41 passengers and injuring dozens more.
May 7, 2013	Yobe state	At least 55 killed and 105 inmates freed in coordinated attacks on army barracks, a prison and police post in Bama town.
June 16, 2013	Yobe state	A team of suspected Islamist militants attacked a school in Damaturu, killing 13 people, including students and teachers.
July 13, 2013	Yobe state	42 people mostly students killed in an attack on a secondary school in restive Yobe state
September 29 2013	Yobe state	40 student of College of Agric were killed while 150 sustained injuries.
February 25 2014	Yobe state	Many student of Federal Govt College BuniYadi were killed
April20, 2014	Borno state	270 chibok school girls were adopted
April 30, 2014	Abuja	75 people killed in bus station bombing
May 15, 2014	Borno state	150-300 killed in market attack.
June 17 2014	Yobe state	Many children were killed near a viewing centre in Damaturu

It is practically impossible to highlight all cases of Boko Haram violence in Nigeria. The reason is that they are innumerable and recurring; what we have done so far is a confirmation of Boko Haram crises in Northern Nigeria (Okpaga, Chigiote, Innocent 2012: 82-85, Dauda 2014: 251-257)

3. Factors Responsible for Boko Haram Crises

Bad governance in Nigeria has impoverished the masses and hence, creating avenue for easy formation of criminal groups who are searching for means of livelihood. Lack of jobs for teaming Nigerian youths is a strong factor for Boko Haram crises in northern part of the country. Karl Max once predicted that there would be a time when machines would be used to work in place of man and when people are not getting jobs, they would resort to revolution (Onimhawo, Izibili and Igboin 2006: 122-124). That is what is currently going on in Nigeria today. Idowu makes it clear that because of the failure of the government to provide basic infrastructural needs for its populace; new conflicts have emerged through political opportunists, who have explored condition of the poor to address the non-responses of the state to lawful yearnings of the citizens (Idowu 2008: 9). This propels a number of frustrated groups who think they have been cut off from the society to make their intention known to the government through violent means.

It is necessary to note that substantial Nigerian youths at the age of 20-40 years are still depending on their parents for survival and, if not for this a large proportion of them would have taken arms to fight the state. One can imagine what will happen to a grown up man who wakes up in the morning and has no food or money to spend. Such a man can easily be influenced to take up arms against the perceived elements that have short changed his standard of living and mortgaged his future. Late Yusuf, the founder of the group, pointed out that the government had brought poverty and suffering to the people and therefore must be changed to Islamic state in order to ensure good standard of living devoid of exploitation and

mismanagement by the ruling class. This can best be explained as the major reason the group remains anti-government and angry about many years of bad governance that have rendered the citizens poor. The group argues that the leaders are aided by western education to subject the populace to abject poverty by siphoning public funds to private pockets through the use of “pen”. However, as a result of the extreme poverty, innocent citizens are impelled to commit crimes such as kidnapping, robbery and fraud. According to the group, the same leaders who through the use of western education, steal public money meant for project that would have benefited the general public, arrest and imprison the poor who were forced to commit crime in order to earn a living (Danjibo 2010: 2-19).

Lending credence to this, former President OlusegunObasanjo once remarked that Nigeria was sitting on gunpowder. According to him, if the government did not act fast and provide jobs for the youths who are the majority and leaders of tomorrow, the country should be prepared to face massive violence and break down of law and order (The Nation Newspaper 2015: 26). Bad governance in Nigeria has impoverished the society to the extent that the rich are getting richer while the poor are getting poorer. According to Danjibo and Oladeji 2007: 15, poor Nigerians see their politicians flying abroad, shopping in Dubai and sending their children to expensive western schools. The growing gap between the leader and the led, developmental projects in community with a representative in government and the community with none has created a vacuum, and has made it possible for violent extremists to take over that vacuum to achieve their aim. The famous Greek philosopher, Aristotle once wrote, “Poverty is the mother of all revolutions and where there is hunger and the poor greatly exceeds in number, trouble sets in and the state soon comes to an end”. Therefore, the poor economic condition in the north makes fertile ground for Boko Haram. However, as relevant as this factor is, bad governance is not restricted to the northern Nigeria as it also affects other areas free from crises; obviously there are some other factors beyond bad governance responsible for Boko Haram menace.

One of such factor is political motivation. Nigeria is a multi-ethnic and multi-cultural society. This obvious trend reflects in the country's socio-political system and the constitutional recognition of federal character principle. The unofficial rotation of presidency by the former ruling party Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) between the north and the southern part of the country contributes to the daily attack on Nigerians by members of the sect (Boko Haram). Before the 2011 election northern political elite threatened to make the country ungovernable if Jonathan emerged president on the platform of PDP. LawalKaita is fearlessly emphatic that:

Anything short of a northern president is tantamount to stealing our presidency. If he uses the incumbency power to get his nomination on the platform of the PDP, he would be frustrated out. The north should not be blamed for the calamity that will befall the country, if Jonathan emerges president in 2011. The north is determined; if that happens, to make the country ungovernable for any southerner who finds his ways to the seat of power on the platform of the PDP against the principle of the party's zoning policy (Kaita 2010: 11).

The victory of Jonathan in 2011 was marred by violence and series of bombing by members of the sect in different parts of the country. Corroborating this, De Pontet, an African analyst at the Eurasia Group, says that Boko Haram's main aim appears to be humiliating Jonathan's government. According to him, northern region felt excluded from the system of patronage that fuels Nigeria politics (Onuoha 2012: 2).

Former National Security adviser to the president, late General Andrew OwoyeAzazi, on April 27, 2012, blamed terrorist attacks sponsored by the Boko Haram Islamic sect on internal squabbles of the ruling People's Democratic Party (PDP). According to him, the situation that created the problems of Boko Haram in Nigeria is not just about religion and poverty but also the "politics of exclusion" and the desire to rule Nigeria (Azazi 2012: 2). Corroborating this, Uche Chukwumerije argues

that Boko Haram is a northern creation meant to hijack power in 2015. For him, Boko Haram would fizzle out the moment a northerner became the president (The Nation Newspaper 2012: 2). The above assertions by the two leaders attest to the threat issued by the northern leaders to make the country ungovernable if Jonathan should emerge president on the platform of the PDP against the principle of the party's zoning policy. All these evidences, point clearly to the fact that the Boko Haram sect was not created in isolation but a political strategy by some northern elite for election purpose. However, contrary to this submission, the emergence of Boko Haram in 2009 was under the administration of late president Umaru Musa Yar'adua from the northern part of the country. Secondly, since the inauguration of MuhammaduBuhari, a northerner on May 29 2015, Boko Haram has not fizzled out. Therefore, the cause of Boko Haram violence goes beyond political manipulation and internal squabble of the PDP.

Religious fanaticism has been a recurring decimal in different parts of the world. This became aggravated since the bombing of world trade center in USA on September 11, 2001. Farrel opines that before independence in 1960, northern Nigeria had always aspired to return to Islamic legal system for all Muslims (Farrel 2012: 8). However the introduction of sharia legal system in some parts of northern Nigeria confirms the Boko Haram agitation for the establishment of Islamic state. The sect's efforts to impose sharia law throughout Nigeria according to various reports have systematically targeted Christians and their places of worship in order to completely wipe them out of Nigeria surface through Jihad (Holy war). The sect according to some notable Nigerians is a religious movement owing to the fact that it concentrates its activities towards killing Christians and destroying Churches with the objective of making Nigeria an Islamic state. The Catholic Bishop of Sokoto Diocese, Mathew Kukah argues that the agitation for the Islamic state by Boko Haram could be traced to the promise made by northern leaders to ensure the total implementation of sharia law. He rejects the assertion by some northern Muslims that Boko Haram members are not Muslims. For

him Boko Haram members are inspired by Quran and by virtue of that, they are Muslims (Akinkuotu 2015). The killings of Rev Sabo Yakubu, bombing of the three churches on Christmas day, December 25, 2011 by the sect are used as evidence (Onuoha 2012: 2).

It should be noted that the violence according to some Nigerians has been primarily in one direction with the Boko Haram conducting a terror war against Christians. In contrast, the bombing of Mosque in Makurdi, Yobe State, bombing of the Emir's palace in Kano and the attack on the convoy of Alhaji Ado Bayero, killing 4 and injuring 14 others, including two of his sons and the killing of 21 members of Shiites Islamic Movement in Kano by Boko Haram sect among other attacks on Moslems attest to the fact that the sect violence is not a target to one particular religion. Furthermore, northern Muslims have criticised, rejected and denounced the activities of the sect as unIslamic and heinous crime against humanity. The Sultan of Sokoto, Alhaji Sa'ad Muhammad Abubakar 111, urges Muslim community to fish out Boko Haram members and have them dealt with as criminals so as to tackle terrorism and extremism not only in Nigeria but in the other part of the world (Sa'ad Abubakar 2015: 3). Outside this, Muslim communities in Yobe, Borno and Kano state set up community vigilante to assist the Nigerian security force in tackling the menacing activities of Boko Haram in the north. The point of emphasis is that Boko Haram violence may have religious connotation but the activities of the sect are not solely against Christianity and Christians, but the general populace.

On the other hand, Ignorance contributes to the sect's violence in Nigeria. Religious adherents, according to Ayantayo, have poor theological understanding probably because they are ignorant of what religion is and rely solely on what their religious leaders say or do (Ayantayo 2002: 1-2). Members of the sect have been brainwashed with the notion of Jihad which means struggle. This clearly show that the northern Muslims mostly Almajiri's and Madrasas (beggars) have been so brainwashed from childhood to the extent that they see non-

Muslims and all Muslims associating with people outside Islam as unbelievers and what they need to be told by their leader is that this is an enemy of Islam and they are ready to go to any length to destroy (Soyinka 2012).

The sect believes that any member who dies for the cause of Islamic sharia state by destroying the government establishment would gain "Aljana" (paradise or heaven). Because of the indoctrination, from childhood, all members of the sect are made to understand that this is a religious cause. As a result of their ignorance about Islamic ethics, they believe real change can only come through violence or coercion and not dialogue. Their ignorance is of high magnitude; that members could kill their wives to prevent them from subsequently marrying infidels, in case they get killed. According to them, if they kill their wives, they will remain pious until both of them meet again in heaven, where they would re-unite (The Nation Newspaper 2015). This scenario can be blamed on the collapse of public schools which should have provided meaningful education to the youth.

Similarly, foreign influence is a motivating factor for Boko Haram crises. (Danjibo 2010: 2-19), explains that there is growing concerns of external influences that are impinging and shaping religious organisations in Sub-Saharan Africa, especially in Nigeria. Nigeria Muslims and their Christian counterparts have links to the Middle East and the West. While the Christians tilt towards the Euro-American culture, the Muslims look up to the Arab world. A report from a subcommittee of the U.S. House of Representatives issued in 2011 November and titled Boko Haram: An emerging warning stated that the group was a threat to the U.S, Western targets in Nigeria, and the wider region. It alleged that the group had other terror networks and went as far as to state and quote 'Based on Boko Haram's evolution and the public warnings by the U.S. department to US citizens in Nigeria to be careful in a terrorist country like Nigeria (Cook 2011: 3). Global terror such as terrorism in Yemen, Afghanistan and Somalia has a great influence on Boko Haram crises in Nigeria. More sensitively, it has concrete links

with not only al-Qaeda, but a number of radical African Muslim jihad groups as well. The skills they have imparted have made Boko Haram a much more serious threat to the country (Ero 2012).

4. Boko Haram Insurgency in Socio-Economic Perspective

As earlier indicated, this paper is aimed at examining the impacts of Boko Haram insurgency on social and economic activities not only in the affected areas but the country as a whole. Our findings show that beyond religious and political meanings read to Boko Haram, constant attack by insurgents have endangered social and economic activities in Nigeria, which have in turn affected national development. This is our focus in this section.

The security challenge posed by Boko Haram has reached a point where indigenes and non indigenes are leaving the northern region to avert their being killed by the insurgents and business owners close down their shops. However, the economic activities of Borno, Yobe and other northern states where Boko Haram spread their tentacles have been crippled economically (Falola and Heaton 2008: 106-260). For instance, local investors who normally are supposed to contribute to the economic development of the area have left since no reasonable investor would want to invest his capital in a violent prone environment. Consequently, most of the investors who moved away from this affected states reinvest their capital in other Nigerian communities free from the insurgency. In this wise, most of the affected investors interviewed such as (Okeke 2016, Nwankwo 2016, Okafor 2016, and Nzediegwu 2016), submitted that the activities of the insurgency made them to relocate their investment to Edo State. According to a report in an Afenmai online magazine, small business firms established by indigenes and non-indigenes between 2010-2014 have increased significantly in Edo state (Afenmai Online Magazine 2014). Outside this, the security challenge has also led to drastic reduction of people's patronage of agricultural produce from the north to southern communities because of

the recent rumour that members of the sect are planning to send poisonous products to other parts of the country. Owing to this development, the system of farming has been improved through the use of mechanized farming to meet up with current demand for agricultural produce such as cassava, yam, palm oil, pepper, okra, melon and others. The Ibillo market in Akoko Edo Local Government Area of Edo State which is one of the biggest markets in Afenmai land now serves as a major market where traders from other parts of the country buy agricultural goods. For instance, much of the gari sold at Bodija market in Ibadan is produced from Edo state. One of our informants, Mrs. Nwabueze, a gari trader in Bodija market affirmed this when she said that she travels to Ibillo every three weeks to buy goods such as gari, pepper and red oil. This suggests that the buyers of farm produce in Edo state are from different parts of the country (Nwabueze 2016). The increase in patronage is largely an aftermath insecurity arising from Boko Haram insurgency.

Bank transactions have also been affected and it has become very important for the banks in affected areas to review their operational hours from usual opening 8.00am and close by 4.00pm to unusual time from 9.00am to 12.00 noon. This decision was taken by the financial institutions to safeguard their Business. According to Dauda 2014: 251-257, this arrangement has made it difficult for customers especially traders to deposit their daily proceeds in the banks due to the limited banking operational hours that are no longer in their favour. This situation has forced business owners to be hiding their money either in the shop or at home. This could best explain the major reason for the rising cases of shop breakings, burglaries and home robbery in northern Nigeria. It should be remarked that the prices of goods have been increased due to shortage of production and supply from north to the south where the goods are largely consumed. The northern farmers find it difficult to carry out their legitimate right of farming and in some cases; goods are stockpiled wasting in the hands of farmers because the traders from the south are scared to travel to the north to buy goods. Example of this is the killing of four traders on

the 5th of May and 10 more people on June 28 from Bodija market Ibadan Oyo State in 2013 when they travelled to Borno State to buy wares. Therefore, immediately after the killing, the Ibadan Foodstuff Traders Association placed an indefinite ban on travelling to the north to purchase beans on its members (NAIJ Report 2016).

The phenomenon of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) has become a social problem and dangerous to economic Development. The population of IDPs in the north is worrisome because many of them are family men and women who ordinarily are supposed to fend for their family. The fact cannot be denied that IDPs have their basic rights to existence, food, shelter, education, security among other amenities. However, funds meant for the development of the country are now being channeled towards providing basic needs for the IDPs. Billions of naira has been spent on this project and many of IDPs who are supposed to be working and contribute to the economy are denied their right to work. Private agencies, Local, state and federal government have spent billions of naira to distribute relief materials to the IDPs. On 26 of November 2015, the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) distributed 1,120 bags of rice, 2,240 bags of maize, 2,120 bags of millet, 280 bags of cement, roofing sheets, ceilings, mosquito nets, mattresses, tissues, detergent and lastly, over #800million has been spent by Yobe state government on the welfare of the Pompomari Camp, Damaturu (Daily Independence 2015: 6). All these have negative impacts on economic development of the affected states and Nigeria as a whole

The sect blossoming activities have led to the reduction of government derivation from the affected northern states as a result of restiveness in those areas as well as reducing investment and growth of business. The insecurity challenge continues to make it impossible for the government to execute vital project for the people. Dauda 2014: 251-257, opines that the insurgency of Boko Haram in the north has drastically reduced government of the day's performance in the affected area. It should be noted that security challenges in northern

Nigeria have cost the economy of the country #1.3 trillion (The Sun Newspaper 2016: 22). Resources which normally could have been used to improve existing projects and start other ones are being diverted to restructure and replaced what has been destroyed by the insurgency. Since no investor would want to invest his capital in an atmosphere of insecurity, it is therefore, suffice to say that menacing activities of Boko Haram are bane to economic development.

Education is worst hit by the Boko Haram insurgency in northern Nigeria. Apart from the fact that the agitation of the sect is that Western education is forbidden and unislamic, formal education has remained the bedrock of human and capital developments in Nigeria. Today, millions of children from the north no longer have access to basic education. The insecurity challenge has led to the death of many teachers, students and school property destroyed thereby making it impossible for pupils to go to school. This situation made Borno state government to close down public and private school for 18 months. Without any doubt, the future of many children from northern extraction has been jeopardised as a result of the inability to go to school. Education is one of the major institutions contributing to the sustainable development of the society and if it is affected, the economic activities of the state will be threatened.

Obviously speaking, the problem of Nigeria is the fear of one ethnic or religious group dominating the other through political means. According to Agbaje 1990: 9, democracy allows conflict in the society to be resolved by rational argument and persuasion rather than by violence coercion. The manipulation of religion by northern politicians to win election is contributing to the political backwardness in the country. In April 19, 2011, a polling booth was bombed in Maiduguri by Boko Haram because of its perceived domination by opposition party (Johnstone 2012). In 2015 general election, the sect issued statement warning residents not to participate in the election and as a result of these; many eligible voters became scared and decided to stay away from the polling booth. It is therefore obvious that activities of the Boko Haram group to disenfranchise people in order

to win elections further show the danger it portrays to our hard earned democracy.

Furthermore, Boko Haram insurgency threatens national integration. This is so because reasons adduced for the establishment of National Youth Service Corps (NYSC) in 1973 have been jeopardised. Many parents from southern extraction of the country no longer want their children to be posted to the north for the fear of being killed. However, majority of the southern Corp members who have been posted to the north are redeploying to the south. Outside NYSC, there is also mass movement of non indigene who are resident in north for many years back to the southern states. Today, the inability of the non indigene to live and exercise their legitimate right in the north have created fear among northerners living in the south and many of them are also moving out of the south to the north. It is therefore crystal clear that the activities of the sect if not stringently dealt with will destroy the country called Nigeria.

5. Recommendations

A careful study of the challenges confronting Nigeria today has revealed that there is a consensus among scholars that Boko Haram insurgency, is affecting the socio-economic development of northern Nigeria and Nigeria as a whole. On this premise, the following recommendations are made.

The primary objective of either state or federal government is the safety of her citizens. In order to achieve this, there is the need for our security to be well equipped to fight terrorism in the country. It is disheartening that money meant to buy equipment for soldiers in order to fight insurgency has been diverted by some persons to their private pockets and as a result, many soldiers are running away from fighting members of the sect because of lack of equipment. Ironically, about 2.1 billion dollars meant for procurement of arms to equip the security operative was misappropriated by Col Sambo Dasuki (rtd), a security adviser to former president Goodluck Jonathan. With the arrest and probe of Dasuki, it was revealed that many influential Nigerians were beneficiary of the fraud. One wonders if ill equipped security

agents could withstand the Boko Haram that is armed to the teeth with sophisticated weapons (The Nation Newspaper 2016). Therefore, if corruption in our security system is solved and the security agencies are strengthened to meet up with the modern pattern of security, it will go a long way in fighting the insurgence.

All politicians, irrespective of their status and political affiliations, who have been identified as financing Boko Haram, should be prosecuted according to the provision of the law. This is necessary because political motivation has been identified as one of the major factors responsible for Boko Haram insurgency. Politicians are believed to be using the sect to gain political power. Therefore, if politicians are prosecuted according to the law of the land, it will serve as deterrent to others as well as break the financial backbone of the sect. This will go a long way in curtailing insurgency in the country

Furthermore, Socio-economic deprivation and the severe wealth inequality among its people must be addressed by Nigerian government. If this is achieved, and Nigerian youths are positively engaged, sectarian violence will be reduced.

6. Summary/Conclusion

Boko Haram insurgency has heightened fears among Nigerians, especially those living in the northern part of the country. The activities of the sect have led to the death of many Nigerians and property worth millions of naira destroyed. Business ventures, shops and schools have been affected as a result of Boko Haram attacks on the populace. Recent occurrences such as killing and destruction of property in northern Nigeria clearly show that the state of insecurity in the north has assumed a frightening dimension. While it may be posited that insecurity is a global phenomenon, what is strange in the country is the seeming inability of the government to find lasting solution to the problem. The cliché of “security threat” has almost transformed to security collapse (Andekin 2011: 80). The issue of religion has always posed a serious challenge to the socio-economic development of the country. This is so

because no administration in Nigeria has ever enjoyed absolute support of both Islam and Christianity. In other words, government has always had to battle with one religious conflict or the other (Muhammed 2008: 124).

In conclusion, we wish to state emphatically that the persistence of corruption, collapse of public morality, injustice and unemployment could simply be attributed to the menacing activities of Boko Haram insurgence. In this wise, if our recommendations are properly implemented, the menacing activities of the sect will be curtailed.

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