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THE CONCEPT OF SOCIETY OPERATIONS IN NIGERIA

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ABSTRACT

Emerging securities in Nigeria has inevitably brought in both individual and collective security in Nigeria. The dilemma that Nigeria faces with insecurities call for a critical investigation of border entry points whether they are performing their strategic functions. There have been reported cases of child trafficking, economic insecurity, hostages taking that effects so many parts of Nigeria. This Social stigma and its uncontrollable rate in Nigeria have been blamed on government's neglects and insincere approach to eradicating these problems from the country. This paper seeks to address the prospects of best practices in management of security in Nigeria in order to facilitate and enhance the process or goals of development that has actually affected this country since its freedom from colonial domination. These and other issues as wrong, criminal, inconsistent and at variance with the norms and values in African tradition and culture. This paper which adopts the philosophical methods of concepts, critical analysis and evaluation of believe and their possible effects on the country has genuinely recommended that government within Nigeria should take bold and fearless steps to discourage trafficking of trafficking of children, kidnapping, hostage taking, among others that have actually made it almost impossible to attain comparative goals.

INTRODUCTION

Nigeria is completely empty if there ius absence of security among the citizens. It can never be attractive for investment with great and sincere heart if the virus of insecurity is not abrogated. This overview is an agonizing reappraisal by patriot of the causes and the effects of the economic woes in the country in terms of its security lapses. What are the problems that have actually made security operations in Nigeria a very weak and unstable exercise? And what are interplay of forces at work? The frustration arising from the ineffectiveness of security operations in the country is now of such magnitude that many are asking the previously unthinkable question: is there any hope? Particularly with the recalcitrant stand of the militant towards the security effort of the security agents. We are living witnesses to the killing of the Naval officers in Lagos recently by militant shortly after the release of Henry Okah, the leader of Movement of the Emancipation of Niger Delta (MEND). It must however be acknowledged that the federal government for a very long time neglected the Niger delta region regarding their expectations over the benefits that comes out of the sales of the oil that is the source of our National economy, political leaders of thought and state have also been at the Vanguard of projecting the pain of the people of their state over the loss of their oil wells and degradation of their environment. The question that engages the mind of realize is why the sudden desire on the part of government to ensure that there is peace and why is it not working? An attempt to examine these questions and few others becomes the focus of this paper. In its effort or bid to restore peace to the troubled areas of Nigeria, the Nigeria government since 1999, during the Obasanjo regime initiated some policy frameworks to promote peace operations in Nigeria, particularly in some trouble area of Niger Delta. Security agents for instance have been drafted to the area to ensure that there is peace and security to enhance the socio-economic activities of the people . again internal efforts have equally been made by leaders of the regions to promote peace/security but have only centered on the parochial approach of some of these leaders to achieve personal gain towards security operations. This has further exacerbated insecurity in some of the regions. The unwillingness and lack of genuine commitment of government to engage the services of security experts to tackle the problem of insecurity in Nigeria is another casual factor. The Nigeria government (leader) has long retrieved into their shells of assuming to know all and therefore have failed to fully engage the people in the day to day security operative areas through the efforts of the "Vigilante". Various analysts have at one time or the other pointed out their views regarding the poor security of the nation. They have not only explained the diversion of the genuine struggle/security operation

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to bad practices which has caused more damage to the system than the actual struggle by people that are seeking for justice. In as much as the analysts have aptly described the insecure state of the country, their views lack the substantive objective indicators of this paper. First, they failed to take on any genuine approach as advice towards ensuring a better security operation in Nigeria. Again, they were unable to project a better alternative to maintaining peace/security. This paper is therefore focused on some of the better alternatives on how security operations in Nigeria can be enhanced. This paper which focuses on these other issues argues; first, that the current wave of abduction, kidnapping, hostage-taking, indiscriminate sporadic shootings in the street and roads, killing innocent and aimless citizens including woman and children is a clear manifestation of insecurity in the land. Second, that digression has been made possible and sustained by illegal bunkering and arms dealing in some of the creeks and high seas; and third, that if not for the regular support the illegal bunkering and regular supply of sophisticated fire arms these divisionary militants would have ran out of arms and retired back to their hide out. This paper is based on the environmental theory, which assumes the impact of environmental degradation on human well being. Consideration of environmental issues as causes of political instability and conflict, this theory exposes the causes of the we3akness of security operation in Nigeria. For insincere roles of the stakeholders towards peace/security operation in their quarter. Sometimes when a huge amount of money is given to them As part of the contribution by multinational corporations like SHELL, AGIP etc to alleviate the sufferings of the people in a community where there is oil well, such money might be converted to some personal use at the expense of the masses which consequently leads to the impoverishment of the people of the region.

The concept of security

The persistent and constantly growing sophistication of security gadgets and mechanism towards enforcing peaces and security in some trouble spots of Nigeria has inevitably challenged the concept of security. This is as a result of the crisis of situation Nigeria faces in terms of insecurity of lives and property. In order therefore to be able to evaluate critically the logicality of security as it relates to its operation in Nigeria. Security could mean the means/procedures that can be adopted to prevent endangering the survival of the individual as well as the state. Again, it could equally be seen as synonymous to safety. Security could be seen as an integrated concept, not just at the level of values and interest. They are also at the level of social classes and geo politics as pointed out by Oboh Joseph et al (2009). Furthermore, the concept of security is an existing condition of peace and protection against danger and loss of life or property. The dictionary meaning of security, implies "the activities involved in protecting a country, building or person against attack, danger etc. (2000:1063). The opposite of security is insecurity that is currently being witness in different parts of our country today particularly the Niger Delta region. In military standpoint; it is a conditio0n of establishment and maintenance of protective measures that can guarantee inviolability from hostile acts or enemies. Certain forms that further add conceptual meaning to the meaning of security include the following:

1. Threat – it is usually a trigger method of a risk event that is often dangerous.
2. Risk – a possible event that could cause a loss.
3. Counter measure – Ways to stop a threat from triggering a risk event.
4. Defense – The concept of not relying on one security measure
5. Assurance – reasonable of guarantee that a security system will behave as expected.

These aforementioned terms are very imperative because they have inherent leakages to the concepts of border, management and national security. Security remains the platform upon which the political system is institutionalized in the state. A state of heightened security means that a threat has arisen and the very existence of that state is in a flux. Security can be categorized into two broad areas, they are traditional and human securities. For purpose of academic excellence and clarity, the need to look into them one after the other may be necessary.

Traditional Security: this form of security can be viewed from the realist construct of security where the referent object of security is the state. The dominance of this thought reached at its peak during the cold war. States within this period believed very vehemently in the concept of balance of power among contending states either in the EAST or WEST divides. The sovereignty of nation received undue emphasis with the concept of territorial integrity under traditional security. States were deemed to be rational entities driven by the desire for absolute power which manifested its ugly consequence by scramble for territories and other clandestine activities least beneficial to man-kind (Stephen Walt 1991:212), argues that security "may be defined as the study of the threat, use and control of military force. It explains the conditions that make the

use of force more likely, the ways that the use of force affects individual, states and societies and the specific policies that states adopt in order to prevent and engage in war". Here, it is assumed that the greates hindrance to national security is external components of threats. It is noted that in Africa, the greatest threat to national security have been intrastate conflict and not necessarily interstate conflict are intrastate Responding to those challenged of intrastate conflicts, Mohammed Ayoob (1997; 130) as quoted in Eselebor, A. W, 2008 strongly believes that intrastate conflict arise as a result of political institutional underdevelopment; "security or insecurity defined in relation to vulnerabilities, both internal and external that threatens to or have the potentials to bring down or significantly weaken state structures, both territorial and institutional. According to Ayoob, a problem needs to become politicized to have the potential to threaten the survival of the state. The politicization of crude oil in Nigeria as it is in Niger Delta region has sufficient tendencies to threaten the corporate existence of the Nigerian nation.

Human Security: This is a concept that is aligned to modern thoughts about global security, with emphasis on human safety and survival. It is antagonistic to traditional conception of security, though not discarding all about traditional security, but offering better alternative. Human security places much emphasis on the fact that referent objects should be the individuals, where the integrity of mankind is upheld. Its main targets are diseases, poverty, natural disaster, and violence rehabilitation of war victims, gender and human rights. These factors as noted here are live threatening issues that effectively constitute security challenges to nations globally and Nigeria in particular. Environmental degradation, struggles for control of scarce resources, bad governance and even energy appear to be a major push factor resulting in insecurities. In addition to understand the concept of security, Klare and Thomas as quoted in Eselebor, A. W, affirmed that security needs to be expanded obviously as result of reduction of geographical boundaries. Existing state actorb have been perceived as less able to respond to global problems of the environment and international financial crisis in currency. Messrs Klare and Thomas advocated world security conception to tackle global nature of security. Problems like many laundering, oil theft, illegal diamond trade, advance free fraud, identity fraud, human trafficking and a lot more. Klare and Thomas view global security as a closely related to human needs and human security. The inclusion of global problems is human rights abuse, economics crisis and ecological threats to respond to such emerging threats. Furthermore, Kenbooth as quoted in Eselebor, A. W. (2004) advocated the emancipation of the individual in human security. Emancipation means freeing people from those constrains that stop them from carry out what freely they would choose to do., of which war, poverty, oppression and poor education are a few. Security and emancipation proposal has both theory and practical that leads to stable security. Booth emancipation proposal has both intrinsic and emotional appeal, fell short certain tendencies as total emancipation of humanity could create a condition of anarchy where violence becomes the order of the day. The freedom that Nigeria currently enjoy is also tainted with pockets of agitation and emergence of resistant movement by some ethnic institution or rationalities.

Objectives: After what is considered to be a fairly long period of time of intensive experience with multifaceted peacekeeping and peace building as well as security operation toward enhancing a suitable environment devoid of trouble and crisis, analyst have come to the realization that establishing a secure and stable environment is one essential element for achieving a sustainable peace and security. As continued instability in Nigeria, particularly in the Niger Delta region impedes the restoration of normal lives for this region and the country in general. Examining with reviewed interest available tools to provide effective security that will bring about development and sustainable hope is therefore the focus of this paper. Security forces are considered indispensable for establishing security and often are also used to maintain law and order in peacekeeping and related operations. The objective of the paper therefore includes the following:
1. To examine emerging challenges of insecurities in Nigeria.
2. To determine factors that militates against effective security management and practices.
3. To ascertain possible options and best practices towards security operation in Nigeria.
4. Above all, to evaluate the flaws in the present conventional methods of Nigeria security operation.

Emerging Challenges of Insecurities in Nigeria
It is hoped and believed that where there is government the lives and properties of individuals are to a very large extent guaranteed and sustained. But security operations in Nigeria have not in any way help to preserve the lives and properties of the people. Securities operations in Nigeria have never really improved

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despite the fact that government has given enough money for security. The weaknesses of security of operations are notice among the following:

1. Communal and ethnic conflicts.
2. Religious intolerance and sporadic riots over trivial issues.
3. Persistent and reckless and robberies of individual, groups, banks etc.
4. Political assassination and murder of perceived political opponents
5. The emergence of ethnic militias as counter challenge to weak and unpopular regimes, arms struggling, dumping of contraband and counterfeit goods.
6. Internet and advance free fraud
7. Sea piracy and crude oil theft
8. Identify theft and document fraud.
9. Food insecurity as currently witnessed with global food shortages..

Factors Responsible for poor Security Operations in Nigeria

The problems with security operation in Nigeria are many and properties in Nigeria regardless of whatever that may be added including workforce, barriers. It is therefore informative to note the following problems controlling security operations in Nigeria.

1. Lack of motivation and welfare package.
2. Absence of highly sophisticated weapons.
3. Mass poverty and corruption.
4. Ineffective communication and sharing of information.
5. Inadequate and qualified man power.
6. More important, wavers lawbreakers.
7. Absence of security education and general awareness.

The Way Forward

Good security operations in Nigeria must be the genuine focus of every government to secure innocent citizens from frequent violations. The various stakeholders in the environment of operation must be consulted and be allowed to participate in security management. Massive build up of security agencies, military wares are some of the easy approaches proffered as solution borne of altruistic to security problems in Nigeria. Better security operations in Nigeria will be highly sustainable if the followings are taken into consideration:

(1) Regular consultation with key stakeholders in policy formulation, implementation and feedback.
(2) Facilitate legitimate movement while discarding barriers and obstacles to commerce.
(3) Help to ensure growth, peace and security in global economic development.

CONCLUSION

Security operations in Nigeria should assume a more serious dimension to enhance the standard of living of the people. Besides, there is the likelihood that people from different walks of life, globally might seek genuine interest towards seeing the need and relevance to invest in our country. This is because people will only be interested in investing their resources in an environment that is devoid of crisis and violence. So, the need for the security agents of our country vis-à-vis the sincere roles of the government towards arresting the crisis situation of our country will not only encourage investment, it will promote good neighbourliness and better human relations. In addition, the recommendation given in the piece will go a long way to enable the country witness rapid economic growth and development if implemented.

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