

CRIME, INSECURITY AND THE QUEST FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN NIGERIA

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ABSTRACT

The paper analyzed crime and insecurity in Nigeria and their implications on sustainable development. To achieve this objective, the study utilized secondary data and adopted a political economy approach based on the Marxist/Conflict Perspective as the framework of analysis. The paper posits that crime and insecurity are determined by the social relations of production in the society. The political economy that generates social inequality, unemployment, poverty and deprivation amongst men would ultimately lead to crime and various forms of insecurity in the society. The main argument of this paper is that crime and insecurity are aspects of class exploitation and the general structure of capitalist development. The paper concludes that it amounts to an illusion to believe that sustainable development goals can be achieved or attained in an atmosphere of crime and insecurity. The paper therefore recommends among others the redistribution of wealth, provision of infrastructures and social services such as employment, education, shelter, protective and supportive health care system sufficient to improve the standard of living of the people, insurance of social justice, good governance, rule of law, human rights to all Nigerians and fundamental change in the socio-economic structures of the society.

Keywords: *Crime, Security and Sustainable development*

Introduction

Crime and insecurity are major issues faced by all societies. Although Nigeria don't have cases of gun-shot compared to the United States of America or any other developed country but Durkheim says "crime is an inevitable social fact found in all societies in the world" and Nigeria cannot be an exception (Durkheim cited in Wolfgang et al, 1970). The state of insecurity in the country had reached an

alarming proportion that Nigerians could no longer move freely particularly in some parts of the country without the fear of being killed. The situation has reached to the level that there is no state in Nigeria that is not presently experiencing one form of criminality or the other. Armed street, residential and bank robberies, hotel and estate burglaries, kidnappings, armed banditry murder or

political assassination of political rivals, insurgency and terrorism, militancy, cultism, theft and vehicle snatching, sexual assaults, rape, corruption, fraud among others are crimes that Nigerians have learnt to live with (Abdullahi, 2013). Drug trafficking, advance fee fraud (419), human trafficking and money laundering have been particularly identified with Nigerian transnational criminal syndicates or networks (Dambazau, 2007). The insecurity takes the form of not just insurgency and terrorist attacks in the North East but militancy in the Niger Delta, massive theft of petroleum resources in the Niger delta, cult wars, kidnapping, pipeline vandalism, baby factories and selling of human parts and armed robberies that prevail in the south, the growing crisis of rural armed banditry and cattle rustling in the North West, growing inter-communal conflicts in the North central. Since the return to civil rule in May 1999, Nigeria had witnessed unprecedented increase in crime and insecurity (Abdullahi, 2013).

The reality of Nigeria's current situation is that crime and insecurity are the major impediments to economic growth and development and the living conditions of the underprivileged are becoming worse by the day. Nigeria has vast human and material resources, even though most of these resources are yet to be tapped, the few which are available for the nations use are not enough, given the nation's present population and human resources, so as to make life comfortable for the average Nigerian. More so, due to over-dependence on oil, the revenue from other areas such as iron and steel, liquefied natural gas, tin, coal etc. all of whose contributions to the gross national product has remained highly insignificant. The attention of government has been drawn to the potent danger which the nation's over-reliance on the oil sector poses to the economy, which has resulted in the loss of

billions of dollars. The recent revelation on high profile looting of Nigeria's resources by public office holders within the government fuel subsidy scheme continue to unfold as more investigation and attention is being drawn to the issue. More recently, the Auditor General of the Federation reveals that the NNPC did not remit 3.2 trillion Naira into the federation account which represents the overwhelming totality of corruption in Nigeria (Abdullahi, 2016). With the dwindling price of crude oil in the international market and in line with the Federal government moves to diversify the economy, efforts are also at top gear to harness other resources such as gold and bitumen believed to be the second largest in the world. Cocoa, palm kernel, ground nut and kola nut which were the major sources of foreign exchange before the discovery of oil appeared to have been revisited due to the encouragement of government through several inducements and motivation to farmers.

It is however rather unfortunate that, after fifty-seven years of independence (1960-2017) the yearnings and aspirations of both government and governed on sustainability of national development in the country have been elusive. Suffice to argue that the road to sustainable development in Nigeria seems to be a long one or even endless one culminating into so much work without getting to the desired end or destination. This is because of the fact that successive governments have floated different and quite a number of development plans with the first national development plan in 1962-1968, the second, third and fourth national development plans covered the periods of 1970-1974, 1975-1980 and 1981-1985 respectively. Other development plans initiated and implemented are; rolling plan by General Babangida, vision 2010 by late General Sani Abacha, National Economic Empowerment and Development Strategy (NEEDS) by President Obasanjo's

civilian government, 7-Point Agenda by late President Yar'Adua and the transformation agenda by President Goodluck Jonathan Administration. Yet the sustainability of national development still abound or even increases.

The supposed benefits expected to trickle down to the grassroots continue to elude the people despite the huge amount of investment towards this course. Apparently this unfortunate situation has to do with the inability, failure and mismanagement of scarce resource of both human and materials by the authorities concerned towards the realization of the sustainable development goals (Mohammed, 2015). Imobighe (1990) observes that Nigeria's experience at national resources management has been marked by inefficiency, corruption, pursuit of elitist taste, discriminatory utilization of the nation's talent, and the penetration of multi-national corporations in the economy. Mohammed (2015) argues that corruption and insecurity are intricately connected with the way and manner some government officials plunder and mismanage the scarce resources that were designed to create favorable atmosphere for national development. He argues further that corruption is one of the major crimes that ruined national security and development and it does so by distorting the rule of law weakening the institutional foundation of economic growth. Moreover it also affects growth predominantly through its effect on the level of investment and hampers a country's ability to attract investment. There is growing feeling that corruption undermines development by lining the pockets of dishonest persons with development funds. According to president Obasanjo, corruption compromises national development, contaminates collective morality and values, distorts national planning, corrodes integrity and discipline and destroys the foundation of creativity innovation and democratic structure

and development (Obasanjo cited in Dambazau, 2007). Crime is one of the major factors associated with underdevelopment. The reasons are not farfetched because of the way it lowers or discourages investment level and destroys human and social capital, damages relationship between citizens and the state, and thus undermine democracy and the ability of the state to promote development.

It is based on the above submission that this paper is divided into five (5) sections. The first section is the clarification on the concepts of crime, insecurity and sustainable development. The second section presents the theoretical framework. The third section presents the causes of crime and insecurity in Nigeria. The fourth section provides the implications of crime and insecurity on national development. The last section is the conclusion and recommendations.

Conceptual clarifications

Crime is a relative concept; which means that there is no absolute way of defining crime; for whether an act is considered as crime or not differs from place to place and from time to time. An act may be a crime only in relation to the legal codes of a particular group or society. However, crime has been defined as an offence or any act or omission, which renders the person doing the act or making the omission liable to punishment. Crime is legally defined as an act prohibited by the criminal law and punishable by fine, imprisonment or even death (Dambazau, 2007). Caldwell and Nardini (1977) defined crime as any act or omission which the law forbids and for which it prescribes punishment to be administered by the state through a proceeding in its own name. In effect then the law says that there are certain kinds of conduct which are considered so detrimental to society, as judged by the dominant values, that action regarding them must be taken by organized

society in a regular definite way and not entrusted to private initiative. Moreover since society in its corporate capacity enacts the criminal laws, any violation of them, regardless of what form it may take-whether for example, it be treason, murder, burglary, prostitution or sodomy-is an act against the state and even if an individual takes no action, opposes official action or tries to conceal the crime, the state can and may impose charges against the alleged criminal or criminals. In other words, in every crime the state is always the primary victim regardless of the nature of criminal act or the circumstances which it is committed.

This paper however adopts the legal definition of crime as an intentional act of commission or omission in violation of the criminal law (statutory or case law) committed without defense or justification and sanctioned by the state as felony or misdemeanor (Ozo-Eson, 2004). This legal definition gives an indication of various factors that must be considered before an act can be classified as a crime. It should be noted however that this definition is sometimes at variance with the popular definitions. Some acts that are defined by law as criminal may not be so defined by the public (for instance gambling, prostitution, street trading, street begging, etc). Similarly some acts may be considered abhorrent, undesirable and criminal by the public which may not be so considered by law.

Security may be defined as freedom or protection from danger, worry or measures taken to guarantee the safety of a country, persons or anything of value. It is the ability to provide reasonable protection and safety for lives and acquired valuables or property. Insecurity may therefore be considered as lack of freedom from danger to life and property and the presence of non-conducive atmosphere for the people to pursue their legitimate interest and business within the

society. Human security is about how people live and breathe in a society; how safely and freely they can exercise their many choices; how much access they have to markets and social opportunities; whether they live in conflict or peace; and how confident they can feel that the opportunities they enjoy one day will not be totally lost. Insecurity therefore has to do with anything that constitutes danger to a country's territory, the lives of its people, its political, economic and social system and its sovereignty as well as undermine relationship of various communities that make up the nation or the peaceful coexistence of its people. It is a state of society where people don't enjoy the rights and freedoms guaranteed by the rule of law and a safe society (Abdullahi, 2016). An unsecure society is one in which neither life nor property is safe and in which vast numbers of the people live their lives under more or less continuous threat of criminal victimization in the present and are full of grave doubts about the future of their society, themselves and offerings.

The terms national development and sustainable development are used interchangeably. Sustainable development therefore has been defined as the ability of a country or countries to improve the social welfare of the people such as providing social amenities like quality education, portable water, infrastructural facilities and medical care to mention but a few. This means that national development must involve the aggregation of natural resources of the country for the general wellbeing of the citizenry in terms of their social and economic development. Raji (1999) opined that national development should be conceptualized in terms of progress in three major dimensions: economic, political and social or moral dimension. He argues that national development must centre on people and their quality of lives in the society. He contended

that national development entails producing more and better food to eat, healthier and happier individuals, better living accommodation, improved transportation and communication system, sound education and enlightenment among the populace and generally more money floating around (Raji, 1999 cited in Mohammed, 2015). Thus national or sustainable development has been defined as the improvement in the general wellbeing of the citizenry in terms of their social, political and economic advancement. It can be described as the process of development that moves from one stage to another and continue from generation to generation. It is also called long term development.

Theoretical framework

The framework of analysis adopted in this paper is the Marxist/Conflict perspective which sees crime and insecurity as aspects of social phenomena that can only be understood and explained in terms of the material conditions of society – the way the society organizes the production, distribution and exchange of goods and services. The material conditions of society determine the behavior of its members and the kind of actions that would produce at any given point in time and situation (Umar, 2014). In other words, once we understand what the material assets and constraints of the society are, how the society produces goods to meet its material needs, how the goods are distributed and what types of social relations arise from the organization of production, we have come a long way to understanding the culture of that society, its laws, its religious system, its political system and even its mode of thought (Ake, 1981).

In analyzing the issue of crime and insecurity in Nigeria, we are particularly interested in the emerging capitalist societies in which the state is the principal instrument

for financing the development of the indigenous capitalist class. Unlike the emerging capitalist class in Europe which benefited from the plunder, enslavement and exploitation of the third world peoples, the capitalist class in Nigeria depends to a large extent on state patronage for its strength. Consequently the state through its policies and programmes create avenues for the transfer of public wealth into private hands of the indigenous class. Rooted in the unequal relationship of social classes to the means of production and exchange as well as to the state machinery, exploitation expands the wealth and privileges of the dominant class through the simultaneous impoverishment of the actual producers- the peasants, workers, artisans and self employed petty traders (Nkom,1982). In a situation where access to economic wealth, political power, prestige and other privileges are not evenly distributed, many especially the ambitious and the unscrupulous would resort to the use of criminal and corrupt practices to achieve these ends. We have an endless list of criminal behaviors now accepted and perpetuated in the promotion of elite imagery such as corruption, large scale financial embezzlement, examination malpractices and racketeering in certificates, abuse of political power, impersonation, favoritism and nepotism in the distribution of public offices. Each of these corrupt practices aims either at acquiring wealth, power and prestige or some kind of social advantage.

The imbalance in power structure is the direct effect of one group striving hard to retain perpetual political advantage over the other. Nkom (1982) argues that the process of acquiring wealth, power, status and prestige is highly rooted in the individuals economic strength so that only those who have the money can afford it, whether they are credible or not. This scenario has not only alienated the masses or the people who constitute the

majority but also seriously undermine traditional moral norms and values. The consequences of this are incredible and the morally bankrupt individuals end up in high positions of authority. In line with these views, Umar (2014) argues that the focal concern of the capitalist is private accumulation of wealth. Here personal work in terms of self esteem is not measured by the individual's adherence to religious, societal morals but by their individual monetary worth. This is irrespective of whether the source of that wealth was good or bad. The situation encourages political office holders to dump their people in their bid to acquire more wealth so as to garner respect from the people. When and if this wealth were successfully acquired, the political class and their collaborators turn round to oppress the people with their flamboyant lifestyle.

The capitalist development in Nigeria is characterized by structural imbalance with manifestations of some features of inequality, unemployment, poverty, injustice and inhumanity thereby could be responsible for the occurrences of social problems such as crime and insecurity. Capitalism encourages and perpetuates crime and insecurity by extolling precisely those bourgeois instincts such as greed, materialism and desire to take advantage of other people. Bala Usman argues that the root cause of crime and insecurity in Nigeria is to be found in the capitalist organization of production which is based on individualism, materialism and large scale transfer of socially produced wealth into private hands of a decadent ruling class (Nkom, 1982). The political and economic arrangement in a capitalist society is such that there is an unequal access to power among the citizens to the extent that only a small group of elites can have it (Umar, 2014). Power is acquired not for the improvement of the quality of life of majority of the people but for the self aggrandizement of the tiny group

of those in positions of authority and their cronies or collaborators (Ake, 1981).

In line with these views Nkom (1982) argues that crime and insecurity involves an alliance between the domestic exploiting class in both private and public sectors and their international patrons. He argues further that corruption is predominantly an elite affair. It is a known fact that those most successful smugglers, treasury looters, foreign exchange traffickers and twenty or forty per centers in our society are members of rich and powerful class who do not only have the opportunity to misappropriate but also the power to cover up their criminal deals. Most of the corrupt transactions cannot be carried out without the knowledge and full cooperation of some junior officers in both private and public sectors. It is these junior officers who sometimes get caught and punished while their counterparts either escape entirely or are merely retired from service, only to emerge soon after as very successful businessmen and politicians. To this end, crime and insecurity ceases to be a moral offence against an abstract and undefined public interest but a theft of people's wealth. A society which sanctions struggles for property, wealth and economic self aggrandizement provides fertile ground for crime and insecurity and no amount of draconian legislation devoid of the fundamental restructuring of the material basis of society could eliminate crime and insecurity. Umar (2014) suggested that the welfare of the majority of the people must be put in the front burner and this concerns massive eradication of poverty, unemployment, hunger, diseases etc and building massive quality infrastructures as well as removing social inequality and injustice from the system.

Causes of crime and insecurity in Nigeria

Available literature indicates that crime and insecurity are caused by unemployment,

poverty, social and economic conditions, corruption, urbanization, modern technology, materialism or emphasis on material wealth, greed, social inequality, frustration or any other phenomena in any given society or the increasingly, globalized world at large. Today, graduates hardly secure jobs in formal sectors of the economy, public and private. The public sector complains of over-staffing and dwindling budgetary allocations while the private sector grapples with high cost of doing business, reorganization, restructuring and consolidation as justification for non-recruitment of graduates (Khalid, 2018). Thus, a large number of able bodied Nigerians are roaming the streets without jobs thereby making them idle, hungry and easy prey for all manner of anti-social behaviors including crimes. For instance the national unemployment rate was officially about 12% of the working population in 2006. The figure has increased to 23.9% in 2011 compared to 21.1% in 2010, 19.7% in 2009, 14.9% in 2008 and 12.7% in 2007. The most current unemployment estimate was put at 30%. Youth unemployment in particular rose to 54% in 2012 and is still going high. According to NBS (2018), there are 7.9 million Nigerian youths aged 15-34 that are currently unemployed. Though, the active population in the country increased by 0.5% within the period, over 2.9 million graduates and another 5 million semiskilled workers also lose their jobs within this period. The report also revealed that 58.1% of youth who are currently working are underemployed (Khalid, 2018). Hence, the increase rate of crime and insecurities and most significantly, an extremely unstable socio-economic challenges that have hitherto been bedeviling Nigeria.

Poverty has to do with the situation in which people lack the means to satisfying their basic needs such as adequate nutritious food, clothing, housing, clean water and health services (Abdullahi, 2017). Relative poverty is

the condition of having fewer resources or less income than others within a society or country or compared to worldwide averages. In spite of her abundant human and material resources, Nigeria has been regarded as one of the poorest countries with high level of misery, incomes have declined sharply, malnutrition rates have raised uncontrollably, food production hardly kept tempo with high population growth, the capacity and value of health and education services have not improved (Agba Maina, 2016). The rising profile of poverty in Nigeria is assuming a worrisome proportion as empirical studies have shown that 70.8% of Nigerians live below poverty line of \$1 per day and up to 92.4% live below \$2 dollar per day (Mohammed, 2015). Thus, the level of poverty in Nigeria remains steadily on the increase. This has led to the corresponding increase in crime and insecurity, youth violence, drug trafficking and abuse, armed robbery, assassination, kidnappings, human trafficking, ritual killings, cultism, prostitution and other forms of socio-political and economic insecurities are increasingly becoming fashionable avenues of escaping from clutches of poverty (Mohammed, 2015). Social deprivation is another serious cause of crime and insecurity in the country especially where the youths see that they are being deprived of what should rightly belong to them. The unending crisis in the Niger Delta is as result of deprivation where youth of the region see that the oil gotten from their communities brings only hardship and sorrows to them and their people. To get even and make their voices heard, they take to crime and in the end, the destruction is untold (Agba, Maina, 2016).

When the economy is buoyant it has positive effects on the citizens and when the economy is down –negative consequences follow. Considering the present socio-economic condition in the country, it is a pity to see that majority of Nigerians finds it

difficult to get three square meals a day. It is often said that though this is not empirically grounded that “a hungry person is an angry person”. If one does not eat, he will be unable to work. Besides, people are not satisfied with what they receive as wages and salaries because they cannot provide their family needs, as such they will look for other ways to make ends meet. At least to some, to achieve this, they will resort to crime. Also the general scarcity of goods and the current increase in the price of petroleum products with its adverse effects on the cost of living will lead many to different kind of insecurities. It is a common knowledge that the conditions of development under which we are now living especially the capitalist or the mixed economy type and the patterns of industrialization and urbanization we copy from the West all lead to certain social and economic problems such as unemployment, poverty, inflation, malnutrition and poor housing conditions which give rise to different kinds of misdemeanors including crime and insecurity (Odekunle, 1978).

Corruption is a crime itself as well as a determinant of crime and insecurity. Corruption as a crime is found not only in the developing countries like Nigeria but also in the developed countries of Western Europe and America, although it varies from one place to another. Corruption takes a variety of forms and encourages criminal acts as a result of its ability to encourage dishonesty, theft and violence in the society. According to Ilorah (2004) corruption takes the form of bribe, undue gratification, fraud, embezzlement, extortion, favoritism, nepotism, inflation of contracts in return for kickbacks, misappropriation of public funds, falsification of accounts, pervasion of justice by organs of criminal justice system, financial and economic crimes such as over-invoicing of goods, hoarding, smuggling, foreign exchange swindling, drug trafficking and adulteration,

tax evasion, money laundering, forgery, arson, prostitution and any other related immoralities. A corrupt environment tends to produce individuals with the whole idea of get-rich-quick thereby enhancing crime and insecurity (Ilorah, 2004 cited in Abdullahi, 2013).

Urbanization is seen in terms of a situation when the rate of increase in the urban population exceeds the regional rate of increase, especially with considerable margin. At 5.3% the rate of urbanization in Nigeria is said to be among the highest in the world. It has been argued that as urbanization increases so does crime in these areas increases. The determinants of crime and insecurity in urban areas would include such socio-economic and demographic variables such as rural-urban migration, population explosion, urban slum, poverty, overcrowded settlements and traffic congestion. The rapid rates of urbanization combine with elements of population density, cultural clash and population size promotes various social interactions including crime and insecurity (Dambazau, 2007; Abdullahi; 2013). Related to this factor, is the increase in crime and insecurity as a result of the breakdown of traditional and community values that recognize the dignity of labor, hard work, sense of communalism and respect for humanity which has been jettisoned by persons who choose the path of criminality and brigandage. Modern technology has influence on criminal behavior, especially on high profile crimes, such as bank and securities fraud; communication, particularly mobile phone and computer crimes, and other crimes relating to embezzlement of public funds. The majority of cases of advance fee fraud, counterfeiting, cyber crimes and money laundering, involve taking the advantage of modern technology. Modern technology provides individual offenders and criminal groups with easier access to systems, premises, goods and

information; removes geographical obstacles to crime; increases the scale of bounty from criminal offences; maximize anonymity; and enhance the ability of offenders to avoid detection (Peil, 1977 cited in Abdullahi, 2013).

By close observation, it has been seen that increase in crime and insecurity has been as a result of society's emphasis on materialism or material wealth by both men and women folk. Every person wants to raise his or her social status by acquiring wealth by all means either hook or crook. This has led many Nigerians into all kinds of criminal activities. With the present situation in Nigeria today people worship wealth. Parents have become obsessed with the quest for material wealth at the expense of moral upbringing of their children, which is one of the major causes of crime and insecurity among youths. The rich men flaunt their ill-gotten wealth everywhere thereby creating a psychological problem of lack of fulfillment for some members of society. With this psychological problem, some people have no other means of fulfilling their own dream than to look for wealth at all cost which may lead to crime. Dambazau (1994) observes that in Nigeria wealth is not only glorified, it is worshipped. Whether the wealth is acquired through armed or unarmed robbery or by some other criminal means is not important to the society; what is important is to be rich. Furthermore, rich men are duly honored everywhere irrespective of their source of wealth.

Greed is another factor that leads to crime and insecurity. The word greed has been explained to mean excessive desire especially for food or wealth. Ekumankama (2002) defined greed as that excessive uncontrolled burning passion to have more of anything than one really needs or desires. The desire to gain or possess everything not only to one's detriment but to others is an act of wickedness borne out of greed. Most greedy people don't mind their course of action

involving their life and life of others. Greed is the bane of our society and crime and insecurity are mere forms and manifestations of greed. The system we operate as a nation does not only permit greed in its various forms but the operators of the system do actually by their lives and work, encourage, promote and cherish it. Most people who are in position of power are so greedy that they would not think of living a penny behind. Late Tai Solarin once said "that America is a country where the ruler would eat the fowl and leave the chicken for others who are coming, but Nigeria is a country where the leader would eat the fowl; eats the chicken and the egg so that others who are coming would not meet anything" (Ekumankama, 2002). The greed syndrome is not applicable to government establishments alone. It is also the case with private sectors. The insider actor in the bank who colludes with fraudsters to steal or defraud the bank is affected by the greed. The victim who gives out money to money doublers and the doublers themselves are both greedy. As far as the doublers are concerned status notwithstanding they can dupe anybody that comes their way as long as he/she exhibits a measure of greed and avarice. The conmen simply take advantage of the vice and play on the intelligence of the naïve victims who cannot understand that it is simply impossible to make quick money through such a cheap means.

Frequently it has been shown that crime and insecurity are derived from social inequality particularly from people of lower class than those of the upper class. The latter have a way of circumventing the law; they are rarely caught by the police and referred to court, they have ways of avoiding imprisonment. Even before they are caught, they would have acquainted themselves with influential people in the society to pervert the law. They could hire proficient lawyers who will find loopholes in their cases; therefore the

prosecutor cannot prove his case beyond all reasonable doubts (Aguene, 1999). Thus we are faced with the unpleasant of recognizing that a certain class of people in our society, is more exposed to the risk of being involved in crime, they are more likely to be arrested upon apprehension, they are more likely to be convicted upon arrest, they are less likely to receive probation and parole, and they are more likely to receive longer prison sentence. The wide inequality between the rich and poor in Nigeria is the root cause of all types of crime and insecurity. Most armed robbers caught in the urban centers have been quoted to say that they went into robbery because of their relegated position in the country's social strata. Notorious robbers like the late Anini, Onyenusi and Osunbor in the 1990s fall into this category.

Frustration is another factor that contributes to crime and insecurity. Whenever an individual is blocked from achieving a particular goal and tried his/her effort to achieve it but failed, the person is frustrated. Many people become frustrated due to a number of reasons; some because they lose their jobs or a beloved ones; others because they are disappointed by a lover; some because they have failed their exams or they are withdrawn from school, as a result they feel dejected and become depressed. The result is that they become frustrated. In order to overcome this painful situation they start using hard drugs which in turn leads to crime and insecurity. Thus many desperate Nigerians take on crime to display their frustration, desperation and hopelessness. Though taking on crime for any reason whatsoever is absolutely unjustifiable, yet the amount of the sense of frustration caused by an entrenched culture of crude injustice, monumental theft, impunity and other hope crushing vices, is huge enough to render an increasing number of people hopeless and desperate hence behave accordingly.

Implications of crime and insecurity on National Development

Crime undermines the social fabric of society, by first eroding the sense of safety and security. Crime impact on society in a variety of ways depending on the nature and extent of crime committed. Generally the impact of crime is in terms of costs and consequences; the costs of crime to society include social, psychological and economic costs. In terms of the social costs of crime, it can safely be argued that social activities are usually reduced to a minimum in localities, neighborhoods or communities characterized by high rate of crime. Because of the perceived likelihood of criminal victimization in such localities, social life tends to suffer in many ways. In terms of psychological costs, it is considered fact that crime creates avoidable stress and turmoil in the family of the criminal. The spouse who knows that the police may be calling at her home at any time (even at odd hours) for her criminal husband will hardly be at ease mentally or psychologically. Furthermore, criminal victimization does produce psychological trauma as in the case of victim who suffered aggravated assault, rape or violent robbery (Igbo, 2006).

In terms of economic costs, it is well known that in localities infested with high volume of criminal activity especially gang criminality, the monetary value of loses and damages caused by criminal victimization can be staggering. Direct criminal victimization often times leads to monetary and material loses and damages as in the case of stealing, robberies, arson and vandalism etc. It may also lead to physical bodily injuries torture or even death as in the case of person crimes such as murder, assaults, rape manslaughter etc. These victimization experiences often result in financial expense/losses to the individual and his family incurred in the course of medical treatment and the like. Criminal victimization always involves varying degrees

of risks of loss of property or life on the part of the victim. When death is involved it may well be bread winner who has been lost. This also amounts to a loss of economic income to the family concerned. Criminal victimization may also involve loss of employment or earning in cases that involve prolonged hospitalization or periods of convalescence, where employers cannot condone absenteeism on medical grounds. Person crimes may also result in physical deformity or permanent handicap on the part of crime victim who is thereby deprived normal opportunity for wage unemployment. Many employers operate employment policies that discriminate against disabled and handicapped persons (Igbo, 2006). Thus crime impose considerable social psychological burden on society.

The incidence of insecurity as a result of corruption, suicide bombing, murder, terrorism, kidnapping, ethno-religious political crises with their attendant violence and destruction of lives and properties have all become antithetical to the process of development in Nigeria. The challenge is that Nigerian democracy disunites the people and insecurity is intensively encouraged by the political actors within government and by the opposition. The resultant effect is wasted of the citizen lives and property with reckless abandon. Insecurity, just like crime exacts a toll in human and material resources. Nigeria loses more monetarily, economically, politically and socio-morally from crime and insecurity. Odekunle (1979) argues that crimes such as collusive price-fixing, fraud misrepresentation or adulteration of drugs and food products and other forms of consumer exploitation victimize the public and often impose additional hardships on Nigerians least able to afford them. Theft or embezzlement of valuable state or corporate property provokes material damage by stopping production, wasting raw materials, machines etc. And loses such as these, being

cumulative may not be clearly apparent or measurable in the short run but their repercussions may interfere with sustainable development goals and objectives.

One of the implications of insecurity is the loss of manpower which must be present for any national development to be sustainable. In other words insecurity affects manpower and their potentialities toward sustainability of national development. To buttress this point the insecurity particularly the spate of militancy, kidnapping cases, cultism, oil bunkering, pipeline vandalization and theft among other security and development challenges have no doubt caused not only people of the Niger Delta region but the whole nation a lot of dislocations and fractures, socially, politically, economically and otherwise. The Boko Haram insurgency has led to the displacement of over 2 million Nigerians in the three states of Adamawa, Borno and Yobe. It was estimated that 9 million people have been affected by the insurgency and about one third of who are acutely in need of humanitarian assistance. In addition, over 1 million Nigerians have fled to neighboring countries; Chad is reportedly hosting 10,000 refugees and approximately 20,000 refugees have been displaced to Diffa region in Niger Republic (Nwosumba, 2016). Closely related to these implications is the diversion of government attention from execution of people oriented programmes that will enhance their capability and capacity to contribute their quota toward the sustainability of national development. As a result of the militancy in the Niger Delta region and the menace of Boko Haram insurgency in the North East, Nigeria loses huge sums of human and material resources that would have been an added advantage to the nation's growth, security and development. Resources are being channeled into reconstruction and rehabilitation efforts in order to repair damage caused by

insecurity. For instance hundreds of billions of Naira that would have otherwise been used for the provision of physical and social infrastructure, job creation and poverty alleviation have gone in the task of provision and distribution of relief materials, as well as resettlement and rehabilitation of refugees or internally displaced persons; provision of security to arrest further escalation in virtually all the states of the federation. President Buhari himself confirms this fact as he reveals during the Malta 2015 Commonwealth Heads of Government meeting (CHOGM) that about 100,000 souls have been lost to terrorism for 6 years now (Nwosumba, 2016).

Decay of infrastructural facilities is another negative effect of insecurity on national development. Achumba et al (2013) observed that insecurity destroys existing infrastructures and also prevent an environment for the development of infrastructure and a safe environment for economic activities by individuals to give them economic empowerment that will enable households not only to cater for their present generations but also to provide for future generations. Closure of industries is also an ugly effect of insecurity on national development. In other words insecurity makes the investment climate very stormy and as a consequence, capital flight, closure of industries and under capacity utilization reared their ugly heads with concomitant decline in the state's economy. In Aba for example, the Nigeria Breweries limited (NBL), 7UP Plc, Unilever Plc and Paterson Zochonis (PZ) relocated to Enugu largely due to constant kidnapping of their expatriate staff. Thus the decline in foreign investment in Nigeria as a result of insecurity when combined with the effects of global economic meltdown has caused the closing down of tens of thousands of factories in Nigeria (Omoyibo and Akpomera, 2012 cited in Mohammed, 2015). In line with this submission, the

manufacturers Association of Nigeria (MAN) revealed that in the last four years more than 79 companies have closed shop in textile subsector as a result of inadequate supply of electricity, water, roads to mention but a few (Mohammed, 2015).

Insecurity has adversely affected the economy. Successive governments have made tremendous efforts to promote foreign direct investment (FDI) in the country. However, government's efforts in this regard have not yielded high dividends largely due to the prevailing insecurity coupled with weak socio-economic infrastructure. FDIs have come in trick less despite the fact that the rate of returns are comparatively higher in Nigeria than most of the Asian countries that have continued to enjoy greater patronage. Insecurity has also negative consequences for Nigeria's international Image. The propensity of some Nigerians to engage in criminal activities worldwide, which range from advance fee fraud, drug peddling, human trafficking and prostitution has earned the country a high degree of notoriety for everything negative and the drive to make money by the most fraudulent means. As a result of consistent insecurity in the country, many countries have began to issue travel warning to their citizens about the dangers involved in traveling and doing business in some parts of the country. Precisely, the United States warned American citizens of the risk of coming to Nigeria, with particular emphasis to Akwa Ibom, Bayelsa, Delta, Rivers, Abia, Edo, Imo, Jos, Bauchi, Gombe, Yobe and Borno which has grave consequences for sustainable development in the country (Mohammed, 2015).

Conclusion and Recommendations

From the foregoing it is clear that security is a pre-condition for development. It is only when there is security that we can have development, because without peace and

security, no meaningful socio-economic or political development can take place in any society. We must also bear in mind that security is for the individual, it is only when the individual is secured that the nation is secured. Thus for Nigeria to develop, people need to feel safe and secure walking on the streets and must feel protected from any loss to life and property as well as national values and culture. Crime and insecurity must be related to the society's level of development of the material production. When society's development provides the necessary infrastructures e.g. employment, education, shelter, protective and supportive healthcare system to secure for citizens a responsible life and existential assurance, most of the crimes and insecurities that subvert sustainable development goals would be significantly reduced.

The paper argues that crime and insecurity of whatsoever kind and shape constitutes a big clog in the wheel of progress of any country. The various acts of crime and insecurity have negative impact on society. In this sense crime and insecurity are antithesis to sustainable development. Thus this paper reveals that unemployment, poverty, social and economic conditions, corruption, urbanization, breakdown of traditional and community values, modern technology, emphasis on material wealth, greed, social inequality and frustration among others leads to crime and insecurity which constitute threat and as a consequence hinders business activities, discourages local and foreign investors and diversion of government attention from the provision of infrastructures, poverty alleviation and employment generation programmes, all of which stifles and retards the nation's progress towards sustainable development. It is in the light of this reality that this paper contends that although development of whatever nature may not totally eradicate crime and insecurity, no

meaningful development can be attained in the midst of pervasive crime and insecurity. This study therefore makes the following recommendations to guarantee sustainable development:

1. In order to reduce crime and insecurity in Nigeria, there is need for the redistribution of wealth, provision of infrastructures and social services such as education, shelter, protective and supportive health care system sufficient to improve the standard of living of the people, insurance of social justice, good governance, rule of law, human rights to all Nigerians and fundamental change in the socio-economic structures of the society.
2. The system of penalties to crime and insecurity as well as the system of rewards to good behavior and commendable conduct should be strengthened. No matter the status of the person involved, acts of crime and insecurity should be appropriately penalized and acts of good conduct should not be overlooked or disregarded but genuinely rewarded. It is felt that to do otherwise is to undermine the moral tune of the nation.
3. The increase in crime and insecurity was due to the absence of a legal framework to severely and effectively punish criminals which contributed to the inability of the country to make much progress in tackling the menace. Government should therefore take measures that will severely punish criminals including terrorists and insurgents to serve as deterrence to others.
4. Government should adequately fund and equip security agencies across the country to enable them cope with crimes and other security challenges. There

- should be a comprehensive motivational welfare package for personnel of the police forces and other security agencies as well as enhance and provide adequate funding for contemporary and futuristic manpower training programmes of the police and other security agencies.
5. Government should map out a strategic plan to restructure the economy to survive without crude oil. There is the need to rapidly ramp up non-oil exports as the future earnings from crude oil faces significant head winds. Government should vigorously pursue the medium and long term strategic plans aimed at stimulating and increasing deliberate funding intervention to small and medium enterprises in the non oil sector for attainment of the sustainable development goals.
 6. The need for social security policy in Nigeria has become highly imperative especially given the increasing poverty and youth unemployment across the country. Government should provide a comprehensive social security scheme such as the payment of monthly allowance as social security benefit to the poor and unemployed youths which would go a long way to reduce insecurity including crimes.
 7. Youth empowerment and engagement remain the only panacea to tackle poverty and unemployment by providing the enabling social conditions that will alleviate poverty and create job opportunities that narrow the gap between the rich and poor in order to ensure peace and harmony in the land. A greater weight must be placed on the provision of basic infrastructures and amenities, employment generation and poverty alleviation to ensure economic security as well as physical security.
 8. In order to reduce crime and insecurity, government should strive to give an equitable sense of belonging and equal opportunities to all segments of Nigerian society. In addition to the current government efforts at redressing perceived marginalization, government should be determined to ensure equity, justice and fairness in the distribution of posts or employment opportunities, infrastructural facilities and services across the country by pursuing economic and social policy options that will reduce crime and insecurity, while ensuring sustainable development.
 9. Government should put in place appropriate state of the art and modern security equipment for the police to be able to deal seriously and adequately with crimes. Among other things, the police should be equipped with up-to-date computers, finger print machines, forensic laboratories and computerized crime centers. The modern security device such as Closed Circuit Television (CCTV) cameras should be installed on major streets, government institutions, ministries, banks, commercial houses and other public places to strengthen the security in urban centers as well as prevent and detect crime.
 10. In order to encourage members of the public to furnish the police with information on criminal activities, the police should engage the services of informants to blow whistle on anything or anyone likely to pose a security threat. However the identities of the informants must be protected and be well rewarded either in cash or in kind if the information given is genuine. The informant should not be made to suffer legally or otherwise just because he or she gives information to help the police.

11. The increase in crime and insecurity in the country has been attributed to the uneven distribution of wealth, corrupt, greedy and selfish leaders at all levels of government who have no genuine plans to improve the welfare of the citizens. Government should reduce inequalities by giving equal opportunities for everyone to earn a living. The society should de-emphasize the adulation of wealth as the real mark of success regardless of its source. Nigerians whose life style, personal spending and wealth acquisition are not apparently justified by their normal income should be arrested and investigated. The curtailment of greed and corruption among the leadership and other politicians would ensure sanity and a crime free society.
12. The current level of crime and insecurity were as a result of the inability of successive governments to address the issue of corruption decisively. Government should exhibit profound political will in fighting corruption and other crimes by non-interference with the operations of anti-corruption agencies and other regulatory authorities. Nigerians who enriched themselves through corrupt means should be prosecuted by the anti-corruption agencies irrespective of their status. The era of impunity is over no matter how long the crime has been committed, corrupt people must be brought to book.
13. In order to rid the society of crime and insecurity, governments should embark on massive education and public enlightenment programmes on the dangers of extremism and criminalities as a preventive measure towards the acquisition of right values of hard work, discipline, patriotism, selfless service etc. It is also necessary to embark on advocacy visits, use of town criers, radio and television programmes to deliver messages of peace, security and development.
14. Governments should assist the youths in the country to resist temptations associated with crime and insecurity through sporting activities which will encourage them to channel their energies into productive ventures. Government should encourage the youths to take interest in sporting activities by providing sports and recreational facilities as well as support for club sporting activities in all states of the federation and Abuja in order to promote peace, security and unity in the entire country.
15. The high rates of crime and insecurity in the country have been linked to the failure of police to conduct criminal investigations which are rarely provided with budgetary allocations. Therefore government should pay more attention by providing sufficient funds to make criminal investigations more effective if the issue of crime prevention and control must be taken with all seriousness it deserves.

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