

# Youth Restiveness and Leadership Problem in Nigeria

African Journal of Stability & Development  
Vol 16 No. 2, Dec. 2024  
pp. 371-389

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## Abstract

Youth restiveness has escalated in contemporary Nigeria, becoming a source of national concern. Unfortunately, Nigeria cannot thrive and make any meaningful progress if it continues to be plagued by youth restiveness. Being the most populous country in Africa and one of the most populous nations globally, Nigeria has a higher population of young people, that are restive than most countries of the world. Nigeria's peace, security, progress and unity as a nation are under siege due to this phenomenon. However, the causes of youth's restiveness are linked to unemployment, lack of basic and quality education, inadequate provision of welfare package, lack of infrastructural facilities, inequality and lack of other basic social amenities. The increased and negative effects of youth restiveness are present everywhere in Nigeria today as kidnapping, ritual killings, militancy, crimes, violence, bombing, destruction of government properties, cultism, armed robbery and political instability, among a host of others, bedevil the country. However, in some ways, youth

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restiveness could be linked to the failure and bad leadership style in Nigeria. The conflict theory will be used to explain threatening situations like war, killings, revolution, domestic violence, cybercrime and others. It is however pathetic that successive governments in Nigeria have failed to provide solutions to this menace through the provision of basic and quality education to teaming Nigeria youths, as well as employment opportunities, and other effective empowerment programmes. This study argues that for us to curtail and control youth restiveness in Nigeria, the government should harness youth skills and talents, ensure the provision of employment opportunities, and put in place quality education. The strength, wisdom and leadership skills of the youths should be channelled to various leadership positions in the society for growth.

### **Introduction**

Most African countries have been confronted with the problem of leadership since the exit of their colonialists. Due to lack of an effective economic system to cater for the teeming African population. This phenomenon has created economic gap between those in position of leadership and the citizens. By implication the citizens are no longer pleased with those in position of authority and this has promoted political instability. The recent case in Guinea, where President Alpha Conde was captured by the country's armed forces in a coup, has further informed us that the greater challenge African countries are facing is leadership problem. The poor leadership in Africa with their nonchalant attitude towards youth welfarism has led the youths into restiveness. Of course, when one becomes idle or has nothing to do to cater to your needs, one may resort to crime.

The 21<sup>st</sup> Century has been one in which there has been a great increase in the number of youths. They now constitute the largest group in most nations of the world. "Youthhood" is a period of change from childhood to adulthood, where the individual seeks more freedom and develops the idea of the need to work with other member of the society so as to achieved the aim and objectives of the society, (United Nations Youth, 2019). Nigeria is

seen as the giant of Africa, with about 80 million youths. With the development, Nigeria is expected to experience several political, social, religious, economic and cultural problems as a result of youth restiveness. Some of the problems the country has been battling with over the years include drug abuse, robbery, security challenges such as terrorism in the North and political unrest in the East and other part of the country. Oyediji (2012) opined that the country is passing through economic depression, decay in critical sectors of socio-economic life, corruption, poverty, unemployment, lack of access to quality education and social amenities. According to the author, while Nigeria is confronted with these menaces, there is also the issue of youth restiveness in different parts of the country, especially in the Niger Delta region and the South East. He therefore says that this new development has brought about the breakdown of law and order, destruction of properties, killing of innocent citizens, terrorism, cultism, kidnapping, armed robbery, etc. in Nigeria. Youth restiveness has taken different dimensions that always leads to killings, and destruction of either private or government properties, especially in the oil-rich region of Nigeria-Delta where oil pipelines are vandalised coupled with other nefarious activities (Oladipo, 2017).

Enueme and Onyeme (2010) opined that Nigerian youths have, for some years, experienced social frustration and have thus developed non-conformity behaviour, illusions of self and group vulnerability. Restiveness means refusal to be controlled, especially the adolescent in our society (Oladipo et. al., 2023). It is believed that such action among the youths is as result of bad leadership by government or those in position of authorities (Oyadeyi, 2012). Enueme and Onyeme (2010) have also noticed in their study that most of the youths globally, especially in Nigeria have become non-conforming to rules and regulations from higher authorities, especially with the current security unrest in the eastern part of the country. This is traced to societal sophistications, corruptions, poor leadership style among many other things. In other words, youth restiveness is a sustained protest to enforce desired outcome from constituted authorities and it is characterised by violence and disruption of lawful activities (Elegbe, 2005).

No doubt, in every society, the roles of youths are many including maintenance of law and order, preservation of social culture, promoting of knowledge, partaking in local politics and community services, developing

projects, participating in cultural festivals and in local sport events, as well as other local activities. However, youth restiveness has led to the inability of youths in solving some local problems, discharging their responsibilities effectively and meeting the good demands of the society. Elegbele (2005) identified one of the factors that lend to youth restiveness as perceived victimisation arising from economic exploitation among political leaders.

Another factor that has led to the rise of youth restiveness is the inability among the youths to exercise self-control over certain issues. Indeed, protests among the youths have been as a result of scarcity and unequal distribution of the country's resources, lack of employment opportunities, marginalisation in the society, lack of recognition by the government, feeling of discontentment, non-favourable government laws, abuse of human rights, lack of quality education and high rate of unemployment. However, youth restiveness may also be attributed to the lack of self-restraints among some youths.

Nsidibe et al (2017) stated that restiveness among the youths has increased in almost all the communities in Nigeria recently. There has been an increase of unravelling violence, and killing of innocent people; there has also been insurgency in the North East, and violent incidents that can be attributed to the activities of Indigenous People of Biafra (IPOB) and Fulani herdsmen across the country. There is always a security threat that might lead to anarchy which involves the destruction of private and government properties when youths are not satisfied with government laws and policies. The ENDSARS protest that almost shut down the entire country in October 20, 2020 is a true picture of youth restiveness in Nigeria. The ENDSARS protest by the youths was regarded as criminal. The government believed that the protest leading to the destruction of government property is against the law.

The era of oil boom in the Niger Delta was also a period in which youths felt they should also be involved in oil industries because the industry had facilities in their various communities. However, it was claimed that some of the youths do not have the required qualifications, necessary skills and knowledge that could fetch them such opportunities in the oil industry. It is also important to know that apart from working in the oil industry, youths can also engage themselves in agriculture and seek other

empowerment programmes that will make them self-employed, but where there is no provision for such from the government, the youths will become handicapped and resort to violence as a result of frustration.

However, the inability of the youths to adapt and adjust to their situation, the quest for financial gain and the need for recognition have become the order of the day among the youths. Due to this fact, the youths started involving themselves in kidnapping, robbery, cybercrime, thuggery, vandalisation of oil pipelines, killing, destruction of properties, and pilfering, to mention a few. The focus of this paper is to identify, explain and proffer reasonable solutions to the problem of youth restiveness.

### **Conceptualisation of Terms**

#### ***Leadership***

Leadership is the art of motivating a group of people to act towards achieving a common goal. Leadership can also be seen as the ability of an individual or group of individuals to influence and guide followers or other members of an organisation.

#### ***Youth***

This is a period when someone is young or the time of life when a person is yet to reach adulthood (Cambridge Dictionary, 2019). It is a stage of transition from dependence to independence (Nsidibe et al, 2017). This stage requires that the youth is controlled, psychologically and emotionally in their attitude so as to attain relative peace.

#### ***Restiveness***

According to Saonnes and Steveson (2010), restiveness is an inability to stay still, or a desire not to be controlled especially because one feels bored or not satisfied. It can also mean a situation of stubborn resistance to control or being marked by impatience or uneasiness.

#### ***Poverty***

Poverty is the state of lack. In this state, one lacks the means to satisfy one's basic needs.

#### ***Unemployment***

According to the International Labour Organisation (ILO, 2012), the unemployed is seen as the number of economically active population who are without a job but available for and seeking for one.

### ***Corruption***

This is the act of taking what belongs to the general public for personal use. It is a fraudulent conduct by those in power that involves bribery and embezzlement of public funds. It entails being dishonest, fraudulent, unethical and illegal in discharging one's duty. Corruption is exploiting a public office to serve private ends; it is taking from government's purse what should enhance collective interest and promote the common good and diverting such into furthering one's interest and that of one's close allies (Oladipo and Olaleye, 2019).

### ***Unrest***

It is a state of dissatisfaction, disturbance and agitation that involves public demonstration or disorder.

### ***Peace***

It means freedom from disturbance (Google Dictionary, 2019). When youth restiveness is controlled, there will be freedom from public disturbance, such as destruction of properties.

### ***Methodology***

In the course of this research, relevant works of literature were used to analyse the causes, effects and consequences of the control of youth restiveness that will promote public peace. Appropriate observations were used to engage events like the ENDSARS in Nigeria. Hence, the qualitative method was adopted for this paper.

### ***Theoretical Framework***

The proliferation of inequality, unfair treatment, poor distribution of national resources, poverty, unemployment, abuse of human rights by various governmental agencies, marginalisation, lack of social amenities and poor leadership style by those in positions of authority have led to youth restiveness, thereby creating unrest and instability in the society. For the purpose of this study, two theories were adopted to provide an explanation for youth restiveness. The theories are conflict and strain theory.

### ***Conflict Theory***

The conflict theory, according to Crossman (2019) states that tension and conflict arise when resources and state power are not equally distributed between certain groups in society, and that this conflict becomes the major source of social change. In this context, power can be understood as control of material resources and accumulation of wealth, control of politics and institutions that make up society and one's social status relative to others (determined not by class but by race, gender, sexuality, culture and religion, among other things).

### ***Strain Theory***

The classic strain theory states that certain strains or stressors increase the likelihood of crime. Strains lead to negative emotions, such as frustration and anger. These emotions create pressure for corrective actions, and crime is one possible response. The theory states that crime may be used to reduce or escape from strains, seek revenge against the sources of related target, or alleviate emotions. The classic strain theory focuses on deprived youths. The inability of youths to accomplish set goals makes them get into crime (Britanica, 2019). Merton (1930) stated that pressures derived from social factors such as lack of income or lack of employment or quality education drive individuals to commit crimes, Crossman in his view also stated that strain theory explains deviant behaviour as an inevitable outcome individuals experience when society places cultural valued goals on certain ends that the people are not able to achieve. For instance, when a society places cultural value on economic success and wealth, but only provides legally sanctioned means for a small portion of the population to achieve these goals, those excluded may turn into unconventional or criminal means of attaining them (Crossman, 2019).

From the explanation of the above theories, it is observed, certain selected groups, especially the youths have been deprived, maltreated and abandoned by the government without policies and programmes that will encourage and enhance youths' participation in leadership positions, ensure their access to quality education, employment, social amenities and other things that can make life meaningful to them. However, the government should treat its citizens, especially the youths, fairly. Segregation, maltreatment, bad leadership and embezzlement of public funds should be curbed to avoid criminality and underdevelopment in societies. The government should see

to the economic, political, educational, social, medical and technological needs of the masses, which are inevitable in enhancing development and growth in societies.

### **The Causes of Youth Restiveness**

#### ***Poor Governmental Policies***

When a government policy is not favourable to the people, it tends to breed opposition from the masses because they feel oppressed and neglected. There is need for the government to study her masses and find out their pressing needs and ensure that its policies address these issues. According to Oromareghake et al (2013), “the escalating state of violence between the Niger Delta youths and the Nigeria Government is that of the politics of access to the oil fund.” In the developed world an adult of 18 years and above is given accommodation and allowances when he/she does not have a job. A similar act should be passed in Nigeria. This will reduce youth restiveness as they will have means to take care of themselves until they have something meaningful to do. When appropriate laws are not made, there cannot be growth and development in the country. A bad policy divides the nation, breeds youth restiveness, increases criminality, destroys societal and government structures. Indeed, there is the need for the government, in preparing a country’s budget, to equitably distribute her natural resources to avoid chaos.

Bad government policies are associated with bad governance. Bad governance infringes on the masses’ fundamental human rights, promotes corruption, and is not accountable to the masses. In the tenure of a bad government, there is usually increase in crime rate, no freedom of speech, centralisation of government is practiced, misappropriation of funds and mismanagement of resources amongst others. These attributes lead not only to the dissatisfaction of the youths but the masses in general.

#### ***Lack of Employment Opportunities***

In Nigeria today, the growing rate of unemployment is alarming. According to Onuba (2019), “the labour statistics report released by the National Bureau of Statistics showed that the number of Nigerians unemployed rose from 11.92 million in the first quarter of 2017 to 13.58 million and 15.99 million in the second and third quarters respectively.” Ozohu-Suleiman (2006) observed that “Nigerian youth are trapped by



unemployment.” Zakaria (2006) strongly believes that the absence of job opportunities in developing countries is responsible for youth restiveness with disastrous consequences. Government has not put in place enough functional structures to provide jobs for the masses. Government needs to attract more industries and investments into the country. This will help engage the youths and curb idleness that would have ordinarily led to evil vices. The inability of the youths to have or create jobs makes them vulnerable to unreasonable politicians, religious fanatics and greedy individuals. Zakaria (2006) pointed out that “the rising tide of unemployment and the fear of a bleak future among the youths in African countries have made them vulnerable to the manipulations of agents provocateurs.”

#### ***Poor Standard of Living***

Poor standard of living contributes to youth restiveness. There is a common Nigerian proverb which states that “a hungry man is an angry man.” When people cannot meet their basic needs of food, clothing and shelter, they are regarded as poor. Aworawo (2000) agreed that there is a connection between poverty, unemployment, discrimination, and youth restiveness in relation to violence by youths towards the Nigeria government. The gap between the rich and the poor is usually large. The poor feels dejected, oppressed, dehumanised and segregated. Most youths, in the absence of legitimate jobs take to illegal ones to make quick monies. These make the youths to be involved in criminal activities that will bring funds to them and their families, no matter the consequences. Today, the cases of internet fraudsters (yahoo boys), deceitful activities (419), kidnapping and ritual activities are on the increase. All these lead to insecurity in the state.

#### ***Problem with the Educational System***

Education plays a vital role in the growth, development and stability of a country. The basic knowledge for human development educationally and socially is acquired in an educational environment. The problem with the Nigerian educational system today is that they lack infrastructural facilities, lack equipment, lack quality teachers and do not follow the scheme of work, especially in the rural areas. Most youths in the rural areas do not go to school because they cannot meet the financial obligation to attain educational qualifications. This will not help the country. In government schools in Nigeria, payments are still made. Government should encourage

all to attend school by ensuring that there is free education at the primary and secondary levels. At the University level, the fees should be greatly reduced.

However, it is an irony that those that graduate still find it difficult to get jobs. This further encompasses the problems of their families and the youths. The government and the masses must work as one to ensure that investments in education are promoted in the country to curb this menace. Wordpress (2014), stated that, “quality education has a direct bearing on national prestige, greatness, and cohesion. The knowledge and skill that young people acquire help determine their degree of patriotism and contribution to national integration and progress.” Population Reference Bureau (2006) stated that “between 2000 and 2004, about 30 percent of Nigerian youths, between 10 and 24, were not enrolled in secondary school. This could be as a result of unreasonable cost in acquiring education. This situation is not healthy for Nigerians.

#### ***Poor Infrastructural Facilities***

In general, Nigeria has poor infrastructural facilities. This lack of facilities occurred as a result of unequal distribution of national resources and misappropriation of funds. Nigerians lack educational facilities, clean water, roads, electricity, and medical facilities among others. The strive to get these facilities in place can also lead to youth restiveness.

#### ***Lack of Information***

Information is vital in making important decisions. Wrong information can be very detrimental to decision-making processes as it could mislead one to make wrong decisions. Part of the cause of youth restiveness in the society is the circulation of wrong information among the youths. These may make them to be aggressive and partake in violent protest, simply because they are being misled. The studies of Hidon and Ahiauzu (2005) on Niger Delta revealed that lack of communication and insufficient information flow can lead to youth restiveness. Therefore, leaders and members of the public should be careful with the type of information they share.

#### ***Corruption***

This is another cankerworm with fatal security implications in contemporary Nigeria. Nigeria is no doubt a wealthy country naturally endowed with both human and materials resources, but the wealth of the nation is “owned”, controlled and enjoyed by the few privileged people leaving the majority to wallow in abject poverty. Public funds are meant to be used for the welfare of the general public but the situation in Nigeria today is such that managers of our common wealth are converting our national wealth into private use. The situation has created wide gap between the rich and the poor; some of the poor, especially poor youths, resort to criminality for survival, using various methods and means such as kidnapping, armed robbery, terrorism, thuggery, militancy, violence, cultism, and physical confrontation to meet their needs.

### ***Illiteracy***

Another factor causing youth restiveness and insecurity in Nigeria is illiteracy. The menace of bombing and senseless killings of innocent Nigerian, in the eastern and northern parts of the country threaten the unity of Nigeria. The high level of illiteracy in the north is what degenerates into Boko Haram today in Nigeria.

## **The Consequences of Youth Restiveness**

### ***Increase in Crime***

According to Schaefer (2005), crime is a violation of criminal law for which a government authority applies formal penalties. Laws divide crimes into various categories. Depending on the severity of the offence, the age of the offender, the potential punishment, and the court that holds jurisdiction over the case. Crime is dangerous to society, as it affects political, social, economic, religious and educational dimensions. Crime prevents good relationships between countries; it leads to the destruction of lives and properties; it dampens the spirit of both local and foreign investors, increases insecurity, and leads to underdevelopment. Increased criminal activities have occurred due to youth restiveness. The desire for youths to have better lives without having meaningful skills and educational qualifications to meet up has pushed them into crime.

### ***Unsecured Environment***

Illegal activities of youths result from uncertainty or anxiety, which makes them lose self-confidence in themselves. In the Niger Delta, everyone seems to be cautious of their environment because of fear of being kidnapped and other forms of violence. According to Oromareghake et al (2013), the oil boom has increased violence in the Niger Delta, which in 2006 resulted in the reduction of Nigeria's oil export by 25%. The general insecurity caused by the activities of the restive youths and the security agencies costs the country billions of naira each year. It should also be noted that in order to control unrest and boost production, the government has adopted strategies ranging from direct negotiation with the militants to all-out military assaults on them. However, these methods have not been successful (Oladipo, 2017). Regardless of the methods employed to engage the unrest in the Niger Delta, the youths are not relenting in the vandalisation of pipelines. Oromareghake et al (2013) stated that "securing the pipelines and other oil and gas assets in the country has become a heavy burden to the government." Till date, the government still spends a lot on security to protect the country's natural resources from youth restiveness, bunkering and smugglers' activities. The problem of insecurity has driven away both foreign and local investors thereby increasing the unemployment rate. Unemployment, in turn, encourages youths to partake in illegal activities thereby creating problems for society.

#### ***Rebellious Communal Behaviour***

Rebellious communal behaviour by the youth is caused by incessant demands for their interest to be met. The Advocates for the Advancement of Youth Development Initiatives (AAYDI) 2012, have stated that the activities of youth restiveness have affected the country negatively through low production of goods and services through disorder, by disrupting law and order in the society, e.g. militancy. Increased crime rates, increase in intra-ethnic and religious conflict, disturbance of investors and other numerous criminal tendencies. The problems associated with rebellious communal behaviour are marginalisation, unemployment, exuberance, poverty and poor educational opportunities.

Youth restiveness has led to destruction of the youths themselves because when they are caught by government law agencies, the punishment could be devastating. They could be sentenced to life imprisonment, they could

be sentenced to death, it may lead to their imprisonment, and such activities can also lead to fight among the youths causing disability among others. The restiveness of youths affects social and economic activities negatively thereby leading to hardship. The vandalisation of pipelines by youths affects the country negatively, especially through the destruction of the vegetation of affected areas. The spillage on the community's river destroys their water and fishes. Youth restiveness has led to loss of lives and poverty. People now live in fear as a result of insurgence, and this is highly contributed to by youth restiveness.

### **How Youth Restiveness can be controlled to Enhance Public Peace**

Public peace in a community or state is very necessary for development and growth, hence the need to curb vices such as youth restiveness becomes pertinent. The following can help.

#### ***Favourable Governmental policies***

A favourable government policy would give the people a sense of belonging. There is need for Nigeria's resources to be protected by policy-guided solutions (Reje, 2013). It would eliminate youth restiveness and other related hostilities. The needs and interests of the masses will be met. This will further lead to national growth and development of the country.

#### ***Job Opportunities***

Access to employment opportunities will make youths to be fulfilled. The government and members of the public are encouraged to make investments that will create jobs in the country. The government needs to put enough functional structures in place to provide jobs for the masses. There is the need for government to ensure that local industries around the countries are established, so that youths can be employed while revenues can also be generated for the country.

#### ***Good Standard of Living***

Good standard of living contributes to economic growth. When people can meet their basic needs of food, clothing and shelter, they are regarded as living well. Poverty and its related consequences should be curbed by government ensuring better living through functional structural programmes.

#### ***Standard Education System***

The educational system in the countries should be improved. In Nigeria, there is need for good educational infrastructural facilities and the necessary materials for learning. Education at the primary and secondary levels should be free. Universities' fees should be reduced to the barest minimum. These will encourage more people to attend schools and illiteracy will be reduced.

***Improvement of Infrastructural Facilities***

In general, Nigeria needs to improve her infrastructural facilities. Nigerians should have basic educational, clean water, electricity, and medical facilities among others. The government should ensure that basic amenities are put in place.

***Adequate and Correct Information***

There should be proper dissemination of information so that the right decisions will be taken to improve the lives of all and the society at large. Information has been likened to a stimulus that can condition a person to certain behaviours (Curras, 1987). Information has a way of prompting humans to behave negatively or positively. There should be proper media through which the youths can be informed politically, economically, socially, educationally and medically for their overall wellbeing and that of the state. According to Onyekpe (2007), youth restiveness can be curbed by

making the youth understand that the future is theirs to maintain and not to destroy. They should be made to know that the choices and decision they make will affect their future. The present youths should have a sense of history especially in the noble contributions of other youths to the development of Nigeria, in comparison with the ignorable roles of many youths today. The awareness of them to embrace the rule of law and democratic ideals is very essential. They should be liberated psychologically and mentally from the control of self-seeking business and political elites. Youths should be encouraged to raise issues relating to unresolved problems of nation-building; they should be mobilised against abuse of the system through sanction. Also, they should be sensitised towards seeking greater employment and educational opportunities as a means of redirecting their energy and ideas from anti-social activities to creative efforts.

***Availability of Well-Furnished Libraries and Other Issues***

Omotayo (2005) and Echezoma (2007) have shown the relevance of the use of library in enhancing public peace and communal unity. Encouraging youths to get useful information from libraries can control youth restiveness generally. The essence of libraries includes attaining, processing, preserving, and disseminating varied information. The duty of the library is to educate and enlighten the youths and the entire community. Anasi, (2010) stated that libraries serve communities by presenting them with factual information that will guide their actions and help make good conclusions that will promote peace. This will reduce the number of youth involved in violence, acrimony, and confrontation.

Omotayo (2005) opined that in war situations in enlightened societies, the use of libraries increases, as users flock to libraries to find information to guide them. Information that can promote peace, unity, progress, peaceful co-existence, and harmonious relationship among all the communities must therefore be available in libraries. Librarians, therefore, in promoting access to this information, act as agents of the promotion of communal peace and reconciliation. Libraries are positioned as hubs for formal and informal learning. School libraries, academic libraries, and public libraries support the education of the youth. Information obtained from libraries can change the behaviour, attitudes, and mindset of youths.

Elegbeleye (2015) strongly believes that leisure facilities provide flexibility for youths to let off stress and become less tense. Anasi (2010) stated that “libraries should not only be stocked with educational materials, they should have recreational facilities where pent-up energies and emotions can be dissipated.” The need for recreational facilities and centres for youth relaxation is very essential to help curb stress. Stress can lead to depression and can also arouse violence.

Ndagana and Ogunrombi (2016) stated that “libraries create opportunities for youth employment. For instance, in Nigeria, the University of Lagos Library and that of the Federal University of Technology, Yola employ students under a work-study scheme to perform routine jobs.” Many Universities including the Federal University of Petroleum Resources, Effurun also have such work schemes to help engage students in more educative tasks to remove their minds from violence and ease their sufferings economically. The employed students execute their tasks with eagerness

and passion. Anasi (2010) also observed that “youths who are gainfully employed rarely participate in antisocial activities and that libraries also organise seminars and workshops on career development. These programmes provide career guidance and counselling and will help reduce the number of idle, frustrated youths who roam the street aimlessly, and who might at the least provocation, take recourse to violence. In addition to the suggestions above, there must be transparent, quality and good leadership that will promote youth interests and their welfare. Also, there should be enlightenment programmes by the government on peace building. Furthermore, religious tolerance should be encouraged and checking the activities of religious extremists in the country.

### **Conclusion**

The best resources for the development of any society are human resources. Nigeria is therefore one of the countries in Africa and around the globe that is endowed with these resources. The youths constitute the larger part of these human resources in Nigeria and should not be taken for granted if we are to achieve any meaningful progress, peace and sustainable development. The causes of youth restiveness have been unfolded in this research work. The government should however put mechanisms in place that will promote the interests of the youths so as not to cripple the country’s peace and socio-economic system. There should be a medium through which the government and the youths can easily relate and ensue peace.

### **Recommendations**

Policies to prevent religious, political and ethnic crisis should be made and adhered to strictly. Generally, there should be proper implementation of laws that will cater for the prevention of the causes and effects of youth restiveness. Lectures, workshops and seminars should be organised for the youths to educate, enlighten and expose them so they will not be used by miscreants for selfish interests.

The educated citizens should through interaction and socialisation help to enlighten and influence the ideas of the uneducated ones in the society, rather than it being the other way round. Corruption in Nigeria should be curbed so that misappropriation and embezzlement of funds can be stopped.



Government agencies such as the Economic and Financial Crime Commission (EFCC), responsible for ensuring the prevention of misappropriation and embezzlement of funds in Nigeria should be properly equipped to encourage them in performing their tasks effectively. Monies meant for development will then be used appropriately. Such actions will encourage stability in the country. The government should work earnestly towards curbing poverty by directing their attention to adopting functional alleviation programmes that will help the masses to have good standard of living. The use of rewards and punishments by parents, academic and vocational institutions, government, private and nongovernment organisations can serve as checks to the attitudes and behaviour of youths.

Government should endeavour that the composition of political parties and the processes involved in elections do not involve the use of hoodlums and thugs as youths are usually found within this group. Those seen as hoodlums and thugs should be rehabilitated. There should be well-established rehabilitation centres in the country to help redirect the youths and make them understand the standards expected of them as citizens.

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