

Evaluating the Impact of Insecurity on Nigeria's National Development Since the Fourth Republic

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Abstract

This study critically evaluates the impact of insecurity on Nigeria's national development; it explores the interplay between persistent security challenges and the country's socio-economic progress. Nigeria, Africa's most populous nation and largest economy, has grappled with diverse security threats, including terrorism, insurgency, banditry, kidnapping, communal clashes, and herders-farmers conflicts. These threats have not only destabilised communities but also disrupted economic activities, strained governmental resources, and exacerbated social inequalities. Utilising the descriptive approach, the research explores the direct and indirect implications of insecurity on critical areas of Nigeria's national development. It highlights how insecurity has deterred foreign direct investment, displaced populations, and

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weakened institutional capacities, further entrenching poverty and unemployment. The study also examines the socio-political dimensions of insecurity, including its role in fostering corruption, eroding trust in governance, and undermining Nigeria's democratic consolidation. Drawing on secondary qualitative sources from government reports, academic literature, and field studies, the research argues that addressing insecurity requires holistic and inclusive strategies that integrate military responses with socioeconomic reforms, community engagement, and regional cooperation. The study finds that increment of public spending on security, weakening of state institutions and loss of public trust in governance are some of the economic and socio-political impacts of insecurity on Nigeria's national development. The study concludes that to alleviate the effects of insecurity on national development, it is imperative to tackle the underlying reasons of discontent, such as poverty, inequality, and ineffective governance in Nigeria.

Keywords: Insecurity, Nigeria, Development, National Development.

Introduction

Political scientists have always argued that the expansion and advancement of socio-economic, socio-political, and socio-cultural dimensions can only occur in a calm and secured environment. This is because an enabling environment is necessary for the advancement of production, industrial, and commercial operations; if not, development will be a mere mirage (Akindoyin & Badru, 2024). Since early 2010, revenue designated for developmental programmes has been redirected towards addressing insecurity in the Nigerian State (Akindoyin, 2024a). The increasing prevalence of terrorism, armed robbery, kidnappings, corruption, insurgency, and vandalism of local and national assets in Nigeria significantly exacerbates the elevated threat to the security of lives and property overall (Berebon, 2025).

The insufficient security of citizens' lives and property constitutes a significant impediment to substantial and meaningful development. An elevated level of anxiety will deter both domestic and foreign investors from making investments. At the core of many of these conflicts lies the quest for gaining access to resources and control over the allocation of benefits. This quest for resources has resulted in extensive insecurity, exploitation, and the adoption of self-defence measures nationwide (Berebon, 2025). The factors contributing to this violence encompass poverty, unemployment, the pursuit of wealth, political corruption, the proliferation of guns, the prevalence of armed organisations, religiously motivated violence, and electoral fraud. This issue represents the dividing lines within these communities, resulting in heightened tension both within and among these groups.

The impacts of insecurity on Nigeria's economy are profoundly detrimental. An economically viable nation cannot exist with insecurity indices such as terrorism, corruption, and violence. That is to say, such a system cannot generate the requisite support and robust sentiments essential for the survival of a government directly accountable to its citizens. Unfortunately, Nigeria has integrated insecurity into its political culture (Adenike, 2021). Insecurity has significantly deprived Nigerians of the advantages of economic and industrial development due to the limited availability of money that should have been allocated to strengthen developmental projects, which have instead been diverted to securitise the Nigerian state.

Thus, terrorism, violence, and corruption are prevalent in Nigeria, not due to the inherent differences of its populace compared to other regions, but because the prevailing conditions are conducive to such phenomena. Numerous variables contribute to this possibility. The motivation to generate income among the population is considerably heightened, exacerbated by elevated levels of poverty, unemployment, and inadequate wages (Adenike, 2021). In numerous poor nations, like Nigeria, the practice of accountability is typically feeble. Political competition and civil liberties are frequently constrained. The laws and ethical standards governing administration are inadequately designed and applied, and the legal institutions responsible for their enforcement are ill-equipped.

However, in recent years, Nigeria has witnessed a substantial increase in insecurity, presenting a grave threat to the nation's growth. The widespread presence of insecurity, encompassing insurgency, terrorism, and ethnic and communal disputes, has significantly impacted the nation's socioeconomic advancement. The persistent violence and warfare have resulted in population displacement, disrupting agricultural activity and economic production (Akindoyin, 2024a). As a result, this has intensified food insecurity and impeded progress towards attaining sustainable development goals. Furthermore, the persistence of instability has inhibited foreign direct investment, constrained economic growth, and compromised infrastructural development. It is essential to thoroughly examine the complex effects of insecurity on national development in Nigeria to formulate effective strategies for addressing these difficulties and promoting sustainable progress.

This paper aims to objectively assess the adverse impacts of insecurity on multiple aspects of national development in Nigeria, however, the specific objective of this discourse is to evaluate the economic, social, and political impact of insecurity on Nigeria's national development. This paper adopts a descriptive research design. Data are obtained from sources such as academic journals, library, government reports, and media reports. The choice of secondary data was employed because it allows for an in-depth analysis of the assessment of insecurity on national development in Nigeria. Similarly, data collected is analysed via content analysis.

Literature Review

The Concept of Security and Insecurity

For decades, security considerations have been paramount in development discussions. Since the conclusion of the Cold War, numerous efforts have been undertaken to reconceptualise security from a state-centric viewpoint to a more expansive framework that prioritises individuals, wherein human security— encompassing aspects of national security, human rights, and national development— serves as a principal metric for elucidating the concept (Akindoyin & Akuche, 2023). This discussion seeks to expand the concept of security from a state-centric perspective to encompass societies and individuals, as well as to transition from military to non-military concerns. The theoretical literature on human security can be classified into two

primary branches. One is a neo-realist theoretical framework that defines security as the principal obligation of the state. The second strand, a postmodernist or pluralistic perspective, defines security as the obligations of non-state actors, hence diminishing the state's role as a primary security provider (Akindoyin & Akuche, 2023). Advocates of this approach contend that the notion of security extends beyond a military assessment of threats. They believe that the government should prioritise the economic security of individuals over state security, as the fundamental causes of insecurity are economically driven.

Security scholars, in their conceptualisation of security, emphasise the absence of threats to peace, stability, national cohesiveness, and the political and socio-economic aims of a state (Ewetan & Urhie, 2014). Consequently, there is widespread agreement in current literature that security is essential for national unity, peace, and sustainable development. National security is so evident as an essential prerequisite for the economic growth and development of any nation. The intelligence community agrees that security is defined not by the absence of threats, but by the presence of a strong mechanism to respond proactively to these challenges with speed, skill, and immediacy. The term insecurity encompasses various connotations, including absence of safety, risk, hazard, uncertainty, lack of protection, and lack of safety (Ewetan & Urhie, 2014). Insecurity is a condition of worry or anxiety stemming from a deficiency of protection, which can be examined from two viewpoints. Insecurity refers to the condition of being vulnerable or exposed to risk, which is defined as the susceptibility to harm or injury. Secondly, insecurity refers to the condition of being vulnerable to risk or anxiety, with anxiety being an indistinct, unpleasant emotion felt in anticipation of potential tragedy.

Since the establishment of the Fourth Republic in 1999, Nigeria has encountered a continuous and complex security problem that jeopardises its stability and growth. The reestablishment of democratic governance signified a new epoch of political transparency, yet it also revealed enduring structural deficiencies and profound societal rifts. A major source of insecurity has been ethno-religious conflicts, frequently intensified by competition for governmental power and economic resources (Oladipo and Offor, 2021). In regions like Kaduna, Plateau, and Benue, confrontations

among ethnic and religious factions have led to extensive displacement and fatalities. Likewise, communal violence, especially over land conflicts, persists as a prevalent issue, particularly in the Middle Belt region.

The Boko Haram insurgency, initiated in 2009, constitutes a significant security challenge. The group's campaign of terror has ravaged the north-eastern region, resulting in over 350,000 fatalities (both direct and indirect) and displacing millions, as reported by the UNDP (2021). The Islamic State West Africa Province (ISWAP) has exacerbated counter-insurgency initiatives, extending the duration of the fight. Alongside insurgency, banditry and kidnapping for ransom have surged throughout northern and central Nigeria. Armed factions operate without restraint, assaulting rural populations, educational institutions, and travellers, thereby compromising human security. Moreover, the farmer-herder conflict, exacerbated by climate change, desertification, and competition for resources, has intensified into violent clashes, especially in agricultural areas.

The Niger Delta, despite a period of relative tranquility after the 2009 amnesty programme, continues to be susceptible to intermittent militancy and oil theft, driven by complaints around environmental degradation and perceived marginalisation. The issues are exacerbated by inadequate governance, corruption, and inefficient law enforcement, which obstruct a unified approach.

Development

Development, as a term, suffers from definitional plurality. The term is challenging to define. Nevertheless, learned thinkers have endeavoured to conceptualise development. Akindoyin and Akuche (2023b) define development as a concept that encompasses all efforts to enhance the conditions of human existence in every aspect. It signifies enhancement in the material welfare of all citizens, not solely the affluent and powerful, in a sustainable manner that ensures current consumption does not jeopardise future resources; it also necessitates the eradication or substantial reduction of poverty and inequality in access to life's benefits. It aims to enhance individual physical security, livelihoods, and opportunities for advancement. Roseland (2000) posits that development encompasses not only economic growth but also equitable distribution, healthcare provision, education, housing, and other essential services, all aimed at enhancing both individual

and collective quality of life. Prabhakar (2025) perceives development as a societal progression, wherein enhancements in individual well-being arise from robust collaborations throughout all sectors, business entities, and other societal groupings. Development is not merely an economic endeavour; it encompasses socio-economic and political challenges, influencing all facets of societal life. Economic development, in its initial interpretations, is frequently linked to economic growth and structural transformation. Akindoyin (2024a) delineates development as a linear progression in which nations advance through several stages, transitioning from traditional to modern industrialised economies. This viewpoint has been criticised for its emphasis on GDP growth and its presumption that all societies adhere to an identical trajectory. In his seminal work “Development as Freedom” (1999), Amartya Sen redefined development by highlighting the enhancement of individual freedoms and capabilities. Sen contended that progress transcends simply economic expansion and involves augmenting individuals’ capacity to conduct lives they deem valuable. He asserts that eliminating unfreedoms, including poverty, ignorance, and discrimination, is fundamental to the development process.

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) embraces a comprehensive perspective on development, represented by the Human Development Index (HDI), which integrates metrics of life expectancy, education, and income to assess human advancement. This method illustrates the multifaceted essence of development and prioritises human welfare beyond mere economic success. Sustainable development, as defined by Garg (2023), prioritises fulfilling current demands without jeopardising the capacity of future generations to satisfy their own requirements. This viewpoint incorporates environmental sustainability, social equality, and economic growth, acknowledging the interconnection of these aspects in attaining sustainable development.

National Development

National development is an intricate process that includes economic, social, political, and cultural advancement, with the objective of enhancing the entire quality of life for a nation’s populace. It entails the structural reform of society and the improvement of human well-being through sustainable advancement. Academics have delineated and construed national

development in diverse manners, frequently highlighting its complex characteristics. National development denotes the incremental enhancement of a nation's productive capabilities (Pritchett, 2022). In their publication titled "Role of self-help groups on socioeconomic development and the achievement of sustainable development goals," Basak and Chowdhury define national development as a process of enhancing the quality of all human lives and capabilities by elevating individuals' standards of living, self-esteem, and freedom (Basak and Chowdhury, 2024). This includes poverty alleviation, enhanced employment prospects, and the fair allocation of resources. Sustainable economic growth is regarded as a fundamental element of national development, as it underpins investments in sectors such as education, health, and infrastructure.

National development includes the advancement of social justice, inclusivity, and equality. In his key work, *Development as Freedom*, Sen contends that development should be perceived not merely as economic growth, but as an enhancement of individuals' freedoms and talents (Sen, 2009). Sen posits that national development is realised when individuals possess the capacity to make choices, seize opportunities, and live lives they deem valuable. This viewpoint redirects attention from material affluence to human advancement, as assessed by metrics like life expectancy, literacy rates, and healthcare accessibility.

Nigeria has consistently grappled with the challenges of development, with the concept of growth and progress deeply embedded in its historical trajectory. From the colonial era to the present, the nation's history has been marked by the continuous evolution of development strategies and economic models. Few terms have undergone as frequent reinterpretation and adaptation as "development." This appears to be the sole nation where nearly all concepts and frameworks of development have been tested. Two years post-independence, the inaugural National Development Plan policy was established from 1962 to 1968, aiming to enhance development chances in health, education, and employment, as well as to improve access to these opportunities. The strategy failed because fifty percent of the required resources were to be sourced externally, while only fourteen percent of the anticipated external financing was obtained (Adeniran, 2021).

The dissolution of the First Republic and the onset of civil war further impeded the plan. Following the civil war in 1970, the Second National Development Plan, spanning from 1970 to 1974, was initiated, with emphasis on agriculture, industry, transportation, personnel, defence, electricity, communication, water supply, and the provision of social services (Adeniran, 2021). The third plan, spanning from 1975 to 1980, was deemed more ambitious than the second plan. Focus was directed to rural development and initiatives to rejuvenate the agricultural sector. The Fourth Plan, spanning 1981 to 1985, acknowledged the significance of social services, health care, and related sectors.

The strategy sought to enhance the living conditions of the populace. The specific objectives included: an enhancement of the average citizen's real income, a more equitable distribution of income among individuals and socio-economic groups, increased reliance on the nation's material and human resources, and a decrease in unemployment and underemployment levels (Adeniran, 2021). Throughout these eras, Nigeria's substantial oil wealth was not utilised to establish a sustainable industrial foundation or to initiate an agrarian revolution aimed at eradicating widespread poverty. The Green Revolution Programme, which succeeded Operation Feed the Nation, did not produce sufficient food for the population. Recently, numerous development initiatives have been implemented with minimal success, including the structural adjustment programme (SAP), Vision 2010, the national economic empowerment and development strategy (NEEDS), and the establishment of development centres. The current new hope agenda of the present administration, aligned with Vision 2030, lacks a precise methodological strategy for its implementation. The current outcomes evidently do not align with the expectations of progress.

Theoretical Framework: The Frustration-Aggression Theory

The Frustration-Aggression Theory, initially proposed by Dollard et al. in 1939, asserts that frustration occurs when an individual's goal-oriented actions are obstructed, resulting in aggressive reactions. This psychological theory posits that anger is a response to the obstruction of attempts to attain desired goals (Berkowitz, 1989). Subsequent academics, like Guven (1991), improved the theory, highlighting that dissatisfaction does not inherently lead to aggressiveness but rather heightens the probability of

aggression when coupled with environmental stimuli or perceived threats. This concept is crucial for comprehending the influence of insecurity on Nigeria's national development. Insecurity in Nigeria manifests through terrorism, banditry, kidnapping, communal conflicts, and herder-farmer disputes. These manifestations of insecurity engender frustration among impacted populations owing to the interruption of livelihoods, destruction of property, and loss of life. The lack of economic, social, and personal security engenders discontent and frequently results in aggressiveness, so perpetuating a cycle of violence.

In Nigeria, insecurity has severely impeded national growth in economic, social, and political spheres. The Frustration-Aggression Theory elucidates why underprivileged and disenfranchised populations may engage in violence. The emergence of Boko Haram in north-eastern Nigeria can be attributed to economic deprivation, political marginalisation, and discontent with perceived injustices. These grievances have manifested as violence towards the state and civilian populations, resulting in infrastructure destruction, educational disruption, and the displacement of millions (Oladipo, 2017).

The herder-farmer disputes in central Nigeria might likewise be analysed through this theoretical framework. Competition for diminishing natural resources, intensified by climate change, has exacerbated both pastoralist and agrarian groups, leading to violent conflicts. These conflicts impede agricultural productivity, jeopardise food security, and undermine social cohesion, all of which are essential elements of national growth.

Furthermore, insecurity hampers foreign investment and economic development, since prospective investors are discouraged by the dangers linked to violence and instability. This sustains a cycle of underdevelopment and poverty, exacerbating discontent within the populace. The government's failure to appropriately address these challenges results in a legitimacy crisis, exacerbating the rift between residents and the state.

Results of Findings

Evaluating the Impact of Insecurity on Nigeria's National Development

i. Decline in Foreign Investment

The insecurity in Nigeria has substantially impeded the influx of foreign direct investments (FDIs), posing a significant barrier to national growth.

Security threats, including terrorism, banditry, abduction, and herder-farmer disputes, deter investors due to apprehensions of safety, financial losses, and instability. The actions of Boko Haram in the north-eastern region have rendered it inhospitable for businesses, while the increase in oil theft and vandalism in the Niger Delta deters investments in the petroleum sector, which constitutes a significant portion of Nigeria's earnings (Yar'Adua, 2023).

Foreign investments are essential for infrastructure development, employment generation, and economic diversification. Nigeria's ongoing security challenges have compromised its standing as a secure and appealing investment locale. Reports from the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) indicate that foreign direct investment (FDI) inflows have consistently decreased in recent years, plummeting from \$8.84 billion in 2011 to \$468.91 million in 2022 (NBS, 2023). The reduction is partially attributable to investors relocating their capital to more stable African nations, such as Ghana and Kenya, which have comparable prospects with diminished security threats. In 2021, Twitter declared the building of its African headquarters in Ghana instead of Nigeria, citing a stable political and economic climate. Likewise, the apprehension of kidnapping in Nigeria's northern area has inhibited investments in agriculture, a sector with significant potential to facilitate economic diversification.

The reduction in foreign investments intensifies unemployment, diminishes foreign exchange revenues, and constrains the government's capacity to finance essential areas like healthcare, education, and infrastructure. Nigeria risks hindering its national development objectives without tackling insecurity, as insufficient investments perpetuate poverty and impede economic growth (Akindoyin, 2024a). Therefore, guaranteeing security is essential to reinstating investor trust and fostering sustainable development.

ii. Increased Public Spending on Security

The insecurity in Nigeria has profoundly affected national development by requiring heightened public expenditure on security measures. This alteration in governmental spending is a reaction to the escalating menace of terrorism, banditry, insurgency, and community conflicts. This expenditure is essential for tackling urgent security issues, although it detracts from other areas

such as education and health, jeopardising long-term developmental objectives.

Nigeria's combat against the Boko Haram insurgency in the northeast has resulted in the deployment of significant financial resources for military operations, intelligence acquisition, and the procurement of sophisticated weaponry (Lenshie, 2024). In 2022, the defence budget constituted approximately 20% of total national expenditure (Lenshie, 2024). This reallocation of funding, although essential, has resulted in diminished investment in the education sector, leaving nearly 10.5 million children out of school, particularly in conflict-affected areas such as Borno, Adamawa, and Yobe States. Educational institutions in various regions have been closed owing to assaults, exacerbating the educational situation (Lenshie, 2024).

Likewise, the healthcare sector endures underfunding due to the diversion of resources caused by insecurity. Nigeria's healthcare infrastructure is very deficient, with healthcare expenditure frequently below the 15% threshold established by the Abuja Declaration. This is apparent in the inadequate condition of primary healthcare facilities and the increasing maternal and newborn mortality rates which stand at 52.608 deaths per 1000 live births, according to the United Nations global metric, 2025. The unrest in the northwest has interrupted routine immunisation programmes, resulting in epidemics of avoidable diseases such as measles and cholera. The enduring repercussions of placing security before education and health are grave. An inadequately educated and sick populace diminishes productivity and economic advancement, prolonging cycles of poverty and underdevelopment. Mitigating insecurity by equitable resource distribution is crucial for sustainable national advancement.

iii. Weakening of State Institutions

Insecurity diminishes the efficacy and legitimacy of state institutions, which are vital for national growth. In Nigeria, ongoing insecurity has undermined the efficacy of essential institutions, including the police, judiciary, and public service, thereby hindering socio-economic advancement (Amin, 2024). The Nigerian Police Force has faced challenges in efficiently combating instability due to insufficient money, inadequate training, and corruption. This vulnerability is increased by the increasing prevalence of violent crimes,

including banditry, insurgency, and kidnappings, which overburden law enforcement agencies. The erosion of popular trust in the police has resulted in the emergence of vigilante organisations and self-help initiatives, thereby undermining official authority (Amin, 2024).

The judiciary, another essential institution, has likewise been impacted. Insecurity frequently hinders legal proceedings, especially in conflict zones where courts cannot function efficiently. In the north-eastern states, impacted by the Boko Haram insurgency, numerous courts were compelled to close, depriving civilians of access to justice. This undermines the rule of law and sustains cycles of violence, as conflicts stay unaddressed. Furthermore, insecurity impedes the provision of public services, especially in the realms of education and healthcare. Educational institutions in regions such as Borno, Zamfara, and Kaduna have been shuttered owing to assaults on students and educators (Amin, 2024). Healthcare institutions have likewise been attacked, evidenced by the kidnapping of medical professionals and the damage of buildings. These interruptions exacerbate human capital development, which is essential for sustained national advancement.

iv. Loss of Public Trust in Governance

Insecurity has significantly affected Nigeria's national development, notably resulting in a decline in public faith in governance. As insecurity intensifies, residents start to doubt the efficacy and legitimacy of their government. The erosion of trust is exacerbated by the government's failure to guarantee the safety and welfare of its citizens, leading to a disintegration of the social contract between the authorities and the populace (Sibun, 2022). The emergence of militant factions such as Boko Haram in north-eastern Nigeria has resulted in extensive displacement and fatalities. Notwithstanding military involvement and governmental pledges, the ongoing nature of these attacks has resulted in citizens feeling forsaken by their leaders. In other cases, the government's response has been regarded as insufficient or corrupt, exacerbating popular suspicion (Sibun, 2022). The inability to safeguard lives and property, along with allegations of human rights violations by security personnel, fosters the perception that the government promotes alternative interests over the public good.

The ongoing conflicts between herders and farmers in Nigeria's middle-belt and southern areas have fostered an atmosphere of fear and instability. The government's failure to resolve these concerns or hold offenders accountable leads to community disillusionment. In this environment, individuals are more inclined to seek self-help or local militias, circumventing formal institutions entirely. As confidence in governmental institutions wanes, citizens may disengage from national development initiatives, encompassing elections, community involvement, and adherence to policies. This disengagement can hinder national growth, as an engaged and collaborative citizenry is crucial for the success of any development initiative. The impact of insecurity on public trust obstructs Nigeria's progress, impeding social cohesion, economic stability, and the ability of governance to implement significant change.

Conclusion

The evaluation of insecurity's influence on national development in Nigeria demonstrates a significant relationship between increasing insecurity and socio-economic stagnation. Employing the frustration-aggression theory as a framework, it is clear that the widespread insecurity in Nigeria may be interpreted as a direct consequence of unfulfilled goals and the dissatisfaction stemming from these unaddressed needs. The frustration-aggression theory asserts that people or groups deprived of resources, opportunities, or goals experience frustration, which frequently results in aggressive conduct. This theory elucidates how pervasive poverty, unemployment, political instability, and inadequate infrastructure exacerbate discontent across different socio-economic strata in Nigeria, especially among the youth. The discontent caused by these socio-economic deprivations appears in various kinds of violence, including insurgencies, militancy, armed robbery, and inter-communal confrontations. The escalation of these security concerns directly obstructs the nation's developmental trajectory by reallocating essential resources from vital areas, including education, healthcare, and infrastructure development. Furthermore, the instability induced by insecurity cultivates an atmosphere of uncertainty that deters both domestic and foreign investment, so aggravating the nation's economic difficulties.

Moreover, the government's insufficient response to these crises frequently exacerbates the cycle of frustration and hostility. The idea of

governmental neglect engenders distrust and disappointment within the people, especially among underprivileged groups, potentially resulting in heightened forms of aggressiveness, including terrorism and organised crime. This detrimental loop obstructs Nigeria's advancement, complicating the attainment of sustainable development. To alleviate the effects of insecurity on national growth, it is imperative to tackle the underlying reasons of discontent, such as poverty, inequality, and ineffective governance. By cultivating a more inclusive and stable society, Nigeria can mitigate the hostility arising from frustration, thereby facilitating national progress.

Recommendations

The study hereby makes the following recommendations:

- i. **Address Fundamental Causes of Insecurity:** Efforts must concentrate on tackling the root causes of insecurity, including poverty, unemployment, inequality, and political marginalisation. Initiatives that foster inclusive economic development, social fairness, and equitable resource allocation can mitigate grievances that frequently incite violence and instability.
- ii. **Improve Security Framework:** While it will be wrong to assert that the Nigerian security apparatuses do not have up-to-date equipment, there is a need to do more on improvement of the country's security framework, especially in the areas of manpower and investment in modernised equipment. This will help in enhancing intelligence capabilities, and provide sufficient manpower to effectively address insecurity.
- iii. **Improved Community-Led Security Initiatives:** There should be improved community-oriented security initiatives, such as vigilante organisations and neighbourhood watch committees, that can augment grassroots involvement in crime deterrence. These groups must be incorporated into the formal security framework and subjected to oversight, to guarantee accountability.
- iv. **Educational Initiatives and Public Awareness Campaigns:** Instructing folks on the significance of peacebuilding and national unity can cultivate tolerance and diminish divisive inclinations. Public awareness efforts ought to emphasise the economic and social

ramifications of insecurity while fostering unity and collective accountability for national progress.

- v. **Improve Regional and Global Collaboration:** Given that insecurity frequently possesses transnational characteristics, Nigeria must improve on its regional and international collaborations to address cross-border threats, including terrorism, arms trafficking, and human smuggling. Improved collaboration with ECOWAS, the African Union, and international organisations will enhance the nation's ability to address instability.

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