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## Insurgency, armed banditry and corruption in Nigeria: The bane of socio-economic underdevelopment

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### Abstract

This paper examines the socio-economic effects of insurgency, armed banditry and corruption in Nigeria. The country as a nation state is under a severe internal socio economic and security threat. As a more general level, the threat has social, economic, political and environmental dimensions. Each of these dimensions has greatly affected the nation's stability, and can be traced to the ethnic militia armies, ethnic and religious conflicts, poverty, terrorism, armed robbery, corruption, economic sabotage and environmental degradation. The efforts of the government to eradicate insurgency, banditry and corruption have been slow and costly in terms of public funds spent, lives and properties lost. This has made the citizenry to question, the efficiency of the menace. Using frustration aggression theory, this growth and flourishing of insurgency, armed banditry, kidnapping and corruption. Historical method of research and analysis was employed in the study. The study data were collected through documentation of secondary sources including review of related literature journals and write-ups. The study is also descriptive in style as it built on the findings of already existing works, about emerging security threats in Nigeria. The study is concluded by recommending among others that the country should evolve a sustainable social security system which will discourage public office holders from engaging in corruption, good information sharing techniques providing gainful employment opportunities for the citizenry and so on.

**Keywords:** Insurgency, armed banditry, kidnapping, corruption and cyber-crime

### Introduction

In recent times, banditry has become a harsh reality in today's Nigeria society; it has come in different forms of manifesting as insurgency's, kidnapping, suicide attacks, self-suicide bombing, corruption, armed robbery and the like. (Enders & Sandler 2002; Lake, 2000) [21, 32]. Several attempts have been made to reduce the inflicts of these menace in the Nigerian society, (Luechinger, 2013) [34]; the Nigeria government has tried using a counter insurgent force as policy deterrence, with the imposition of sanctions, to curb actual attempts by putting appropriate measures in place to reduce the menaces of banditry in the country. Despite these, the level of insecurity in the country is still high, this has made Nigeria to consistently rank low in the Global Peace Index (GPI, 2012), signifying a worsened state of insecurity in the country. Ajibola (2015) [9], Uhumwuangho & Aluforo (2011) [51] are of the view that the efforts of government have not yielded enough positive result.

The Nigeria economic rating with major focus on growth has witnessed an increase in spending on military hardware as well as equipping the personnel security systems and training to make them efficient to cope with the insurgent phenomena and ensuring sustainability of economic growth (Ruys, 2004) [53]. Nigeria is considered to be an emerging power house, annual growth rates have averaged more than 7% per year, making the Nigeria economy one of the fast growing economies in the world, (www.gallup.com). A study carried out by Salami, Fatimah (2012) [54] shows that one unit of Foreign Direct Investment increase in the oil sector will increase the GDP by 15-16 units. As a result of insurgency, foreign direct investment (FDI) has declined; It has dropped by 21.3% in 2012 from \$8.9 billion in 2011 to \$7 billion in 2012, (World Investment Report, 2013). It was recognized that this high dependency ratio is a centre of weakness for Nigeria's economy. Over the few years, banditry has created widespread insecurity across regions in Nigeria, increased tensions between various ethnic communities, interrupted development activities, frightened off investors, inflamed religious tensions and upset the nation's social cohesion (Eme and Ibietan, 2012) [20] and this has generated concern among the Nigerian citizens.

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At a particular period in the history of Nigeria especially during the military era, the country witnessed serious economic crisis and political isolation. However, with the introduction of democratic government in 1999 the country was stabilizing albeit consciously. The peace and stability witnessed was threatened by religious fanaticism induced insurgency, corruption, political and ideological intolerance, ethnic confrontation and others.

According to the African Union, security, peace, stability and good governance have been regarded as prerequisites for the achievement of any meaningful socio-economic development of any nation. It has been argued that there is a strong link between adequate security and development generally (Nwanegbo & Odigbo, 2013; Chandler, 2007 as cited in Ewetan & Urhie, 2014) <sup>[24]</sup>. Although peace and stability have been the core aim and objective of government of most nations in the world over however, the past decades, security challenges have continued to remain a major setback to achieving meaningful socio-economic development in most African countries particularly in Nigeria. Insecurity does not only pose threats to the lives and properties of citizens, discourages local businesses, scares away foreign investment and portrays a bad image of the country (Ekene, 2015) <sup>[19]</sup>. Security challenges posed by these threats have become a global phenomenon that needs to be tackled as a matter of seriousness to create an enabling environment for socio-economic development. For over a decade, Nigeria has continued to witness a tremendous setback in its socio-economic development fuelled by the continuous resurgence of different kinds of security threats particularly armed banditry, kidnapping, cybercrime, Boko Haram insurgency among others (Nkewede, 2015; Epron, 2018) <sup>[40, 23]</sup>. However, despite government efforts to bring to an end the bewildering situation by spending over 462 million on national security over the past five years, the security situation remains Nigeria's major challenge to socio-economic development (Olufemi, 2015) <sup>[40]</sup>.

Nigeria, the giant of Africa is still considered and regarded as a developing economy and still ranks low in all socio-economic indicators such as employment level, life expectancy, access to good water, crime rate and so on, (Ewetan & Urhie, 2014) <sup>[24]</sup>. The National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) put Nigeria's unemployment rate at 23.1%, of which youth unemployment is 55.4% (NBS, 2019).

The World Health Organisation in her recently released data on the life expectancy of World countries, Nigeria's life expectancy was put at 55.2 years of which male's life expectancy is 54.7 years and female 55.7 years (WHO, 2018) <sup>[58]</sup>. According to a report in 2018 by the International Monetary Fund, Nigeria recorded an increase in Gross Domestic Product (GDP) of about 376.284bn dollars (the country with the highest GDP in Africa) yet Nigeria's quality of life remains stagnant (IMF, 2018).

Nigeria is not an exception of unconventional insurgency with the attendant political instability, crisis of sustainable socio-economic development and legitimacy crisis. Since the 1960 independence, Nigeria has experienced attack by terrorists like the maitasine of the 1980 and 1982, (Ogundiya & Amzat, 2008) <sup>[45]</sup>; the Movement for the Emancipation of the Niger Delta (MEND) that occurred between years 2000 and 2010 and the Boko Haram Terrorist crisis which is still ravaging the country since 2009 till date. Evidently, much has been written about the origin, objectives and dimension of Boko Haram insurgency. Most

worrisome is that the Boko Haram insurgency started at the wake of the nation's efforts to resuscitate the socio-economic problems created by the Niger Delta militants. This indeed has remained topical and constitute a serious cause of concern to government and the private sector economy of Nigeria. To the government in particular, the question of insurgency has recently become a crucial issue in the Nigeria's struggle for good governance, sustainable democracy and sustainable socio-economic development.

The predominant threat and security challenges are emanating from unbaiting attacks on Nigerian citizens, individuals, public and government installations, kidnapping and destruction of properties. The effect of boko haram activities is serious crime against the Nigeria state, which has threatened its national security and socio-economic activities. This has posed great challenges to the ground strategy for national security of which the primary aim is to strengthen the federal republic of Nigeria to advance her interest and objectives, to curtail instability, control crime, ensure good quality life for every citizen, improve the well fare and eliminate corruption (Adekanye, 2007)

### Statement of the problem

As Nigeria is re-strategizing on ways to control the menace of Armed banditry, insurgency and corruption having suffered from the Boko Haram insurgency which has crippled its socio-economic development, new emerging security threats are fast paving their way to either complement or to gradually replace earlier threats to the country's socio-economic progress. Armed banditry, kidnapping, and cybercrime (Yahoo-Yahoo) among others have recently become rampant in Nigeria and posed a threat to Nigeria's socio-economic development.

It is against this background that the paper tends to investigate the threats and the possible factors behind the emergence of these security threats that have been gaining ground more recently in Nigeria. The paper also inquest into the implications of these emerging security threats for Nigeria socio-economic development and recommended solutions that could serve as a way forward.

### Review of related literature/ theoretical frame work

The concept of insurgency would be best understood by defining the concept of security, which has been defined by Achumba & Ighomenho (2013) <sup>[2]</sup> in Akin (2008) <sup>[10]</sup> as the situation that exists as a result of the establishment of measures for the protection of persons, information and property against hostile persons, influence and actions. Ogunleye *et al.* (2013) <sup>[46]</sup> see it as a measure designed to protect and safe guard the citizen, the resources of individuals, groups businesses and the nature against sabotage or violent occurrence of Insurgency. On the other hand, as assessed by O'Neal (1990) insurgency is organized movements aimed at the over throw of a constituted government through the use of supervision and armed conflict. The term insurgency is often used to cover a wider scope of low intent conflict and is often linked inextricably to terrorism as terrorism is a tool that many insurgent groups use to further their agendas. Bernard, (2005), maintains that insurgency is the state of fear or anxiety stemming from a concrete or alleged lack of protection. It refers to lack or inadequate freedom from danger.

According to Chalk, Byran *et al.* (2001) <sup>[17]</sup> certain conditions can transform a dissatisfied future of the

population into an insurgency, people revolt because of the government inability to meet the legitimate needs of the population. Insurgencies often make use of the media to present the image of an unresponsive or unprepared government. Corrupt and inefficient governments cannot provide basic services, create jobs, encourage growth or improve the lives of the general population, this is why terrorism has become such a popular tool for insurgents; the government's inability to protect its citizens and destroy the insurgents is placed across the pages of the international press and becomes a daily reminder of lack of government control.

In addition to the above O'Neal (1990) gave additional elements that are common to all insurgencies in varying degrees. The combination of these elements determines the overall effectiveness of an insurgency and provides likely targets for counter insurgency efforts. This element are ideology, organization and goal, environment and geography and external support, etc.

The insurgent environment of the Nigeria economy refers to the variables that affect the achievement of growth but then which the economy has little indirect control upon. In Nigeria the variables range from, theft to Armed Robbery, Kidnapping, Assassination, Unemployment, high cost of living etc. Economically, corruption and insurgence encourage capital flight as many foreign investors are reluctant to invest in Nigeria for fear of losing their money to swindlers and fraudsters. In many parts of the country, properties worth billions of naira have been destroyed and many businesses have come to a standstill, (Adebanjoko & Okorie, 2014)<sup>[41]</sup>.

When able youths of today are killing themselves through fighting, it then extends to killing of state security officials, kidnapping and ransom seeking, (Rotimi *et al*, 2013, lkelegbe, 2001)<sup>[51]</sup>. As a result of uprising of insurgency, the future workforce may shrunk and gradually die out, thereby creating a vacuum in the economic fortune of a nation, which at the same time pose threat to the going concern of the economic activity of a nation. This in the long run may lead to child slavery as those to take up the future economic challenges may have gradually been reduced and may not be able to champion the economic demands (Rotimi *et al*, 2013)<sup>[51]</sup>. An insurgent impedes growth and also erodes the already established economic value systems in Nigeria. This devastating effect of continuous insurgence in Nigeria has gone so bad and it is worrisome as several but unsuccessful measures have been put in place to halt the menace, (Odita & Akan, 2014)<sup>[42]</sup>. It is therefore not an understatement that Achebe (1988)<sup>[3]</sup> concludes that insurgence has permeated the African society and anyone who can say that insurgence in Africa has not yet become alarming, is either a fool or a crook or does not live in this continent.

According to Maureen & Blessing (2018)<sup>[37]</sup> the following theories were reviewed in relation to Insurgency and Armed Banditry:

**Marx's theory of rebellion:** As propounded by Karl Marx and Frederick Engels in 1969, this theory states that along with the constantly diminishing number of the magnates of capital, that usurp and monopolize all advantages of this process of transformation, grows the mass of misery, oppressions, a very degradation, exploitation; but with this too grows the revolt of the working-class, a class always increasing in numbers, and disciplined, united, organized by

the very mechanism of the process of capitalist production itself. The monopoly of capital becomes a fetter upon the mode of production, which has sprung up and flourished along with, and under it. Centralization of the means of production and socialization of labour at last will reach a point where they become incompatible with the capitalist integument. Thus integument bursts asunder and the knell of capitalist private property then breaks.

**Frustration-aggression theory:** This theory as propounded by Fererabend & Feirauben, (1972)<sup>[26]</sup> stipulates that aggression is as a result of frustration which results from an individual's inability to attain their goals. Accordingly, insurgency is the product of aggressive behaviour which results from issues such as poverty and unemployment among others. Applying this to the study, insurgency in the country has resulted in abject poverty, unemployment, environmental degradation, injustice, absence of infrastructure, ethnic conflicts, and militancy.

**Empirical review:** Ahmed, Mussawar & Cuil (2012)<sup>[8]</sup>, examine the economic effects of insurgency on hotel industry of Swat, it found out that the number of small and medium enterprises were badly affected after terrorist activities. On the basis of the findings, loans on soft term for small and medium enterprises, special packages for affected industry employee, propagation of local values, which entails hospitality for non-locals through media, with strong participation of local leaders were a major ingredient of economic activity in the study area.

**Levitt (2009)<sup>[33]</sup>:** Studied the issue of foreign fighters and their economic impact on Syria and al-Queda in Iraq. Their study showed that foreign fighters' use of third party countries for training, fund raising and transit is not merely an operational phenomenon, but it is an economic one as well. Thus, there are direct and indirect economic consequences which results in the existence and operation of foreign fighters' networks in a country like Syria. It may not be out of place to assume that the Boko Haram in Nigeria has foreign financiers. It was recommended that government should develop realistic strategies to contend with foreign fighters' networks that operate in third party countries and developing a holistic understanding of phenomenon including its economic impact.

**Olabanji and ese (2014)<sup>[47]</sup>:** examined the pertinent issue of insecurity in Nigeria and its implication for socio-economic development. They recommended that government must be proactive in dealing with security issues and threats, through modern methods of intelligence gathering, and information sharing among security personnel, training, logistics, motivation, and deploying advanced technology in managing security challenges.

**Adebanjoko and okorie (2014)<sup>[4]</sup>:** Assessed corruption and challenges of insecurity in Nigeria and its political / economic implications. The findings showed that corruption is a major cause of insurgency in the country and it's therefore suggested that the Nigerian government should find lasting solutions to the crises while giving top priority to the eradication of corruption in its transformation agenda.

**Rotimi *et al*. (2013)<sup>[51]</sup>:** Reviewed the long term cost



implication of insurgency to economic development: a study of Zaria metropolis. The result of the research revealed that the result and effects of any uprising affect the socio-economic activities of an economy thereby thwarting its progress. It's therefore recommended that economic opportunities should be made available to the teeming populace via the construction and provision of sustainable social amenities.

**Odita and akan (2014)** <sup>[42]</sup>: explore the Boko Haram menace and their implications on Nigeria's stability. With their findings, they recommended that there's need for the government to improve on the state of security with all machineries at her disposal that will help identify, unravel, forestall and prosecute Boko Haram insurgents.

**Achumba, igbomerho and akpor, rabaro (2013)** <sup>[2]</sup>: Study security challenges in Nigeria and the implication for business communities and sustainable development. They recommended the need to evolve a safe business environment that allows for effective and a sustainable development process. The security management models recommended to achieve this are aimed at combating the creators and perpetrators of situation of insecurity and simultaneously addressing and removing the sources of dissatisfaction and discontentment which spur security breaches and the involvement of all stakeholders both in public and private capacity, government, business organization, society, religious groups, communities and individuals to supply resources, expertise and information that are required to ensure a safe environment.

**Ekene (2015)** <sup>[19]</sup> in "Corruption: A threat to sustainable socio-economic development in Nigeria" viewed corruption as an "endemic disease" that has emerged over time as obstacle to sustainable socio-economic development in Nigeria. He was more concerned with the challenges corruption has posed to sustainable socio-economic development in Nigeria. However, the present study is not limited to looking at corruption "alone" as a threat to socio-economic development but went further to look at emerging security threats such as armed banditry, kidnapping among others as posing serious implications for Nigeria's socio-economic development.

**Adesina (2017)** <sup>[7]</sup> in "Cybercrime and poverty in Nigeria" employs the human security approach to examine the menace of cybercrime in Nigeria. The author further tries to link cybercrime and poverty in the study, Adesina concluded that the increasing poverty level in Nigeria correlates with the increasing cybercrime in the country. However, the present study does not in any way dispute the fact that cybercrime and poverty are connected as suggested by Adesina but this paper looks at cybercrime in the country as an emerging security threat that could threaten socio-economic development. Although the two papers share the fact that poverty is a major factor behind cybercrime, the present paper sees poverty as a factor behind most security challenges.

**Ewetan and urhie (2014)** <sup>[24]</sup> in their study "Insecurity and Socio-Economic Development in Nigeria" seek to critically examine the issue of insecurity, as a major challenge of the Nigerian state, and its imminent implications for Nigeria's

socio-economic development. However, the present paper is an extension of their work and this paper extends beyond that to 2019. Since 2014 the paper has identified these threats and factors behind its rise that has continued to slow down socio-economic development with current related literature.

### **Emerging security threats: the rising wave of kidnapping, armed banditry, and cybercrime**

The National Communication Commission in its 2016 report stated that the inflow of Foreign Direct Investments to Nigeria has been relatively low. This is even with the introduction of the cashless policy and electronic banking for business transactions in the country by the past administration. This low value has been attributed to frequent cyberattacks that have succeeded in scaring away foreign investors from either continuing business in the country or moving to another safer place. This situation is more threatening than even the Boko Haram insurgency. The current rising wave of kidnapping, banditry, and cybercrime (yahoo) among others in Nigeria has affected among others, Nigeria's image and socio-economic development (Makinde, 2019) <sup>[35]</sup>. Apart from the scorching effect of Boko Haram insurgency on the people and economy of the North-East of Nigeria, communities in Katsina, Zamfara, Sokoto and Kaduna states have become targets of bandits, kidnappers, and other vices. From Imo to Ebonyi and "landing" in Lagos, cybercrime seems to flourish.

### **Kidnapping as a security threat in Nigeria**

Kidnapping for ransom is taking a centre stage in the increasing wave of crime in the country. Kidnapping is gaining more grounds as when compared to a few decades back when it used to be experienced mostly in the Southern and Western Nigeria. Kidnapping has now become a national epidemic (Campbell, 2018) <sup>[16]</sup>. Campbell further noted that "kidnapping has become a business, with whispers of involvement by politicians and the police as well as entrepreneurs in it, simply for the money" (Campbell, 2018 pp.7) <sup>[16]</sup>.

Kidnap cases in Nigeria has become so rampant so much so that the country was ranked high in the global index for worst countries to live in. It was further discovered that "kidnapping is a dreadful challenge that disrupts the tranquillity and harmonious cohesion of the country and has spread to nooks and crannies of Nigeria as a result of poverty, unemployment, and so on (Abdulkabir, 2017 p.5) <sup>[1]</sup>. Studies have revealed that because of its spate of occurrence in the country, kidnapping is no longer a scary phenomenon because people have gotten used to its scary face (Ogbuechi, 2018) <sup>[43]</sup>. This is evident in Nigeria's record of 1,177 kidnap cases in just a period of 14 months from 2016 to 2017 (Eagle, 2017 as cited in Ogbuechi, 2018) <sup>[43]</sup>.

### **Armed banditry as a security threat in Nigeria**

Armed banditry and cattle rustling has become rampant especially in more recent times in Nigeria's history. Bassey & Ubi, (2016) <sup>[15]</sup> noted that there are more cases of cattle being stolen without harming anyone, even in broad daylight. Before the year 2010, armed banditry used to be overlooked and under-reported mostly handled by the locals. However, the year 2010 ushered in a set of criminal

gangs who specialized in armed banditry and so a new style of banditry emerged which involved not only rustling the cattle but killing the owners and scaring people away from their communities (Dauda, 2014, Rufai, 2016;) <sup>[18, 52]</sup>. Furthermore, Anka, (2017) <sup>[13]</sup> posits that the 2011 general election in Nigeria brought about the emergence of these security threats that have crippled social and economic life in some Zamfara communities including Dansadau, Zurmi, Shinkafi, Anka, Maradun and Tsafe forest. Accordingly, it was further discovered that no fewer than 36 communities along these villages have been destroyed and no fewer than 15,000 cattle were rustled (Kuruwa, 2017; Daniya, 2017; Tukur, 2017 as cited in Anka, 2017) <sup>[13]</sup>. In other words, socio-economic activities in these communities have been paralysed.

### **Cybercrime as a security threat in Nigeria**

Cybercrime is a crime committed with the help of computers and smartphones through a communication device or a transmission media called the cyberspace and global network called the "Internet". The coming of the internet has brought unprecedented breakthrough in every sphere of human endeavour in the world today; providing a medium for distance learning, serving as a source of income, enabling business transactions and online business advertisement (Isyaku, 2013; Ogege, 2013) <sup>[30, 44]</sup>. In fact, with the emergence of computers, the world has become "a global village" because of how computers have shortened the distance, boosted the economy and made communications easier even for a common man (Epron, 2018) <sup>[21]</sup>. However, the internet has side effects. One major side effect of the internet is cybercrime, which has also become a threat to Nigeria's socio-economic development. According to Olusola, Samson, Semiu, & Yinka (2013), the most common type of cybercrime in Nigeria is Known as advanced fee fraud 419 (aka Yahoo-yahoo).

Other forms of cyber-crimes include sending spam email (spamming), stealing personal information (identity theft), breaking into someone's computer to view or alter data (hacking) and tricking someone into revealing their personal information (phishing), making Internet services unavailable for users (Denial of service –DOS), credit card fraud (ATM), plagiarism and software piracy, pornography, stealing money bit-by-bit through tricks (salami attacks) and virus dissemination, etc. (Titus, 2016) <sup>[56]</sup>. Despite the effort by the Nigerian government to curtail the activities of these criminals by establishing the Nigeria Cybercrime Commission, they still flourish.

Nigeria's Crime Working Group (NCWG) in 2004 in order to create a legal and institutional framework for the security of computer systems and networks in the country and the protection of critical information infrastructure, and signing of the cybercrime bill, cybercrime seems to flourish in more recent time in Nigeria (Isyaku, 2013) <sup>[30]</sup>.

### **Major factors behind emerging security threats**

Security threats do not emerge without factors behind its emergence. There are lots of arguments as regards to these factors. However, the present study only pointed out a few major factors among numerous factors behind the emergence of these security threats. The study discovered that all emerging security threats have similar motivating factors behind its emergence. It was discovered that unemployment, poor security system, poverty and poor

governance seem to be major factors behind the emergence of armed banditry, kidnapping, and cybercrime altogether.

### **High level of unemployment**

The National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) in 2019 put Nigeria's unemployment rate at 23.1%, of which youth unemployment is 55.4%. This figure has continued to increase yearly as Nigerian institutions keep graduating batches of youths with the prior impression of getting a better job and opportunities after graduating. No wonder, Suleiman (2018) opined that anxiety from Nigerian graduates that later turn to frustration, and then to aggression on the government is what has fuelled the emergence of most of these security threats in the country. Kilishi *et al* (2014) <sup>[31]</sup> as cited in Abdulkabir, (2017) <sup>[1]</sup> believed that the rising wave of crime in Nigeria has been blamed on the increasing level of unemployment. However, the findings of the present study revealed that idle youths tend to engage in illegal activities in other to meet up with contemporary trends. The study further revealed that youths easily get enticed with the riches, and as a result, they tend to do whatever it takes to set rich. The study concurs with the view of Adagba that the Nigeria's high rate of unemployment, especially the increasing rate of youth's unemployment is what majorly prompts the jobless youths in the country to resort to violent crime (Adagba *et al.*, 2012).

### **Porous security system**

Nigeria's porous security system has been a major concern over the past decades. The security system faces the problem of two sides of the same coin' problem. The first one is its inadequate supply of weaponry and equipment which has been a challenge in the fight against insurgency in the country.

In 2014 and 2019, Daily Trust reported that Nigerian security personnel had to run because of inadequate modern fighting equipment to face the well-equipped Boko Haram fighters. The irony is that it has remained a major challenge despite a huge amount of money budgeted for the purchase of modern equipment every year. So many security threats have taken advantage of the security challenge to carry out their illegal activities in the country. The second face of the coin portrays the negligence of some security personnel at the point of discharging their duties. Instead of maintaining peace and security, they become threats to peace and security. For instance, in April 2019 the nation reported that about 10 boys brigade were killed by security personnel who ran into the Easter procession. That incident would have caused a religious crisis if not for the immediate intervention of religious and traditional leaders in the state.

### **Poverty/poor governance**

Adeolu (2018) noted that the failure of successive administrations in Nigeria to address challenges of poverty bewildering the nation has made life worrisome and only the fittest survive. Adebayo, (2018 pp. 3) concur with the view of Adeolu, (2018) when he noted that "Nigeria has overtaken India as the country with the largest number of people living in extreme poverty, with an estimated 87 million Nigerians, or around half of the country's population, estimated to be living on less than \$1.90 a day". However, the present study has a similar view with Alao, Atere & Alao (2015) <sup>[11]</sup> when he linked terrorism to poverty. Although not all forms of terrorism could be linked

to poverty it has been noted that economic deprivation influences people to resort to illegal means of meeting their daily needs. In a study by Epron, (2014) <sup>[22]</sup> it was discovered that because of the attractive benefits for carrying out any insurgent activity, most people especially the youths tend to join the insurgents in the Northeast of Nigeria.

**Implications for Nigeria’s socio-economic development**

According to Maureen & Blessing (2018) <sup>[37]</sup> these security threats have implications for Nigeria’s socio-economic development. The table below shows the implications of these threats for Nigeria’s socio-economic progress. It also shows the security threats and a few selected incidences and captures a few implications for Nigeria's socio-economic development.

**Table 1:** The implications of these threats for Nigeria’s socio-economic progress

S/N	Security Threats and Selected Incidences	Implication For Nigeria’s Socio-Economic Development
1.	<p><b>Cybercrime and Incidences</b></p> <p>April 2018 Ejalah Vincent A. was scammed after sending his bank details to yahoo-yahoo boys through a phone call. ₦300,000 was instantly debited.</p> <p>May 2018, Mallam Yahaya (a poor farmer) defrauded of ₦57,000 by fraudsters posing as bankers at an ATM Standpoint.</p> <p>January 2019 Angela Ngalburah transferred ₦100,000 to persons who claim to have gotten a job for her at an oil company which she later discovered was fake. Shola Seni was defrauded of ₦200,000 by fraudsters who promised to fast-track his Canada Visa.</p> <p>June 2019 Mamman Auta received an appointment later through his mail. ₦150,000 was demanded to process other related job issues. Nothing was heard after the payment (extracted from The Nation, 2018, 3 May; Daily trust, 6 April 2018; Vanguard, 2 Jan 2019; Sahara, 17 June 2019).</p>	<p><b>Implication For Nigeria’s Socio-Economic Development</b></p> <p>(i). A report by the National Communication Commission in 2019 indicated that there has been a low inflow of foreign direct investment into the country even with the introduction of cashless policy and e-banking for business transactions. This problem has been attributed to continued cyberattacks on foreign investors in the country which has since succeeded in scaring away foreign investors and discouraging others from coming to invest in Nigeria. This means that there will be continuous less inflow of funds which may directly affect social and economic development in the country.</p> <p>(ii). The activities of Nigeria's infamous "yahoo boys" have created a bad image for the country as information coming from Nigeria is frequently regarded as a scam. This means that Mails from Nigeria's financial institutions may not get full attention, and may likely be considered a scam because of how people outside the country see Nigerians as criminals. Nigerians may soon be undergoing serious scrutiny when establishing a business in another country, more serious than what it is experiencing now if at all they are not met with total denial (Falode, 2016) <sup>[25]</sup>.</p> <p>(iii). Youths today sees the internet as a forum for committing illegal activities. Cybercrime such as pornography, online prostitution, online gambling among others have devalued the norms of the society and morality at stake. Youths have become lazy and addicted to the use of the internet (Shehu, 2014). No wonder, President Muhammadu Buhari in 2018 when being interviewed, declared that “Nigerian youths are lazy”. What does this entail? If care is not taken, the addiction to the use of the internet by our youths and the obvious moral decadence that has made some kind of security threats to flourish will continue to affect Nigeria’s socio-economic development.</p>
2.	<p><b>Kidnapping And Incidences</b></p> <p>May 2015 Prof. James Adichie was kidnapped and ₦50m demanded, an undisclosed amount paid (Ogbuehi, 2018).</p> <p>September 2015 Mr. Olu Falae (Former Finance Minister) was Kidnapped and ₦100m demanded, undisclosed amount paid (Ogbuehi, 2018)</p> <p>March 2016 Sierra Leone’s High commissioner to Nigeria was kidnapped, and 40m dollars demanded, undisclosed amount paid (Ogbuehi, 2018).</p> <p>May 2019 Umar Musa (President Buhari’s townsman) was kidnapped (extracted from the nation online, 2 May 2019, pp1).</p>	<p><b>Implications For Nigeria’s Socio-Economic Development</b></p> <p>(i). Nigeria in its 2009 budget, spent a whopping sum of ₦195 billion for security, specifically for police formations, and commands around the country. In Lagos, about 3 billion Naira has been spent on security alone (Soyombo, 2009 as cited in Inyang &amp; Abraham, 2013) <sup>[29]</sup>. Sir. Mike Okiro (Former IGP), disclosed that ₦15 billion have been paid as ransom between 2006 and 2009 (Kyrian, 2009 as cited in Inyang <i>et al</i>, 2013) <sup>[29]</sup>. If you add up the total figures, it will give you about 213 billion Naira! This huge amount is enough to relieve Nigeria of major socio-economic developmental issues. The implication being that if Nigeria continues to spend such amount annually, it will not have sufficient funds to embark on important socio-economic development projects</p> <p>(ii). Inyang &amp; Abraham noted that the nation loses a lot of revenue because of the frequent attacks on expatriates working in the multinational oil companies. It does also scare labourers from coming to work which indirectly affects socio-economic development. For example, Dode (2007) as cited in Inyang &amp; Abraham (2013) <sup>[29]</sup> noted that, in 2006, kidnapers abducted six foreign expatriates from Shell Oil Companies premises and later on “...the company was forced to close down and this led to the loss of millions of standard cubic feet per day of gas production for the country” (Inyang &amp; Abraham, 2013 p. 5) <sup>[29]</sup>.</p>
3.	<p><b>Armed Banditry And Incidences</b></p> <p>15 June, 2019 34 killed in Tungar Kafau and Gidan waya, Zamfara state (Altine, 2019) <sup>[12]</sup>.</p> <p>27 July 2018 42 killed in the villages of Mashema, Kwashabawa and Birane districts of Zurmi local government area of Zamfara state.</p> <p>December 2018</p>	<p><b>Implications for Nigeria’s Socio-Economic Development</b></p> <p>(i). The undesired migration of Fulani and their cattle out of some affected areas in Zamfara to neighbouring countries of Niger has serious socio-economic implications for the country. Tukur (2017) as cited in Anka (2017) <sup>[13]</sup> noted that it cost a whole lot of money coupled with stress/risk to import cows from neighbouring countries for consumption, aside from dairy and manure for farming activities.</p> <p>(ii). Socio-economic development has been brought to its knees by these acts of banditry especially in Zamfara and other neighbouring states.</p>



<p>17 people in an attack on Magami Village of Faru District in Maradun Local Government Area (LGA) of Zamfara State (plus tv, 2018)<sup>[50]</sup>.                  May 2019                  23 persons killed in Tunga and Kabaje villages, Kaura Namoda Local Government Area by suspected bandits, Zamfara state.</p>	<p>Mohammed (2019) noted that schools have been destroyed and so most students do not go to school. Parents are not able to send their children to far schools due to fear of being kidnapped or killed by the armed bandits. Mohammed further noted that socio-economic activities have been crippled as people are living in constant fear of the unknown.                  (iii). Cases of rape have continued to be on the increase and constitute another setback in the socio-economic development of the affected areas. Badaru (2017) argued that since 2014, there have been recorded cases of rape along the Dansadau forest by the armed bandits.                  (iv). Onuah &amp; Akwagyram (2019)<sup>[49]</sup>, reported that mining activities have been suspended in Zamfara due to frequent attacks by armed bandits. The implication of the suspension is that revenue generated through mining in the state has been cut off, and this may likely affect the aggregate economic activities in the country.</p>
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Source: Silas Epron, June 2019.

**Methodology**

The historical method of research and analysis was employed in the study. The study data were collected through documentation of secondary sources. The study is also descriptive in style as it built on the findings of already existing works about emerging security threats in the country.

The dependent variable is the Nigeria economic growth represented by GDP of the Nigeria economy, while the independent variable is the corruption perception index, corruption rank, relative corruption rank, Global peace index and Human development index.

**Conclusion**

Over the years in Nigeria, corruption has become a hydra-headed monster which has destroyed the very fabric of her economy. It is this same corruption that has led to gross systemic failure of the government and institutions to provide its citizen with jobs and means of livelihood which has today led to the point of people going into all forms of social vices and volunteering for terrorism and armed banditry which is the subject of considerations in this paper. If we must survive as a nation, the general perception about corruption by government officials, political office holders and its citizens must be properly put in the correct perspective. In the case of Nigeria, it is almost true from our finding that Nigerians are used to corruption that we even encourage our relations who are in government to steal while holding public offices. This problem also cut across the private and public sectors, like: the tertiary institutions, Private organizations and even multinationals.

Nigeria's Socio-economic development has been hampered by these emerging security threats – kidnapping, armed banditry, insurgency, corruption and cybercrime among others. The study revealed that certain factors are behind the sudden upsurge of these security threats in the country which include among others poverty/poor governance, unemployment and poor security system. These factors have been noted to influence people directly and indirectly that always result in negative responses. The negative responses later turn to have implications for socio-economic development in the country. The menace if not urgently curtailed as a matter of priority, presents a great threat not only for the nation's socio-economic development but also portends a great danger to the entire West African region.

The Nigerian military has suffered from years of corruption despite the millions of dollars pumped into the sector over the years. Even senior security officials have admitted that their agencies are ill prepared for the security challenges of

the Boko Haram terrorism due to under-funding brought about by corruption, lack of training and equipment, poor intelligence gathering, corruption, complicity, inter-agency rivalries and lack of effective political leadership.

The police force is even more ill-equipped to address the Boko Haram threat than the other security agencies. It has been grossly underfunded- less than 5 per cent of the budget since military rule ended in 1999 and needs reform. The 2012 budget allotted 1.6 million naira (\$10,000) per soldier but only 870,000 naira (\$5,400) per police officer. At current levels, police colleges ‘‘can only turn out demoralised, frustrated and dehumanised policemen’’. Many residents accused police of selling informants’ identities to Boko Haram. Given the urgency of the situation, the police are in no fit state to answer the Boko Haram challenges, but to truly achieve stability in the long term, Nigeria will need to address the shambolic state of law enforcement agencies and carry out systematic police reform’’. (See Crisis Group African Report No. 216, 3 April 2014 ‘‘curbing violence in Nigeria (ii): The Boko Haram Insurgency).

Also the use of vigilantes (volunteers), even though met with relative success has accompanied by human rights abuses in most cases. It has been advised that the federal government needs to develop a coherent policy for dealing with the vigilantes, to avoid unwittingly creating militias that could trigger more violence in the future.

Dialogue has also failed because of lack of credible political and traditional leaderships at state and national levels, leaders who will show greater will and determination to stop local support for the sect (see ‘‘Leadership vacuum makes Boko Haram difficult to solve’’, The sun, 5 June 2012).

The lack of political will to prosecute collaborators and sponsors of Boko Haram has also been a major bane in resolving this problem. Since the government claims it knows who the prominent northern politicians sponsoring the Islamic extremist group are, it should go after, expose and prosecute them.

**Recommendations**

In order to squarely address the menace of insurgency, armed banditry and corruption in Nigeria, the following recommendations may be considered;

- There should be re-orientation to inculcate ethical values and reverence for life and human right and the need to co-exist irrespective of religious inclinations. Wanton killings can never be a service to God.
- Nigeria government should strategize to create meaningful employment for the youths encapsulated in

programmes which aim at addressing the endemic poverty in the North-East in particular and the country in general.

- To ultimately end a major armed conflict, it is necessary to understand the nature of the war. The South Africa mercenaries did, and this module remarkable resulted in fighting Boko Haram in Nigeria. Nigeria should sustain this impressive tactic of “relentless pursuit” in prosecuting the war against Boko Haram.
- Government at all levels should put in place functional social security system because it is discovered that public office holders embezzle money because of fear of tomorrow (after they have left office).
- To address the international dimension to the onslaught, government need to erect fences in the borders calculated to be easily accessible to terrorists and intensify security therein.
- There should be special courts to try suspected cases of insurgency/terrorism rather than the judicial courts which can be slow in their processes. Convicts should be summarily dealt with according to the statutes on terrorism so as to serve as deterrence to prospective terrorists.
- There is the need for proper orientation of the Nigerian Security personnel on the need to maintain peace and order in collaboration with the local vigilante. Local vigilante understands their communities better than a newly posted police officer from another state.
- Nigeria leadership need to key into the clarion call for dialogue with Boko Haram with a view to understanding their real motive and ultimately ensuring security/protecting the lives and property of the affected citizens.
- Security collaboration with local vigilante does not in any way affect their duty or commitment to the nation since both are meant to serve the purpose of security. Security personnel should also be mentally checked during recruitments to avoid causing havoc in society. However, the government should equip the security forces with both types of modern equipment and necessary incentives to enable them to carry out their duty without hindrances.
- Government must discourage the attractiveness of public offices by running a low cost government and invest more in public goods for the benefit of her citizenry. Public offices should be seen less attractive.
- Proactive measure should be put in place to tackle insurgency both tactically and institutionally- the military must be strengthened.
- The populace also holds her nation the duty of reporting any strange event or persons if suspected to engage in such act.
- Nigerian must stop the attitude of demanding money in exchange for vote from politicians who seek public offices.
- Accountability measures should be put in place in order to hold people responsible for their actions or inaction.
- Civil societies and citizens should be at the forefront of championing campaigns against corruption and corrupt leaders (public and private).
- The security agencies should collaborate to evolve a workable and sustainable information sharing strategies

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