
GOOD GOVERNANCE AS A PANACEA TO PEACE AND SECURITY IN NIGERIA

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ABSTRACT

Good governance is the major driving force towards peace, security, and sustainable development in Nigeria, as in any other country of the world. However, Good Governance has been a problem for Nigeria state. After several series of military interventions and her return to a stable democracy in 1999, there has been an absence of elements of good governance in all facets of governance due to mainly corruption mismanagement of resources nepotism, and an avalanche of decadence bedeviling our nation. Furthermore, it entrenches the menace of unemployment ethnic crisis, unemployment, ethno-religious crises, kidnapping, banditry Boko haram terrorist organization, and host of others facing the country. The non-conformity to respect the tenets of good governance such as accountability, transparency, equitability, inclusiveness, and, adherence to the rule of law has been The paper tries to look at the absence of good governance in Nigeria as responsible for the threats of peace and security in the country Secondary sources were used such as internets materials, journals articles, and books, in carrying out these research. The paper concludes that good governance is a very important tool in mitigating the myriad of problems of corruption, poverty unemployment nepotism kidnapping, and a host of others in Nigeria Recommendations were made to offer solutions to the problems such as the establishment of skills centres, free education and health care delivery and observanc of rule of law.

Keywords: Good Governance, Peace, Security, Insecurity.

INTRODUCTION

There is a belief that integrity is the key to achieving peace and security, a notion that I personally believe a roadmap for sustainable development. The citizens voluntarily relinquished their authority to a collective entity. Individuals form governments to avoid living in a brutish and short state of nature. Socioeconomically disadvantaged individuals can benefit from interventions aimed at improving their living conditions. If there is Sincerity in government, also known as good governance, encompasses the principles of transparency, responsiveness, and accountability.

The absence of conflict can contribute to peace and security.

What are the prerequisites for achieving sustainable development? When these conditions arise,

The issue of governance has been discussed by various sources (Bangura, 2011; Accord, 2011; Inter-Parliamentary Union, [2012]), as cited in Fashagba & Oshewolo, 2014). Nigeria was created as a project of The British Empire gained independence in 1960 and became a republic in 1963 and returned into a stable political democracy in 1999 following a series of military interventions.

The question pertains to the causes and consequences of poor governance.

According to Mimiko (1998), decolonization enabled the emergence of leaders who were aligned with the establishment of colonial rule in Nigeria. This facilitated the maintenance of a neo-colonial economic system. Despite achieving political independence. These leaders swiftly assumed power and promptly intensified their actions..

The development vision was intended to complement the inherited repressive instrument in an efficient manner. All individuals our interest primarily lies in gaining access to power and privileges rather than focusing on development.

However, the integration of development principles has not been effectively incorporated into her political, economic, and social spheres, consequently leading to limited progress.

The lack of peace and security is attributed to poor governance, as discussed by Gbervbie, Shodipo, and others.

According to Oviasogie (2013), the leadership structure in Nigeria is considered to be inadequate. There are deficiencies in the accountability and transparency of public affairs management in the country. It is crucial to recognize that peace, security, and sustainable development cannot be achieved without the presence of good governance.

Good governance is key in the art of modern government today. When governance fails, a process of structural and societal generation occurs. The process of dislocation commences. This process leads to violent conflicts, instability, and turmoil. Underdevelopment is a gradual and unavoidable process. Prior to degeneration, early stages of this process typically occur. Indicator such as abrupt shifts in population demographics, unexpected economic disruptions, and increasing levels of unemployment serve as cautionary signs factors such as fluctuating rates, electoral destabilization, growing societal intolerance, and a rise in the quantity of noted that demonstrations, along with various other developments, have been observed (Fashagba & Oshewolo, 2014).

It is concerning that the aforementioned warning signals have become ingrained in Nigerian culture. Despite the restoration of a stable democratic system, there remains a lack of necessary human and material resources.

Lack of good governance does not manifest symptoms of development.

The current government has been characterized by poor governance, which stands in contrast to its opposite. The translated issues include political crisis, economic meltdown, ethnic crisis, religious crisis, and insecurity.

Unemployment, disorder, and violence arise from a deficiency in accountability and transparency.

The citizens have been demanding responsiveness, inclusive democracy, and the rule of law.

During the periods of British colonial rule and military regime, George-Genyi argues that the governance issues in Nigeria are closely tied to the country's historical experience, which has contributed to the current ethno-religious and politico-economic crisis. This situation raises significant concerns regarding the issue of good governance in Nigeria. It seems that the politics of deprivation and mismanagement of resources are overshadowing the principles of accountability, transparency, and responsibility (2013:57).

Since the establishment of stable democracy in 1999, Nigerians have not witnessed any significant achievements or progress towards sustainable development. Good governance, which ensures the provision of public goods and services in a responsive and efficient manner, transparent allocation of resources, and equitable distribution of goods, has been lacking in Nigeria.

In Nigeria, the citizens responded by retaliating and taking advantage of any available opportunity. The use of armed struggle can undermine peace and security when the government lacks responsiveness, accountability, transparency, and fails to promote sustainable growth and development in the

short and long term. The poor and weak individuals across the country have been devising strategies to create chaos and violence, with various groups emerging such as Boko Haram in the north-east. These actions have resulted in significant loss of life, destruction of property, displacement of millions of people, and high-profile incidents like the abduction of schoolgirls in Chibok and Dapchi. Additionally, conflicts between farmers and herdsmen in the north-central and parts of the south-west, kidnapping for ransom, militant activities in the south-south and south-east, religious and communal crises in Kaduna, Nassarawa, and Plateau states, election-related conflicts, and demands for better representation from the Niger Delta Region have further destabilized peace and security in the country.

The various challenges mentioned are attributed to inadequate governance, where the government has failed to ensure essential amenities such as clean drinking water, reliable electricity, well-maintained roads, accessible education, equitable representation, inclusive governance, protection of life and property, and provision of security and employment opportunities. Unemployment poses a significant risk to social stability in numerous countries, including Nigeria. The rule of law is a fundamental principle in good governance that promotes equality, respect for fundamental human rights, and ultimately drives development. Development is hindered in environments where there is limited opportunity for individuals to express their opinions, human rights are disregarded, information is restricted, and civil society and the judiciary lack strength. No country, regardless of its economic status, should justify mistreatment of its citizens, disregard for their legal rights, or subject them to corruption, mismanagement, or economic inefficiency. Nigeria is currently experiencing a range of challenges, including mayhem, bloodshed, lack of trust in government, unemployment, abject poverty, mismanagement of public funds, and grand corruption. According to the National Standard (Oct. 15, 2007), corruption has resulted in the denial of access to education, housing, health, food, and infrastructure for millions of Nigerians. Despite possessing abundant human resources, material resources, natural endowments, favorable geographical location, and a large population, our progress towards achieving sustainable development has been lacking. Effective governance is a crucial prerequisite for achieving sustainable development. Despite similarities in natural resources and social structure, different countries have demonstrated significant variations in their ability to enhance the well-being of their populations (Regina & Ukadike, 2013).

Poor governance has consistently hindered peace and security, leading to increased insecurity, as well as other issues such as poverty and unemployment, since the establishment of stable democracy in 1999.

Method

The study adopted secondary sources drawing copiously on existing literature leadership and governance from internets, books, and unpublished materials.

Conceptual analysis

This paper explores the themes of Good Governance, Peace, and Security. It also examines the concept of insecurity. It is essential to thoroughly examine each concept for practical applications.

Good governance is a concept that is derived from governance. To fully comprehend and conceptualize good governance, it is necessary to first understand the concept of governance. Governance refers to the capacity of leaders to establish a favorable environment in which fairness and justice are upheld, enabling individuals to experience these principles without engaging in activities that promote immorality. Good Governance encompasses the customs and establishments through which authority is exercised. This includes the procedures for selecting, monitoring, and replacing government officials, as well as the government's ability to efficiently develop and implement policies. Additionally, it involves the citizens' respect for both the state institutions and the economic and social interactions governed by them. According to George-Genyi (2012), good governance encompasses the intricate mechanisms, processes, relationships, and institutions that enable citizens and groups to express their interests, exercise their rights and responsibilities, and resolve their conflicts.

According to Sharman, Sadana, and Kaur (2013:64), good governance encompasses the establishment of the rule of law, enforcement of contracts and agreements, maintenance of law and order, provision of security to the people, efficient utilization of resources, protection of the government, and effective delivery of services to society. It also determines the optimal size of government and maximizes the efficient allocation of government resources. According to Fagbadebo (2007:32), good governance is achieved when governance aligns with the legal and ethical principles of the political community. In such circumstances, there will be a significant impact on the system and a collective desire among individuals to actively engage in state activities. This is based on the

understanding that adherence to established rules and procedures would benefit the majority of the population. The prevention of benefit deprivation and selective justice would not be promoted, as the rights of individuals would be safeguarded within the framework of the law. Political leaders prioritize the principles of transparency and accountability in governance. The core principles of good governance prioritize the well-being and interests of individuals as the primary goal of governance. Despite differing definitions, there is widespread agreement in the literature regarding the fundamental principles of this subject. These principles include transparency and accountability, the rule of law, electoral legitimacy, efficient service delivery, administrative competence, civil liberties and participation, and consensus-orientation.

Adesola (2012) identifies several key characteristics of good governance, including popular participation, rule of law, transparency, responsiveness, economic consensus, equity and inclusiveness, effectiveness and efficiency, and accountability.

Theoretical framework

The dependency theory posits that multinational corporations, transnational organizations like the IMF and World Bank, have fostered economic dependence of developing nations on developed nations. The theory posits that this interdependence is self-perpetuating due to the tendency of economic systems to favor first world countries and corporations. Scholars have raised concerns about the potential bias towards Western thought in the concept of development. The debate revolved around whether population growth is the primary cause of problems in the third world, or if the issues are multifaceted and intricate. There is ongoing debate among policy makers regarding the appropriate level of involvement of developed countries in the third world, as well as the cancellation of debts in these countries. The concept of good governance theory is closely linked to governing methods and structures in developing nations. This theory holds particular relevance to Nigeria, given its status as a developing country. The theory of good governance originated from a set of principles and policies initially introduced by the World Bank to support and guide developing or third world countries. The World Bank typically mandates developing countries to adhere to good governance practices as a condition for assistance, among other requirements. Good governance pertains to the development of the public sector in developing nations. Modern government is not solely focused on efficiency, but also on the accountability between the state and its citizens (Bjork and

Johansson, 2001). Good governance recognizes that individuals should be treated as citizens, rather than just customers or consumers, and have the right to hold their governments accountable for their actions or lack thereof. Efficiency in the public sector should not compromise the quality of service provided. Citizens possess the right to protest and hold politicians accountable in instances of poor service.

Theories on Insecurity

In sociology, a theory refers to a collection of interconnected statements that aim to describe, explain, and occasionally predict social phenomena (Kendall, 2007). Social theories encompass a systematic body of knowledge that seeks to elucidate, depict, forecast, or challenge social phenomena.

Sociological theories have the ability to predict future outcomes and can be used as tools for social change, influencing both the structure of society and individuals' lifestyles. The theoretical perspectives relevant to this discourse include both classical and contemporary sociological theories. Functionalism and Marxism are classical theories in Sociology, while contemporary theories include elite theory, social structure theory, anomie theory, and relative deprivation theory.

Structural functionalism is a specific classical theory within Sociology. The origin of this concept can be traced back to August Comte, a philosopher who lived from 1798 to 1857. Scholars like Herbert Spencer (1820-1903) and Robert Merton (1920-2003) also made significant contributions to its development. The theory was further developed by Emile Durkheim (1858-1917) and Talcott Parson (1902-1979). This paradigm posits that human society consists of various interconnected structures, including political, economic, religious, educational, industrial, technological, and social control systems. These structures work together to foster solidarity and maintain stability. Therefore, any disruption in one aspect of society results in disruption in another aspect. Functionalist theorists have traditionally likened society to a living organism and have drawn parallels between the two. Similar to a living organism, society consists of various interconnected parts that collaborate to fulfill its essential requirements for survival. These components are considered social institutions, which are closely connected to the aforementioned structures and fulfill distinct functions in maintaining the entirety. Merton (1938) argues that roles in society can be classified as manifest or latent, and they play a crucial role in maintaining social

cohesion. However, he challenges the notion that every component of the system performs positive functions, contradicting the functionalist perspective. Merton (1938) suggests that analysis should consider the usefulness, dysfunctionality, or nonfunctionality of different aspects of society for groups, society, and individuals (Haralambos et al., 2008). In relation to the topic of this discussion, **The Applicability of functionalism to Insecurity** as a component of the social control institution in human society. In this context, insecurity can be seen as fulfilling certain "functional prerequisites" necessary for the survival of specific societal groups, thereby preventing their extinction. The role and responsibilities of security agencies can be understood in two ways. Firstly, acts of violence such as armed robbery, assassination, kidnapping, and terrorism create opportunities for individuals to engage in unofficial or illegal employment (Global Terrorism Index, 2015; Haralambos et al., 2008; Ngwama, 2014; Oputeh, 2015). These activities allow individuals to adapt or create innovative methods of survival due to the high levels of unemployment and poverty in present-day Nigeria (Merton, 1938). Additionally, it offers employment opportunities and facilitates professional growth for security personnel within different societal agencies. Nigeria has nine agencies of this nature. The maintenance of law and order is crucial for ensuring social cohesion and the efficient functioning of society (Andersen & Taylor, 2006). Legitimate and illegitimate employment provide individuals in different social classes with occupational roles that are crucial for the functioning of other institutions like the family and education, which are also vital for the society's survival. Occupation serves as a source of livelihood for family members, preventing their extinction. Additionally, it enables families to fulfill other societal functions such as socializing the young, regulating sexual activity and procreation, providing support to members, and assigning identity to individuals (Glenn, 1987). It allows families to financially support their children's education in institutions where individuals of different generations acquire skills for occupational roles, contributing to societal progress. In addition, security personnel play a crucial role in facilitating social mobility within the social stratification system, motivating individuals to assume various social positions in society (Haralambos et al., 2008). The manifest roles of these agencies are to maintain the system and provide employment opportunities for individuals, as well as ensure the safety of society. The latent role is the potential impact on the wellbeing of Nigerians and national development. This theory highlights the significance of insecurity as a function of both the economic sub-system and social control institution in Nigerian society.

The Concept of Peace

In societies without peace, social, economic, and political activities are hindered, including governance. The concept of peace is considered essential and imperative, despite its varied interpretations among scholars. Peace is considered the foremost value in present-day Africa, representing the most valuable public good. However, it remains difficult to achieve and maintain (Francis, 2006:16).

According to Fashagba and Oshewolo, the term "Peace" has its roots in the Anglo-French word "Pes" and the old French word "Pais." These words signify concepts such as peace, reconciliation, silence, agreement, and tranquility. Peace is often understood as the mere absence of war. However, it is important to recognize that even in times of peace, individuals continue to experience significant hardships such as poverty, malnutrition, diseases, illiteracy, discrimination, oppression, and various other challenges. Despite the absence of war, Nigeria continues to face a multitude of problems on a daily basis. According to Ibeanu (2006:3) and Bangura (2011:5), as cited in Fashagba & Oshewolo, the concept of peace goes beyond the absence of war or violent conflict due to ethnic, cultural, religious, or political differences. It also encompasses the simultaneous existence of social justice, harmony, and equity. Albert Einstein (1940) argued that peace is not solely the absence of war, but also the presence of justice, law, order, and effective governance. According to the Director General of UNESCO (2013), peace encompasses more than the mere absence of war. It involves coexisting harmoniously with our diverse characteristics, such as gender, race, language, religion, and culture. This coexistence is contingent upon fostering universal respect for justice and human rights. The issue of coexistence has become a significant challenge in Nigeria, particularly in states such as Kaduna in the North-west, Plateau in the North-central, and Onitsha in the south-east. These areas experience religious and market disparities between Muslim and Christian communities. Peace can be defined as a state devoid of social conflict, wherein individuals and groups are capable of fulfilling their needs, aspirations, and expectations. Peace can be understood through the lens of structural functionalism (Genyi, 2013). Structural functionalism pertains to the establishment of institutions or structures that ensure the presence of peace. Functionalism, on the other hand, pertains to the roles performed by these structures in achieving their primary objective and fulfilling the purpose for which they were established. In Nigeria, it is important to assess the effectiveness and efficiency of institutions in carrying out their functions, considering the

proliferation and duplication of these institutions. The presence of violent conflicts in Nigeria has contributed to its state of underdevelopment. The consequences of the situation include loss of life, destruction of infrastructure and natural resources, and a decrease in employment opportunities. These issues are exacerbated by a weakened social safety net and a decline in the state's ability to provide essential services like healthcare, education, and security. According to George Genyi (2013), the peace, security, and overall wellbeing of the Nigerian population have been significantly compromised. The ongoing conflicts in various regions of the country have hindered peace and had negative impacts on its economic, political, and social policies. These conflicts have also impeded sustainable development and damaged its reputation in international politics.

sThe Concept of Security

Security challenges in Nigeria have significantly impacted various regions of the country, resulting in discomfort, adversity, and unfavorable conditions for its inhabitants. Microsoft Encarta 2007 is a software program.

Security can be defined as the protection of a state's territory and population, and the policies implemented to ensure their well-being in the future. National security encompasses various measures that impact the economic and social well-being of a population, while also addressing external aggression and internal subversion (Ahmed, 2013). Security, on the other hand, is defined as the state of feeling safe from harm or danger, and involves the defense, protection, and preservation of values, as well as the absence of threats to acquire those values (Terriff, 1991). The government has the duty to create a conducive environment and ensure sufficient protection for its citizens to engage in lawful activities and safeguard the nation's sovereignty from external threats.

Security refers to the state of being safe from harm or danger, as well as the defense, protection, and preservation of values. It involves the ability to protect and defend oneself, whether as an individual or a nation, along with their cherished values and legitimate interests, ultimately contributing to their well-being.

Security refers to the implementation of measures aimed at safeguarding individuals, assets, and livelihoods from potential harm or threats. The primary duty of the government is to allocate priority to security institutions. Adegoke (2020) and Phenson et al. (2014) define security as the measures and personnel put in place to safeguard lives and property, creating a peaceful environment for both citizens and the government to engage in their lawful pursuits without fear

or obstacles. Ibieta et al (2016) defines security as the achievement of peace and conflict prevention through various military strategies, such as non-offensive policies, deterrence, and defense. Security refers to the deliberate mechanisms designed to address and mitigate significant threats that hinder individuals from pursuing their core values. According to Alimba (2018), security encompasses the strategies and approaches implemented to address and resolve violent conflicts and criminal activities arising from external states, non-state actors, or structural, socio-political, and economic factors.

Insecurity is a state of feeling uncertain or lacking confidence in oneself or one's abilities.

Insecurity is the antithesis of security. It signifies a lack of protection, absence of safety, presence of danger, and overall uncertainty, among other factors. Insecurity, as defined by Beland (2015), is characterized by fear and anxiety resulting from a perceived absence or insufficiency of protection. It pertains to a deficiency or insufficient level of safety. Insecurity can also refer to the condition of being vulnerable to both natural and man-made disasters. Insecurity encompasses various forms of peace and security violations, including religious, ethno-regional, civil, social, economic, and political conflicts, resulting in repeated clashes and the consequent loss of lives and property.

A society is comprised of individuals, some of whom engage in criminal activities that disrupt the peaceful coexistence of the majority. Various methods used to harm the Nigerian state include insurgency, terrorism, theft, cultism, militancy, and banditry. These factors represent indicators of insecurity in Nigeria. To effectively tackle these challenges, the government needs to possess the necessary resources, including financial, human, logistical, and public support. The government's failure to address security issues in Nigeria is a significant factor contributing to the country's state of decline, primarily due to the actions of bandits.

Insecurity in Nigeria is attributed to factors such as unemployment, poverty, socio-economic inequality, corruption, a weak security system, porous borders, and the proliferation of small and light weapons. The escalating unemployment rate has led to a surge in violent crimes among young individuals, who resort to such activities as a means of survival (Igbuzor, 2011). Socio-economic inequality, stemming from poverty and unemployment, is associated with the increasing recognition of disparities in opportunities between the wealthy minority and the impoverished majority. Consequently, this often results in violent responses from a significant portion of the impoverished population (Okoli & Okpaleke,

2014). Corruption in Nigeria leads to governance failure, resulting in insecurity (Agunyai & Ojakorotu, 2021). According to Transparency International (2019), Nigeria was ranked...

Nigeria ranks 146th out of 180 countries on the corruption perception index. The weak security system can be attributed to insufficient funding of security agencies, resulting in a lack of modern equipment, poor welfare of security personnel, and inadequate personnel (Adegoke, 2014). Additionally, the porous border among states in the Lake Chad region, due to its geo-strategic location and ethno-cultural linkages, facilitates transnational trade and arms trafficking. This has led to the proliferation of arms, drug trafficking, armed robbery, and other criminal activities, which are considered the main causes of insurgency in the North-East region (Shalangwa, 2013).

The conflict between herders and farmers is a significant challenge in Africa, primarily due to the increasing insecurity. These issues include banditry, armed robbery, cybercrimes, terrorism, and violent clashes between farmers and herdsmen. Among the aforementioned crises, conflicts between farmers and herdsmen have emerged as a primary cause of numerous fatalities and displacements. Moritz (2010) and Tonah (2006) have observed that the incidence of violent conflicts between farmers and herdsmen in sub-Saharan Africa has steadily increased, resulting in significant damage to property in the affected communities, as well as numerous fatalities and displacements. The International Crises Group (2017) states that the conflict between herdsmen and farmers in Nigeria has resulted in a significant humanitarian crisis, characterized by numerous deaths and the displacement of people throughout the country, particularly in the Middle Belt region. Benue State has experienced significant loss of life due to violent clashes since 2014, with approximately 1,878 fatalities. Additionally, a substantial number of individuals, estimated to be around 62,000, have been displaced in Kaduna, Benue, and Plateau states. Ekiti and Enugu states have experienced conflicts between pastoralists and farmers, resulting in retaliatory attacks due to the destruction of farmlands, including the loss of cattle. The herders and farmers conflict refers to the recurring conflict between rural farmers and pastoral livestock breeders regarding land and grazing resources. It is also employed to depict the competition between farmers and herders for land and grazing resources, which may lead to the utilization of weapons by both parties (Onah & Ifedayo, 2010; Olaniyan & Yahaya, 2016). The conflict between herders and farmers has been prevalent in Northern Nigeria, specifically in the North Central region encompassing Benue and Plateau states, as well as the

North West region including Zamfara, Kaduna, and Kastina states. Historical relations between farmers and herders in host communities were characterized by reciprocal trade, involving the exchange of cattle for agricultural produce and the granting of grazing rights. However, this relationship has deteriorated over time due to adverse climate conditions, rapid population growth, environmental degradation, and other natural factors.

(2019).

The conflict between farmers and herders in the North Central region has evolved from impulsive acts of retaliation to deliberate and coordinated attacks, which include raiding villages and communities, engaging in robbery operations, or disengaging from the conflict altogether. The first option involves developing new plans that encompass target layout and operational strategies. In the latter scenario, a robber who wishes to leave or join another gang is allowed to do so as long as they follow the rules of territorial respect and secrecy. Several factors have been proposed to explain the reasons behind kidnapping in Nigeria, including the loss of societal values. This refers to the devaluation of human life, hard work, and hospitality towards foreigners, which has led to the emergence of contemporary crime and social problems. According to Okoli (2014), the prevalence of kidnapping in Nigeria can be attributed to a culture characterized by excessive greed and materialism. The issue of ineffective policing in Nigeria can be attributed to factors such as insufficient funding for security institutions, bribery and corruption among security agents, and limited utilization of technology for enhancing policing effectiveness. The unified structure of the Nigerian security institution undermines security effectiveness in Nigeria due to the lack of direct control that state governments have over security establishments within their jurisdiction (Okoli & Ogayi, 2018). Governance failure is attributed to the government's lack of responsiveness to insecurity issues and excessive focus on acquiring political power, which is believed to contribute to the rising rate of kidnapping in Nigeria. The state of insecurity in Nigeria can be attributed to the government's failure to address key issues such as poverty, unemployment, declining income, low savings, and high inflation rate (Agunyai, 2018; Agunyai & Ojakorotu, 2021).

The rising incidence of kidnapping in Nigeria poses a challenge to the government's responsibility of ensuring sufficient security measures to address this issue. Various factors contribute to the rising unemployment rate in Nigeria. According to Adebayo (2013), unemployment is caused by the government's failure to provide sufficient infrastructure and industries to create job

opportunities and support economic trade. This perspective is widely considered as the primary factor contributing to the economic disparity and widespread poverty prevalent in Nigerian society. However, Adebayo (2013) found that factors such as the expansion of educated workforce, specifically university graduates, rural-urban migration, and rapid population growth contribute to the emergence of kidnapping as a lucrative activity in Nigeria. Hence, it is plausible to comprehend that unemployed young individuals may resort to engaging in kidnapping and other illicit activities as a means of survival. Several factors contribute to insecurity in Nigeria. The porous borders of Nigeria have allowed for the proliferation of arms, human trafficking, drug trafficking, armed robbery, and other crimes due to negligence of security personnel. This position aims to provide support for events in the North East and North West regions, where transborder crime facilitated by culturally connected populations has created a habitat and safe haven for insurgency in the Lake Chad Region (Ismail, 2015). Socioeconomic disparities in Nigeria contribute to insecurity and various crimes such as armed robbery and kidnapping (Murtala, 2018; Okoli & Okpaleke, 2014). This argument posits that the extravagant lifestyle of a small group of wealthy individuals leads to increased greed and materialism among the majority of the population, ultimately resulting in a higher crime rate in Nigeria. The insecurity in Nigeria can be attributed to political corruption and poor governance by the political elites. This includes misappropriation and embezzlement of public funds, resulting in economic underdevelopment and insufficient basic facilities. Consequently, there is a lack of employment opportunities and hindered trade (Adebayo, 2013). Nigeria's population is predominantly composed of unemployed young people, which contributes to the prevalence of crime and social issues among this demographic. Olaniyan and Aliyu (2016) found that insecurity can be attributed to corruption and negligence of duty among security agents who provide alibis for criminals to support their criminal activities. This finding is consistent with several other studies. Insufficient government funding and inadequate equipment in Nigeria's security sector hinder effective crime control (Bashir, 2017; Adegoke, 2019).

The Interconnection between Good Governance, Peace, Security, and Insecurity.

In every country, the government is typically responsible for ensuring peace, security, and sustainable development. When a government successfully provides these public goods, it is referred to as "Good Governance." This concept encompasses principles such as accountability, honesty, inclusiveness,

transparency, and adherence to the rule of law. These principles are crucial for the attainment of growth and development in any nation. Effective governance by leaders is crucial for establishing a conducive environment of peace and security, which in turn facilitates the progress and development of a nation. Peace is essential for individuals to pursue their lawful livelihoods. Activities in the realms of economy, society, and politics cannot flourish amidst chaos and uncertainty. It is the responsibility of government leaders to ensure a peaceful environment and provide effective governance to the people. The government has a constitutional responsibility to protect lives and property. This can only be achieved when those in power take necessary measures to safeguard the country from both internal and external threats. Regrettably, the current situation in Nigeria is hindered by the prevalent issue of "bad governance," which serves as a major obstacle. The government's inability to effectively ensure national security can be attributed to issues such as corruption, mismanagement, nepotism, and various other factors. The nation is currently experiencing various security challenges, including herder-farmer conflict, ethno-religious conflict, insurgency (particularly from Boko Haram), kidnapping, and banditry. These issues can be resolved or reduced through effective governance. The persistence of insecurity can be attributed to the government's failure to address corruption, poverty, unemployment, and the porousness of the nation's borders. Achieving these goals is only possible through the implementation of good governance.

Democracy, good governance, and the rule of law are crucial principles that should be upheld both domestically and internationally.

Enabling environments are crucial for sustainable development, encompassing sustained and inclusive economic growth, social development, environmental protection, and the eradication of poverty and hunger (General Assembly resolution). Governments bear the responsibility of formulating sustainable economic policies through their various institutions assigned with this task.

To achieve "Good Governance," it is necessary to address all aspects of citizens' needs comprehensively. Bad governance refers to a government's inability to ensure peace, security, poverty eradication, and citizen protection, while also lacking transparency and violating the principle of the rule of law. The ethno-religious and regional composition of Nigeria, along with the manipulation of these identities, can be seen as the underlying cause of conflicts such as the Zangon-Kataf conflict in Kaduna.

Ife-Modakeke, Jukun/Tiv, Jos Crisis, Boko Haram insurgency, Kano, Borno, and other similar incidents.

According to Kofi Annan, the UN Secretary General in 1998, good governance is a crucial factor in eliminating poverty and fostering development (Genyi, 2013). Good governance contributes to peace, security, and the resolution of national insecurities, creating a stable environment for the lawful conduct of activities as outlined in the constitution. The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP, 1997) asserts that good governance supports sustainable development, encompassing poverty reduction, job creation, sustainable livelihoods, environmental protection and regeneration, and the empowerment of women. Poor governance results in negative consequences such as heightened poverty, unemployment, and underemployment. Consequently, good governance is a prerequisite for achieving relative peace and security in any nation, including Nigeria.

In order to achieve peace, security, and the reduction of ongoing insecurity, it is crucial to consider the nature and attitude of those in positions of governmental authority. Efforts should be made to uphold the principles of good governance, including transparency, accountability, responsiveness, inclusive democracy, and the rule of law. Failure to do so may lead to citizen suffering, conflicts, and a negative impact on peace, security, and long-lasting insecurity.

According to Fashagba and Oshewolo (2014), Africa has experienced regression in various aspects of good governance. The notable shortcomings in the areas of rule of law, resource management and public service delivery, and administrative transparency have contributed to the lack of peace and prevalence of insecurity. The consequences of these governance issues have led to long-standing citizen frustration, which has escalated into hostility towards the state and hindered economic progress.

Conclusion

Based on the preceding information, it can be inferred that Good Governance plays a significant role in addressing peace and security challenges in the country, thereby promoting economic growth and development. In addition, it serves as a solution to the security issues faced by the nation, including insurgency, armed banditry, kidnapping, ethno-religious conflicts, and other related challenges. Moreover, by upholding the principles of good governance, the country can effectively eliminate corruption, unemployment, poverty, and the abduction of individuals for ransom. These essential ingredients, if embraced by governments, can lead the nation towards growth and development. Good governance principles, such as accountability, responsiveness, transparency, equity, rule of

law, and inclusiveness, are crucial in addressing these issues. The restoration of the lacking component of good governance in Nigeria's government and political landscape is necessary to achieve peace and effectively address security challenges.

Recommendations

The government should establish efficient and effective channels of communication to understand the issues and difficulties faced by its citizens. This can be achieved through decentralization of power and responsibility, which would contribute to a perception of a responsive government.

The provision of infrastructural facilities and economic development is a responsibility that should be undertaken by the government.

Programs are implemented to facilitate business operations, decrease unemployment rates, and ultimately alleviate poverty and idleness.

The government should promote free education and engage in widespread public education to raise awareness about the detrimental effects of conflict on national progress and development.

The government should establish skills acquisition centers to provide vocational training for young individuals in various trades, and subsequently offer them financial incentives upon completion of the training.

To ensure the establishment of effective governance, it is imperative to vigorously combat corruption.

Individuals should refrain from accepting financial contributions from self-interested politicians. It is imperative that the principle of the rule of law be upheld, regardless of a person's political, familial, economic, or religious background. Equality before the law should be ensured, and the supremacy of the nation's laws should be upheld without any infringement upon fundamental human rights.

It is advisable for individuals to refrain from accepting financial contributions from ineffective politicians lacking substantial contributions to society upon assuming positions of authority. Instead, individuals should choose candidates who possess qualities such as integrity and honesty.

Civil society plays a crucial role in democratic governance by raising awareness of individual rights and advocating for marginalized groups.

The Federal Character Commission (FCC) should fulfill its responsibility of ensuring that the principle of equitable distribution of government offices among

the federating states is upheld in ministries, departments, agencies, and extra-ministerial departments.

The Revenue Allocation Mobilization and Fiscal Commission (RAMFC) should consider implementing a revised formula for revenue allocation. This is necessary as many citizens perceive marginalization and lack of resource control due to their perceived exclusion from the distribution of national resources. Therefore, the government should either develop an alternative method or closely monitor the activities of RAMFC and similar institutions.

The government should publicly disclose its financial transactions, and the Code of Conduct Bureau should enforce the requirement for all public servants to declare their assets and liabilities. This will help prevent misappropriation of public funds.

In conclusion, it is important for both leaders and followers to prioritize the fear of God in their interactions, as there will be a future event known as the "Day of Reckoning" where individuals will be held accountable for their actions.

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