INSECURITY AS AN IMPEDIMENT TO ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN NIGERIA

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Introduction

Nigeria is experiencing numerous insecurity issues that hinders economic development. This paper is focused on the Boko Haram terrorists' activities being one of the most prevalent insecurity issues that impede sustainable economic development in Nigeria. Nigeria is Africa's most populous country (about 182.2 million) and the 9th most populous country in the world according to World Bank Report 2017. The Report further highlighted Nigeria as the 6th largest producer and the 8th largest exporter of petroleum. The Report also stated Nigeria had Gross Domestic Production (GDP) of 405.1 billion USD and Gross National Income (GNI) of 1.068 trillion PPP dollars. Although the country is rich in natural resources, its economy does not yet meet the basic needs of the people. The 2017 United Nations Human Development Index ranks Nigeria 152 out of 188 countries, with a Human Development Index of 0.527 and Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI) of 0.279. Such disparity of increasing poverty is indicative of a skewed distribution of Nigeria's wealth. Nigeria possesses a stark dichotomy of wealth and poverty.

In spite of Nigeria's vast oil wealth, the majority of Nigerians are poor with 71 percent of the population living on less than one dollar a day according to the World Bank Report 2017. Nigeria is currently experiencing a type of economic development that lacks trickle-down effect - a type of economic growth with no corresponding re-distribution or inclusive growth and with no fair sharing of economic resources and lacks economic opportunities to the underprivileged. The underprivileged constitute the larger population of the Nigerian society. The Gini Index 2017 for Nigeria is 43.



Nigeria is ranked number 3 on the Global Terrorism Index 2017. The broad objective of this study is to find a lasting panacea to the myriad of insecurity issues that constitute impediment to economic development in Nigeria. Since the inception of democratic system of governance in Nigeria in 1999, i.e. the last 2 decades have witnessed the proliferation of several types of contemporary insecurity issues. These includes post-elections violence, terrorism, corruption, decay in infrastructure development, rising wave of unemployment, rising problem of inequality, increasing population of illiterates, kidnappings, high profile assassinations, armed robbery, piracy, oil theft, oil pipelines vandalism, small arms proliferation, activities of armed groups, religious violence, elections fraud, cultism, cattle rustling, herders/farmers conflicts, communal conflicts, agitations for secession, nepotism, ethnicity etc. These insecurity issues have resulted in wanton destruction of lives and properties worth millions of dollars. In the same vein, the existence of these insecurity issues have instilled fear and threat to life in the public minds, thereby making it difficult for the public to feel free to pursue their daily livelihood activities such as farming, marketing, transportation business, teaching jobs, etc.

Insecurity and Scenarios of Boko Haram in Nigeria

Insecurity in the context of this paper refers to the existence of factors that constitute potential danger to human life, human safety or human injury, consequently implying the perpetual existence of a state of fear and uncertainties in the human mind, thus creating unfriendly environment for gainful economic/social activities and engagements. Similarly, impediment simply means factors that constitute barriers to the fair distribution of economic resources and economic opportunities. While Economic Development means those aspects of economic development process in a low income country like Nigeria. The principal factors of economic development includes agricultural mechanization, land reforms, entrepreneurship, trade/marketing, human capital, infrastructure development, technology, industrialization etc. In development

economics, there are at least four types of reforms that facilitate economic development. These are structural reforms, policy reforms, institutional reforms and governance reforms. Therefore, "Insecurity as an Impediment to Economic Development in Nigeria", in the context of this study simply means the existence of those factors that constitute potential obstacles to human existence, thereby constituting barriers to equitable distribution of economic resources or inclusive economic development in Nigeria.

The contemporary insecurity issues in Nigeria include the Niger Delta militancy, Boko Haram insurgency, agitation for secession by the MASSOB/IPOB in the South East of Nigeria, Kidnappings, Armed Robbery, Cyber Crimes, Piracy, Cattle Rustling, Herders/Farmers Clashes, and Corruption as stated by T.Y. Buratai. (2017). "Insecurity and its Implication for Socioeconomic Development in Nigeria" by Olabanji, O. (2014), highlighted that Boko Haram terrorists' activities constituted serious threat to lives and properties, hinders business activities and discourages local and foreign investors. Also, it stifles and retards Nigeria's socio-economic development. Similarly, 'Historical Evolution of Boko Haram in Nigeria: Causes and Solutions' by S. S. Shuaibu and M.A. Salleh. (2015), revealed that "Boko Haram insurgency escalated to its present conditions simply because of the high rates of poverty in the region that led to illiteracy and unemployment. The study also revealed that misinterpretation of religion is another factor believed to be among the major causes.

In Nigeria, the case has been years of economic stagnation in a country blessed with great natural resources enough to cater for everyone, but for which some corrupt political elites preposterously accrued to themselves and their cronies the wealth of the nation. This was stated in "The Root Cause of Boko Haram in Nigeria" by T. Adetiloye. (2014).

The paper further stated that there are so many examples to garner from the history of Nigeria since independence on the elitist lifestyles of most Nigerian leaders from past until recently, when divine intervention brought President Muhammadu Buhari to power following an internationally



acclaimed free, fair and credible presidential elections in May 2015. On his successful swearing in, he went head on to wage total war against corruption, to cleanse the system and chart a positive direction to Nigeria's growth, through his remarkable effort to lay a solid foundation for good governance in Nigeria. The gravities of the corrupt dealings of the past have brought the nation to its present horrific status quo where Boko Haram is now a big issue to chew.

The Boko Haram terrorists activities in the North have resulted in thousands of casualties, the displacement of more than one million people, the destruction of hundreds of schools, mosques, churches and government establishments and have ravaged the economy of the region. In fact, the group's appalling operations made it one of the deadliest terrorist organization worldwide in 2015. The dynamics, sophistication and boldness of the sect's actions have raised fundamental questions about national security and governance. In March 2015, the faction, through its leader Abubakar Shekau pledged allegiance to the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL). The leader further declared that territories under its control belong to the Islamic State and will be governed under orthodox Islamic Sharia law. Several probable factors such as economic deprivation and want, poverty, illiteracy, inequality and corruption are among the principal factors propelling Boko Haram's violent rampage across northern Nigeria.

In a study on "Terrorism Financing: The Socio-Economic and Political Implications of Boko Haram Insurgency in Lake Chad Basin" by A.L. Enobi, S.F. Johnson-Rokosu. (2016), it was stated that the sector came to prominence in 2009 following the death of its leader, Mohammed Yusuf in police custody. Aside from the police act and Mohammed Yusuf's death, poverty, unemployment, lack of development, high level of illiteracy, unkept electoral promises are identified as other reasons for the rise of Boko Haram insurgency. The study shows that lack of government support for armed forces and low moral; lack of government political will to fight the insurgency; political interest all contributed to the rise of

terrorist activities in the Lake Chad region. The increases in Boko Haram activities in recent time in the region have negatively impacted on the socio political/economic activities and these were due partly to increase in terrorist financing. The study suggests therefore that government ability in Lake Chad basin to cut the sources of terrorist finance will significantly affect Boko Haram activities and attacks. Several factors could have contributed to the proliferation of these insecurity issues. Since the return to democracy in 1999, Nigeria's democratic transition did not appear to be consolidating on good governance except for the exemplary functional and quality leadership exhibited by President Muhammadu Buhari. The earlier political leaderships from 1999 to 2014 were characterized by massive corruption, lack of transparency, lack of accountability, absence of the rule of law, and the lack of genuine demonstration of good leadership capacity. Indeed, good leadership capacity is expected to provide good governance, basic social services such as human security, fundamental human rights, infrastructures development, education, employment, functional health services etc.

Part of the solution to Nigeria's multifaceted insecurity issues is to strive for credible democracy that provides good governance and functional leadership. However, in a democracy, the first step towards good governance is the states' ability to conduct of free, fair and credible elections. This is highly desirable in a pluralistic, multiethnic and multi-cultural society like Nigeria, in which people in their various socio-cultural groupings are very sensitive to participation and representation. According to Danbazzau, A. (2014), "The key to tackling Nigeria's insecurity issues rests on finding the right leadership that would demonstrate good governance; that would tackle corruption as a matter of priority; and that would be transparent and accountable. The type of leadership that would recognize the need to ensure inclusive and participatory governance as a reflection of the multi-religious and multi-ethnic composition of the Nigerian society; that would strengthen the key institutions of governance, especially those within the criminal justice system; that would improve the socio-economic well-being of



her citizens, especially in education, health, employment, food, and shelter; that would reinvigorate Nigeria's foreign policy focus; that would emphasize unity even in cultural diversity to ensure stability; that would find solutions to the current insurgency, militancy, cross-borders trafficking in arms, drugs and humans, maritime insecurity in the Gulf of Guinea, and violent crimes; that would develop Nigeria's critical infrastructures in transportation, water systems, and energy; that would develop the non-oil sector, especially agriculture and solid minerals; that would tackle environmental issues, especially desertification and erosion; and that would give assurance and confidence to every citizen that his or her fundamental rights are guaranteed and protected."

The Boko Haram insurgency terrorist group was founded by late Mohammed Yusuf in Maiduguri town, in the northern eastern state of Borno in Nigeria. The group was later led by Abubakar Shekau since 2009. The terrorist group started as small resistance groups composed of young men that began to congregate as Islamist groups that opposed the Nigerian government.



The militant group of the Boko Haram terrorists are equipped with assorted assault weapons. The sources of these combat supplies and the financing of the Boko Haram terrorist group still remain unknown. However, the group is suspected to some external support from other terrorist groups.

The mode of attacks of the Boko Haram terrorists ranges from the use of mass armed gunmen to attack a defined target, the use of suicide bombers, the use of vehicle-borne improvised explosive devices (VBIEDs), planted IEDs, mass abductions/kidnappings and the use of crude, handmade weapons to wreak havoc across communities in the North East of Nigeria. In the early stages of the Boko Haram, the terrorist group carried out attacks on both churches and mosques, in order to exacerbate sectarian cleavages between Christians and Muslims. Also the Boko Haram carried out attacks on military locations, police locations, government buildings, schools, security installations, markets, transport vehicles and financial institutions, in order to undermine the government.

Figure 2: Abducted school girls and scene of Boko Haram attack





Source: https://www.google.com/search?q=photograph+of+boko+haram [Accessed 2 April 2018]

The Boko Haram terrorists devastation in Nigeria had tremendous negative impact on virtually all aspects of human life and endearvours especially the economic development in the country. Nigeria ranks number 3, all after Iraq and Afghanistan, amongst the world's most devasted countries by terrorism activities as shown on the Global Terrorism Index 2017.

Nigerian Government Efforts at Combating Boko Haram Terrorism

The Boko Haram terrorist group started as a local religious sect in 2009, with the initial name of 'Jama'atu Ahlis Sunna Lidda'awatiwal-Jihad'. The group metamorphosed into 'Boko Haram'; which literarily means



"Western education is a sin and forbidden." The Federal Government of Nigeria took decisive action to curb the activities of the terrorist group which resulted in the arrest and death of its founder, Mohammed Yusuf. The death of the founder saw the emergence of the violent and erratic Abubakar Shekau in July 2009, as the new leader of the Boko Haram group. In line with the provisions of Section 217(c) of the 1999 Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria (as Amended); the President tasked the Armed Forces of Nigeria to come to the aid of the civil authority. Consequently, the Nigerian military deployed its men and equipment on 14 May 2013 to undertake internal security operations in order to contain the volatile security situation caused by the Boko Haram terrorist.

Following the successful election and subsequent inauguration of President Muhammadu Buhari as President of Nigeria in May 2015, the situation of Boko Haram attacks was curbed in a short period of time. The President appointed the new Chief of Army Staff (COAS) of the Nigerian Army, and tasked him to flush out the Boko Haram terrorists. With the appointment of new Chief of Army Staff, the erstwhile Operation Zaman Lafiya was transmuted to Operation LAFIYA DOLE on 16 Jul 2015, by the new COAS, Lt Gen Tukur Yusufu Buratai, in order to infuse a renewed vigor and to rejuvenate the counter insurgency effort in the North East of Nigeria which subsequently led to the creation of 7 and 8 Divisions of the Nigerian Army with headquarters in Maiduguri and Monguno respectively, to curtail the spate of killings and destructions by the Boko Haram terrorists. Since the inception of Operation LAFIYA DOLE, 3, 7 and 8 Divisions of the Nigerian Army made commendable efforts to recapture all the lost territories that had fallen into the hands of the Boko Haram Terrorists (BHTs) between 2009 to April 2015.

Air operations were also conducted by Headquarters Nigerian Air Force (NAF) in support of the Nigerian Army Divisional offensive operations. Accordingly, to meet with the dynamic changing nature of the operation in the North East of Nigeria, the Army Headquarters created the Theatre Command Headquarters for Operation LAFIYA DOLE in Maiduguri

on 16 Aug 2015. The Theatre Command North East was mandated to coordinate and oversee the operations of 3, 7 and 8 Task Force Division of the Nigerian Army, which were committed in the counterinsurgency (COIN) operation. Also, 3 Logistics Bases were created and an Air Operations Support Command under Operation LAFIYA DOLE. These strategic initiatives of the Army Headquarters sustained the momentum of the counterinsurgency operations, in order to finally bring the overall mission to the desired End State. Presently, all recaptured locations i.e. the 17 local government areas that were earlier captured by the Boko Haram, are being consolidated upon, while the Nigerian Army troops are still pushing ahead to clear the remnants of the Boko Haram terrorists.

Similarly, the Nigerian federal governments' political, diplomatic and economic initiatives towards curbing the Boko Haram insurgency was very remarkable as the dividends are very apparent. The political and diplomatic initiatives of the Nigerian government resulted in the establishment of the Multinational Joint Task Force (MNJTF) comprising troops from the Lake Chad Basin Commission member countries comprising Nigeria, Cameroun, Chad and Niger republic. The MNJTF is headquartered in Ndjamena the capital city of Chad republic, and conducts COIN operations in neighbouring countries. Also the economic initiatives include the introduction of the Bank Verification Numbers (BVN) which helps to track financial transactions in banking operations in Nigeria. This action is checkmating banking transactions there by monitoring illicit funds transfer and bringing defaulters to justice.

The efforts of the Nigerian Army Headquarters under its new Command were particularly very remarkable. The achievements in terms of the fight against the Boko Haram terrorist can better be appreciated especially looking at the frequency of attacks and the capture of Nigerian territories by the Boko Haram terrorists, between the periods 2009 to April 2015. The new Command of the Nigeria Army exhibited sterling leadership qualities to positively influence the general performance of Nigerian Army troops committed in Operation LAFIYA DOLE, thus leading to



the recapture of all lost territories. Similarly, the efforts of the Air and Maritime components, as supporting forces in Operation LAFIYA DOLE were also commendable. Additionally, the support of the association of hunters/vigilantes popularly known as the civilian Joint Task Force (JTF) was very remarkable.

The Great Icons fighting against Boko Haram terrorism in Nigeria include the President and Commander in Chief of the Nigerian Armed Forces, President Muhammadu Buhari, the Vice President, Professor Yemi Osibanjo, the Minister of Defence, Mansur Ali and many more.

The new strategy employed by the Army Headquarters culminated in the recapture of all territories, which were hitherto lost to Boko Haram terrorists. These include Mallam Fatori, Damasak, Kareto, Munguno, Baga, Marte, Gamboru Ngala, Dikwa, Mafa, Bama, Bitta, Pulka, Gwoza, Limankara and Madagali local government area in October 2016, which was the last territory occupied by Boko Haram Terrorists. By January 2017 a large percentage of the much talked about Sambisa Forest has been captured, while about 300,000 hostages and displaced people have been rescued. Furthermore, over 1,009 Boko Haram Terrorists have surrendered voluntarily while 1,140 others have been captured.

Findings of the Study

The findings are as follows:

- The causes of Boko Haram terrorism in Nigeria are illiteracy, poverty, unemployment, external influence, religious extremism, ethnicity and political affiliation.
- The Sources of funding of Boko Haram terrorists activities in Nigeria are external interest, political opposition, religious groups and other interest group.

- The Interest of the Supporters of Boko Haram Terrorists activities are economic interest, destabilization of the government, creation of another state and disintegration of Nigeria.
- The factors responsible for the motivation of the members of Boko Haram terrorists group are financial incentive, looting galore following the capture of a location, religious brain washing/extremism, creation of Islamic state and others.
- The measures to cut-off the funding/logistics supplies to the Boko Haram Terrorists include the provision of mass deployment of additional intelligence operators to conduct covert operations in the neighbouring Francophone countries to identify possible logistics bases of the terrorists and possible helicopter re-supply movements to the Boko Haram terrorists. Additionally, the monitoring of banking operation will facilitate the cutting off funding to the Boko Haram terrorists. Similarly, the additional deployment of electronic surveillance on banking transactions using ICT innovations will facilitate the tracking of funds meant for the Boko Haram terrorists.

Re-certification of vehicle dealers especially Toyota Hilux vehicles and other commonly used vehicles by the terrorists will serve as a check on the possibility of vehicle procurement by the sponsors of the Boko Haram terrorist group. Furthermore, the additional deployment of aerial surveillance at the international borders between Nigeria and the Francophone neighbouring countries will assist to identify all possible helicopter movements/re-supplies by external supporters to the Boko Haram terrorist group. The conduct of additional robust terrain analysis of the international borders between Nigeria and her Francophone neighbours in order to establish all the international border mobility corridors into Nigeria through which combat logistics is supplied to the Boko Haram terrorists is highly desirable. Similarly, the additional establishment of permanent Military Strong Points along all the identified international mobility corridors into Nigeria and within the counterinsurgency theatre of operations in Nigeria will curb



combat logistics re-supply and movements/coordination between the terrorist elements.

The additional closer surveillance of the activities of all fuel stations within the counterinsurgency theatre of operations and along the international borders is essential towards curbing fuel re-supply to the Boko Haram terrorists. Also, the conduct of additional robust CIMIC operations within the counterinsurgency theatre of operations to win the "Hearts and Minds" of the local population will facilitate the achievement of the Military Mission. Furthermore, the establishment of additional Air Defence Units throughout the length and breadth of the international borders with the neighbouring francophone countries will facilitate the detection and subsequent defeat of any possible helicopter re-supply to the Boko Haram terrorists. Also, the additional surveillance of local merchants of common food items such as rice, bakeries, Kilishi (seasoned dry meat) sellers, pure water sachet factories, hospitals, pharmaceutical stores etc., will assist to capture the supporters of the Boko Haram terrorists.

The sustenance of Joint operations with the neighbouring francophone forces is highly desirable to facilitate the defeat of the Boko Haram terrorists. Similarly, the sustenance of engagements with the traditional rulers/local chiefs/ward heads to solicit for their cooperation towards providing useful and timely information on the Boko Haram terrorists is essential to the defeat of the Boko Haram terrorists. Also, the sustenance of engagements with the local trade unions such Transporters Unions/Market Leaders/Mechanics Unions/Local Pharmaceutical Stores etc., and to solicit for their sustained cooperation towards providing useful and timely information will facilitate intelligence gathering on the Boko Haram terrorists. Furthermore, the sustenance and realistic development of infrastructures such as roads/schools/hospitals etc to communities affected/located within the counterinsurgency theatre of operations will make the local population to have a sense of belonging, and thus gives them hope for a better future there by galvanising the

local population support towards the achievement of the military mission. Also, the provision of sustained mass literacy programs to the local populations affected and within the communities in the theatre of operations will enhance the literacy level of the local population, thereby discouraging the local population from joining or being recruited into the Boko Haram terrorist group.

The provision of additional mass provision of entrepreneur skills to the local population will reduce the poverty levels of the local population; which will assist in preventing them from being recruited to join the Boko Haram terrorist group. Also, the construction of Tall Gates to be manned by Military Strong Points based on robust terrain analysis at approximately 50km intervals along all the highways within the counterinsurgency theatre of operations will assist to servile logistics movement in support of the terrorists and other crime entrepreneurs, thereby facilitating the defeat of the criminals. Furthermore, the provision of additional logistics to the counterinsurgency operations will facilitate the final defeat of the Boko Haram terrorists.

Recommendations

To achieve a meaningful mitigation of the insecurity issues in Nigeria and particularly the Boko Haram insurgency, there should be concurrent corresponding initiatives, measures and responses in the neighboring LCBC countries. These initiatives and measures can be categorized into political, military, economic and diplomatic initiatives as follows:

- Political Initiatives and Measures. The government of Nigeria should take following steps for meaningful mitigation of the insecurity issues:
- Urgently implement massive literacy program and self-employment oriented entrepreneur training skills, to the Boko Haram affected areas in their corresponding countries to reduce poverty, unemployment, and illiteracy.



- Workout robust strategy to urgently engage credible religious leaders of high integrity in a massive nationwide sensitization and deradicalization campaign.
- Deploy the appropriate government institution to urgently tackle the external interests, political opposition and religious groups as the source of funding/sponsoring of Boko Haram terrorism in Nigeria.
- Deploy reputable experts of integrity to carry out periodic impromptu vetting of vehicle dealers, to serve a check for possible vehicle procurements by the sponsors of the Boko Haram terrorist group in Nigeria.
- Sustain the Multinational Joint/Combined operations to facilitate the defeat of the Boko Haram terrorists in within the sub-region.
- Deploy the appropriate security experts of integrity to profile, vet and monitor the local food stuff merchants of common food items such as rice, bakeries, kilishi (seasoned dry meat) sellers, pure water sachet factories, hospitals, pharmaceutical stores etc. to capture collaborators of the criminals/miscreants and bring them to justice.
- Ensure that all identified/arrested collaborators and supporters of the Boko Haram terrorists are made to face justice.
- Ensure that all government offices, institutions, agencies and establishments in the various recaptured territories resume work in earnest and to strictly adhere to the routine government work hours, for the locals to feel the presence of government and a sense of belonging.
- Embark on realistic and sustainable development of infrastructures in the affected communities within the counterinsurgency theatre of operations to pacify the local population to have a sense of belonging and gives them hope for a better future.
- Embark on the construction of Tall Gates to be manned by Military Strong Points based on robust terrain analysis, at approximately 50km intervals along all the highways within the counterinsurgency theatre of operations, to servile combat logistics re-supply in support of the terrorists and other crime entrepreneurs.

- Strive to grow a credible democracy that provides quality leadership.
- Military Initiatives and Measures. The Nigerian Army should take following steps:
 - Upscale to dominate the territory by creating additional 774 Special Composite Recce Battalions (SCR Bn), with one Unit in each of the 774 local government areas of the federation, in order to proactively discharge its core constitutional responsibility and the protection of lives and properties of the civilian population.
 - Sustain the supply of additional equipment to the NA counterinsurgency operations, in order to facilitate the final defeat of the Boko Haram terrorists.
 - Employ the use of force-multipliers such as drones/ICT equipment to facilitate speedy and wider reconnaissance in the theatre for immediate follow up action by the troops.
 - Heighten its speed of reaction and sustain close air support to the ground troops committed in Operation LAFIYA DOLE.
 - Establish Army Aviation Units to provide for urgent and immediate air support requirements, thereby allowing for strategic employment of the NAF assets in combat.
 - Deploy additional intelligence operators within the Operation LAFIYA DOLE theatre and across the borders to conduct covert operations to identify possible logistics bases of the terrorists, and possible combat logistics re-supply by helicopter and other means to the Boko Haram terrorist group in Nigeria.
 - Carry out additional robust terrain analysis of its international borders to establish all the border mobility corridors into Nigeria, through which combat logistics is likely to be supplied to the Boko Haram terrorists.



- Establish additional permanent Military Strong Points along all the identified mobility corridors within the counterinsurgency theatre of operations to curb combat logistics re-supplies to the Boko Haram terrorists.
- Deploy additional intelligence operators with specific task to vet, profile and monitor the activities of all fuel stations and petrol vendors within the counterinsurgency theatre of operations and along the international borders.
- Upscale the CIMIC operations within the counterinsurgency theatre of operations to win the "Hearts and Minds" of the local population towards the facilitation of the achievement of the Military Mission.
- Establish additional Air Defence Units throughout the length and breadth of her international borders, in order to facilitate the detection and subsequent defeat of any possible combat logistics air re-supply to the Boko Haram terrorists.
- Task its CIMIC component to sustain routine engagements with the local trade unions ions, Market Leaders, Mechanics Unions etc., in order to solicit for their cooperation towards providing useful and timely information on the Boko Haram terrorists group.
- Task its CIMIC component to sustain routine engagements with the traditional rulers/local chiefs to solicit for their cooperation towards providing useful and timely information that will facilitate the defeat of the Boko Haram terrorists.

• Economic Initiatives and Measures

- The government of Nigeria should deploy experts to tackle the economic interests of both the internal and external supporters of the Boko Haram terrorists.
- Deploy experts to track and monitor the banking operations to facilitate the cutting off funding to the Boko Haram terrorists.

Diplomatic Initiatives and Measures

The governments of the member countries of the Lake Chad Basin Commission and the Benin republic should set up a high powered standing committee of reputable and seasoned experts in conflict resolution, comprising members of impeccable characters and proven track record of selfless service, outstanding patriotism and integrity to engage in robust negotiations with the leadership of the Boko Haram for a peaceful resolution of the conflict.

Conclusion

Nigeria is experiencing numerous insecurity issues that impede economic development in the country. However, this particular study dwelled on the Boko Haram terrorists' activities, being one of the most prevalent insecurity issues that impede economic development in Nigeria.

The implementation of the recommendations outlined below will substantially facilitate the final defeat of the Boko Haram terrorist group in Nigeria. The Nigerian population will be able to resume their farming activities, schools, market activities, transportation businesses, and other business activities. The Nigerian population will once more gradually be able to resume their normal economic activities for a sustained economic development in Nigeria. That is to say that Nigeria will have healthy and highly desirable for ideal economic development with a corresponding trickle-down effect.

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