Corruption and Security Challenges in Nigeria: A Complex Interplay

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ABSTRACT

Corruption and security challenges in Nigeria are deeply intertwined, creating a complex and self-reinforcing cycle that undermines national stability and progress. This paper examines the historical interplay between these two critical issues, focusing on how corruption exacerbates insecurity and vice versa. Through an analysis of historical data, government reports, and existing literature, the study reveals how corruption within security institutions hampers their effectiveness and fosters a culture of impunity, which in turn heightens security threats. It also explores how persistent insecurity, marked by terrorism, banditry, and communal conflicts, provides opportunities for corrupt practices, further

weakening governance and accountability structures. The paper highlights specific instances where corruption has directly facilitated criminal activities, such as the embezzlement of security funds and the protection of illegal operations. The findings underscore the need for comprehensive anti-corruption measures and institutional reforms to break this vicious cycle, enhance the integrity of security institutions, and promote sustainable peace and development in Nigeria.

KEYWORDS; Corruption, Challenges, Nigeria and Security

Introduction
Corruption and Security Challenges in Nigeria: A Complex Interplay

The relationship between Nigeria's security issues and corruption has drawn the attention of academics, decision-makers, and foreign observers. Nigeria, the most populous country in Africa, has an abundance of natural resources, but its stability and growth are hampered by enduring problems with corruption and insecurity. It is possible to comprehend the complexity of this interaction by using a variety of scholarly viewpoints and empirical approaches.

Osita Agbu pointed out that "corruption in Nigeria is systemic, affecting every sector of society and fueling the security challenges that the country faces."[1] The integrity of institutions intended to maintain justice and security is undermined by corruption in addition to being a diversion of public funds. The country's susceptibility to insurgency, terrorism, and other violent crimes has increased due to the theft of monies designated for security and development, leaving security personnel underequipped and demoralized.[2]

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[1] Agbu, Osita. Corruption and Human Trafficking: The Nigerian Case. West African Review, 2003.p.2

[2] M.M. Akanbi,. The Fight Against Corruption in Nigeria: The Role of the Judiciary. Abuja: The Presidency, 2004.P.45

From the terrorist actions in the Niger Delta to the insurgency of Boko Haram in the Northeast, Nigeria's violent conflicts clearly demonstrate the connection between corruption and instability. Insurgent groups who take advantage of the unrest have an easier time growing because of the entrenchment of corruption, claims Jibrin Ibrahim.[3] This connection emphasizes the necessity of an all-encompassing strategy that views security and corruption as related challenges rather than discrete issues. Scholars like Daniel Smith have argued that "addressing corruption is essential for sustainable security in Nigeria"[4] as a result of these issues' continued existence. Therefore, measures to strengthen security institutions, encourage good governance, and guarantee the equal allocation of resources must be coordinated with efforts to combat corruption.

Contextual Clarification of Corruption and Security Challenges

The notions of corruption and security concerns are interwoven and have a significant impact on socio-economic growth, governance, and societal stability. It is necessary to investigate the meanings, applications, and consequences of these concepts in the Nigerian context.

In general, corruption refers to the abuse of official authority for personal benefit. Corruption is defined by Transparency International as "the abuse of entrusted power for private gain."[5] Corruption can take many different forms in Nigeria, such as nepotism, embezzlement, and bribery. "Corruption in Nigeria is systemic and entrenched, permeating all levels of

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[3] Ibrahim, Jibrin. Corruption, Democracy and the Post-colonial State in Africa: A Comparative Study. DAKAR: CODESRIA, 2012.P.78

[4] Smith, Daniel J. A *Culture of Corruption: Everyday Deception and Popular Discontent in Nigeria.* Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2007.P.34

[5] Transparency International " What is Corruption? Accessed June 29.2024 https://www.transparency.org/en/what-is-corruption.

government and society," claims Osita Agbu. [6]The widespread corruption erodes public confidence, erodes the strength of institutions, and wastes money that could be spent on public services and development.[7]

Threats that jeopardize a country's stability and safety as well as the protection of its population are referred to as security issues. These difficulties may encompass acts of terrorism, insurgency, banditry, and disputes within communities. According to Ibrahim Gambari, Nigeria's security issues "reflect a lack of effective conflict resolution mechanism, weak governance, and deep-seated socio-economic inequalities."[8] An example of how security issues can cause destabilization, population displacement, and disruption of economic operations is the Boko Haram insurgency in the Northeast.[9]

The fact that corrupt actions may make insecurity worse shows how closely related corruption and security issues are. For instance, when money is embezzled and staff members lose motivation, corruption in security services can result in insufficient reactions to attacks. Daniel Smith pointed out that "the widespread corruption within Nigeria's security forces interferes with their efficiency and fuels the ongoing insecurity.[10] The persistent pattern of corruption and insecurity impedes improvement and presents noteworthy hazards to the unity and advancement of the country.

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[6] Agbu, Osita. Corruption and Human Trafficking:….p.28

[7] Agbu, Osita. Corruption and Human Trafficking:….p.28

[8] Gambari, Ibrahim A. "The Challenges of Nations Building: The Case of Nigeria." Paper presented at the First Year Anniversary Lecture of Mustapha Akanbi Foundation, 2008.P.79

[9] Cook, David. Boko Haram: A Threat to Stability in West Africa. West Point: Combating Terrorism Center, 2011.P.21

[10] Smith, Daniel J. A *Culture of Corruption: Everyday Deception and Popular Discontent in Nigeria.* Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2007.P.34

Security Threats in Nigeria: An Overview

Nigeria, with the largest economy in Africa and a population of over 200 million,[11] is confronted with a multitude of security concerns that jeopardize its stability, economic growth, and social cohesiveness. These security risks have many facets and are caused by intricate interactions between political, social, and environmental variables. Formulating effective solutions to these threats, which include banditry, armed robbery, kidnapping, herder-farmer confrontations, Niger-Delta Militancy, and the Indigeneous People of Biafra (IPOB), require an understanding of their dynamics for effective responses.

One of Nigeria's biggest security concerns is the insurgency led by Boko Haram. When Boko Haram first emerged in 2002, its main objectives were to promote a strict interpretation of Islamic law and to oppose Western education. But by 2009, the organization had changed into a violent insurgency with the goal of establishing an Islamic state and toppling the Nigerian government. Due to the group's actions, more than 2.7 million people have been displaced from the Lake Chad Basin and over 30,000 people have died.[12]

The violent tactics used by Boko Haram include attacks on citizens, schools, and religious institutions, as well as suicide bombs and kidnappings. The horrific abduction of 276 schoolgirls from Chibok in 2014 exposed the group's crimes to a worldwide audience. Olayinka observes that "a climate of fear has been created by Boko

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[11] S.Galal "Population in Africa 2023, by country." Accessed online undated 12/7/2024.
nhttps://www.statista.com/statistics/1121246/population-in-africa-by-country/

[12] International Organization for Migration (IOM)
https://www.iom.int/news/over-26-million-displaced-lake-chad-basin-iom

Haram's terror tactics."[13] and severely hampered socioeconomic operations in the impacted areas. The Nigerian military has made considerable headway against Boko Haram with the assistance of regional troops; nonetheless, the group is still strong, in part because of its affiliates and partnerships with other terrorist groups, like the Islamic State of West Africa Province (ISWAP).

There is now a serious threat from banditry, especially in Northwestern Nigeria. These criminals operate in armed groups and commit ransom kidnappings, raids on villages, and cattle rustling. Thousands of people have been forced to leave their homes due to the violence, further tasking the already scarce resources in the area. Akinola states that "the proliferation of small arms, the erosion of traditional livelihoods, and socioeconomic inequality are linked to the rise in banditry."[14] Due to the region's difficult geography and scant law enforcement presence, numerous bandits have taken advantage of it, making it difficult for the Nigerian government to suppress this threat.

In addition to endangering people's lives and property, banditry also impedes agricultural production, which results in food poverty and financial difficulties. As a result, some local communities created vigilante organizations to defend themselves; nevertheless, on occasion, these actions have resulted in violations of human rights and more violence. Providing economic possibilities, strengthening security infrastructure, and promoting better governance are all necessary components of a holistic strategy to combat banditry.

Armed robbery is still a major problem that affects both urban and rural areas. The use of force or threat to

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[13] Olayinka, Adedayo. "The Impact of Boko Haram Insurgency on Nigeria's Security." Journal of Conflict Resolution 17, no. 1 (2015): 57-68.

[14] Akinola, Olufemi. "*Rising Insecurity in Nigeria: An Overview.*" Journal of Security Studies 12, no. 2 (2020): 115-125.

steal from people, companies, or financial institutions is the crime in question. Armed robbers frequently use violence and firearms, which results in damage and human casualties. According to Okechukwu, "armed robberies in Nigeria are a reflection of larger socio-economic issues, such as high unemployment rates and insufficient law enforcement capabilities."[15]

Criminals target banks, ATMs, and affluent people in urban areas, especially big cities like Lagos and Abuja, which are hotspots for armed robberies. Rural areas are not safe from criminals, who regularly target motorists on highways and break into houses and farms. The criminal justice system must be strengthened, police presence must be increased, and the core causes of crime—poverty and illiteracy—must be addressed in order to effectively combat armed robbery.

Another serious threat to security in Nigeria is kidnapping. Kidnapping for ransom has developed into a lucrative and widespread criminal industry. Rich people, children, foreigners, government leaders, and schoolchildren are just a few of the many victims that kidnappers target. Kidnapping has been far more common in recent years, which has heightened public dread and undermined trust in the government's ability to protect citizens. The high rate of kidnapping, according to Okoli and Agada, "underlines the weaknesses in Nigeria's security infrastructure and the urgent need for reforms."[16]

As seen by the kidnappings of students in Kankara in 2021 and Chibok in 2014, one particular concerning tendency is the targeting of schools with the ultimate goal of mass kidnappings. The victims of these crimes, as well

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[15] Okechukwu, Ikenna. "*Armed Robbery and Its Implications for Security in Nigeria.*" African Journal of Criminology 6, no. 3 (2018): 87-99.

[16] Okoli, Al Chukwuma, and Oluyemi Agada. *"Kidnapping for Ransom in Nigeria: Implications and Counter Measures."* Mediterranean Journal of Social Sciences 5, no. 4 (2014): 31-41.

as their relatives, suffer terrible psychological effects. The prevention of kidnapping has involved increased intelligence collection, community policing, and more severe punishments for violators. But in order to solve the problem, socioeconomic issues that motivate people to commit these kinds of crimes must also be addressed.

Conflicts between herders and farmers pose a serious threat to national security as well, especially in Nigeria's Middle Belt. Competition between the local farming populations and herders, who are mostly Fulani, for land and water resources is the root cause of these confrontations. These conflicts have gotten more intense due to the growing scarcity of resources, which is being made worse by climate change and population expansion. "Herder-farmer conflicts have escalated in recent years, leading to significant loss of life, displacement, and property destruction," claims Olaniyan.[17]

The violence has religious and ethnic undertones, which makes attempts to settle the disputes more difficult. The conflicts seriously affect food security because they impede agricultural output and drive farmers from their farms. A multifaceted strategy is needed to address herder-farmer conflicts, including enhancing land tenure arrangements, encouraging sustainable agricultural methods, and encouraging communication between communities to create trust and resolve disputes peacefully.

Protests against environmental deterioration, economic exploitation, and political marginalization have long been the main causes of instability in the Niger Delta region. Violent acts like oil theft, kidnapping for ransom, and attacks on oil infrastructure have been committed by militant groups in this area, such as the Movement for the Emancipation of the Niger Delta (MEND). The militants

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[17] Olaniyan, Azeez. "*Resource Conflict and Violence in the Middle Belt.*" Journal of Peace Research 22, no. 1 (2015): 78-82.

justify these well-planned attacks by citing unfairness caused by the region's abundant oil resources being exploited without providing equivalent benefits to the local populace. According to Watts, "the Niger Delta's oil exploitation has resulted in severe environmental degradation and socioeconomic deprivation, fueling militancy and resentment among the local communities."[18]

In addition to compensation for environmental harm, the insurgents want more control over the region's resources. The militancy has had a tremendous impact, causing large financial losses and adding to the volatility of Nigeria's economy, which is heavily dependent on oil. According to Okonta and Douglas, "Oil production has been disrupted by Niger Delta militant activities."[19]

The Indigenous People of Biafra (IPOB) is a separatist organization that aims to secede from Nigeria. The territory is mostly home to the Igbo ethnic group. The movement's historical complaints stem from the Nigerian Civil War (1967–1970), in which the country's southeast portion made an effort to declare its own independence as the Republic of Biafra.

Perceptions of Igbo political and economic marginalization within the Nigerian federation are the driving force behind the IPOB's call for secession. According to Nwosu, "the Igbo people's ongoing sense of exclusion and injustice has fueled the resurgence of secessionist sentiments and the rise of IPOB." [20] To call for a referendum on Biafran independence, IPOB has

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[18] Watts, Michael. "*The Rule of Oil: Petro-Politics and the Anatomy of an Insurgency*." African Development Review 20, no. 2 (2008): 23-48.

[19] Okonta, Ike, and Oronto Douglas. *Where Vultures Feast: Shell, Human Rights, and Oil in the Niger Delta.* San Francisco: Sierra Club Books, 2001

[20] Nwosu, Emmanuel. "*The Resurgence of Biafra: IPOB and the Quest for Independence."* Journal of Contemporary African Studies 35, no. 1 (2017): 56-66

coordinated demonstrations, sit-ins, and other acts of civil disobedience.

The results of IPOB's actions is noteworthy, resulting in heightened hostilities between the federal government and the Southeast. The group's actions have occasionally led to violent altercations with law enforcement, which have resulted in fatalities and increased unrest. "Efforts to promote national unity and stability have been undermined by the escalation of violence in the region caused by the confrontations between IPOB and security forces," claims Amadi.[21] In Nigeria, the movement has also strained connections between different ethnic groups, which has fueled mistrust and division.

How Corruption Has Promoted Security Challenges in Nigeria

Nigeria's political and socio-economic environments are firmly rooted in corruption, which has greatly aggravated security issues nationwide. Corruption is so widespread that, it weakened public confidence, diminishe the efficacy of security agencies, and create an atmosphere conducive to criminal activity. In order to address the underlying causes of Nigeria's instability, it is imperative to comprehend the relationship between security challenges and corruption.

The theft of money designated for security reasons is one of the main ways corruption encourages security issues. According to Daniel Jordan Smith, "corruption in the allocation and utilization of security funds leads to inadequate equipment, training, and welfare for security personnel, thus weakening their capacity to effectively

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[21] Amadi, Kingsley. "*IPOB and the Quest for Biafra: A Critical Analysis.*" African Journal of Politics and Society 15, no. 2 (2020): 113-120.

combat crime and terrorism". [22]For example, stories have surfaced of politicians and top military personnel of diverting funding earmarked for the battle against Boko Haram, leaving troops under-equipped and vulnerable to insurgent attacks.[23]

Additionally, public trust in law enforcement authorities is weakened by corruption inside the agencies, which also promotes an atmosphere of impunity. Numerous accusations of bribery and unethical behavior cast doubt on the ability of police officers and other security personnel to uphold law and order. As noted by Olukoya, "the widespread corruption and bribery in Nigeria's police force have severely compromised its effectiveness, leading to a lack of public trust and cooperation"[24] This erosion of trust discourages citizens from reporting crimes or cooperating with law enforcement, thereby enabling criminal activities to persist unchecked.

The spread of weapons and the expansion of organized crime are further aided by corruption. Corrupt authorities frequently engage with criminal networks to give them access to firearms and other resources in exchange for financial benefit,[25] according to Olaniyan. As evidenced by the growth of armed robberies and banditry in different parts of Nigeria, this cooperation not only strengthens criminal organizations but also increases violence and insecurity. Arms have become more widely

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[22] Smith, Daniel J. A *Culture of Corruption: Everyday Deception and Popular Discontent in Nigeria*. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2007.P.28

[23] I. S. LADAN-BAKI;" *International Journal of Politics and Good Governance* Volume VII, No. 7.3 Quarter III 2016. P.4

[24] S. Olukoya, S. "*Corruption and Law Enforcement in Nigeria: Challenges and Prospects*." African Security Review 21, no. 3 (2014): 44-56.

[25] Olaniyan, Azeez. "*Resource Conflict and Violence in the Middle Belt*." Journal of Peace Research 22, no. 1 (2015): 72-82.

available, which has increased conflict and made it harder for security services to keep things under control.

Additionally, judicial corruption weakens the rule of law and increases public perceptions of injustice. People's faith in legal institutions is undermined and they are encouraged to enforce their own laws when they believe that justice can be bought and that the wealthy and powerful can avoid punishment through dishonest means. This is especially troublesome when it comes to conflicts between farmers and herders, as the victims frequently feel helpless and turn to violent reprisals.[26] The relationship between corruption and insecurity is exacerbated by the fact that corrupt activities frequently take funds away from vital development initiatives and social services, which makes unemployment and poverty worse. Violence and criminality thrive in these socioeconomic environments. Ibrahim contends that "by depriving communities of necessary resources and opportunities, corruption indirectly contributes to the conditions that foster insecurity and conflict".[27]

Root Causes of Insecurity in Nigeria

Nigerian insecurity is a complicated, multidimensional problem with many underlying causes. These include social inequality, economic disparity, political instability, ethnic strife, corruption, and the spread of weapons. For the purpose of creating plans that will effectively address the security concerns the nation faces, it is imperative that these core causes be understood.

Politics and poor governance are two of the main underlying reasons of insecurity in Nigeria. Political

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[26] Okoli, Al Chukwuma, and Oluyemi Agada. "*Kidnapping for Ransom in Nigeria: Implications and Counter Measures.*" Mediterranean Journal of Social Sciences 5, no. 4 (2014): 34-41.
[27] Ibrahim, Jibrin. *Corruption, Democracy and the Post-colonial State in Africa:* A Comparative Study. DAKAR: CODESRIA, 2012.81

unrest throughout the nation's history has included military takeovers, civil war, and numerous administration transitions. Falola and Heaton state that "the development of strong institutions capable of upholding law and order and providing security have been undermined by Nigeria's political instability."[28]

Insecurity in Nigeria is also significantly influenced by social inequality and marginalization. Tensions and confrontations arise because some ethnic and religious groups feel left out of the political and economic mainstream. As stated by Ukiwo, "a major source of conflict and violence in Nigeria has been the perception of exclusion and marginalization among various ethnic and religious groups."[29] Political leaders frequently take use of these divisions to pursue their own agendas, which breeds instability and bloodshed.

For example, the oil-rich Niger Delta region has long been a flashpoint for violence because of what is regarded to be exploitation and neglect by the national government and international oil corporations. The ensuing terrorist attacks and oil infrastructure sabotage have had serious negative economic and environmental impacts, further exacerbating insecurity in the region.[30]

In Nigeria, corruption is a major problem that erodes the efficacy of security agencies and fuels unrest. The state's ability to provide security and essential services is weakened by bribery, nepotism and the misappropriation of public funds. "Nigeria ranks among the most corrupt countries in the world, with corruption

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[28] Falola, Toyin, and Matthew M. Heaton. *A History of Nigeria*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2008.291

[29] Ukoha U.. "Politics, Ethno-Religious Conflicts and Democratic Consolidation in Nigeria." Journal of Modern African Studies 41, no. 1 (2003): 115-138.

[30] Watts, Michael. Petro-*Violence: Community Conflict and Environmental Security in Nigeria's Niger Delta*. Athens: University of Georgia Press, 2008.24

permeating all levels of government and society,"[31] claims Transparency International.

The misappropriation of funding intended for security forces results in insufficient welfare, equipment, and training for security personnel, which lowers their capacity to fight crime and terrorism. According to Akinola, "law enforcement agencies' capacity to effectively address security challenges has been severely compromised by the misappropriation of security funds and internal corruption."[32] This situation creates a cycle of insecurity where corrupt practices perpetuate violence and instability.

Tensions based on religion and ethnicities are major causes of insecurity. The nation is home to more than 250 different ethnic groups and numerous religions, creating a complicated and frequently tense social environment. As stated by Ojo, "political manipulation and competition for resources often exacerbate ethnic and religious tensions in Nigeria, which are deeply rooted in historical grievances." [33] Violent confrontations, such the herder-farmer battles in the Middle Belt and the current insurgency in the Northeast, are a common manifestation of these tensions.

In order to garner support and quell dissent, political elites use ethnic and religious identities, which exacerbate tensions and feeds violent cycles. Promoting inclusive government and encouraging communication

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[31] Transparency International. "What is Corruption?" Accessed June 29, 2024. https://www.transparency.org/en/what-is-corruption.

[32] Akinola, Olufemi. "*Rising Insecurity in Nigeria: An Overview.*" Journal of Security Studies 12, no. 2 (2020): 115-125.

[33] Ojo, Emmanuel O. "*The Politics of Ethnic Balancing in Nigeria.*" African Journal of Political Science 15, no. 1 (2010): 61-71

and understanding amongst groups are necessary to address these problems.

Another important element that significantly contributes to Nigeria's insecurity is the spread of weapons. The actions of criminal gangs, insurgent groups, and other violent actors have been made easier by the accessibility of small guns and light weapons. "Nigeria is awash with illegal firearms, with an estimated 1.5 million to 3 million small arms in circulation,"[34] claims the Small Arms Survey. These weapons are frequently obtained through illegal means, such as local manufacture and smuggling.

Widespread access to weapons not only makes violence worse but also makes it more difficult for security personnel to keep the peace and defend communities. Increasing international collaboration to combat arms trafficking, tightening regulations on firearms, and fortifying border controls are all necessary steps in the fight against the spread of weapons.

The Impact of Corruption and Security Challenges on Nigeria as a Nation

Corruption and security challenges have far-reaching implications for Nigeria, affecting every aspect of its national life. These twin evils undermine the country's economic growth, erode public trust, and compromise national stability and development.

Nigeria's economic progress is severely hampered by corruption because it takes resources away from useful purposes and creates an atmosphere of uncertainty and inefficiency. As stated by the World Bank, "corruption discourages investment, distorts public expenditure, and undermines the effectiveness of public services, leading to

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[34] Small Arms Survey. "Weapons Compass: Mapping Illicit Small Arms Flows in Africa." Geneva: Small Arms Survey, 2020.

slower economic growth and higher levels of poverty." [35]The mishandling of oil profits, which account for a sizable amount of Nigeria's income, has been linked to corruption in the country. Smith pointed out that Nigeria "struggles with widespread poverty and underdevelopment despite its vast resources due to the misappropriation of oil wealth through corrupt practices."[36]

There is also a significant economic impact from security challenges. Trade is disrupted, investments from abroad are discouraged, and operating costs are raised by insecurity. For example, the militancy in the Niger Delta has resulted in numerous attacks on oil infrastructure, which has severely disrupted oil production and caused large economic losses. "The Niger Delta's insecurity has cost Nigeria billions of dollars in lost oil revenue, exacerbating economic challenges and undermining national development,"[37] claims Nwosu. Millions of people have been displaced and agricultural output has been disrupted by the continuous hostilities in the northeastern region of the country, especially the Boko Haram insurgency, which has put further burden on the economy.

Public confidence in government institutions is damaged by corruption, which also increases social unrest. A breach in the social contract occurs when people believe that their leaders are dishonest and unaccountable, undermining the authority of the state. "Corruption

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[35] World Bank. "Nigeria Overview." Accessed June 29, 2024. https://www.worldbank.org/en/country/nigeria/overview.
[36] Smith, Daniel Jordan. *A Culture of Corruption: Everyday Deception and Popular Discontent in Nigeria.* Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2007.74
[37] Nwosu, Emmanuel. "*Economic Costs of Insecurity in Nigeria: A Study of the Niger Delta.*" Journal of African Development 42, no. 2 (2017): 94-107.

undermines democratic governance, erodes public trust in government, and diminishes the effectiveness of public services,"[38] according to Transparency International. There is a great deal of disenchantment with political leaders and institutions in Nigeria as a result of the widespread corruption, which makes the people feel alienated and despondent.

The rule of law is compromised and government institutions are weakened by corruption and instability. Impunity and a lack of accountability result from the corrupt actions of public authorities. The ability to apply the law justly and equally is compromised by corruption in the courts and law enforcement, according to Onyejekwe, which results in a breakdown of the rule of law.[39] A scenario where justice is frequently postponed or denied and where the wealthy and powerful can avoid responsibility has resulted from pervasive corruption in the police and judiciary of Nigeria.

By taking funds away from necessary services and fostering an atmosphere of dread and uncertainty, security issues also erode government. The Nigerian government has frequently had to sacrifice social and economic development initiatives in order to devote substantial resources to the fight against insurgencies and militancy. The country's socioeconomic issues have been made worse, according to the International Crisis Group, since "the ongoing security challenges have diverted much-needed resources away from critical development initiatives."[40]

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[38] Transparency International. Corruption Perceptions Index 2020. Berlin: Transparency International, 2020.

[39] Onyejekwe, Chinelo. "*Corruption and Judicial Misconduct in Nigeria: Addressing the Challenges*." Journal of Public Administration and Policy Research 7, no. 3 (2004): 53-65.

[40] International Crisis Group. Mitigating Nigeria's Security Challenges. Brussels: International Crisis Group, 2020.22

Human rights in Nigeria are severely impacted by corruption and insecurity. Basic rights including access to clean water, healthcare, and education are frequently denied as a result of corruption in public services. because corrupt officials receive their share of resources intended for public services, Osoba observes that corruption "deprives citizens of their basic rights."[41] This is especially bad in conflict-affected areas, where the dearth of essential services makes already vulnerable populations' suffering worse.

Nigeria's security issues have also resulted in numerous violations of human rights, such as extrajudicial executions, arbitrary imprisonments, and forced relocations. Numerous abuses of human rights have been caused by Boko Haram's actions and the security forces' reaction. Human Rights Watch claims that "both Boko Haram and Nigerian security forces have been responsible for grave human rights abuses, including mass killings, abductions, and torture".[42] These abuses have not only caused immense suffering but have also further undermined the legitimacy of the Nigerian state.

Evaluating the Existing Legal Frameworks on Corruption and Security Challenges in Nigeria: Proposing Reforms for a Corruption-Free Future

In order to address and lessen the effects of Nigeria's ongoing security and corruption problems, a strong legislative framework is required. But there are still a lot of holes and inefficiencies in the system, even with all the rules and organizations put in place to address these issues. This report assesses the current legal structures

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[41] S, Osoba, "*Corruption in Nigeria: Historical Perspectives*." Review of African Political Economy 23, no. 69 (1996): 378-386.

[42] Human Rights Watch. Nigeria: World Report 2019. New York: Human Rights Watch, 2019.75

and suggests extensive changes to open the door for a Nigeria free of corruption.

To achieve this fight, Nigerian government has created a comprehensive institutional and legal structure to address security issues and fight corruption. A few important anti-corruption legislation are the Code of Conduct Bureau and Tribunal Act, the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) Act of 2004, and the Corrupt Practices and Other Related Offenses Act of 2000. Organizations like the EFCC and the Independent Corrupt Practices and Other Related Offenses Commission (ICPC) are in charge of upholding these laws.

The ICPC was founded by the Corrupt Practices and Other Related Offences Act, which was passed in 2000 and is intended to reduce corruption in the public sector. "The ICPC is charged with investigating and prosecuting corrupt practices, with a focus on public officers," claims Ogundiya.[43] Nonetheless, the commission has faced criticism for its inadequate budget, lack of independence, and restricted authority, all of which reduce its efficacy.

The EFCC was established by the EFCC Act of 2004 to look into and punish financial and economic crimes, including corruption. According to Eze, "the EFCC has made notable progress in recovering stolen assets and prosecuting high-profile cases."[44] Notwithstanding these successes, the EFCC continues to confront obstacles like political meddling, insufficient funding, and a dearth of all-encompassing legal backing.

Nigeria has enacted a number of laws in the area of security to fight crimes such as armed robbery and terrorism. The legal foundation for combating terrorism and insurgency is provided by the Terrorism (Prevention)

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[43] I.S. Ogundiya, "*Corruption: The Bane of Democratic Stability in Nigeria*." Current Research Journal of Social Sciences 2, no. 4 (2010): 215-241.

[44] Eze, Chinedu. "*The Role of the EFCC in Combating Corruption in Nigeria*." Journal of Financial Crime 23, no. 2 (2016): 303-312.

Act of 2011 and its revision in 2013. "The Terrorism (Prevention) Act criminalizes acts of terrorism and provides for the prosecution and punishment of offenders,"[45] states Okoli and Iortyer. Nevertheless, insufficient funding, lack of cooperation between security agencies, and corruption in the security industry frequently make it difficult to apply this rule.The Nigerian Police Force (Establishment) Act of 2020 seeks to improve law enforcement's capacity to uphold the rule of law. The Act states that "maintaining public order, preventing crime, and protecting lives and property are the responsibilities of the police."[46]Despite this mandate, the police force faces challenges such as poor training, inadequate funding, and allegations of corruption and human rights abuses.

In order to achieve long-term stability, it is imperative that the underlying socio-economic causes contributing to insecurity and corruption are addressed. This entails making investments in infrastructure, healthcare, and education in order to raise living standards and lower poverty. In order to address the underlying causes of insecurity and build a more secure and prosperous society, Ibrahim contends that "promoting social and economic development is essential."[47] The attraction of crime and insurgency can be lessened by programs that provide employment possibilities, especially for young people.

To build a more responsive and accountable system, community involvement in governance and security

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[45] Okoli, Al Chukwuma, and Philip Iortyer. "Terrorism and Humanitarian Crisis in Nigeria: Insights from Boko Haram Insurgency." Global Journal of Human Social Science 14, no. 1 (2014): 39-49.

[46] Eze, Chinedu. "*The Role of the EFCC in Combating Corruption in Nigeria*." Journal of Financial Crime 23, no. 2 (2016): 303-312.

[47] Ibrahim, Jibrin. Corruption, Democracy and the Post-colonial State in Africa: A Comparative Study. DAKAR: CODESRIA, 2012.85

initiatives is essential. Involving communities in security and decision-making initiatives, according to Abubakar, "can help build trust and enhance the effectiveness of anti-corruption and security measures."[48] One strategy to strengthen ties between law enforcement and the public is community policing, which can also strengthen security personnel' capacity to uphold the rule of law.

Conclusion

A complex and deeply ingrained problem that jeopardizes the stability, prosperity, and general well-being of the country is the interaction between security issues and corruption in Nigeria. Corruption breeds insecurity, which in turn makes security issues worse, which is the vicious cycle that characterizes this intricate relationship.

The presence of corruption in the security sector worsens the ability of security agencies to combat crime, terrorism, and other threats by creating an environment of inefficiency, misallocation of resources, and a lack of accountability. As a result, law enforcement becomes less a tool of justice and protection and more of an instrument of corruption, encouraging criminal activity.

Corruption is endemic to more than just the security industry; it permeates every facet of economic management and administration. It stifles economic expansion, deepens poverty, and upholds social injustices, fostering instability and unrest. Corruption has a tendency to destroy public trust in the state's ability to uphold the rule of law, provide basic services, and maintain its legitimacy. When people and communities look for other sources of safety and justice, security risks like terrorism, armed robberies, and kidnapping increase as a result of this lack of faith in governmental institutions. To tackle

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[48] Abubakar, Mohammed. "*Community Policing and Crime Prevention in Nigeria.*" Journal of Criminology 15, no. 1 (2017): 67-78.

this complex relationship, a comprehensive and multifaceted strategy that simultaneously addresses security and corruption issues is needed. improving the effectiveness and accountability of the legal and institutional structures for fighting corruption.

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