

Rejigging Nigeria's Security Architecture for Effectiveness in a Complex Security Environment

Chinwendu Angela Nwizu-Okoye

Abstract

This article delves into Nigeria's security architecture in a changing complex security environment. It diagnoses issues of insecurity in Nigeria that have left every part of the country at the mercy of vicious nonstate actors. The article examines the structure of the security apparatus and defence budget in the delivery and management of security in Nigeria. Progressively, the article highlights the consequences of the failure of insecurity in the country leading up to serious socioeconomic weaknesses. It employs narrative analysis to discuss pervasive insurrections that have seriously challenged the nation's sovereignty and the efforts of the government, security agencies, police and military in fighting terror activities. Data were derived from primary and secondary sources which include group discussions/interviews of key informants on the subject matter and relevant books/documents. In terms of philosophical significance, the article argues that there is a correlation between weak coordination of security architecture and growing insecurity in Nigeria. The article concludes among other things that strategic coordination, collaboration and cooperation of a-whole-of-society-approach (the law enforcement, paramilitary, military, relevant government agencies, intelligence and communities) is needed to enhance security delivery and management geared towards peace and stability in Nigeria.

Keywords: Insecurity, Security, Environment, Law Enforcement, Intelligence

Introduction

The complex security environment and the ineffectiveness of the security apparatus in Nigeria have become a source of concern and intense intellectual debate by security experts. Globally, state security operates at two levels - the internal and external environments. These environments encapsulate all operational elements of national power which usually inform a state's national

security strategy. Tang argued that if we assume a state to be a rational actor that chooses its security environment, then we must conclude that for a state to adopt a particular security strategy, it has to go through a three-stage process, namely assessment, planning, and implementation.¹ This implies that if a state commits mistakes in any one of the three stages, it will be unlikely to adopt a fitting strategy. In recent years, the Nigerian state has been under severe insecurity which has substantially undermined law and order as well as the protection of lives and property. In fact, since the transition to civil rule in 1999, violent insecurity has emerged in all parts of the country with different perpetrators such as militants, terrorists, insurgents and bandits. Beyond the resource war in Niger Delta and communal conflicts in the south, northern Nigeria has been turbulent owing to incessant terrorism, banditry, and religious and ethnic agitations.

Nigeria is faced with varying forms of insecurity especially those emanating from non-state actors have attracted the enormous attention of scholars and policy-makers alike.² In the South East, separatist groups like IPOB have turned to attack security personnel, government facilities, and ordinary residents in their quest for an independent State of Biafra. Incessant kidnappings and terror attacks have increased in the North West due to the activities of bandits and other terror elements. Boko Haram and ISWAP in the North East continue to pose a danger to the territorial integrity of the country and the government's efforts to guarantee the safety of people and property. Herdsmen-farmers conflict, kidnappings, maritime piracy, oil theft, and agitation for self-government are all prevalent in the South West, South-South, and North Central regions as well as electoral violence and ethnic and

¹. Shiping Tang, "A Systemic Theory Of The Security Environment", *Journal Of Strategic Studies* 27, no. 1 (2004): 1-34, doi:10.1080/0140239042000232756.

². Daniel Egiegba Agbibo, "Ethno-Religious Conflicts And The Elusive Quest For National Identity In Nigeria", *Journal Of Black Studies* 44, no. 1 (2012): 3-30, doi:10.1177/0021934712463147.

religious agitations are prevalent across the country. The nature and configuration of the security architecture have not only been a source of insecurity but also contribute to the inability of the nation to effectively mitigate insecurity in the country. Lack of strategic cooperation, collaboration and coordination among security agencies undermine seamless security management in Nigeria.

Security concerns are peculiar to the local governments and actors within the constituencies are better attuned to the nature of security challenges. The social responsibilities of government are to protect lives and property and carter the well-being of its citizen through their constituency's representatives. The desire to achieve this crucial task necessitated the establishment of the existing security agencies and national security strategy. Sadly, this responsibility has been challenged by many factors including weak institutions, interagency rivalry and overlapping mandates and laws establishing security agencies. While the article examines Nigeria's security architecture in light of pervasive insecurity in Nigeria, it posits that security agencies can function effectively if they collaborate seamlessly to address insecurity bedevilling Nigeria's sovereignty. The emphasis is that effective coordination of the national security architecture embodies a functional security system that perpetuates peace and stability in the country.

The Issues on Insecurity in Nigeria

There is a consensus amongst security experts that the Nigerian state has, in recent times, faced considerable national security threats³ mainly terrorism, electoral violence, banditry, kidnapping and religious, ethnic and communal conflicts. The nature of violent activities by nonstate actors in Nigeria's complex security environment has necessitated the need to examine the following insecurity threats bedevilling the Nigerian state and the people.

³. GA Wahab, "Foreword", in *Issues of Terrorism, Insurgency and Security in Nigeria* (Abuja: Nigerian Army Resource Centre, 2020), ix.

a. Terrorism

Terrorism is a worrisome phenomenon and perhaps the major security challenge of our times. What terrorism means may depend on the prism of a speaker. Since no single cause can be used to explain it or its outbreak, hence, it is considered a war, a crime, a revolution or even a disease that needs philosophical explanation.⁴ Radicalised, disconnected, disoriented and excluded people within the country have increasingly resorted to terror activities. For instance, in the beginning, Boko Haram was radical but not yet violent. That changed in 2009 when the arrest of several members sparked a riot where Boko Haram had its first large clash with the Nigeria police in riots that left a large number of people dead. However, there are barriers to understanding asymmetric warfare in Nigeria and the rationale behind violent engagements of the Nigerian state and the people. The transmuting nature of the insurgency of 'Boko Haram' known as Jama'atu Ahlis Sunnah Liddawa'atiwal Jihad (People committed to the Prophet's teaching and Jihad) has seriously challenged the sovereignty of the Nigerian state, threatened Nigeria's neighbours and crippled the country's security apparatus. Over the years, Boko Haram had become a threat to regional peace and has shown signs of aspirations to play on the global jihadi stage.⁵ It has also devastated economic activities, agriculture, and social and economic infrastructure such as schools, health facilities, telecommunications, roads, bridges, markets and homes as well as forcing humanitarian emergencies. The terror group has transformed in the last decade, waxing and fading, despite sustained offensives by the military force since 2015 – It is now a lethal force, a breakaway faction known as the West Africa Province of the Islamic State (ISWAP).⁶

⁴ Chukwuma Osakwe, "Terrorism, Insurgency and Counterinsurgency", (Presentation, NDA, Kaduna, 2017).

⁵ Kyari Mohammed, *Emerging Trends In The Boko Haram Insurgency*, Monograph 6th ed. (Abuja: The Nigerian Army Resource Centre, 2019), 5-7.

⁶ Kyari Mohammed, *Emerging Trends In The Boko Haram Insurgency*, Monograph 6th ed. (Abuja: The Nigerian Army Resource Centre, 2019), 2-5.

b. Banditry and Kidnapping

Banditry and kidnapping are one of the major security issues that undermine Nigeria's national security. The concept of banditry predates civilisation and the African traditional system. Banditry in modern society is an organised trans-local and transnational crime “characterised by the use of modern weapons, accompanied by rape, armed robbery, kidnapping activities, cattle rustling, as well as organised attacks on villages and communities.”⁷ Banditry is an offshoot of a fragile national security architecture bedeviling economic developments in Nigeria and has necessitated untold humanitarian and commercial hardships. Asuquo (2009) sees kidnapping as a difficult term to conceptualise because it varies from state to state and jurisdiction to jurisdiction. In simple terms, it is “an act of seizing, taking away and keeping a person in custody either by force or fraud”. Thus, banditry and kidnapping are terms used to describe vicious outlawry in the country – hence, ineffective law enforcement in southern Nigeria, and the crisis of ungoverned spaces in northern Nigeria are underlying problems necessitating the menaces.⁸

c. Electoral Violence

Election in Nigeria has over the years been marred by “fear, hostility, assault, battery, arson, kidnapping and murder. Indeed, Election has become war in Nigeria”.⁹ Ibeanu explains that elections have translated into rising physical and social insecurity in Nigeria because political actors are in their factions, fighting to

^{7.} AOD Okoro, "Historicizing and Understanding Banditry in Nigeria (1960-2021)", *NARC JOURNAL* 5, no. 1 (2022): 25-45.

^{8.} Kennedy, Chukwueme & Naomi, Phinos & Agaba, Halidu. (2019). The Impact of Banditry and Kidnapping on Nigeria's Economic Growth in the Fourth Republic: An Analysis. *South-south Journal of Humanities and International Studies*.

^{9.} CBN Ogbogbo, "Combating Election Violence in Nigeria", In *Issues of Terrorism, Insurgency And Security In Nigeria* (Abuja: Nigerian Army Resource Centre, 2020), 19.

control the state and use the state for private interests.¹⁰ The security agencies (the Police and other paramilitary) and the army are drawn into the phenomenon of electoral activities, which invariably makes efforts and the management of security in Nigeria more violent as “they have persistently utilised the instrumentality of the state to intimidate the electorate and influence electoral outcomes”.¹¹ Election disputes in Nigeria have led to breakdowns of law and order along Muslim and Christian lines, as was seen in the 2011 election in southern Kaduna. Kano is also known as a major 'bastion' of electoral violence, “the brazen display of violence took place in Gama ward in Kano and Bichi and Gaya towns. People were not only killed; properties were also destroyed.”¹² Implicitly, where there is an election, violence is exacerbated leading to an increased number of deaths in the aftermath.¹³ When violence erupts in these circumstances, the aftermath is usually gory because police response is not always immediate. Critical to the issue of police failure is the weakness of the national security apparatus. Thus, a weakness in the security apparatus and the failure of the police (lead agency) have created a situation where threats to national security, peace and stability are not decisively dealt with until the army is invited.

d. Religious, Ethnic and Communal Conflicts

Nigeria has had a long and unfortunate history of ethnoreligious violence and communal conflicts. The first ethnoreligious conflicts

^{10.} <https://intervention.ng/5351/> Intellectual Fury on Election Violence in Nigeria Part I

^{11.} CBN Ogbogbo, "Combating Election Violence in Nigeria", In *Issues of Terrorism, Insurgency And Security In Nigeria*, Pg. 22.

^{12.} CBN Ogbogbo, "Combating Election Violence in Nigeria", In *Issues of Terrorism, Insurgency and Security In Nigeria*, Pg. 24-25.

^{13.} UNDP Regional Service Centre for Africa, *Deepening Democracy: Election Management And Stability In Africa's Divided Societies*, Maendeleo Policy Forum, 6 Th Edition (Nairobi: UNDP, 2016), https://undp_rba_REPORT%206TH%20MAENDELEO%20FORUM%20DEC142016.pdf

in Kaduna state began in the 80s, and there have been many outbreaks of bloody violence between different communities since then. For example, “the first sectarian violence recorded in the country began in southern Kaduna in 1980, in Kasuwa Magani, present Kajuru LGA, Kaduna state. That crisis erupted between some Muslims and the native Muslims in that particular community.¹⁴ There have also been riots in the urban and rural areas of Bauchi and Kano states for several decades, and there has been a simmering conflict in Plateau state since the return of democracy in 1999. When viewed from the outside, these conflicts may boil down to religious and ethnic differences viz a viz tensions between blocs of Muslim and Christian inhabitants. When one looks deeper, however, one finds that politics – more precisely – is the primary cause of many of these conflicts.¹⁵ There is also a history of growing Islamic sects in northern Nigeria. In the 1980s, for example, the Maitatsine sect, a generic term for the religious crisis which occurred in some parts of the north, was led by Mohammed Marwa(late), a renowned Islamic preacher and a foreigner with an intimidating record of breaking the law. The sect was later wiped out very brutally, with women and children of the sect attacking heavily armed military and police forces with bows and arrows and knives.¹⁶ The group later scattered and was fully eliminated over a decade before their re-emergence in 2009– Boko Haram.

Nigeria's Security Architecture and Budgetary

The pervading asymmetric warfare and the ineffective response by the national security apparatus have reignited the debate on

^{14.} Halliru Abdullahi Maraya, Religious and Ethnic Agitations in Nigeria 1960-2019, Interview by Nwizuchukwu Chinwendu Angela and Brigadier General TI Gusau, in persons (Kaduna, November 2020).

^{15.} Andrew Walker, *What Is Boko Haram?*, Special Report (Washington DC: United States Institute of Peace, 2014), <https://www.usip.org/sites/default/files/resources/SR308.pdf>.

^{16.} Andrew Walker, *What Is Boko Haram?*, SPECIAL REPORT (Washington DC: UNITED STATES INSTITUTE OF PEACE, 2014), .

rejigging Nigeria's Security Architecture for the effectiveness and efficiency of the military and internal security agencies to meet transmuting threats. However, the statutory responsibility of National security in Nigeria is in the powers of the President (the executive arm of government) through all such security agencies established by law. Nigeria's security sector comprises the following:

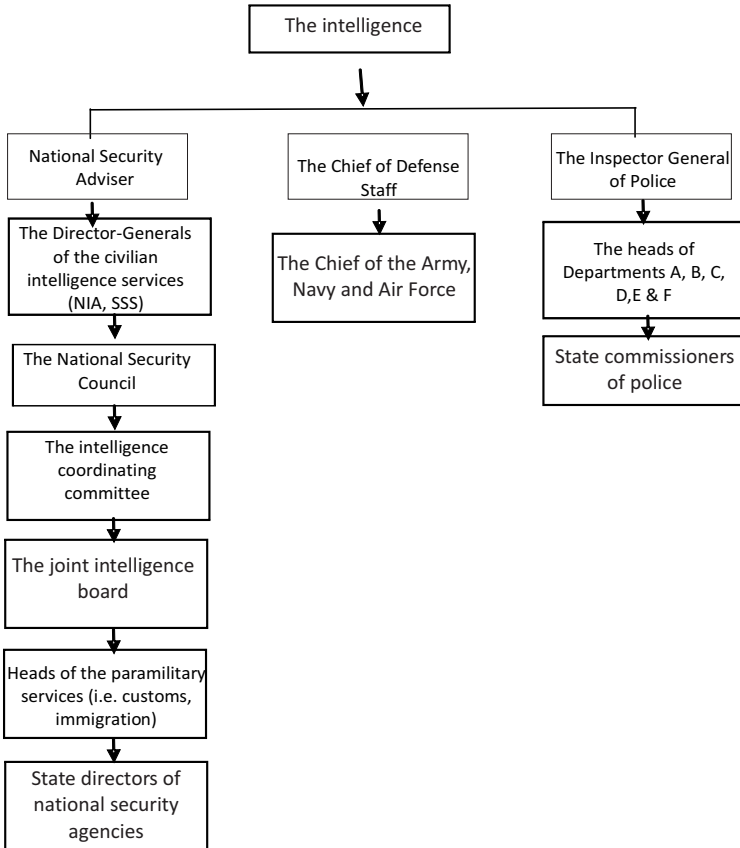
- i. The armed forces (army, air force and navy);
- ii. The Nigeria police service
- iii. Paramilitary bodies including customs and exercise, the immigration service, intelligence services –including military intelligence and the state security services;
- iv. Judicial and state service bodies – judiciary, justice ministry, correctional service (prison);
- v. Private security outfits;
- vi. Militia groups –including, for example, the Odua People's Congress, Hizba Corps;
- vii. Community vigilante groups.¹⁷

Constitutionally, the armed forces, police and prisons are parts of the exclusive and legislative list and are answerable to the federal government of Nigeria. For example, despite the existence of police commands in the 36 states of the federation and the FCT Abuja, the presiding authority over the police rests with the Inspector General of police who is answerable directly to the President.¹⁸

¹⁷. Saleh Bala and Emile Ouedraogo, *National Security Strategy Development*, ebook (AFRICA CENTRE FOR STRATEGIC STUDIES, 2018), <https://africacenter.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/04/2019-04-NSSD-Case-Study-Nigeria-EN.pdf>.

¹⁸. Abraham Nabhon Thomas and Iro Aghedo, "Security Architecture And Insecurity Management: Context, Content And Challenges In Nigeria", *Sokoto Journal Of The Social Science* 4, no. 1 (2014): 26-32, https://www.researchgate.net/publication/280310022_SECURITY_ARCHITECTURE_AND_INSECURITY_MANAGEMENT_CONTEXT_CONTENT_AND_CHALLENGES_IN_NIGERIA.

Figure 1: National Security Architecture



Source:¹⁹

The national security architecture of Nigeria comprises the National Security Council and the Coordination of the National Security in Nigeria.

¹⁹. Abraham Nabhon Thomas and Iro Aghedo, "Security Architecture And Insecurity Management: Context, Content And Challenges In Nigeria", *Sokoto Journal Of The Social Science* 4, no. 1 (2014): 32, https://www.researchgate.net/publication/280310022_SECURITY_ARCHITECTURE_AND_INSECURITY_MANAGEMENT_CONTEXT_CONTENT_AND_CHALLENGES_IN_NIGERIA.

a. The National Security Council.

The constitution mandated the creation of this organ. The Council shall have the power to advise the President on matters relating to public security²⁰ including matters relating to any organization or agency established by law for ensuring the security of the Federation. The Council comprise of

- The President (who shall be the Chairman)
- The Vice President (Deputy Chairman)
- The Chief of Defence Staff
- The Minister of the Government of the Federation charged with the responsibility for internal affairs
- The Minister of the Government of the Federation charged with the responsibility for Foreign Affairs
- The National Security Advisor
- The Inspector General of the Police; and
- Such other persons as the President may at his discretion appoint

b. Coordination of the National Security in Nigeria

The National Security Advisor (NSA) who is the principal officer of the National Security Council advises the President on national security matters. The office of the NSA is responsible for the coordination, control, and supervision of national security in Nigeria. While acting in the capacity of the President, it manages issues of national security through the National Security Council (NSC), the Joint Intelligence Board (JIB) and the Intelligence Community Committee (ICC).²¹ Thus, the instrument for implementing national security in Nigeria comprises the NSC, JIB

^{20.} Saleh Bala and Emile Ouedraogo, *National Security Strategy Development*, ebook (AFRICA CENTRE FOR STRATEGIC STUDIES, 2018), <https://africacenter.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/04/2019-04-NSSD-Case-Study-Nigeria-EN.pdf>.

^{21.} Saleh Bala and Emile Ouedraogo, *National Security Strategy Development*, ebook (AFRICA CENTRE FOR STRATEGIC STUDIES, 2018), <https://africacenter.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/04/2019-04-NSSD-Case-Study-Nigeria-EN.pdf>.

and the ICC. However, the Nigerian security environment is faced with various complex existential threats to national security. When attempting to explain the causes of national security strategies and their outcomes, most scholars, explicitly or implicitly assume that the main cause of security strategy failures was not poor information (assessment), but poor adjustment (i.e planning and implementation).²² Tajudeen Akanji opines that effective planning and implementation allow security agencies to coordinate expertise and resources to confront insecurity as a team by planning as a team, gathering intelligence as a team training as a team, and believing in the capability of the team components to deliver.²³

Budgetary Provision

Funding is also an important aspect of the effectiveness of the security forces' response in a complex security environment. Although Nigeria's security annual budget remains higher than the budgets of all other West African states on defence/military operations combined,²⁴ it is quite surprising that with such security budgets, stability and peace are still far-fetched. One of the informants strongly believes that the reason insecurity persists in Nigeria despite of huge security budget is due to the transmuting nature of terror in the 21st Century. During the first phase of the war

22. Shiping Tang, "A Systemic Theory Of The Security Environment", *Journal Of Strategic Studies* 27, no. 1 (2004): 1-34, doi:10.1080/0140239042000232756.

23. Abraham Nabhon Thomas And Iro Aghedo, "Security Architecture And Insecurity Management: Context, Content And Challenges In Nigeria", *Sokoto Journal Of The Social Science* 4, no. 1 (2014): 26-32, https://www.researchgate.net/publication/280310022_security_architecture_and_insecurity_management_context_content_and_challenges_in_nigeria.

24. Temitope Abiodun, Adepoju Asaolu and Ifeanyi-chukwu Ndubuisi, "Defence Budget And Military Spending On War Against Terror And Insecurity In Nigeria: Implications For State Politics, Economy, And National Security", *International Journal Of Advanced Academic Research*, 2015, 12-34, doi:10.46654/ij.24889849.s6713.

on insurgency in the northeast, the military effort was marred by obsolete and inadequate military equipment as most of their camps were overrun. However, the status quo later changed in 2015 as a result of quality leadership and professionalism inspired by the apex army hierarchy. It is worthy of mention that the military has gone beyond its role as “aid” in managing internal security in Nigeria; they are overstretched while responding to internal security issues. This not only has a grave effect on their image but endangers the integrity of the Nigerian army in the international arena. In terms of operations, they have recorded giant successes, but not substantially as their effort is hampered by a lack of sophisticated and modern military equipment and technology. As succinctly captured by one of the key informants, “The entire defence budget in Nigeria cannot even procure two flotillas”.

Elsewhere, it was argued that lack of political will, federal control of the security apparatus and poor funding of the Nigeria Police institutions explain the basis for poor security delivery. Critical to the deficit of good governance, lack of political will, corruption, and weak national security strategies,²⁵ is the appalling state of the police institution. The major challenge facing the police is lack of training/re-training, poor remuneration and general condition of service. Inadequate logistics to procure the much-needed arms and ammunition, kitting, and poor welfare packages among other, abounds. The failure of intelligence gathering is attributed to a lack of public trust. Locals are scared of giving information to the police for fear of reprisal attacks peradventure the police compromise information given in secrecy.

Consequences of Security Failure in Nigeria

The following are the consequences of security failure in Nigeria leading to a weak economy and socio-political instability in the

²⁵. AOD Okoro, "Historicizing and Understanding Banditry in Nigeria (1960-2021)", *NARC JOURNAL* 5, no. 1 (2022): 25-45.

country;

a. Incessant Killings

There has been the issue of incessant killings across the country ranging from violent conflicts between communities in Jos, Kaduna, Benue, and Nasarawa states among others. Benue state which is one of the most vulnerable states in Nigeria reported that more than 1878 people were killed between 2014-2016.²⁶ During the first half of 2022, almost 6,000 people were killed by jihadists, kidnappers and bandits.²⁷ These are detrimental to the country's stability.

b. Kidnapping and Hostages

Another consequence of security failure in Nigeria is kidnapping and hostages. Kidnapping and hostages are fuelled by organised crimes, unholy alliances among local crime syndicates, rogue law enforcement agents, and arms smugglers. Small arms and light weapons in Nigeria are bolstering the indiscriminate kidnapping of Nigerians for ransom across the country.

c. Cases of Internally Displaced Persons

Two third-third of the Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) in Nigeria are the resultant effect of insurgency.²⁸ Most people in the northeast are uprooted from their homes and scattered across the borders of Chad, Niger and Cameroun. This suggests a disruption

^{26.} Akanji, Tajudeen. 2023. "Nigeria's Emerging Security Threats Profile, The Imperatives For An Integrated Institutional Approach To Management." Lecture Series at the Nigerian Army Resource Centre, Abuja. 9 November 2022.

^{27.} Okpeh O. Okpeh, *Displaced, Dispossessed, and Neglected: Internally Displaced Persons and Security Problematic in Contemporary Nigeria*, Monograph 9th ed. (Abuja: The Nigerian Army Resource Centre, 2019), 5-12.

^{28.} "25 Million Nigerians at High Risk of Food Insecurity in 2023." 2023. *UNICEF*. Accessed April 19. <https://www.unicef.org/press-releases/25-million-nigerians-high-risk-food-insecurity-2023>.

of their ways of life and social and economic activities as they are often easy recruits by insurgents. Displacement has broken up families and communities ties leading to unemployment, and limited access to food, shelter and education.

d. Food Insecurity/exorbitant prices on commodity

Access to food has been affected in Nigeria by pervasive violence. The northeast, northwest and north-central states of Nigeria are facing high levels of food insecurity due to a combination of long-running armed conflict and violence, disrupted livelihoods, reduced market access, localized food production shortfall and the impacts of COVID-19 on food supply chains. In an October 2022 Cadre Harmonisé, a government-led and UN-supported food and nutrition analysis, 25 million Nigerians are at high risk of food insecurity in 2023. This was attributed to widespread flooding in the 2022 rainy season which damaged more than 676,000 hectares of farmlands, leading to diminished harvests for families across the country.²⁹

e. Insecurity in Nigerian Roads and Railways

Over the years, the dilapidated state of Nigerian roads became terrorists' and kidnapers' operational areas. Rail transportation later became the safest means of transportation in the country due to insecurity on highways. Shortly after many Nigerians resorted to rail transportation, terrorists began to attack rail facilities to kidnap citizens for ransom. On 28 March 2022, an Abuja-Kaduna train was attacked in Katari, Kaduna State. About eight people were killed, including Amin Mahmoud, a youth leader of the ruling All Progressives Congress, APC, Chinelo Megafu Chinelo, a medical doctor, Tibile Mosugu, a rising lawyer and son of Senior Advocate of Nigeria, and Barrister Musa Lawal-Ozigi, secretary-

²⁹ Bankole, Idowu. 2022. "Abuja-Kaduna Train Attack: Politician, Medical Doctor, Unionist among Dead Passengers." *Vanguard News*. March 29. <https://www.vanguardngr.com/2022/03/abuja-kaduna-train-tragedy-politician-medical-doctor-unionist-among-dead-passengers/>.

general, Trade Union Congress, TUC.³⁰

f. Youth restiveness/agitations

There is an explosion of youth restiveness and agitations in the country. Young people are the main participants in violent conflicts, and illegal money-making operations such as cybercrime, bank robberies and political thuggery. Small arms and light weapons are mostly in the hands of youths who are high on drugs and this gives them the motivation to resort to any violent activity.

g. Brain drains

There is a mass movement of highly skilled professionals migrating to other countries such as the UK, USA, Germany and Canada mainly due to insecurity and high unemployment rates. Many of these emigrants are particularly from the health sector – Nigeria at present has one of the lowest doctor-patient ratios in the world. The implication is that the Nigerian government spends billions of naira to train its skilled manpower only to lose such investments to foreign countries. For example, in 2018 alone, Nigerians received \$25.1bn from Nigerians living abroad, a figure that is triple the country's capital expenditure budget.³¹

h. Inflation

There has been a fluctuation in inflation in Nigeria for decades rising as high as 47.56 per cent in 1996 to as low as -2.49 per cent in

³⁰ Sherifat, Lawal. 2020. "Brain Drain and the Nigerian Economy." *Vanguard News*. February 1. <https://www.vanguardngr.com/2020/02/brain-drain-and-the-nigerian-economy/#:~:text=The%20reasons%20for%20Nigeria%E2%80%99s%20persistent%20brain%20drain%20are,bailing%20out%20of%20the%20country%20to%20greener%20pastures.>

³¹ "Nigeria Inflation Rate – March 2023 Data - 1996-2022 Historical - April Forecast." 2023. *Nigeria Inflation Rate - March 2023 Data - 1996-2022 Historical - April Forecast*. Accessed April 21. <https://tradingeconomics.com/nigeria/inflation-cpi>.

2000. Trading Economics reported that Nigeria's inflation rate as of March 2023 stood at 22.04 per cent compared to the previous 21.91 per cent it recorded in February 2023. This means that the inflation rate in Nigeria accelerated in March, the highest since September 2005. Soaring food prices and a weaker naira currency were the main drivers.³²

I. Unemployment

72 per cent of Nigeria's population is 30 years and below, mainly living in or prone to poverty. The scarcity of sources of dignified livelihood, and the resentment arising thereof breeds and abets rebellion, crime and dissidence. The Nigerian Economic Summit Group projected that Nigeria's unemployment rate will hit 37 per cent in 2023 due to weak performance in the job-elastic sector and low labour absorption in the sector that is expected to drive growth. This means that economic growth will be subdued in 2023 due to strains on investment and low productivity in the critical sector.³³

Nigeria's Security Architecture: Towards an Effective and Efficient Security Delivery and Management in Nigeria

Nigeria has a comprehensive national security strategy, despite this, the nation is still battling numerous insurrections across the country. The article also established previously that Nigeria's defence budget is not sufficient to tackle the growing insecurity in the country. Tajudeen Akanji's view on Nigeria's security architecture is that insecurity problems appear to have no solution in sight because the country operates in “a House of Commotion”. Officers and men of different security organisations have many

³² Bailey, Bunmi. 2023. “Nigeria's Unemployment Rate to Hit 37% in 2023 – NESG.” *Businessday NG*. January 18. <https://businessday.ng/business-economy/article/nigerias-unemployment-rate-to-hit-37-in-2023-nesg/>.

³³ Akanji Tajudeen. How Nigeria's Security Architecture Can be Tweaked for Effective Security Delivery and Management, Interview by Nwizu-Okoye Chinwendu. In persons. Abuja, 11 April 2023.

times been involved in multidimensional inter-agency rivalry and bloody clashes.³⁴ The emphasis is that security is seriously challenged in the country because the nation's security strategy cannot effectively spearhead its policy. The article submits that a whole-of-society approach is effective security delivery and management in Nigeria. This means that the paramilitary, military, police, other law enforcement agencies, correctional services, relevant government agencies and the communities need to work closely knitted in national security matters. This can be achieved if the following are considered:

Strategies of interagency cooperation, collaboration and coordination

Sustained disunity among security agencies constitutes a grave threat to national security. All security apparatus has to work closely and seamlessly to overcome security challenges in the country because the management of security in Nigeria goes beyond the capacity of a single agency. There is also a need for interagency training and harmonised standard operation for teamwork and intelligence sharing among agencies. Joint operations and networking will enhance better understanding among agencies as the issue of trust will be eliminated.

Address overlapping mandates and laws establishing agencies

Mandates and laws that established security agencies in Nigeria are largely overlapping and possibly confusing. The areas of overlap need to be addressed to bolster their operations as team. Fighting insurrections and other forms of vices that lead to insecurity will require intervention across multiple agencies, effective interagency cooperation is not only desirable but it is

³⁴. Abraham Nabhon Thomas and Iro Aghedo, "Security Architecture and Insecurity Management: Context, Content and Challenges in Nigeria", *Sokoto Journal of The Social Science* 4, no. 1 (2014): 26-32, https://www.researchgate.net/publication/280310022_SECURITY_ARCHITECTURE_AND_INSECURITY_MANAGEMENT_CONTEXT_CONTENT_AND_CHALLENGES_IN_NIGERIA.

equally essential to reduce waste and unnecessary duplication of responsibilities.

Team coordination

Team coordination enables security agencies to coordinate expertise and resources to confront insecurity as a team by planning as a team, gathering intelligence as a team training as a team, and believing in the capability of the team components to deliver.

Improve on oversight mechanism and security sector governance

This means that security agencies need to improve their professionalisation and be efficient and effective as well as financial and operational accountability for enhanced transparency.

Improve on human rights records of its security sector

Respect for human rights must be upheld at all times will help to rebuild the trust between communities and the security agencies for improved security and information sharing.

Critical police system overhaul

The call to revamp the police system is long overdue and this needs to be prioritised. Retrain the mobile police to take over internal security operations. It is time to withdraw the army from internal security in the 36 states so the police can take up their primary responsibility.

Administrative and financial Local government autonomy.

Local governments have the widest reach in governance and community integration because they can transcend the benefits of good governance to people at the grassroots. A functional local government system is important for crime and border security management in the country. Despite persistent calls for a

functional local government system so that people at the grassroots can be in charge of their security, the state governments have continued to hold on to local government powers tenaciously.

Dialogue with non-state actors

It is much easier to dialogue with nonstate actors when the early warning signs are detected because it is much more difficult and financially precarious to contain confrontation. Nigeria often has engaged with the insurgents, using known and unknown mediation processes of negotiation and persuasion. For instance, Nigeria has also engaged militants and insurgents to manage national security in the Niger Delta region.

Conclusion

Over half a century since Nigeria got political independence, the country's security architecture remains structurally unchanged with damning consequences for the management of crime and insecurity.³⁵ Issues of insecurity in the country are enormous as they continue to divide the people along ethnic, religious and political lines and overstretch the military due to the ineffectiveness of security strategy. The article argued that strong interagency cooperation, collaboration and coordination in Nigeria are crucial to driving the policy strategy and leading the nation to the desired path. It opines that insecurity prevails due to the changing nature of asymmetric warfare and national security threats. The article concluded that frequent deployment of the military to quell insurrections erodes competence and professionalism, thus, all security agencies, the government and the Nigerian people need to work closely to address issues of insecurity in the country.

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