ASSESSMENT OF SECURITY OPERATIONS ON TACKLING BANDITRY FOR SUSTAINABLE NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT IN NORTH-WESTERN NIGERIA

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ABSTRACT
The paper assesses the role of the security in tackling insecurity that manifested in the form of banditry in the North-Western region for sustainable national development in Nigeria. The activities of the bandits in the study area also led to so many security challenges in the region which has caused a lot of sets back in all aspect. These security challenges include kidnapping for ransom, displacement of the rural dwellers, closure of schools and other social facilities, increase in abandoned farmland, and loss of lives and properties. Data was sourced from two major sources; secondary and primary sources. The secondary sources were from existing literature on Insecurity, the interview method and questionnaire were adopted as the primary source of data to generate reliable data from the selected key informants within the study area. The paper concludes that military engagement to tackle banditry have yielded positive results in tackling the security situation in the study area. Finally, the paper suggests that certain measures need to be taken in other to reduce the security challenges of the North-Western region and create an avenue for sustainable national security in Nigeria. Some of these are adequate security presence in rural areas, provision of adequate logistics in tackling banditry, the synergy between and among the security agencies, provision of adequate manpower, provisions of sophisticated weapons.

Introduction

Security is the cornerstone of development and progress in a free society, and that security is a guarantee of the well-being of citizens and stability of the state. On the other hand, insecurity connotes different meanings such as: absence of safety; danger; hazard; uncertainty; lack of protection, and lack of safety. Beland (2005) opined that insecurity is the state of fear or anxiety stemming from a concrete or alleged lack of protection. It refers to lack or inadequate freedom from danger.

Nigeria published its maiden National Security Strategy in 2014 and since then the security environment has continued to evolve, giving rise to emergent challenges, thus necessitating a review. While significant progress has been made on multiple fronts between 2014 and 2019, the nature of security challenges facing Nigeria is more complex than in the past (NSS, 2019). There has been an intensification of pastoralists-farmers conflicts in many states of the federation. Banditry has escalated and become a major feature of the security environment. Similarly,

there has been a significant upsurge in kidnapping and other crimes.

Nigeria is the region's principal military power and faces numerous security challenges, including from Boko Haram and militants in the Niger-Delta. Reform initiatives have developed, after the challenge from Boko Haram exposed relative military weaknesses. There have been operational changes, including attempts to implement counter-insurgency tactics, forward-operating bases and quick reaction groups. Nigeria is part of the Multi-National Joint Task Force and is a key member of the ECOWAS Standby Force. Military and security assistance is either discussed or under way with Germany, the UK and the US. The UK bases its British Defence Staff West Africa in Nigeria. Efforts have been made to improve training, notably in the air force, with the establishment of Air Training Command and Ground Training Command. Contractors have also been used to improve training levels. Nigeria is able to mount regional operations, though its deployment capacities remain limited. Efforts are under way to refurbish stored aircraft and develop support capacities in advance of the arrival of SuperTucanoaircraft. A number of small coastal-patrol boats have been acquired in light of security requirements in the Niger Delta region. Nigeria is developing its defence-industrial capacity, including local production facilities for small arms and protected patrol vehicles (NSS, 2019).

Nigeria faces a rapidly changing world with a diverse range of threats. The threats are multifaceted and less predictable with blurred boundaries between external and internal risk factors. Threat factors that manifest at the global, regional and domestic levels are usually mutually reinforcing. Therefore, they require an integrative national strategy and cooperation within a framework of regional as well as international organizations and institutions. Several challenges are likely to drive Nigeria's security priorities in the next five years with both short and long-term implications. These challenges can be grouped under the following security threats: terrorism and violent extremism, armed banditry, kidnapping, militancy and separatist agitations, pastoralists-farmers conflicts, transnational organized crime, piracy and sea robbery, porous borders, cybercrimes and technology challenges. The criminal activities of armed bandits and kidnap gangs are the preeminent threats confronting us at present. Their major activities include kidnapping and cattle rustling which are on the increase due to the high economic pay-off in terms of derivable financial benefits. They also thrive on the twin elements of fear and surprise and constitute a grave threat to personal security (NSS, 2019).

Others are socio-political threats, fake news and hate speeches, environmental threats, public health challenges, economic challenges, regional and global security challenges. Trend analysis suggests a correlation between armed banditry, militia groups, kidnapping and cattle rustling, in what appears to be a convergence of various illegal networks. This has led to loss of lives and property and ultimately undermines peace with grave implications for human security.

Several factors have been adduced as the driving forces of banditry in Nigeria and most especially in the northwest region of the country. Drivers of banditry in northwestern Nigeria consist in some socio-existential conditions that characterize the interior as well as the frontiers of the region. Prominent among these conditions are the scarcely governed spaces- the hinterlands, forestlands and borderlines of the region. The northwestern hinterlands are marked by extremely dispersed rural settlements, separated by rangelands and farmlands that are susceptible to violent contestations (Rufai, 2021).

Violent conflicts between pastoralists and farmers are widespread with severe consequences in terms of loss of lives, property and disruption of the normal functioning of society. These conflicts undermine the fabric of our corporate existence as they exacerbate the various fault lines with grave implications. At the heart of these conflicts, are the quest for land, grazing routes, water and other resources. Climate change, population explosion and growth of new settlements are veritable sources and causal factors of most of these conflicts. The significant threat posed by pastoralists-farmers conflict makes it a critical issue that needs to be addressed quickly and comprehensively.

The proliferation of small arms and light weapons (SALWs) is a global phenomenon arising from conflicts across the globe. According to a survey conducted by the Geneva based Small Arms Survey, it is estimated that more than 857 million small arms and light weapons (SALWs) are currently in circulation aside from twelve billion rounds of ammunition produced annually. Of these, ten million small arms and light weapons (SALWs) are estimated to be in Africa with one million of these in Nigeria. This is not unconnected with past and on-going conflicts in

West and North African countries such as Liberia, Sierra Leone, Cote d'Ivoire, Mali and Libya. Proliferation of small arms and light weapons (SALWs) aid non-state actors likeBoko Haram Terrorist (BHT) and armed bandits, while undermining state monopoly of instruments of coercion. The threats posed by proliferation of small arms and light weapons (SALWs) are of such magnitude that a security strategy which contemplates the monitoring of their flow and use is required.

In this vain, the intent of this paper is to study the roles, strategies, and operations of the security personnel in reducing the activities of bandits in the north-western region of Nigeria for a sustainable national development. It demonstrates, with clear evidence, the efforts displayed by the Nigerian securities in unfolding and reducing the incessant attacks by the armed groups.

Conceptual Clarification

Insecurity

Insecurity is the state of being subject to danger or injury. The anxiety is experienced when one feels vulnerable and insecure. It is a state of being not secure, lack of confidence. Insecurity can constitute a form of attacking individuals or groups causing panic. The concept of insecurity connotes different meanings such as the absence of safety; danger; hazard; uncertainty; lack of protection, and lack of safety. For Onifade, Imhonopi & Urim (2013), in Jubril, & Jimoh (2020), insecurity is conceived as a situation where human and national security of a state is compromised by internal or external forces or interests exacerbated by the former's weak or poor economic, military and/or human resource development conditions.

Security

Security is the state or condition of being free from danger or threat in the daily activities of human beings (Imam, 2014). It is the freedom to move and participate in social, economic, and political activities freely without any threat from any individual or group. Security also entails a peaceful engagement of persons and communities in their daily activities without being subjected to fear of danger, destruction of their properties, injuries. Ensuring the security of lives and properties is the primary responsibility of the state. It is because of this that the government has established several security forces to ensure and maintain security within the country and even to respond to external aggressions and threats.

Bandits

Bandits are outlaws and fugitives in society. An outlaw is someone who failed to stand trial becoming a fugitive from the law (Manderson, 2003). Society may declare such a person wanted, dead or alive; that gives any member of society license to kill the declared bandit with impunity. That creates a state-endorsed radical inversion of the social contract (Manderson, 2003). Those who operate on that platform are regarded as bad people, who have nothing good to offer society. Bandits are simply a community of pastoralists who used to live in hamlet and forest settlements but transformed overnight into bandit's gangs (Rufai, 2021).

Literature Review

With the return of Nigeria to a democratic system in 1999 a lot of expectation was placed on the government with believe that democracy would guarantee freedom, security, liberty, and equity and enhances security of lives and properties, which would indeed repositions development and sustainable national security. Regrettably, insecurity has metamorphosed into violent conflicts that have become a series threat to sustainable national security.

Nonetheless, developed societies are distinct in their strategies to curtail the escalation of insecurity by ensuring that perpetrators hardly get away with them. This level of efficiency could be attributed to their robust security networks and well committed and motivated, properly educated, trained and remunerated personnel that are in charge of security matters. Moreover, the leadership of these societies is very effective and capable, thus unequal allocation of resources and provision of amenities necessary to live a normal life do not have any negative implication to their citizens. Consequently, insecurity in such societies has never been regarded as a serious hindrance to national progress.

In many emerging societies, the reverse is however the case. Perpetrators are hardly caught

due to their poor security network. When persons are caught, the poor ones are usually brought to book, while the elite class is let off the hook due to the prevailing high level of injustice and discrimination (Nyamwamu et al., 2012). Moreover, security personnel are largely ineffective and inefficient because they are poorly educated, trained, motivated, equipped and remunerated (Nyamwamu*et al.*, 2012). Hence, it becomes essentially difficult to maintain peace needed for national development.

For Achumba*et al.* (2013), insecurity is an absence of protection or safety. These scholars argue further that insecurity entails peril; deathtrap; ambiguity; dearth of fortification, and lack of security. They also discuss the problem of insecurity from the following two major perspectives: Firstly, insecurity is the state of being prone or vulnerable to danger or threat of danger. In this situation, the tendency of experiencing hurt based on insufficient measures against danger is very bright. Secondly, insecurity is the state of being exposed to risk or anxiety. The exposure could be as a result of inadequate measures against insecurity by the state or by a group of people etc. This usually happens when the law enforcement agents are poorly educated, trained, remunerated and motivated. It could also occur when peoples‟ basic necessities of life are lacking.

Most of these factors hinged on political, economic, cultural and religious issues surrounding insecurity but with little regards for the social relations arising from interaction among groups with respect to religion, ethnicity, politics, etc. Also, knowledge of insecurity emanating from social interaction between groups- entrepreneurs and employees, the ruler and the ruled, etc. and its implications for human life and national development is yet to be fully explored in Nigerian context (Kuna &Jibrin, 2016). Insecurity continues to manifest in the form of banditry, kidnapping for ransom, rape, illegal toll collection at market roads, political thuggery and mayhem with severe consequences and threat to life. In the north-western region of Nigeria, insecurity is in the form of banditry.

Literature on the nature and incidence of banditry mostly perpetrated by nomads has yielded several thematic perspectives. Foremost among these perspectives is the narrative that situates the phenomenon as a necessary complication of the farmer-herder crisis in a volatile security context, characterized by the declining state's capacity to govern (Shettima& Tar, 2008; Olaniyan&Yahaya, 2016). Armed banditry violence assumed a new dimension as a farmers/herders conflict in 2011 and intensified around 2017 to 2018 to include; cattle rustling, kidnapping for ransom, sexual violence and killings. However, some analysts have traced its origin to the outcome of the Nigerian Civil War of 1967-1979 (Dialy Trust 24th May, 2021).

Banditry has created a large number of destitute, orphans and widows in the rural areas of Zamfara State due to constant raiding, theft and raping. The village of Badarawa in Shinkafi Local Government Area, is another area hit by the bandits, the village head has compiled a list of 318 widows, orphans and destitute who lost loved ones in the various attacks carried out by the bandits in 2015 alone. The levels of attacks in these areas are less compared to Anka, Maru and Tsafe that witnessed frequent attacks and recorded high casualties. In these areas, so many villages were raided and people killed indiscriminately; women were raped and livestock stolen by the bandits (Rufai, 2021). The pervasive banditry and its associated threats to security, which have enveloped the Northwest region of Nigeria, particularly, Zamfara, Katsina, Kaduna, Sokoto and Niger States, have become a worrisome national security issue of public concern (Olaniyan&Yahaya, 2016).

In their study, Kuna &Jibrin observed that the northwestern region of Nigeria encompasses seven states namely Kano, Jigawa, Katsina, Kaduna, Zamfara, Sokoto and Kebbi. Five of these states, which are Katsina, Kaduna, Zamfara, Sokoto and Kebbi have been mostly affected by the scourge of banditry. Of these five states, Kaduna, Katsina and Zamfara have been the most critical hot spots. It is however, pertinent to note that the incidences of banditry are not limited to northwestern Nigeria. In fact, it is also prevalent in some parts of north-central region, in states like Niger, Nasarawa, Benue and Plateau which are equally regarded as hotbeds (Kuna &Jibrin 2016).

Considering the location of Zamfara State with the escalating banditry activities, it indicate that the incidence of Zamfara spread across the neighbouring States of Katsina, Sokoto and other states across the region. We can arguably agree that free movement of the bandits in the forest zones that link the north-western states transform the security situation into a regional problem. Bandits are sophisticated money launderers, their modus operandi is to rustle cows, sell the rustle cows, buy more robust, well-

fed cows and take them to neighbouring countries for sale. The proceed; they invest in acquiring more arms and ammunition. They use drones, CCTV for surveillance (Rufai, 2021). According to Warto (2011), social banditry is the act of crime committed either by the residents of a village or people in the low economic and social strata to fulfill their basic needs. Such acts are a response to structural pressure, which deprives people of access to the natural resources in their lives. It is an act of taking property by force or the threat of force. The act is often done by a group, usually of men (Slatta, 1994). Banditry is not restricted to rural settings; it has also extended its tentacles to urban settings, incorporating women and children into it. Banditry has equally assumed a level of violence that is no longer constrained to targeting the rich, which has been its main focus in the past. Men, women, and children have become real targets of social bandits.

Role of the Security personnel in Tackling Banditry

In modern states, the security architecture determines the economic stability and development. The irreducible function of the state is to continually secure itself against internal insurrection and external aggression by providing the security of lives and property of citizens. Ideological differences notwithstanding, this is the state's most critical defining function. The "monopoly of the legitimate" use of force by which the state is defined- to defend itself against possible external aggression- and to secure its citizens against competing users of the instrument of force speaks precisely to this point. This is the only way the state harvests in return the loyalty of its citizens, which translates into a high degree of legitimacy and the ready inclination to obey its laws (Sofiri, 2020).

Several threats exist in our domestic environment which undermines the well-being of our citizens. These challenges, such as terrorism driven by violent extremism, banditry and militia activities are perpetrated in the form of kidnapping, armed robbery and cattle rustling. Others include separatism and resource-based conflicts that engender environmental and related agitations. Socio-economic challenges that manifest in poverty also lead to vandalism of critical national infrastructure, crude oil theft, attacks on farmsteads and illegal bunkering that threaten the security of Nigeria.

The aforementioned challenges call for a robust, dynamic and proactive national security framework and infrastructure capable of dealing with these growing threats in real time. The National Security Strategy 2019 aims at ensuring that Nigeria's sovereignty, territorial integrity, national interests, the well-being of the people and the country's institutions are preserved, protected and enhanced. The Strategy provides a comprehensive vision of National Security, premised on the understanding that a responsible society aware of its security is better poised to address today's challenges. Thus, it is essential to encourage the involvement of citizens and collaboration between the public and private sectors (NSS, 2019). This is agreement with the opinion of a security officer (interview, 2021) who opined that:

You see, if you talk of the solution is multifaceted, not only the government, everybody has a responsibility. The government, the security agencies, members of the community, the traditional rulers, the religious leaders, the herders, the farmers, everybody is a stakeholder in this conflict. And if you want to look for solution, you must look for solution from this aspect (interview, 8th November, 2021).

Although the Armed Forces of Nigeria and other security services have remained a bulwark and stabilizing force for internal security, the overall security architecture needs retooling. Nigeria's geostrategic analysis depicts substantial but largely untapped strengths amidst critical vulnerabilities. It is therefore imperative that we devise strategies to enhance our national capacities for growth, security and progress (NSS, 2019). The Federal Government's response had been largely through deployment of state security forces. Consequently, "Operation Safe Haven" was created for the North-Central and stationed in Plateau State with areas of operation extending to Benue, Kogi, Nasarawa and Kwara states to quell ethno-religious conflicts and other criminal activities are cardinal evidence in this regard. Other government's response includes constitution of Commissions of inquiry and humanitarian assistance to persons displaced by the conflict. In addition, some State governments in the zone drawing inspiration from the Niger Delta situation have also initiated amnesty programmes - Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration (DDR) - as forms of pardon for repentant warlords, yet conflicts and insecurity

continue to impact on inhabitants of the zone (Sofiri, 2020).

For the North-West, "Operation *SharanDaji*/Operation *Harbin Kunama* 11 was established to battle armed bandits, cattle rustlers and robbers operating particularly in Zamfara, Kaduna and fringes of Sokoto, Kebbi, Katsina and Kano States, yet the conflicts continue. Government's review of the escalation of insecurity in the zone resulted in the launching of a new operation on Thursday, June 4, 2020 codenamed "Operation Accord" was launched on

Thursday, June 4, 2020, to wipe out banditry, Kidnapping and other criminality from the North-West and North- Central part of Nigeria. The operation was promptly planned by the military high command of the armed forces of Nigeria to tackle banditry and other violent crimes in the area. The troops through land and air offensives successfully neutralized 392 bandits and other criminal elements since the commencement of the operation in the two zones (Killte, 2020, cited in Sofiri, 2020).

Commenting further on the measures adopted in reducing the incidence of banditry, security personnel (interview, 2021) comment that:

Right now operations are ongoing, bandits are being arrested, and some of them are being prosecuted as we speak. With the seizure of network, it has greatly enhanced the security arrangement in the region. In the last two weeks or there about, there is no issue of bandit's related activities in those areas as we speak (Interview, 12th October, 2021)

Considering the opinion on the security operations in tackling insecurity, it can be situated within the concept of security management. Security management encapsulate all business and human organizational activities, as simply as the act of getting people together to accomplish desired goals and objectives (Magashi, 2021). Similarly, Elaigwu (2005) opined that: *''national security management is a comprehensive method which includes both the proactive and reactive processes. The proactive process of national security management involves the early warning procedures, which includes all stakeholders including the community, as well as other measures adopted towards preventing the eruption of violent conflict and measures ensuring such conflicts are resolve satisfactorily. The reactive process deal with violent conflicts, such as insurgency and terrorism in the North East, as well as other violent situation including; banditry and kidnapping, predominantly in the North-West and North-Central''* (Elaigwu, 2005).

Similarly, the former Chief of Army Staff, Lieutenant General TurkurYusufuBuratai flagged off Operation Sahel Sanity on the 6 July, 2020 as part of activities of the Nigerian Army Day celebration, 2020 during which the Nigerian Army Super Camp IV Faskari in Katsina State was established. The aim of the operation is to support Operation *HadarinDaji* in stemming the tides of the activities of armed bandits, cattle rustlers, kidnappers, incessant killings in the North-West zone of the country. Also, the Late Chief of Army Staff, Lt. Gen. Ibrahim Attahiru, on April 13, 2021, said the Nigerian Army has begun engage some of its retirees to assist in tackling the rising insecurity in the country. Attahiru, who disclosed this while declaring open the First Quarter 2021 Veterans Affairs Directorate Workshop in Port-Harcourt, with the theme, 'Harnessing the skills of retirees for national security', did not reveal the category of people to be engaged from among the veterans (Daily Trust, 2021).

These acts of criminality orchestrated by the bandits had before now, crippled the sustainable national development which directly affect the social-political and economic activities of the people of this zone. Writing on the incidence of banditry, Bagu& Smith (2017, 5) observed that: ''*gangs of criminals, often youth from farming and herding communities and/or local bandits, take advantage of growing insecurity, fear, and cyclical attacks to loot villages, engage in highway robbery, and rustle cattle for personal gain. Both farming and herding communities suffer from this criminality*'' (Bagu& Smith, 2017).

The people of the North-West zone felt the immediate impact of the operation with the tremendous success achieved within the short period of time. Eighty bandits were killed, 33 suspects arrested, 943 cows, 633 sheep/ram recovered and 7 AK47 riffles, one GPMG, 16 Dane guns were captured in the onslaught against bandits in Katsina State by troops of Operation Sahel Sanity. Seventeen (17) kidnapped victims were also rescued, while 14 bandits' informants and collaborators were arrested. In addition, several bandits' camps including the notorious Dangote Triangle and their logistics bases were destroyed within the first month of the anti-bandit operation code named Operation Sahel Sanity (Ndidi, 2020, cited in Sofiri, 2020). Prior to the creation of the above Special Security Forces,

"Operation *Mesa*" had been operating as a nationwide security taskforce. It is called "Operation *Yaki*" in Kaduna State and "Operation *Zenda*" in Benue State. In line with the above narration, there have been a lot of improvement on the side of the military on reducing the security situation in the north-western region, more bandits were killed, informants were arrested, and many kidnapped victims were rescued (NSS, 2019).

Our strategic response rests on three layers of defence crisis management namely constructive engagement, application of soft power and combat engagements. In other words, the first option in the resolution of fledgling national defence threats will be to adopt non-kinetic measures. As a rule, we will explore the opportunities of defence diplomacy, as expedient, to leverage the comparative resource endowments of friendly nations, allies and international partners. When military engagements become inevitable, we will apply domestic and international legal frameworks to promote national defence. We will also mobilise domestic political, economic and social institutions through statutory Civil-Military Relations structures (NSS, 2019). Within these narratives, it is important to acknowledge the fact that security management is all and encompassing. This is because security management is the totality of all government effort in the deployment of all available elements of power articulated in its national security policies as well as operational strategy and tactical plans (NSS, 2019).

Various security networks are involved in strategically reducing the security challenges bedeviling the North-Western region of Nigeria. From the Nigerian Police, also, (interview, 2021) *If you look at Section 4 of the Police Act, it clearly stated the role of the Police which has to do with the protection of life and property among others, and it is our responsibility and our role is to make sure that citizens are not harass, crimes are not committed against good citizens of that area. And the role of the Police in that area is to ensure sanity, peace, tranquility, and there are no crimes committed and even if there are criminals around because you cannot rule out crime because is inevitable., they are arrested and brought to book right from the inception of banditry in the area* (Interview, 8th October 2021).On the same note, he (Security, 2021) further comments that:

You see, if you talk of the solution is multifaceted, not only the government, everybody has a responsibility. The government, the security agencies, members of the community, the traditional rulers, the religious leaders, the herders, the farmers, everybody is a stakeholder in this conflict. And if you want to look for solutions, you must look for solution from this entire angle that I mentioned (Interview 8thOctoberr, 2021).

The people of the North-West zone felt the immediate impact of the operation with the tremendous success achieved within the short period. Eighty bandits were killed, thirty three suspects arrested, 943 cows, 633 sheep/ram recovered and seven AK47 rifles, one GPMG, sixteen Dane guns were captured in the onslaught against bandits in Katsina State by troops of Operation Sahel Sanity. Seventeen kidnap victims were also rescued, while fourteen bandits' informants and collaborators were arrested. In addition, several bandits' camps including the notorious Dangote Triangle and their logistics bases were destroyed within the first month of the anti-bandit operation code-named Operation Sahel Sanity (Sofiri, 2020).

Reasons Why the Security Operations are Failing in Tackling Banditry

It appears that the government's high security "operations" have not achieved the desired results, hence affected states and citizens' decision to take their destiny in "their own hands" by devising measures to confront the insecurity challenge. Some of the reasons why the security operations are failing may contribute to factors such as;

1. Inadequate Manpower

We don't have enough manpower in the police to deal with the situation. Nigeria is one of the most under-police nations. We have about 370,000 police personnel. Some analysts dispute this figure. They opined that it is lower than this. Many are deployed to protect important personalities. So, they have been taken out of operation. The police are now largely used for regime protection. Given the generalised insecurity across the country, not only the police, even the army and other security agencies are overstretched (Siddique, 2021). Nigeria with a population of over 200 million has about 120,000 fighters, in spite of the multiplicity of bandits and terrorist across the country. That is to say, Algeria with a quarter of Nigeria's population has a

standing army that is almost four times the size of Nigeria's.

2. Security Forces are Overstretched and Overwhelmed

This, in part explains why Nigeria's army is overstressed and overwhelmed by bandits and terrorist attacks. Nigeria's military spending is overshadowed by hide-and-seek schemes and corruption. Even the $1 billion approved by governors and the National Assembly a couple of years ago for the purchase of weapons to fight terrorists is yet to be genuinely accounted for. Though Algeria is not fighting any battle today, its military expenditure ($13.9 billion in 2021) is the third highest in Africa, after Egypt and Angola (Abbah, 2021).

3. Lack of Synergy Among the Security Personnel

The various security networks in the country are approaching the situation of banditry from their on perspective, this provide opportunity for the bandits that have adequate information on the movement of security personnel and the mode of operation. Working in synergy among the security personnel will weaken the operations of the bandits and they can be easily neutralize, the problem would be strategically handled. This clearly indicates the weak security architecture of Nigeria and government complacency in tackling the menace of insecurity. Security budget suppose to be given priority, but in the case of Nigeria the case is reverse which brought forward sequential effect on sustainable national security in the country.

4. Inadequate Logistics Supply

Adequate logistics supply is a key in winning any battle. This situation has been a contributing factor to reason why the bandits are getting a upper had against the Nigerian Military personnel. Most of the fund that supposed to be geared toward the purchase of ammunitions and other needed equipments is being diverted by few individuals (Abbah, 2021). This situation has continued to weaken the morale of the military forces on the effort to tackle the situation of banditry in North Western Nigeria.

Conclusions

In conclusion, insecurity which has spread into various dimension in the north-western region of Nigeria incorporating into it banditry that is consistently affecting the sustainable national security in term of socio-political threats and instability, environmental threats, public health challenges, economic challenges, regional and global security challenges. The criminal activities of armed bandits have succeeded in becoming an obstacle to sustainable national security. Their major activities include kidnapping and cattle rustling, killing innocent citizens, rape, displacement of peasants, disruption of farming, and market activities, which are on the increase due to the high economic pay-off in terms of derivable financial benefits. The military Operation *SharanDaji*/Operation *HarbinKunama* 11, Operation Accord which was established to battle armed bandits, cattle rustlers and robbers operating particularly in Zamfara, Kaduna and fringes of Sokoto, Kebbi, Katsina and Kano States, have recorded a lot of success in reducing banditry in the north-western region of Nigeria. This have brought normalcy in many communities that were displaced and has improve the sustainable national development.

Recommendations

1. There must be adequate support and intervention of the Federal, State, and Local Government authorities in the fight against rural banditry. Through that, the security can be easily mobilized for quick response to discreet calls. Because presently the security personnel only receive orders from the Federal Government before engaging in field operation, this process left the State Government with less power to tackle the menace of Banditry.

2. Adequate manpower must be provided in the flashpoint areas where the bandits have turned into their den. This will help the security to confront the bandits that are coming in many to attack communities.

3. Adequate logistics must be provided to security personnel such as superior modern sophisticated weapons, drones, and other modern technologies equipment must be provided to the security agencies in other to tackle the incidence of banditry.

4. There must be synergy among various security networks that are saddle with the responsibility of providing the citizens of this area with the protection of lives and properties. Lack of synergy among the security agencies made the fight against banditry a difficult one.

5. There must be seriousness in handling the case of banditry by the security personnel and the judiciary. The law and the penalty onconvicted bandits and their informants must be put to action. This will serve as deterrence to others and also the people exposing bandits and the informants will not be under constant fear of attck if the bandits find out about their identity.

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