

NATIONAL SECURITY AND ECONOMIC RECOVERY: SETTING AN AGENDA FOR NATION-BUILDING

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1. Introduction

One of the challenges facing Nigeria is the menace of insecurity. This phenomenon dates back to Nigeria's attainment of the status of an independent sovereign state. This situation of insecurity cannot be separated from the poor state of economic development and nation-building. Therefore, it is not an overstatement to state that to address the problem of economic development for nation-building, the pervasion of insecurity must be squarely defeated. It is pertinent to note that security and development are observably two reciprocal preconditions for nation building as they are for economic recovery. Other conditions include economic and social development as much as stability of the nation.¹ Conversely, an insecure environment impinges directly on social and economic development and where development is affected, there cannot be nation-building nor would any agenda for economic recovery or nation-building be achieved. Insecurity in a nation disenfranchises people and communities (Boko Haram insurgency or farmers/herders clashes), contributes to poverty, distorts economies and creates instability.² Nigeria has for a long time being faced with a number of security issues including political violence and assassination of perceived political enemies,

1 Igbuzor, O., Peace and Security Education: A Critical Factor for Sustainable, Peace and National Development, (2011), 2(1) International Journal of Peace and Development Studies, pp. 61-69.

2 Ighomereho, O.S., Achumba, I.C. and Akpor-Robar, M.O.M. (2013). Security Challenges in Nigeria and the Implications for Business Activities and Sustainable Development, (2013), 4(2) Journal of Economics and Sustainable Development, pp. 79-99.

ritual killings and other mitigators of development continue to occur unabated. These challenges, have negative impact on the national security and therefore, development.³

Economic stability is therefore, a significant factor in ensuring happiness and nation-building. Thus, when the economy is stable, predictable and devoid of security threats, people can plan, and invest their resources in the economy. Consequently, they foster trust in others and institutions while promoting innovation and strengthening social cohesion. Nation-building is a normative concept, which means different things to different people.⁴

The most current conceptualisation is essentially that nation-building programmes are those things in which dysfunctional or unstable or failed states or economies are given assistance in the development of government infrastructure, civil society, disputes resolution mechanisms as well as economic assistance in order to increase stability. By implication, nation-building assumes that someone or something is doing the building such as economic recovery. Nation-building is the process whereby a society of people with diverse origins, histories, languages, ethnicity, culture and religions come together within the boundaries of a sovereign state like Nigeria. Such a state operates a unified Constitution and legal dispensation, a national public education system, an integrated economy, share common symbols aimed at the unification of people within the state so that it remains socially, economically and politically stable in the long run.⁵

It is important to examine the evolution of nation-building and other concepts which have affected development in countries confronting mirage of insecurity and economic downturn. Many people believe that nation-building is evolutionary rather than revolutionary. That is, it takes a long time and is a social process that cannot be jump-started from outside. This time includes time invested and results found not only of political leadership but of change in the

3 ibid

4 Igbuzor, Peace and Security Education: A Critical Factor for Sustainable, Peace and National Development,

5 ibid

economic processes and technology as well as communication, culture, civil society and many other factors.⁶ Many states in contemporary times faced the prospect of secession and disintegration, which has consistently bedeviled Nigeria since independence in 1960. One reason canvassed for this is that the Nigerian people are not of the same ethnicity, culture, language and religion.

Nigeria has for many decades experienced extraordinary security challenges caused by the activities of insurgents in the North-East, cattle rustling, kidnapping, herder/famer clashes, religious disputes, in the North-West and North Central, militants in the South-South region, violent armed robberies in almost all parts of the country. These challenges, have negative impacts on the national security, development and on individual rights such as rights to life, liberty and property.

2. Conceptual Analysis of Security, National Security, Insecurity and Economic Development Security

2.1 Development

Development is synonymous with economic development. This includes identifying structural changes, savings and investments as the sources of economic development.⁷ Presumptively, where there is economic development and productivity increases, there will be more happiness and improved welfare arising from the larger pool of resources which if well distributed without discrimination, would generally improve the well-being of the citizens in society. The main predictive factor is that once there is economic development and stability, the effect of insecurity will definitely reduce. Development generally has to do with progressive changes in everyday usage of the term. True development must mean the development of man, the unfolding and realisation of his potentials, enabling him to improve

6 *ibid*

7 Nederveen Pieterse, J., Dilemmas of development discourse: the crisis of developmentalism and the comparative method, *Development and Change*, (1991), 22 (1), pp 5-29.

his material conditions of living through the use of resources available to him. It is a process by which man's personality is enhanced; this is the moving force behind the socio-economic transformation of any society.⁸

Development is a spectacle in which man and society interact with their physical, biological and inter-human environments transforming them to better humanity at large and being transformed in the process. Development economics emerged in the post-Second World War years. Since then, the meaning of economic (national) development had really not been fixed and consistent. Development means an economic growth in addition to fair and equitable distribution of resources and reduction in poverty, unemployment, inflation among other social undesirables.⁹ Development therefore connotes a high ability to exploit nature for the improvement of the greatest good of the greatest number in society.

In summary, development may be considered an accomplishment as well as a procedure. Thus, reference to countries that are still developing means that their development is determined by their limitation. Consequently, poor countries are considered as developing, like most African countries including Nigeria, which is based at the very least on how their developmental progress are expressed.

It is shown from this exposition that development is multidimensional in nature and objectives. It is more than just economic development, or increase in gross/net domestic product GDP or gross/net national income per head of population. In fact, the World Bank is no longer ranking indices of countries development vide their GDP per capita as it used to do until 1997 in their World Development Reports.¹⁰

8 Odoh, E. and Innocent E.O. Role of the Youths in National Development, (2014) 3(2) Singaporean Journal of Business Economics, and Management Studies, pp. 164-181.

9 *ibid*

10 The gross national income (GNI) per capita is still given in the reports. For 2007 see: World development report 2009: Part II: Shaping economic geography. Washington, D.C.: The World Bank 2009, pp. 352-253 and 359.http://sitesources.worldbank.org/INTWDR2009/Resources/41231006-1225840759068/WDR09_BOOKWEB

In discussing this concept, we must be mindful of the fact that development and growth are used interchangeably, albeit wrongly. There may be growth without development because it is a natural phenomenon, but there cannot be development without growth in terms of economic indices. So, what we have in most developing economies is growth without development and that is why our economic matrixes have remained lopsided and intangible. This has equally fueled insecurity.

2.2 Security

In ordinary dictionary meaning, security can be construed as the protection of assets, liability including people against damage, injury or loss from internal and external causes resulting from violent attacks or disputes. Security, thus, encompasses the survival of a nation economically, socially, and politically as well as the protection of the society, individuals and groups within the country.¹¹ The inference that can be drawn from this proposition is the independence of a nation like Nigeria is contingent upon its ability to adopt safety measures for national development and its citizens against all forms of security threats within or outside the country. Fundamentally, security relates to the presence of peace, stability, well-being, happiness, safety and the protection of human and physical resources or the absence of violence, crisis or threats to human existence, be it economic or physical injury. It must be emphasised that absence and of war is not peace and presence of peace is not security. It is a function of making conscious and deliberate efforts at ensuring a secured and peaceful society. It must be programmed, planned and positioned. It is not an accident.

In a modernising society, security means development. Security is not military force though it may involve it, security is not military hardware, though it may include it. Security is development and without development, there can be no security. The security of any nation

¹¹ Rostow, Walt. W., *The stages of economic growth: A Non-Communist manifesto*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1960), (Preface-Chapter 2: ix-16).

lies not solely or even primarily in its military capacity; but equally in developing relatively stable patterns of economic and political growth.¹²

Security, peace and stability are very essential components to achieve any form of development or for development to take place in a country. Incidentally, however, insecurity continues to be a challenge which is increasingly confronting the contemporary world today. This is can be seen in the current Russia-Ukraine war that started in 2022 and the outbreak of civil war in Sudan this 2023. The implication of security to development explains the rationale behind the importance attached to the preservation of a nation from the phenomenon of insecurity. It is an undisputable fact that only when the survival of citizens and their freedoms are guaranteed can any meaningful development in all facets of life be achievable. In summary, therefore, security in any reasonable construction must be determined by the non-existence of violence, threat, anxiety or imminent danger.¹³

Given the complex nature of security, especially in contemporary times, responsive and responsible countries normally approach security issues in a strategic manner. This influenced the maiden National Security Strategy of 2014 (NSS 2014) by the Federal Government of Nigeria. The improvement in the security situation after the introduction of the strategy allowed for general elections across all parts of Nigeria in 2015, 2019 and 2023. However, the ever-evolving nature of the national security environment necessitated a review of NSS 2014, leading to the National Security Strategy 2019 (NSS 2019). In Nigeria, the security architecture is the primary responsibility of the President and Commander-in-Chief and is coordinated by the Office of the National Security Adviser (ONSA). The ONSA is responsible for developing the National Security Strategy of Nigeria. The question is how far have we been able to use these strategies to achieve development? It may also be asked, how

12 McNamara, R., *The Essence of Security*, (London: Harper and Row, 1968)

13 *ibid*

effective are the proposed strategies and even further, what are the challenges inhibiting the deployment of the strategies? The issue in Nigeria in my humble view is not lack of knowledge of what to do, it is not the lack of expertise to do, it is not how to do but rather our judgments are coloured by a number of prejudices including ethnicity, religious bigotry, corruption, selfishness, greed, avarice to mention but a few. All these culminated in lack of coordination, lack of collaboration and lack of cooperation. All now compounded our security challenges.

2.3 National Security

National security on the other hand can be described as a country's capacity to build sustainable defence through security manpower, modern equipment to combat all types of insecurity. So, in consequence of any security threat or violence, the country could address the challenge holistically. By implications, in addressing national security, the country would have to direct reasonable resources, energy, military manpower and ammunitions. There is no doubt that national security embodies the autonomy of the state, the inviolability of its national boundaries, and the right to individual and collective self-defence against internal and external threats.¹⁴ But the state is secured only when the aggregate of people organised under it have a consciousness of belonging to a common sovereign political community, enjoy equal political freedoms, human rights, economic opportunities, and when the state itself is able to ensure independence in its development and foreign policy.¹⁵ Thus, National security, can be viewed as a situation in which there is relative freedom from violence, intimidation or harmful threats to citizens and the state. Jega succinctly summarised what constitutes national security thus, "national security includes; protection and defence of the country's territorial integrity, promotion of peaceful coexistence in the polity, eliminating

14 Deekor, L.N. and Kia, B., National Development efforts and the Challenges of Development in Nigeria: The case of corruption (2015), 6, Journal of National Association of Female Teachers (JONAFET)

15 Nweke, G. A. "Some Critical Remarks on the National Security Question", (1988), 12, Nigerian Journal of International Affairs

threats to internal security, ensuring systemic stability and bringing about sustainable and equitable socio-economic development".¹⁶ By this explanation, we note that national security in Nigeria refers to a guarantee of peace and stability determined by ethno-religious/communal harmony; peaceful coexistence; food security; sustainable socioeconomic development; and democratic development.

Nevertheless, in the modern conception, national security extends to political, economic, social, cultural, and even the environment of a country. Consequently, for a nation to be really secured, security must be confronted from a holistic viewpoint. From this perspective, absence of freedoms such as life, speech, movement, liberty, discrimination, pervasion of corruption, unemployment, environmental challenges etc. guaranteed in the Constitution threaten national security.¹⁷ Therefore, national security relates to freedom from violence or war (internal or external) or anything that threatens the peace and stability of a country like absence of development. Invariably, a developing nation that fail to develop or adopt developmental strategies cannot be described as a secured nation for the fact that its own citizens achieve economic development.

The understanding here is that government must look beyond mere equipping and applying or misapplying military models of defence and countering insecurity in the search for national security and economic development. Reasonably, government should pursue and prioritize factors that can create opportunity for people to achieve economic development, reduce unemployment, poverty, hunger and starvation as well as avoid discrimination in defence of the security.¹⁸ In the main, national security refers to a state where the unity, well-being, values, and beliefs, democratic process, mechanism of governance and welfare of the nation and her citizens are everlastingly enhanced and secured through military, political and

16 ibid

17 Deekor, L.N. and Kia, B., National Development efforts and the Challenges of Development in Nigeria: The case of corruption

18 ibid

economic resources. In essence, lack of unceasing enlargement in the social, political and economic safety and happiness of the citizens, fall within the context of insecurity. By implication, insecurity is not confined to communal crisis, ethnic and religious violence, and political conflict but also includes the presence of natural disasters such as floods, earthquakes resulting from the impact of climate change. National security is not a term limited to external attack nor the use of the military to defeat it but safety against anything that threatens the state, its citizens, economy, political life etc.¹⁹

Without prejudice to any other exposition, the description of national security cannot be restricted to threat or violence merely from external or internal attacks nor is it just a security agency's affair that can be tackled by ammunitions and strength of force. It however, includes the leaderships of a country's governance strategies including transparency, fairness, equity and no discrimination, as well as how the country's resources are distributed and utilised. It also extends to whether citizens have equal employment and educational opportunity, enjoy environmental rights, and so on.

2.3 National security and economic development

Globally, there is linkage and dependence among nations in the matter of the economy. Economic security is therefore a significant aspect of national security. Economy influences national security by influencing the effective performance of the society internally, as well as by impelling the wider position of a state intercontinentally.²⁰ The way this interconnectivity manifest includes the protection of critical infrastructure, socio-economic sectors and processes that are important for the justifiable operations of the society. As such, the factors underneath 'the economy' and 'security' include those areas that have an impact on the sustainable functioning of society.

19 Nnoli, O., National Security in Africa: A Radical New Perspective, (Enugu, 2006)

20 Joseph, O., National Development Strategies: Challenges and Options. International, (2014), 3, Journal of Humanities and Social Science Invention, pp. 51-58

In the context of Nigeria, governments have striven to further economic integration in recent times. The nexus between economic development and national security has turned out to be progressively intertwined. This link epitomises both prospects and impending threats for the country's national security. The open and interlinked landscape of the Nigerian economic development creates susceptibilities mainly from potential internal threats. In recognition of this, national security and economic development appeared as a significant premeditated concern for the Nigerian government, with the association between economic security, economic development and national security.²¹ Instructively, critical economic development processes, as well as economic recovery are focused at in the country's strategic plan for economic recovery panacea for national security threats.

Viewing growth in the nature and spate of insecurity in Nigeria, as well as recent concerns on its impacts in economic development, there is a predictable need for assessments of the potential risks or insecurity posed to national development as well as economic activities. Considering the prominence of certain sectors to the effective functioning economy to the Nigerian society, there is a need for a deeper theoretical understanding of the national security-related threats that may impact economic development.²²

There is no single and all-encompassing definition that can be given to the term security, this is because of the fact that the scholar/political analysts/academia perspectives on security are multi-faceted and diverse. However, in broad standings, stability, safety, protection, and freedom from fear, deprivation, discrimination, economic opportunity, threat of violence and conflict are considered as some of the core aspects elucidated upon when defining national

21 *ibid*

22 Lawal, T. and Oluwatoyin, A. (2011). National Development in Nigeria: Issues, Challenges and Prospects. (2011), 3(2) *Journal of Public Administration and Policy Research*, pp. 237-241.

security.²³ Also, security can be defined from the paradigm of the values that people hold, for example, safety against physical violence, economic opportunity and welfare, self-sufficiency and mental and spiritual comfort/happiness. In another paradigm, many looked at other areas such as crime (insurgency, kidnapping, banditry, farmer/herder clashes, unemployment, corruption ethno-religious violence etc.) or health and environmental trepidations as well as economic security. Consequently, national security can be associated with preventing disruptive elements' effects on citizens, the society, country's economic performance and even democratic stability.²⁴

Economic security comes about through the relationship an individual has with the economy. This relationship does not always provide a person with the confidence that they can maintain a decent standard of living now or in the future. Moreover, a person's experience of work and their relationship with the wider economy can create a set of trade-offs between economic security, individual health and well-being, and quality of life.²⁵ The extent of uncertainty which determines a people's understanding of insecurity is unknown. Changes in the economic development are happening rapidly in Nigeria due to the state of insecurity that permeates virtually all parts of the country and many are left to their own strategies to find a way out of these changes. Farmers cannot go to farm, thus farm produce become expensive, herders cannot tender to their cattles because of cattle rustling, meat become unavailable, the farms are destroyed by cattles and clashes result leading to deaths and loss of property culminating into serious economic loses. All these created fundamental economic challenges which Nigerians are currently undergoing.

23 Nwanegbo, C.J and Odigbo J., Security and National Development in Nigeria: The Threat of Boko Haram, (2013), 3(4), International Journal of Humanities and Social Science

24 Adebayo, A. (2014). Implications of 'Boko Haram' Terrorism on National Development in Nigeria: A Critical Review, (2014), 5(16), Mediterranean Journal of Social Sciences, pp 480-489.

25 *ibid*

There has been the need for government to learn new models of fighting the insecurity, in particular, the realm of its impact on the economy. There have however been efforts to address the issue. Since most people depend on different ways to sustain economic security, the need should be addressed on efforts to improve people's economic security.²⁶

Insecurity manifesting in the form of terrorism (i.e. Boko Haram), kidnapping, cattle rustling, have a huge impact on national economic development. It is obvious that the loss of human lives and the suffering of survivors in the aftermath of an attack can be tremendous. Apart from the loss of lives and properties, insecurity generally, makes states susceptible to undesirable consequences on internal and foreign investments. This is notwithstanding the fact that a country's embrace of foreign investment and trade has helped drive its national development. This foreign money has helped build factories, create jobs, linked the country to international markets, and has led to important transfers of technology.

3. Agenda for National development

Economic security comes about through the relationship citizens have with the economy. This relationship does not always provide them with the confidence that they can maintain a decent standard of living now or in the future. Moreover, citizens' experience of work and their relationship with the wider economy can create a set of trade-offs between economic security, individual health and well-being, and quality of life.²⁷

Consequently, national development transcends full-growth and expansion of all indices of development that includes security, health, industries, agriculture, education, social, religious and cultural institutions. National development implies development of a nation as a whole without sentiments or discrimination on the ground of ethnicity, religion or geographic

²⁶ *ibid*

²⁷ Odunola, A. and Kolade, A., Empowering National Development in Nigeria through Appropriate National Communication Policy. (2012), 2(3), Arabian Journal of Business and Management Review

location.²⁸ Thus, national development can be best described as the all-round and balanced development of different aspects of human lives and facets of the nation viz political, economic, social, cultural, scientific and material. Simply, it is an all-inclusive approach, a procedure of reconstruction and development in various measurements of a nation and development of individuals. The United Nations Decade Report has defined it as: "... growth plus change. Change in turn is social and cultural as well as economic and qualitative as well as quantitative".²⁹ In more encompassing perspectives, development of a country comprises such factors as: increase in agricultural production, industrial advancement, human capital resources, development through a planned national economy, mass and equal education, affordable healthcare, opportunity as well as provision of various facilities to meet the needs and aspirations of the vulnerable, disadvantaged, deprived and poor fragments of population.³⁰

The extent of uncertainty which determines a people's understanding of insecurity is unidentified, particularly it's adverse impact on national development. Though, changes in the economic development are happening rapidly in Nigeria, because of the state of insecurity that permeates different parts of the country, many are left to devise their own strategies to find a way out of these changes. It is not in doubt that this situation informs the efforts of government to learn and adopt new model of fighting the insecurity as in particular, the realm of its impact on the economy.³¹ Though, there have been efforts to address the insecurity issue, most people have depended on different ways to sustain economic security, meaning

28 Example was the evolution from protests to, especially, the looting of food items during the 2020 ENDSARS protests, further exposed the socio-economic and security vulnerabilities of the Nigerian state. As security is a holistic issue that requires strategic approaches, the policies and strategies designed for securing the Federal Republic of Nigeria therefore, require assessment.

29 Lawal, T and Oluwatoyin, A (2011) National Development in Nigeria: Issues, Challenges and Prospects <http://www.academicjournals.org/jpapr> accessed on 24 July 2013

30 *ibid*

31 *ibid*

that the need should be addressed with serious commitment to improve people's economic security.

It is contended that the pride of any government is the attainment of higher value level of development for its people and prudent management of resources in such a way that its citizens would derive natural attachment to governance. Nonetheless, for a country like Nigeria to be in tune with development, there must be socio-economic and political stability which is not threatened by any form of security challenges as we are presently experiencing in the country. For instance, a large percentage of Nigeria's population are in a state of poverty, coupled with the problem of unemployment, (those who depend on agriculture can't go to farm for fear of being kidnapped or attacked by bandits), militia in Niger Delta due to the destruction of the environment caused by oil drilling, growing inequalities and discrimination continue in the country. Instructively, this miserable condition the country finds itself, mostly due to bad governance, is of great concern to Nigerians due to lack of visible and meaningful development despite the fact that the country is well endowed with abundance of human, natural and monetary resources to drive development.³²

It is however not in doubt that successive Nigerian governments have tried and aspired to achieve national development as well as economic recovery through the use of various types of strategic plans, like short-term (Annual Budget), medium and long-term plans. Most of these national development and economic recovery strategies ever adopted for use in Nigeria have always been the same. With slight differences in their objectives, they are just mere nomenclature explaining the problem of development. Several questions have been asked as to the reason why Nigeria had remained in the same position where rather than growing, it is regressing, economically, socially and politically. Whereas, countries that emerged into

32 Marcellus, I.O (2009) Development Planning in Nigeria: Reflections on the National Economic Empowerment and Development Strategy (NEEDS) 2003-2007 <http://www.jsocsc.org/> accessed July 20 2013.

international scene after Nigeria have been able to navigate themselves out of underdevelopment by overcoming its challenges. (i.e. Malaysia or Dubai).³³ Yet, in spite of Nigeria's huge endowment (natural and human resources), the situation remains unabated. There were nations colonised like Nigeria, yet they have been able to establish their name in the international scene in terms of development, technological advancement, modernisation and international interdependency. Though it has been argued that the paradigm for national development that favours socio-economic stability in the western world has been neglected in developing nations such as Nigeria.

It is important to state that since return of the country to democracy in 1999, no development strategies put in place by government has been shown to have succeeded in raising the living standards of the less privileged, poor, vulnerable people of Nigeria. Evidently, the many development strategies put in place by government to achieve, within a time frame, such issues dealing with threat of insecurity, increasing unemployment, diversification of the economy, accessible and affordable healthcare, improvement of the distribution of income, maintenance of price stability and the value of the Nigerian Naira, development of technology etc. have not been realised. Rather, these failures have kept Nigerians in terrible conditions.³⁴

Nigeria has a history of designing national development plans. Indeed, the first Republic National Plan was abruptly disrupted due to civil war. After the civil war in 1970, the second National Development Plan 1970 to 1974 was launched. The plans focused mainly on agriculture, industry, transport, manpower, defence, electricity, communication, water supply and provision of social services. The third strategic plan was for the period of 1975 to 1980. Here, prominence was given to rural development and efforts to revamp the agricultural

33 National Planning Commission (2021) National Economic Empowerment and Development Strategy, Abuja.
34 Ibid; The Economic Development of Nigeria: Report of a mission organized by IBRD at the request of the Governments of Nigeria and the United Kingdom, the Johns Hopkins Press, 1995, pp.20-33

sector, while the fourth plan for 1981 to 1985 recognized the role of social services, health services, etc.³⁵

Careful study of all the successive Nigerian government's economic strategic plans mentioned above target the improvement of the living conditions of the Nigerians such as an increase in the small-scale business, empowerment of citizens, real income of the average citizen, more smooth distribution of income among individuals and socio-economic groups (social investment), increased dependence on the country's material and human resources (local content), reduction in the level of unemployment and underemployment. Nonetheless, no meaningful success has been achieved with the plans. Several attempts by government to ensure people are sufficiently taken care of were made. For instance, in food production, projects introduced by General Olusegun Obasanjo "*Operation Feed the Nation*" and Shehu Aliu Shagari 1980-1983, "*Green Revolution*" programme all failed with no appreciable result of success.

In the most recent past, other governments have also designed strategies for national development, economic recovery and integration such as the Structural Adjustment Programme (SAP), or National Directorate of Employment (NDE) General Ibrahim Babangida, the Vision 2010, National Economic Empowerment and Development Strategy (NEEDS), creation of development centres, etc. None of these policies have been able to reduce poverty and unemployment which are indirectly predictive factors of insecurity. Similarly, the government led by Umar Yar'adu's Seven-Point Agenda strategy promised Nigerians, the "vision 2020". Since the passing on of President Yar'Adua, the strategy has lost its focus and no improvement has been shown in its delivery. Equally, no considerable improvement in the lives of Nigerians. Even the security challenges promised to be addressed by the Buhari government which came on board in 2015 continued without any sign of

35 National Planning Commission (2021) National Economic Empowerment and Development Strategy, Abuja.

abatement.³⁶ In 2021, the Nigerian government led by President Muhammadu Buhari released a National Development Plan, designed to shape the country's development between 2021 and 2025. The plan aims to tackle certain challenges in the country and help the government's plan of economic recovery including alleviating poverty and strengthening industrialization. So far, the plan cannot claim any success particularly as against the removal of 35 million Persons Out of Poverty, 21 Million New Full-Time Jobs by 2025 or the creation of 21 million full-time jobs for the unemployed citizens.³⁷

4. Impediment to the national development plans

The effectiveness of any development plan focused on economic recovery is dependent on government's sincerity and commitment to the implementation of such strategic plan. By implication, successes or otherwise of the plan is contingent on executors of the plan. Without mystification of facts, the economic development strategic plans in Nigeria have failed due to poor implementation, mismanagement, lack of commitment by political leaders and corrupt practices. Based on this fact, new development policies and strategies raised as alternative strategies for development, such as Seven Points Agenda in the Yar'Adu'a's administration's Vision 2020, the Goodluck Jonathan Transformation Agenda, the adoptions of the Millennium Development Goals will fail without any conscious strategic action to put the plans to work. The Nigeria's Vision 20: 2020 was a perspective plan; an economic business plan intended to make Nigeria one of the top 20 economies by 2020, with a growth

36 Luke, O. (2018) Vision 2020: How do Nations develop? In Guardian Newspaper, July, 22, The following are the various development strategies that has been adopted at one time or the other. These are: community boards of 1954, the farm settlement scheme of 1959, The First National Development Plan Period (1962-68); The Second National Development Plan Period(1974-1980); The Third National Development Plan Period (1975-80); The Fourth National Development Plan Period (1980-85); and the Post Fourth Plan Period (1985 to 1990), the agricultural development project, operation feed the nation, national directorate for employment, green revolution, mass mobilization for self-reliance and economic recovery, river basin development authority, national accelerated food production Programme, the national livestock development Programme, the directorate of food, roads and rural infrastructures, the integrated rural development programs, the National Economic Empowerment and Development Strategy, the vision 2010, the vision 2020, the seven point agenda and the likes.

37 Ndukwe, C., Issues in Rural and Community Development, (Enugu: John Jacobs Classic Publishers Ltd, 2005)

target of not less than \$900 billion in GDP and a per capita of not less than \$4,000 per annum. The three Pillars of the NV 20:2020 are i) guaranteeing the well-being and productivity of the people, ii) optimizing the key sources of economic growth and iii) fostering sustainable social and economic development.³⁸

These efforts include the Poverty Strategy Reduction Papers (PSRPs), the National Economic Empowerment and Development Strategy (NEEDS I & II), Nigeria's Strategy for attaining the Millennium Development Goals, and the Seven Point Agenda.³⁹ These policies and visions appear to be well conceived and all-embracing. However, due to poor implementation and corruption, they all crumbled. Instead, Nigeria still continues to flounder in inequality, discrimination, poverty, increase in unemployment and starvation despite the country's abundant resources and endowments.⁴⁰ This phenomenon continued to affect citizens' desire for improved quality of life socially, economically, politically and security-wise. Conversely, the impediment to national development can be summarised to include but not limited to the followings: -

1. Pervasion of insecurity
2. Poverty, unemployment and under-employment.
3. High level of illiteracy, (there are many out of school children across the country).
4. High growth of the population.
5. Slow process in embracing of modern technology, (i.e. cashless economy).
6. Lack of democratic stability.
7. Incidences of urbanisation and its allied malaise.

38 *ibid*

39 National planning Commission <http://wikipedia encyclopedia>

40 *ibid*

8. Corruption and lackadaisical attitude of Nigerians to the alignment with core values of work and disinclination to take responsibility.
9. Bad governance
10. Infrastructural decay and non responsive steps to fix them by government. It may be right therefore, to conclude that the main challenges to achieving success by successive governments in their various development strategic plans for development or economic recovery is the adoption of capitalists' approach models of development as against the welfare-driven models. It is argued that no development strategy will succeed if it is not people-oriented, fairly, equitably and sincerely implemented without discrimination. No meaningful development can be achieved if there is insecurity.⁴¹ In the same vein, mismanagement and acts of corruption which have become rooted in every stratum of the Nigerian polity coupled with insecurity cannot be separated from the failure being experienced in the national development synergy of government.

In summary, the impact of the persistent insecurity in Nigeria explains the need for government to pursue a fair and adequate social security system to improve economic security and address increasing unemployment and uncertainty in the labour market. This must be considered within the broader context of public services and infrastructure that have diminished in recent decades. Evidence of insecurity from Nigeria indicates that investors (local and foreign) are afraid in investing their fortune in the economy. However, large companies remain more productive than smaller ones, they struggle to hold on to their workforce and make up a relatively small share of total employment. If technology and industrialisation are solidified without any form of security threat, this will potentially pave

41 Seniyi, R., Rural Development Problems in Nigeria: The Need for Beneficiary Participation in Igun and Mordi (Eds) Contemporary Social Problems in Nigeria, (Ijebu Ode. Shebiotimo Publications, 1998)

way for citizens to invest, companies and industries to operate and governments will also be able get taxes and generate more resources for development as well as social protection programmes to support those in need. Socio-economic policies to promote economic security in this context also need to provide support to workers who derive their livelihoods from employment in small firms and from informal work.

It is our humble opinion that to avoid social and employment crises and to curtail the continuous incidences of insecurity, governments must find a way to provide universal social protection (Trader Money, Social Investment etc.).⁴² This must however be in a more coordinated manner with clear vision, technologically driven and more importantly in a transparent manner. Basic income schemes are one way to alleviate poverty, but there are trade-offs with fiscal costs and concerns about behavioural impacts. Basic income grants must be linked to wider efforts to improve access to work, particularly like Nigeria with high unemployment rate. Economic security is a multifaceted problem for which government must pursue. Those in private business and those who rely on agriculture as means of survival need a secured environment.⁴³ Though, government have consistently tried in securing the country from all sort of criminalities, they need to do more for people to have confidence in investing; be it in business or agricultural activities.

5. Conclusion

Development and security are linked in the sense that for planned development strategies to have positive effect on people and some permanent structures in the society, there must be corresponding changes in the economy and state of security. There must be a proactive stance of the government in balancing the two to achieve national development objectives and

42 Onyeka, U. R., Development and Utilization of Human Resources of Rural Communities for Economic Growth, (2010), 2(1), Journal of Sustainable Human Development Review,
43 *ibid*

pursuits. Development planning strategy is necessary because since development is neither accidental nor does it take place naturally and quickly of its own accord, ensuring the security by eliminating any act that threatens peace such as insurgency, banditry, kidnapping, armed robbery, ethnic clashes, militancy, religious and political violence. Necessary measures must be put in place to achieve success in development plans. This paper underscored the challenges that insecurity may have against the actualisation of the various development plans in Nigeria or it has had on various development plans initiated or launched by the Federal Government at one time or the other. It was found that economic development and agenda for development with all beautiful objectives failed in Nigeria due to many factors one of which is the pervasion of insecurity in all parts of the country. It is instructive to note that addressing security issues is noteworthy in order to accomplish successful national development plans. It is incumbent therefore on the government of Nigeria to protect her citizens from socio-economic insecurity, structural violence and crime. Without the security of the citizens, development plans, be it social, political or economic, the broad national development plans will not succeed.

Last word

As an incurable optimist and patriot, I renew my dream for a prosperous, a more secured, a more developed nation called Nigeria. I am hopeful of a better Nigeria where milk and honey will flow. This can only happen if the leaders lead with a very sharp vision, the followers follow with conviction in the shared prosperity and the leaders and the led truly believe in the project called Nigeria.