Governance and Crisis Management for Sustainable Development in Nigeria

[1]Oluwatusin, Adebowale O. (PhD), [2]Ajibola, Oladapo P. Adu & [3]Daisi, Simeon A.
Department of Liberal Studies, Federal Polytechnic Ado- Ekiti, Nigeria.
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Abstract

Citizens' proclivity for high standard of living and predilection for accessibility for the latest available technologies and infrastructures in the world make the states all over the world irrespective of the system of government they practise or where ever they are located in the globe to crave for development. This propels them to evolve policies and programmes that are intended to engender development that is sustainable to meet the needs and expectations of the citizenry. Sustainable development can only be attained in the atmosphere of peace and tranquillity, so that government policies geared towards development can be fully implemented for the goodness of the generality. Government must ensure that crises are nipped in the bud while those inevitably exploded are professionally managed to forestall unimaginable damage and devastations to the nation. This study looks at how crises in Nigeria can be systematically and methodogically managed in Nigeria to avert great destructions that may preclude much envious and desired development while the existing ones not fester unnecessarily for the betterment of all in the country. This study adopted secondary data sourced from conference papers, textbooks and articles. The study concludes that the Nigerian state is volatile and precarious because of her plurality in all spheres, both kinetic and non kinetic approaches should be adopted in managing her crises and adequate punishment and rewards methods are also crucial to minimise crises and more importantly, that provision of good governance will minimize the eruption of crises which is a clog in the wheel of the development of the country which will invariably put Nigeria on the part of sustainable development.

Keywords*: Citizens, Crisis management, Development, and Sustainable development*

1. Introduction

The desired development of every Nigerian citizen has since been elusive because of the different crises that had characterized the polity since independence. These crises are multi-faceted-religious, political, economic and socio-cultural. This problem was compounded by the failure of government to provide good governance. This lack of good governance has given rise to insecurity and other socio-economic challenges which were the causal factors for the crises. Democracy is supposed to enhance the participation of the citizenry in the control and management of the country's economy. This participation would have in no small way reduce the incidence of crisis in the country, because no one will want to destroy what he/she has put a lot of efforts in building, but unfortunately, democracy as being practised in Nigeria today has failed to encourage citizens' participation in the economy. This is why citizens flagrantly destroy public property whenever any crisis erupts. These infrastructures which are being destroyed were put in place in order to engender development of the country but its destruction has retarded the desired development. This paper looks at the relationship between governance and crisis management and how it affects sustainable

development in the country. It concludes that if the government fails to provide good governance and put in place effective and result-oriented machineries to manage crisis in the country, Nigeria may never achieve the desired sustainable development.

2. Definition of Concepts

Governance

Governance means different things to different people. To the World Bank (2000:37) governance is the way in which power is exercised in the management of a nation's economic and social resources for developmental objectives. From this, the state which is represented by the government is the most important force in making and implementing sound economic policies which will create and sustain a conducive environment where development can thrive. Thus, the existence of a good government is germane to providing governance in a polity. Governance may also be described as the process whereby elements in a society exercise power, authority and enact policies and deliver services for the public. Government plays a key role in the provision of public goods because they create rules that make market work efficiently. Governance has its focus on issues as legitimacy of government, accountability of political and official elements of government, competence of government to formulate policies, and deliver services and respect for human rights and rule of law. In fact, without the provision of good governance, there cannot be sustainable development because the existence of good governance is the enabling environment for development to thrive.

Crisis

Crisis is a universal phenomenon and it cannot be totally eradicated because of its inseparability from human existence. Crisis usually is the manifestation of unresolved conflicts- these conflicts may be on land disputes, communal clashes, religious clashes, injustice, uneven distribution of resources, feeling of marginalization etc. Crises can be viewed as sudden eruptions of unexpected events caused by previous unresolved conflicts. Conflict can be seen as a situation where two parties strive for goals which can only be reached by one party or struggle over power, values and scarce resources with the aim of obtaining the values and scarce resources and to eliminate rivals. Kesterner & Ray (2002) cited in Alabi (2010). Thus, when conflict is allowed to thrive for too long and not managed rightly' it can lead to destruction of lives and property-crisis. Since conflict exists in the human society, there is the need for the state to manage it for peaceful co-existence and orderliness because development can only take place in a peaceful environment.

Crisis Management

Crisis management can be defined as the way or manner every actor in a given society respond to conflict in order to avoid crisis. Mustafa et al (2016:113) submit that crisis management is a process which includes different activities like estimation of crises, prevention   of crises, preparing for them, knowing their characteristics and planning for recovery. Crisis management can take place either before or after a crisis. It ranges from taking pre-cautions, sending warning to stop conflict to mediation, dialogue and strategizing on minimizing the damages caused by the crisis. Thus, at this point, the way and manner in which crisis is managed is germane to its resultant effects on the polity, A poorly managed conflict could become destructive and blossom into a crisis. It is obvious that many of the crises that had wreaked havoc on the country were because of the ineptitude of government and stakeholders.

Sustainable development

Sustainable development is a way of thinking about meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. It is about finding a balance between economic development, environmental protection, and social well-being (UNDP, 2020). It may refer to the processes necessary to attaining a sustainable world. The principles of sustainable development are population management, sustainable development, conservation of Biodiversity, ecosystem and human resources.

The United Nations has set 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to guide the world towards a more sustainable future. These goals cover a wide range of issues-no poverty and zero hunger, good health & wellbeing; quality education, gender equality, clean water & sanitation; affordable & clean energy, ecent work & economic growth; industry, innovation & infrastructure, reduced inequalities, sustainable cities & communities, responsible consumption & production, climate action, life below water, life on land; peace, justice and strong institutions; and partnerships for the goals. The SDGs aim to transform the world. They are a call to action by all to put an end to poverty and inequality, protect the planet, and see to it that all people irrespective of race/colour enjoy health, justice and prosperity.

There are many different aspects of sustainable development, but some of the most important include:

Climate change: This is one of the biggest challenges facing the world today. Sustainable development requires that we find ways to reduce our greenhouse gas emissions and adapt to the effects of climate change.

Renewable energy: We need to find ways to power our societies with clean energy sources, such as solar, wind, and geothermal power.

Sustainable agriculture: We need to grow food in ways that do not harm the environment, such as using organic farming methods and reducing our reliance on pesticides, herbicides and fertilizers.

Conservation: We need to protect our natural resources, such as forests, oceans, and freshwater supplies.

Education: We need to educate people about the importance of sustainable development and how they can make a difference (United Nations, 2021)

3. **Theoretical Framework**
   Multi-Stakeholder Governance Framework

This study is premised on the Multi-Stakeholder Governance Framework is a way of approaching decision-making and problem-solving that involves collaboration between a variety of actors. The system that takes everyone along across strata before decisions are taken (UNITED NATIONS, 2021). Here is a breakdown of the key aspects:

Core Idea: This framework emphasizes that achieving complex goals, especially those related to sustainable development, requires input and participation from a diverse range of stakeholders.

Stakeholders: These are individuals or groups who are impacted by or can influence a particular issue. In sustainable development, stakeholders can include:

Government: National, regional/ states and local government bodies set policies, regulations, and resource allocation priorities.

Civil Society: This includes NGOs, community groups (UNDP, 2018)

Nigeria faces a range of sustainability challenges, from oil spills in the Niger- Delta and deforestation to social unrest and economic inequality. The Multi-Stakeholder framework

acknowledges the need for collaboration between diverse actors, which is crucial in a complex nation like Nigeria (ibid).

This framework is solution-oriented, promoting partnerships and finding common ground which can be helpful in identifying practical ways to address crises and achieve sustainable development in Nigeria.

4. Selected areas of Nigeria's security challenges

In existence are many literature materials that chronicle elaborate case studies of crises in the country from different informed prisms (see Achumba et al 2013; Adagba et al, 2012; Adesoji, 2010; Igbuzor, O 2011); Nwagboso, 2012; Nwolise, 2006; Okafor, 2011. This study will not duplicate such efforts but will single out selected cases of crises in the country. Some of these security challenges have been briefly highlighted as follows.

(a) Banditry in Northern Nigeria

Banditry is on the increase in northern Nigeria. This is a region with many security problems, chief among them Boko Haram's insurgency. In the north-central region, herdsmen militancy has become a key security concern. Northwest Nigeria, which used to be the bastion of security and stability, has been hardly hit by rural banditry.

Rural banditry refers to armed violence driven principally by the criminal intent to steal and plunder. It is motivated by the quest for economic accumulation. The victims are individuals and communities with material valuables. The most common examples of rural banditry in Nigeria are armed robbery, kidnapping, cattle rustling and village raids (Daily Trust, 2024). Rural banditry in northwest/ north central Nigeria also derives impetus from the poorly governed, mining and proliferation of small and light arms. Bandits have been drawn to the region by illicit and artisanal mining in states like Zamfara where bandits have been raiding mining sites for gold and cash. Banditry is a form of criminal activity that involves armed robbery, kidnapping, and violence, particularly in the North-West and North-Central regions of Nigeria.

Rural banditry in the northwest and Northeastern states of Zamfara, Kaduna, Plateau, Benue and Katsina has reached alarming heights in recent years. Bandits terrorise villages with impunity. They have actually settled in the Zamfara state, setting up fortified enclaves in the hinterland and on the frontiers, from where they plot and carry out their operations. This situation is made worse by the absence of effective community policing mechanisms capable of addressing the hinterlands' peculiar security challenges.

In effect, the incidence and prevalence of rural banditry in northwest Nigeria raises a fundamental question about the government's ability to govern effectively. The state security machinery has so far failed to tackle the scourge of banditry. This failure stems from a lack of political will and operational challenges.(Okafor,2023)

Essentially, the prevailing socio-existential conditions in northern Nigeria have complicated the security situation. The rural pastoral sector is not well regulated. Illicit artisanal mining and the proliferation of arms in the region are also veritable factors.

Geography plays a role, too. Northern Nigeria's forestlands are vast, rugged and hazardous. They are also grossly under-policed. Some of the forests run alongside the diverse porous borderlines

on the region's frontiers. Borders are poorly delineated, under-policed and thus not well governed. The consequence of this is an abundance of nefarious activities, often facilitated by criminal syndicates.

The root causes of banditry in the North include: poverty, unemployment, political instability, corruption, ethnic and religious tensions, proliferation of small and light weapons. The effects of banditry in the North include- displacement of communities, loss of lives and properties, economic hardship and disruption of economic activities, human rights abuses and violations (Armnesty International, 2022).

(b) The Niger Delta Crisis
According to Nwagboso (2012), the Niger Delta conflict arose in the early 1990s due to tensions between International Oil Companies (lOCs) and some representatives of Niger Delta minority ethnic groups who felt they were being exploited without due compensation from the IOCs (Osungade, 2008). Thus, ethnic and political unrest continued in the region throughout the 1990s and persisted despite the enthronement of democracy in 1999. However, competition for oil wealth in the region gave rise to agitations, violence and subsequent extra-judicial killing of Ken Saro-Wiwa and nine Ogoni leaders by the Abacha regime (Urim, 1999). This extra-judicial killing of Ogoni leaders by the Abacha regime was condemned both within the country and by the international community. This was followed by sanctions placed on Nigeria during the period. As Nwagboso (2012) observed, the inability or failure of the government, particularly during the military era, to address the root causes of the agitation (environmental problems, poverty, unemployment, lack of basic amenities, etc.), in the Niger Delta region, resulted in the spawning of ethnic militias of Niger Delta origin leading to the militarization of nearly the entire region. Thus, the foundation was laid for the wave of insecurity that beleaguered the entire region and spread throughout the tentacles of power. Although in order to ameliorate the environmental degradation and the absolute poverty in place, the government established some institutions or agencies to douse the tension in the area such as the Oil Mineral Producing Areas Development Commission (OMPADEC), Niger Delta Development Commission (NDDCD) and Ministry of Niger Delta (MND), introduction of amnesty programme, these intervention remedies, notwithstanding, the conflicts and insecurity in the Niger Delta region persisted.
In fact, the region witnessed severe security threats and the emergence of other agitating groups affiliated to the Movement for' the Emancipation of the Niger Delta (MEND) like the Niger Delta People's Volunteer Force (NDPVF) led by Alhaji Mujahid Asari-Dokubo and the Niger Delta Vigilante (NDV) led by AtekeTom (Oluwatusin & etal,2020).

(c) Kidnapping in Nigeria
The history of kidnapping in the South-East zone of Nigeria could be traced to hostilities, conflicts and violence in the Niger Delta region (Nwagboso,2012). Kidnapping, which is the act of abducting somebody and keeping him/her as a prisoner in order to get a ransom for his/her release, suddenly took on a whole new economic attraction in the South-East zone of Nigeria. This new black economy started in the south-east and extended to other parts of the country. Following the 2007 general elections in Nigeria, this social problem became virulent in the South-East as youths that were used as political thugs by politicians during the 2007 general elections subsequently diverted their guns, skills and energy into the ugly trade as a new means of economic survival after the elections. As Nwagboso (2010) noted, confessions by those apprehended indicated that some

politicians in these states supplied guns to youths for the purpose of rigging the 2007 general elections. Unfortunately, these guns were not retrieved at the end of the elections.

Consequently, kidnapping transmuted into a profitable business mostly among the youths, bad eggs among security agents and their sponsors. Thus, from 2007 till date, several prominent citizens, residents and indigenes across Nigeria were kidnapped for ransom. This adversely affected the economy of Nigeria as many businessmen and manufacturing companies like Procter and Gamble, GSK, Dunlop etc have relocated to other countries in Africa.

(d) The Boko Haram

This is another major security challenge in Nigeria which has adversely affected the Nigeria economy. According to Olugbode (2020), the word "Boko" is a Hausa word meaning "Animist", "western", otherwise non-Islamic education; and the Arabic word "Haram" figuratively means "sin" or literally something "forbidden". The Boko Haram is a controversial Nigerian militant Islamist group that has sought to impose Sharia law or its radical interpretation of Islam on the northern states of Nigeria and then to other parts of the country alike what the Malians Islamists almost succeeded to achieve in Northern Mali. Dunia (2010) rightly holds that the group opposes not only western education, but also western culture and modern science. The ambiguous goal of the grou(and this point to their level of education) became evident when they kicked against the widely held opinions that the world is sphere and that rain comes from water evaporated by the sun (Nwagboso, 2012). The Boko Haram group also promotes a radical form of Islam which makes it "haram" or forbidden for Muslims to take part in any political or social activities in the society.

(e) Clashes between herders and farmers

There have been violent disputes between nomadic animal herders and farmers in Nigeria for many years. But disagreements over the use of land and water, as well as grazing routes, have been exacerbated by climate change and the spread of the Sahara Desert, as herders move further south looking for pasture. Thousands have been killed in clashes over limited resources

Benue and Plateau states, in the north- central of the country, have recorded the deadliest attacks. Several people are being killed when gunmen opened fire on innocent farmers and villagers who are merely looking for their livelihood on their ancestral lands while many have also been kidnapped, raped and dislodged from their sources of livelihood.

The tension has necessitated the southern state governors led by late Arakunrin Rotimi Akeredolu, former Ondo State Governor banning grazing on open land, and thus creating friction with the central government.

In 2019, federal authorities launched a 10-year National Livestock Transformation Plan to curtail the movement of cattle and boost livestock production in an attempt to stop the conflict. But the people in the south represented by their governors led by former Ondo State Governor, late Arakunrin Rotimi Akeredolu saw it as a ploy to take their lands and give it to Fulani herders and vehemently opposed the cession of the land to the herders.

5. Government and conflicts management

Transition from military authoritarianism to democracy in May, 1999 should ordinarily have meant enduring democratic strategies for conflict management and resolution. One expects this to be since democracy has its own in-built mechanism for conflict management and resolution which includes diplomacy, bargaining, negotiation, mediation and arbitration processes. These processes emphasize peaceful means of resolving conflicts. Even, when hostilities eventually break out, these

trouble-shooting processes are still under-taken, in resolving the crisis. After hostilities, post-conflict processes such as peace building involving post-conflict reconstruction, disarmament and reconciliation will have to follow.

The nation lacks a legacy of pacific resolution of grievance before they escalate and become intractable conflicts. State-ethic crises such as the ones between federal government and the Biafran secessionists, Nigeria and Boko- haram and the Odi, Ogoni communities of Niger Delta had been militarily resolved. The Biafrans attempt for an independent nation hood was crushed after a 30-month civil war between 1967 and 1970. The Odi, Ogoni and Tiv/Jukun uprisings were brutally repressed by soldiers who often engaged the communities in vengeful operation and killings (Chukwuma, 2002:12). Political officials and the elite had been accused of fueling inter-ethnic crisis instead of engaging in trouble shooting. These they do by taking side with the warring parties and thereby exploiting the latent rivalries between communities for selfish political interests. Such personalities were found to have supplied ammunitions, arms and military uniforms for their kinsmen's in the crisis (ibid, 13).

Arbitrary redefinition of administrative boundaries is another ineffective approach that government had used in the past to resolve inter-ethnic and inter-communal crises. In resolving these types of conflict, instead of digging into the root causes of the crises with a bid to providing a lasting solution, successive regimes, particularly military regimes, adopted territorial demarcation, in part. as a way of separating the warring ethnic and sub-ethnic groups into different new states and ethnic and inter-communal conflicts at the cases of the Efon and Aramoko communities in Ekiti State and Ife and Modakeke communities in Osun State. The failure of the arbitrary redefinition of the administrative boundaries in those areas had revealed other motives for creating the new states and council areas which include creating separate areas of political influence and opportunities of attainment of political offices for the elites.

Also, industrial disagreements are usually treated with levity and nonchalant attitude by governments. It is required by law that labour unions must give ultimatum for impending industrial actions as required by labour laws, no matter the duration of such notices, responses by governments include ignoring the notices, and the grievances altogether.

A new dimension in resolving industrial crisis by government outside the conventional democratic strategies is rushing to the courts a few hours to the expiration of notice of ultimatum given for strike actions to obtain injunctions restraining labour unions from embarking on the impending industrial actions. And once such court injunctions are secured, government may not bother again to address the contending issues e.g. February, 2024. This has been the case of government in industrial confrontations with the NLC and TUC over arbitrary increases in the prices of petroleum prices since the Obasanjo regime in 1999 till issue of subsidy removal in 2023 by president Bola Tinubu and agitations for a living salary by the workers (ibid).

Governments have also been using the mechanism of either administrative or judicial tribunals, to resolve conflicts. Most often, citizens, groups and communities do not have confidence in the tribunals for some very clear reasons. One, such tribunals which are constituted by the government which itself is a party to the conflict being investigated by the tribunal, are composed by government stooges and cronies who are intentionally put on the panel to defend government interests. Consequently, the outcomes of the tribunal will only reinforce government positions in the crisis. Two, the trial, the subsequent indictment and execution of Ken-Saro Wiwa in 1995 clearly show that government may set up tribunals in order to justify and legalize a predetermined course of action. Despite domestic and international outcries that the trial and conviction were illegal and pre-arranged, and thereby appealed for pardon or commuting of the capital sentence,

the Abacha regime promptly executed the men despite the notice of appeal served on government. Three is that, the white paper on the recommendation on administrative panels and commissions may never see the light of day, while police investigations on some issues of serious concern such as the assassination of Dele Giwa in 1987 may never be concluded, and eventually the issues may be swept under the carpet.

6. Cost of conflict and implications for Development

The outbreak of violent conflicts has been the hallmark of the over twenty years of civilian administration in Nigeria: Obasanjo Administration 1999- 2007, Yar' Adua 2007- 2010, Jonathan 2010- 15, Buhari 2015- 2023 and Tinubu 2023 till date. In fact, over a thousand separate and documented violent incidents with over 1,000,000 causalities have been recorded (The Nation, 2023). The proliferation of the conflicts and the lack of capacity by government to engineer sustained confidence and consensus-inspired modalities for managing and resolving the varied conflicts plaguing the nation have fundamental implications for individuals and national development.

A better way of appreciating the impact of conflicts on development is first to operationalize development as a concept. Seers (1995:3) offers an explicit explanation of the concept when he opines that "development means creating the conditions for the realization of human personality". He elucidates further that the evaluation of development must take into account three linked economic criteria: whether there has been a reduction in poverty; unemployment and inequality, Seers believes that development must be measured directly (ibid). Development is equated to improvement. It is a condition of ending social barriers such as poverty, unemployment and inequality in the society and the nation at large. Development is about environmental possibilism which implies capacity for overcoming environmental obstacles and providing the essential enabling conditions for industry and investment.

The implications of the conflicts across the nation for development are multi-dimensional. The nation is affected in the following ways:

Allocation of Scarce Resources for Trouble-shooting

The police and the military have had enough internal inter-ethnic, inter-communal, inter-religious and ethnic group-government hostilities across the nation to contend with since May 1999. This has implied voting more resources for trouble-shooting and beefing up security and equipping the police the more with logistic facilities such as helicopters for aerial "hawking" for trouble-spots and subsequent urgent deployment of men to the affected areas. Ordinarily, the extra-spending on incessant trouble-shootings can rather be spent on essential industrial infrastructure and social amenities such as renewable energy, roads, water supply, healthcare, education and telecommunication. Establishment of a few new industries should have served as a way out of the present unemployment crisis. Statistically, as much as over 80 million youths including graduates of tertiary institutions are jobless (The Nation, 2024:6). Ironically, the varied civil wars, banditry, boko- haram have had, as part of the costs, destruction to critical infrastructure including burning down of government establishments and security posts. This is aside from destruction to personal effects and groups property such as mosques and churches with inestimable values.

Loss of Revenue

Governments at all levels and the private sector lose sizeable revenue during most of the crises. For instance, tax charges and rates on varied items by local governments cannot be collected during

violent crises, many local governments in Borno, Yobe and Adamawa states in the northeast are not accessible because of the activities of boko- haram; so also are many parts of northwest and north-central as a result of banditry in the regions implying loss of revenue for developmental purposes.

Government revenue generation capacity is affected most during industrial strikes. Incessant industrial strikes are a major character of the nation. For instance, the February, 2024 strike by civil servants across the country respectively cost the state and federal governments billions of naira in terms of service (The Nation, 28th. 2024). This was so because the strike actions and work stoppages recorded these years caused colossal loss to the nation even as the leaders of the labour unions: NLC and TUC took the dispute to another level by switching off the nationa grid which led to total grounding of the country and huge loss to the governments at all levels, private sector and individuals.

The NLC and TUC nationwide strike in 2023 and 2024 over the increase in the price of petroleum products occasioned by the abrupt removal of oil subsidy and electricity which made the labour leaders to demand for an increase in minimum wage, which government described as unsustainable and unrealistic. The strike caused colossal loss to the country, the labour unions on 31 May 2024 shut down the nation's airports and national grid, also were banks, hospitals, schools etc. airlines operating in the country.

Influx of Refugees and Displaced People

Refugees outflow and influx of displaced people are other outcomes of the violent crises across the country. Inhabitants of the war affected zones had to flee to either the neighboring states or communities as internally displaced people (IDPs) or to neighbouring countries as refugees. Besides the economic implications to the nation, the refugees and IDPs constitute unexpected strangers in their new places of abode with the consequent increased pressure on social amenities such as housing, water supply and hospital facilities, and constituting security risks to the new environments. The total numbers of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) in Borno state alone is over two million people being the highest in Nigeria, the total number of displaced persons in Nigeria is around four million (Daily Trust, 2024). But of much paramount are the implications for development efforts. In a largely agrarian Nigerian society, fleeing of thousands of people would mean abandoning their farms. Violent and insecure environments are not the best for planting and harvesting of farm produce. The extended linkage reaction is that, the abandonment of the farms may result in hunger and starvation triggered by food crisis. In addition to food crisis, domestic industries may be denied raw materials while shortage of exportable raw materials will generate loss of foreign exchange for the nation thereby compounding the already bad economic situation.

Reduction in Direct Foreign Investment

No foreign investor can invest in an insecure and unstable political economic system. The existence of relative peace, security and stability is a cardinal motivation for a foreign private firm to move its capital to a foreign economy. Continued insecurity and instability in the country has continued not only to discourage transnational corporations to invest newly in Nigeria, but has also caused the established ones to divest by way of folding up their businesses. For instance, Shell, Mobil, Chevron, and Texaco multinational oil companies had at different times scaled down operations or shut down their installations in Niger Delta, particularly since 1990s as a result of vandalization of their plants by the restive youths in the Niger Delta (Ajayi, 2002). The inability

of the oil companies to operate effectively accounts in part, to the nation's loss of oil revenue annually. Likewise, many manufacturing companies have also relocated from the country recently e.g. GlaxoSmithKline (GSK), Unilever, Sanofi- Aventi Nigeria etc. (The Nation, 2024). Since his assumption of office in May, 2023, Nigeria's President Bola Ahmed Tinubu has travelled to countries like Qatar, Neitherland, France, United States and many others and his efforts have not yielded desired results.

7. The roles of Government in Crises Resolution in Nigeria

Of a fact, good governance will engender sustainable development and the existence of this will pave way for peaceful environment where individuals can maximize their potentials for quality of life and general development of the country. This will invariably minimize the occurrence of crises which when not properly-managed leads to destruction of lives and property and infrastructures in the country.

However, integrative response approaches that require a combination of conflict management mechanisms such as consultation with actors and communities affected, dialogue, community policing, amnesty, reconciliation and security reforms by the federal government and respective state governments is key to the mitigation of insecurity in Nigeria. For instance, the peace initiatives through the amnesty program launched in 2016 by the Katsina State Government as well as the Disarmament, Demobilisation and Reintegration (DDR) efforts by Zamfara State Government are laudable efforts. However, these lacked strong security and alternative conflict management strategies which would have ensured the stability of security beyond the amnesty and the DDR process (WANEP, 2020). The Nigerian government has a crucial role to play in resolving crises such as banditry, kidnapping, and insurgency. Some of the ways the government can address these crises include: strengthening security institutions and providing adequate funding and resources, implementing effective policies and strategies to address the root causes of the crises, engaging in dialogue and negotiation with stakeholders and communities affected by the crises, Providing humanitarian assistance and support to victims of the crises, promoting transparency, accountability, and good governance, Some of the challenges the government faces in resolving these crises include: corruption and mismanagement of resources, political polarization and lack of political will, inadequate funding and resource, lack of effective communication and engagement with stakeholders, human rights abuses and violations by security forces. However, more efforts need to be put in place in order to address the root causes of these crises and to ensure effective and sustainable solutions.

8. Conclusion

Crisis remains a major security challenge that has created instability, hampered socio-economic development and undermined democratic governance in Nigeria. Also, development can only thrive in a peaceful environment, thus allowing crises whether political, cultural, religious or socio-economic to erupt will always draw the nation back. Given the observable shortcomings of the militarised responses to armed banditry, Boko Haram, kidnappers' dialogue serves as a complement within a broader conflict management mechanism to address the threats. By the promise of conflict reduction, peace and stability by President Bola Tinubu on his assumption of office in 2023, we expect a new approach to crisis management by ensuring that the perpetrators and their financiers and collaborators are decisively dealt with. More importantly, good governance is germane to having sustainable development, thus, if our government fail to provide

good governance in line with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the UN, it will become unattainable.

9. Recommendations

A crisis-ridden society cannot make any meaningful progress/development as we experience in Nigeria. The worsening of the crisis, along with increased economic instability and lack of access to basic services put a great number of people in precarious situations.

To have a harmonious Nigeria of our collective dreams where every citizen will be able to realize their potentials without threat and contribute to the development of the country, the under listed implementable and achievable recommendations should be considered:

1. Government intervention will contribute to addressing the underlying drivers of the instability in Nigeria including through peace and reconciliation, peace and security programming in places of habitual residence, restoration of basic services, infrastructure, local governance capacity, environmental degradation stemming from land use management practices, rebuilding livelihoods, and restoring social fabrics and trust.

2. Government should also address the trauma and psychosocial effects of the conflict on the most vulnerable groups such as women, youth and children. The era of treating terrorists with skid gloves supposed to be the thing of the past to serve as deterrence to others. Dialogue and reconciliation should be initiated throughout the country. More importantly, this initiative will serve as a reference point that can be applied to similar context in other regions of the country.

3. There should be stiff and decisive penalties for the perpetrators, financiers and collaborators of terrorism to serve as deterrence to others.

4. Strengthening security institutions and providing adequate funding and resources.

5. Implementing effective policies and strategies to address the root causes of the crises.

6. Engaging in dialogue and negotiation with stakeholders and communities affected by the crises.

7. Providing humanitarian assistance and support to victims of the crises.

8. The wellbeing of citizens must be the focus of governance; government must invest in the citizens which will lead to the overall development of the country on the long run.

9. Promoting transparency, accountability, and good governance for Nigerians to enjoy the benefits of government. This will minimize tension among the people, thereby reducing the occurrence of crises which have constituted a clog in the wheel of the progress of the country.

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