Insurgency, Security and Nigerian National Development

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Abstract
For the past decade, Nigeria has witnessed the growing increase of insurgency and insecurity throughout the country. Prior to this time, one can hardly talk of any insurgent group apart of the Niger Delta militancy, kidnapping in the Southern states, and Boko Haram insurgent group from the Northern part of the country. Since the countries returned to democracy, in 1999, many armed ethnic militia groups were formed in various parts of the country claiming to protect the lives of their ethnic groups. Another serious problem today is the activities of the cattle rustlers' and arm banditry groups which among their menace include killing and kidnapping of innocent people for ransom which attributed to the spread of small arms in most parts of the country. The paper reveals that the activities of ethnic militias and insurgents led to the general insecurity thereby adversely affecting the countries development. The inability of the government to provide basic necessities for the lives of her citizens and its lackadaisical attitude has been the factors leading to the emergence of insecurity and insurgency in the country. This paper examines the consequences of the acts on national development; the paper concludes that sustainable national development can only be achieved if the government proactively tackled these problems with all kind of seriousness by enacting the laws to punish the perpetrators of the crises.

Keywords: Insurgency, Insecurity, National Development, Boko Haram, Niger Delta Militants, Ethnic Militias.

1. **Introduction**

Insurgency and insecurity are old phenomenon's which have existed as long as the history of mankind. The word insurgency a tactic adopted by none state actors or groups who their inability to achieve a political need through the legal ways resorted to following the illegitimate means. It is "characterized by protracted, asymmetric violence, ambiguity, the use of complex terrain (jungles, mountains, urban areas), psychological warfare, and political mobilization—all designed to protect the insurgents and eventually alter the balance of power in their favour" (Metz and Millen, 2004,p.2). Some of the hindering factors of Nigeria social development since the return of democracy in 1999 include insurgency and insecurity which their prevalence without serious measures by the desired authorities led to the increase in the activities of many groups inform of ethnic militia in almost all part of the country (Tersoo and Ejue, 2015). The action of such organizations translates itself to crime against humanity which led to the loss of many lives, insurgency, terrorism and arm banditry which today causes humanitarian crises leading to the growing number of internally displaced persons (IDPs), increase in the spread of health-related problem, malnutrition and other social problems which are the essential components of national social development (Adetula 2006, Muzan, 2014).

The emergence of militia groups in the name of defence of their kinsmen against the external threat, posed a security threat as their activities have contravened the laws of the nation, their unlawful acts have been increasing since the return of the civil rule in 1999. Such ethnic militias among others includes the "Movement for the Survival of Ogoni People (MOSOP), Movement for the Actualization of the Sovereign State of Biafra (MASSOB), Movement for the Emancipation of the Niger-Delta (MEND), Oodua People's Congress (OPC), Arewa Youth Consultative Forum" (Nwangwu, &Ononogbu, 2014:129, Global IDPs, 2004: 16). Others are Ombatse ethnic militia of Nasarawa state; the Indigenous People of Biafra (IPOB) a separates terrorist organization based in Southeast, Jukun and Tiv ethnic militia groups (Ikelegbe, 2005). In light of the above, this paper examines the activities of such groups and how they resort to insurgency and posed general insecurity in the country and how this undermined the national development. This paper consists the introduction, the conceptual definitions and the historical overview of insurgency in Nigeria, a review of ethnic militia groups as the cause of insecurity,

the impact of insecurity in Nigerian national development and then finally conclusion was drowned.

Table I: Regional Distribution of Security Crisis from 1999-2018

S/N	Security Threat	Geo-Political Zone	Degree of Intensity
1	Niger-Delta Militants	South-South	Recessive
2	Ethno-Religious Crisis	Northern Region	Dominant
3	Kidnapping, Ritual Killings, & Armed Robbery	South-East	Dominant
4	Boko Haram Insurrection	Northern Region	Dominant
5	State Terrorism (Bakassi Boys, OPC, Arewa Youth Consultative Forum, etc)	Evenly spread across the country	Recessive
6	Cattle Rustlers and Arm Banditry	Mostly occur in the Northern Region and other parts of the country	Dominant
7	Ethnic Militias	Evenly spread across the country	Recessive
8	Indigenous People of Biafra (IPOB)	South-East	Dominant

Source: Nwangwu, Ononghu, (2014,p.)

1.1 *Conceptual Definitions*

1.1.1 Insurgency

The word Insurgency "is derived from the Latin word, meaning rising upon or against" (Tersoo, Ajue, 2015). According to Arnold (2013; 126) insurgency could be defined as individuals who rise in forcible opposition to lawful authority, especially when it engages in armed resistance to a government or to the execution of its laws. The term can also be defined as

> an organized resistance movement that uses subversion, sabotage, and armed conflict to achieve its aims. Insurgencies normally seek to overthrow the existing social order and

reallocate power within the country. They may also seek to (1) overthrow an established government without a follow-on social revolution. (2) Establish an autonomous national territory within the borders of a state. (3) Cause the withdrawal of an occupying power. (4) Extract political concessions that are unattainable through less violent means (Iheanacho & Innocent, 2017: 39).

Insurgency is a good plan movement perpetuated by the nonstate actors with the mission to fight and overthrow the lawfully formed government by applying of sedition, uprising and terror acts by the use of small arms mostly gained from a countries force borders of a weak states that either shares boundary with a failed states or connived with desperate politicians.

1.1.2 Ethnic Militia

According to Olukotun (2003:58) cited in Tersoo and Ejue (2015) "ethnic militias are paramilitary forces that performed police functions within their locality while the government considers militia group as insurgent groups that engage in subversive activities against the state".

1.1.3 Security

The term security has a different definition by different authors; in the actual sense, it is difficult to have a universal definition. According to Igbuzor (2001) in Mau and Mau (2017: 22) security is defined "as the condition or feeling of safety from harm or danger, the defence, protection and preservation of core values and the absence of threats to those values". Similarly, the United Nations Development Program (UNDP, 1994) in Otto and Ukpere (2012) defined human "security to include such chronic threats as hunger disease and repression. Security means protection from hidden and hurtful disruptions in the patterns of daily life in homes, offices or communities. Security may also be defined as the state of being or making safe secure from danger, etc".

1.1.4 National Development

National development connotes improvement of the country in all aspect of human endeavour and these include; socially, economically, politically, technologically and religiously which is believed to achieved through peace and stability and strategies put in place by government or in

other way implementation of what is proposed in "the national development plans" (Akindele, Ogini & Agada, 2013: 171). In a related literature of Oluwatoyin and Lawal (2011: 237) cited in Emmanuel and Innocent (2017: 39) the term connotes "the overall development of collective socio-economic, political as well as religious advancement of a country or a nation. This is best achieved through development planning, which can be described as the countries collection of strategies mapping out by the government." National development is the ability of a country or countries to improve the social welfare of people e.g. by providing social amenities like education, potable water, transportation, infrastructure, medical care etc.

2. **Historical Overview of Insurgency in Nigeria**

According to Muzan (2014) insurgency in Nigeria have stated in the early 1960s by the first insurgent group the Niger Delta Volunteer Force (NDVF) formed by Ijaw youth activist Major Isaac Jasper Adaka Baro. Baro led his ethnic militia group of 150 men who terrorized people of the zone. The unrest was started when he sphere headed a secession plan to curve out from Nigeria and declared the formation of the Niger Delta Republic in 1966. The menace has escalated in 1967 during Nigeria's civil war (Nigeria-Biafran war) when small arms were spread to the hands of civilians after the end of the unrest in 1970. The weapons were later used to perform crimes in the southern parts of the country such as armed robbery, political thug, and kidnappings. The insurgency in the Northern started with Maitashine crisis in Kano state in the 1980s though small arms like guns were not used by the group only local weapons were used the group was able to radicalise some youth and resort in violence in many northern states (Isichei, 1987, Adesoji, 2011). The uses of modern weapons were witnessed in the Boko Haram insurgency. (Eke, and Awodu, (2017) claims that as a result of the selfish political interest, the past Borno state politicians formed political thugs from the teaming unemployed youth of the state in 2001 to win electioneering bid by providing them with dangerous weapons to intimidate and threaten their opponents. After the electoral process is over, the politicians who are financing them withdrew their financing and the group resort to crime and called themselves (ECOMOG). The crises of some African countries such as Somalia and Libya make small arms spread all over the continent and the Borno state been the only state who shares international boundary with three African countries of Niger, Chad and Cameroun with the help of our

security in our borders make weapons available to this group and other militia groups in the country. Since then, other ethnic militias and deadly insurgent groups appears to emerge in every part of Nigeria either as a peaceful Vigilante group and later transformed to violent or as gangs of a criminal who adopt crime as means of survival.

3. **Ethnic Militias as the Cause of Insecurity in Nigeria**

The activities of ethnic militia in Nigeria today are pathetic and a matter of security concern which threatens the countries coexistence and execution of the national development projects across the country. In the North, the activities of cattle rustlers and herdsmen, the kidnappers in the South-South region, the Ombatse Cult, the Jukun and Tiv ethnic Militia in North Central Nigeria have posed threat to security and led to ethnic and religious crises in the region. Similarly, the Niger Delta militants' activities of South-South zone and the Indigenous People of Biafra (IPOB) of South Eastern Nigeria have seriously hampered the peace and tranquillity of the nation (Tersoo &Ejue 2015).

3.1 State Sponsored Ethnic Militias

It is obvious that most of the ethnic militias in Nigeria were formed for a political reason. since the country's returns to democracy, some well-placed politicians most of them occupying governor's sits in their states and some retired military officers seem to be encouraging militia groups in their bid to protect and defend themselves against their opponents. This assertion was proved by Governor; Obong Victor Attah of Akwa Ibom State in his paper presented at the Senate Committee on National Security and Intelligence on (8th March 2002). He stated that the attitude of politicians of forming and financing militias is one of the causes of insecurity and insurgency in Nigeria. Similarly, the recent church attack in Benue state which led to the death of two Revaran-Fathers and many worshipers which the blame of the attack was apportioned to the Fulani Herders who are in a conflict with the native Tiv's was later confirmed by the former Edo state Governor, the present national chairman of All Peoples Congress Party (APC) that the governor of the state was the sponsor of this terror act and similar attacks. This state was later confirmed by the Chairman of Muslim Rights Concern (MURIC). Professor Ishaq Akintola when the security agents paraded 9 persons who confirmed that they are state-sponsored militias

They are found in possession of several dangerous small arms including guns (Ak-45) full with rifles.

3.2 Ombatse Ethnic Militia

The Eggon Ombatse ethnic militia is situated in Nasarawa State of Northcentral Nigeria, the movement was formed as a peaceful political movement to protect and defend the interest of Eggon people ethnic minority who claimed suffering from marginalization and unfair treatment from the rest of the state and therefore striving for liberation of their people to have freedom and justice, unfortunately when a communal conflict happened in 2012, "it was transformed into an ethnic militia" group. They became an insurgent group, a non-state actor which utilizes insurgency and violence to achieve their goals. Their violent led to the destructions of thousands of lives and properties loss worth millions of naira in the area they operate. Among the violent act committed by the Ombatse group was the assassination of over 100 police officers and other security personnel in May 2013. Eggon people are found in 4 local government areas of Nasarawa state and have a local government area dominated by them, Nasarawa Eggon LGA. Other Local government areas are; Lafia which is also the state headquarter Akwanga and Keffi. Unlike other ethnic militias of north-central Nigeria who claim domination because of their faith (Christianity) Eggon people predominantly practice a traditional religion called a*shum* " a form of ancestral worship" and their sacred place of worship *is anva ashum* (Ayuba, 2014).

3.3 Niger Delta Ethnic Militias

The militancy and insurgent activities in the Niger Delta region is said to be formed due to some social and environmental problems which according to them led to their uprising. These include environmental degradation by oil spillage, domination, inequitable distribution of resources, unemployment and marginalisation are among other things are the triggering factor of insurgency in Nigeria and Niger Delta region (Igbogo 2015). The insurgent groups in the said region conducted several atrocities and terror attacks leading to the loss of lives and crippling the nation's economy due to the suspension of oil exploration work by the multinational oil companies working in the region.   In 2003, the Ijaw tribe insurgent groups launched an attack on the Nigerian Navy which leads to the death of at list seven and injured many officers due to the

havoc caused by the militia groups. This crippled the water movements in the region and un-peaceful atmosphere in the area.

> Subsequent attacks by militants killed one Chevron contract worker and five Total Fina Elf (IFE) personnel, while gunfire badly damaged a shell helicopter seeking to evacuate employees (Cesarz, et al, 2003:1). On July 12, 2006, the Movement for the Emancipation of the Niger Delta (MEND) combatants killed four naval personnel and injured three soldiers who were escorting a Chevron oil tanker along Chomoni creeks in the Warri South West Local Government Area of Delta State. On the eve of the Governorship and House of Assembly elections on April 14, 2007, armed militants attacked the Mini-Okoro, Elelenwo Police Stations, killing many police officers during the attack. On Tuesday, January 1, 2008, the Niger Delta Vigilante Force (NDVF) attacked two Police Stations and a five-star hotel in Port Harcourt. The list of attacks is long and seemingly endless. The latest being the bomb blast at Eagles Square in Abuja on October 1, 2010, by Movement for the Emancipation of the Niger Delta, MEND.
> (Adams, & Ogbonnaya, 2014).

3.4 Movement for the Actualization of the Sovereign State of Biafra (MASSOB)

This is a separatist movement based in the South East Geo-political Zone which comprises five Igbo speaking states. The group wants a new country to petition from Nigeria to be called *Biafra*. MASSOB was formed by Ralph Uwazurike a lawyer who claimed his organization was a civil rights movement in the year 2000 Ogunnaike, 2000:15). Despite Uwazurike's claimed that MASSOB is non-violent, unfortunately, their activities proved otherwise as they terrorized the innocent citizens violently. Uwazurike, "claimed to have studied "the philosophy of Mahatma Gandhi for ten years" and understudied Odumegwu Ojukwu (the Biafran rebel leader), his movement remains committed to the Biafran dream". He wants youth nonviolent move to actualize his dream of creating a sovereign state of Biafra according to his people having suffered from unfair treatment and marginalization in Nigeria, therefore, want to be autonomous. they mobilized resources to inform of money to finance the movement from his kinsmen who

have the same ideology and motives from both within and outside Nigeria, the movement faulted Nigerian government for been lackadaisical on the killing of 5000 Ibo people in the northern part of Nigeria due to Sharia crisis (Shittu, 2013).

3.5 Ethnic Militias in North Central Nigeria

The North Central and North Eastern zones are said to have over two-thirds the number of ethnic groups in the country and the North Central is estimated to have about 130 out of the estimated 350 countries tribes and ethnic group of the country. This clearly shows that the majority of these small or minority tribes are in the north central or the so-called (Middle Belt area). For the past decades and since the return to democracy, the zone becomes crises prone area. Ethnic militias were formed among these minorities either for self-defence or political interest by the Political and educated elites of from these minorities. According to Igwara (2001) there exist general fears among these self-centred individuals for them to achieve their political interest they resort and encouraged ethnic militias. Igwara's assertion may be true base on Late Bala Takaya's list of the areas and state which comprises the Middle-Belt region. Takaya made several attempts to become the Governor of his state Adamawa of North East zone, but could not make it in which according to some of his supporters is because of ethnicity and his religious inclination, He letter joined and became the leader of Middle-Belt even though he is from the per Mobi City which is situated at the eastern corner of Adamawa State. His list includes "the core central zone of Kogi, Nassarawa, Plateau, Benue, Kwara, Federal Capital Territory Abuja and the ethnic minorities of Bauchi, Gombe, Southern Borno, Southern Yobe, the whole of Taraba, Adamawa and Southern Kebbi stretching from Zuru South-West across Mubi in the North East" (Orinya and Atabo, 2000:27),. Many politicians from the North Central minorities are vehemently accusing the Muslim dominated North of what they called "internal colonialism" in the region they for all these years they are even made so many plans and strategies to gain political autonomy to the North Central in the name of Middle- belt connived with Southern minorities to form political alliance in order to satisfy their political motives (Sandve, 2009).

3.6 Berom Ethnic Militia

This is another ethnic militia who claimed to protect the people of Berom ethnic group. Their movement and grudges are on the politics of who owns Jos headquarters of plateau state which the group asserted that they and other two ethnic groups Anaguta and Afisare tribes are the indigenous people, other tribes Hausa and Fulani are the settlers. The motive is to protect them from what they called a Muslim Hausa- Fulani domination of Jos city from their kinsmen who are predominantly Christian. This problem and other grudges best known to them led the Berom ethnic militia engaging in so many atrocities around Jos south local government. Their victims are mostly the innocent travellers passing by from other states and those travelling from the Federal capital, Abuja to Plateau or other neighbouring North-Eastern states. Ahmed and Akin (2012) stated that their violence has even intensified to unspeakable acts of cannibalism.

> In the fall of 2011, widely-circulated videos showed the Christian Berom tribesmen eating the charred flesh of Muslim Fulani they had killed and roasted. Visible clearly are several policemen standing back and watching the cannibalistic events unfolds. Voices can be heard calling out to the young man with a machete hacking apart a headless and blackened body, 'I want the heart' and 'did you put some salt''? (Aljazeera, 2012).

The Berom ethnic militia continues their atrocities in a silencing way killing the innocent travellers and either burning their bodies or dump them in a nearby pond located at Dura- DU district. The pond came into being as a result of mining activities during the British colonial administration in their search of Tin and Columbite which turned to a pond full with stagnant water. The unfortunate terror acts committed by this group is the killing of a retired Nigerian Army General Idris Alkali, who was reported missing on his way from Abuja to Bauchi through Jos on September 3 2018. After a rigorous search by the Nigerian Army, his Car along with his T-Shirt with Nigerian Army logo and tow more vehicles 13 sitter Toyota Hiace Bus and a Rover brand car was discovered in the Pond on 29, September and 2nd October 2018 respectively. The General along with the 13 persons were reportedly been killed and buried by Berom militia group (*Vanguard Newspaper*, October 11, 2018).

3.7 Jikun Ethnic Militias

These ethnic groups' clashes have a long history; the crisis lasted for almost a century. Tiv militiamen" and "Jukun militia" are increasingly being uttered. Their claims appear similar to that of Berom Militia, it is about land. The Jukun tribal group is found in Taraba, Plateau and Nasarawa States. They are typically fishing communities who depend on fishing for their survival and therefore, reside in the riverine areas. However, Tiv is traditionally farming communities who rely on crop production as their means of survival. Tiv people are found in Nasarawa, Plateau, Benue and Taraba States. The crisis between these groups which lasted for many years came as a result of the population growth which led to too much demand for land, and political interest. However, it was reported that during free-independence period i.e. British colonialist period in the 1920s, the two communities were living peacefully. The political interest by the two parties involved in the conflict led to the formation of ethnic militias.

The conflict in Benue state in October 2001 was attributed to the ethnic Tiv massacre of 19 army officer in Zaki-Biam village who were sent to the area to control the conflict occurring between the Tivs and Jukun over land acquisition and " in a fit of rage, which indeed should have been expected, soldiers retaliated by murdering at least 100 villagers of the Tiv ethnic group and burning down their villages". Beside the Militant groups there exist other groups who seem to be protecting the political interest of those elites who a want to occupy political office and their number and religious inclination do not favour them to secure this ticket in the name of the Northern region because of the Muslim Hausa Fulani dominations. some of this groups include; the Middle-Belt Forum, Middle-Belt Progressive Movement (MBPM), Middle-Belt Patriots (MBP), Middle-Belt Youths Association (MBYA) and Association of Middle-Belt Academics.

3.8 The O'odua People's Congress (OPC)

This is a militia based in the southwestern part of Nigeria. It is formed to protect the interest of people of O'odua who all the Yoruba speaking people believed to be descended from. "The OPC aimed at working towards the unity, progress and autonomy of all descendants of Oduduwa (Yoruba)" (Shittu, 2013). therefore, literally, the group was formed shortly after the annulment of the June 12, 1993, presidential election who according to their narrations are contested and won by a Yoruba man in the person of Late MKO Abiola but was denied by the military ruler

Late Sani Abacha. This happening seems to be the genesis of the emergence of OPC in 1994. At the initial stage it was started a peaceful movement, but 1n 1999 when Nigeria returned to democracy the group turned to violence and crime.

3.9 Arewa People's Congress (APC)

This ethnic militia group was created purposely to counter the act militancy of the 'pan-Yoruba' ethnic group the O'odua People's Congress (OPC) to protect and defend the of people of northern states extract of Northern Nigeria who was massacred in Yoruba states in 1999 by OPC militias. The group was formed by some northerners and launched in 1999. After inauguration of the group at Kaduna the group come out with their objective which is to "carry out activities aimed at protecting and promoting the cultural, economic and political interests of the northern states and their peoples" Additionally the APC also came out with 23 resolutions which include their uncompromising stand of one Nigeria as "a corporate entity" with its current composition is "not negotiable". Therefore, the group' motto is "to preserve the indivisibility of the country". The agitation of APC is in contradiction with the motive of MASSOB and the pseudo-political middle belt groups. The former want to secede from Nigeria and have a new country to be called Biafra and the later wants to be separated from the northern region and be called Middle Belt region as against the present North Central Geo-political zone. However, after the OPC conflicts stop, the APC either vanished or dominant in their activities.

4. **Criminal and Insurgent Groups as Cause of Insecurity in Nigeria**

The work of various criminal and insurgent groups is a ticking bomb as far as security and peace is a concern in our country. The atrocities perpetrated by these groups are a threat to Nigeria as a sovereign nation. In some years back, serious crime in form of the insurgency is something that every Nigeria would wonder its exists in the country as it was happening in the other parts of the world, however, today are the problems Nigeria is battling within every nook and corner of the country. In some years ago Kidnapping happened only in Southern Nigeria, but today it has been spread to the North. Terrorism and suicide bombing occurred only in South Asian countries such as among (Srilankan Tamil Tigers) and in the Middle East among (Palestinians Hamas and Lebanese Hezbollah) but today Boko Haram of Nigeria has beaten the records of these groups

for a decade insurgent movement. Armed Banditry and cattle rustling seems to reach Boko Haram in term of the number of death and causalities and the destruction of properties in Northern Nigeria. This part will elaborate on these problems and their impact on national development.

4.1 *Kidnapping Activities in the Niger-Delta Region*

The activities of kidnappers who hold people for ransom and as a result, someone might likely lose his life is another triggering factor that posed a challenge to the national security and undermined nations development. According to the Niger Delta Development Monitoring and Corporate Watch (NIDDEMCOW) report cited in Adams and Ogbonnaya (2014:) the sum of 308 kidnapping incidents occurred from 1999 to 2007 in the region with Bayelsa recording the highest of 131, followed by Delta State with 45 and Akwa Ibom State recorded the lowest of 15 of such cases. The report further stated that within the period of eight years 1999-2007, the total of 283 people was kidnapped out of which 76 are military men. Unfortunately, all these atrocities took place within two states Bayelsa and Rivers of the region and captives are either foreigners working with oil companies or security men working to provide security within the region. However, the contemporary happening reveals that the menace has spread to every nock and Conner of Nigeria.

4.2. *Boko Haram Militants*

The Boko Haram insurgent group is situated in the North-eastern part of Nigeria. The word Boko Haram is a Hausa word which literally means "Western Education in a forbidding". The group was formed and become visible in 2004 on their ideology of Islamic extremism, the claim to bring shari'a i.e. Islamic law to the North and Nigeria in general. But later, their activities seem contrary to what they claimed to succeed; this is because of their terror attack on both Muslims whom they claimed to protect and the non-Muslims. The launched terror attacks of many mosques and churches killing scores of innocent people (Obi, 2015). Their menace did not stop there they engage in suicide bombing and kidnapping of women and children and make them sex slaves. They killed and assassinated many Islamic scholars and crippled business and economic activities in the North-east zone. Their atrocities led to so many internally displaced person IDPs

in the North and escalation of poverty in the zone. In the recent report of the World Bank and World Poverty Clock, 2018 ranked Nigeria as the country with the highest number of people living in abject poverty, and North-east is categorized as the poorest region in the country. this report may be true because North-east is the areas where Boko Haram is conducting its atrocities and farming is the predominant business of the dwellers which is not been practised due to insecurity caused by the insurgent group (Nnamdi & Sebastine, 2015)).

4.3 Armed Banditry and Cattle Rustling

The activities of the armed bandit and cattle rustlers in Nigeria is a serious security threat to the nation, it is gradually taking the step of Boko Haram in terms of the number of people who either displaced internally or completely lost their lives and properties. According to Shehu (2018) the problem has consumed so many lives especially in the North West zone, and the most affected states are Zamfara, Kaduna and Katsina, the author stressed that by 2nd quota of 2018 over 500 people have lost their lives, many were internally displaced and properties worth millions of naira were missing. Due to the importance attached to cattle rearing/business, an average Fulani cattle rearer prepare to die than to lose his animals this is because he knew nothing apart from cattle business and they hardly live in urban centres. This statement is contained in a statement of a pastoralist in Federal Capital (Abuja) Hame Saidu, a Pastoralist, cited in Abbass (2012) *"Our herd is our life because to every nomad life is worthless without his cattle. What do you expect from us when our source of existence is threatened?"*. In some instances, the cattle theft happened between the cattle rearers themselves. This acts of banditry and cattle thefts are among the security problem the country is said to be battling with and leads to the loss of lives and properties in the affected areas (Shehu, 2018).

In his view on the extent of insecurity in Zamfara State in AIT Television (2018, July,23) the elder statesman Senator Dansadau apportioned the blame on the government especially the state governor for his inability to take proactive measure to arrest the situation, he further stressed that due to the Governors attitude criminality have now spread to the neighboring states of Kaduna, Katsina, Sokoto that shares boundary with Zamfara State.

A well known Armed Banditry and Cattle Rustling insurgent groups are the one headed by Terwase Akwaza (known as Ghana or Gana). Who perform their terror acts around the Benue and Taraba states boundary performing many atrocities and killing many security personnel and

rustled many caws which instigated the reoccurrence of crisis and caused insecurity across the communities and settlements between these states. The gang leader claimed to lead his tribal men in defence of their community. The association of Nigerian herders (Miyatti Allah) claimed that it is this criminal gang that is destroying farmer's crops and attributing it too hides men (International Crisis Group, 26 July 2018).

5. **Implications of Insurgency and Insecurity to Nigerian National Development**

Insurgency and Insecurity caused by the various militias and other related insurgent group posed a threat to the sustainable development of Nigeria. The acts negatively affected all sectors of national development such as the socio-economic, political development of Nigeria. This is because without peace and security the desired development would be difficult to achieve. The militia groups in Nigeria course civil and political unrest in the country and these always drag the country back in every human development endeavour. They are used by the unpatriotic politician causing damages to the country, such group member who is mostly youth and unemployed engage themselves in crime or the other. This happening is creating a bad image for Nigeria due to continuing happening of the insecurity is rampant in the country today (Shittu, 2913).

Emmanuel and Innocent (2017) insurgency and militancy hinder the foreign companies invest in Nigeria, especially at the crime-prone states. In the Niger Delta region, many foreigners working with oil companies were kidnapped for ransom some were killed while others were set free after payment of ransom, this makes some multinational oil companies stop production and some leave the country. In Northern Nigeria, the activities of Boko Haram and unrest coursed by other militia groups in the North-central also forced the investor to relocate to either the federal capital Abuja or completely leave the country to the neighbouring country such as Ghana, Kenya and Cameroun for instance Michelin and Dunlop elite products, to mentioned by a few (Otto & Ukpere, 2012). . In the North-eastern part, many companies were forced to leave the states and close their companies and these lead to the country losing revenue from these films. In the Northern-west, the activities of Boko Haram hampered the commercial capital of the north ie Kano, about 126 industries are forced stopped production and some relocated to the south-west and some to the Federal capital, Abuja. In Plateau state capital Jos which was the centre for

tourism the Ethno-religious conflict perpetrated by the Berom ethnic militia, this problem may be one of the reasons why the country's economy fall in recession in 2016.

Insurgency and Insecurity have also undermined government effort to the provision of infrastructural facilities in Nigeria. in the consist prone zones, constructions of high ways became a problem because of the act perpetrated by kidnappers, in some cases, the foreigner who works with construction firms were kidnapped by militia movements and were threatened to lose their lives if their company failed to pay the ransom. this also affects the indigene who works with these companies because sometimes the companies are forced to stop their work, sometimes it is only when accompanied by military escort they can do their work. in other words, it government find it difficult to provide infrastructures because the money supposed to be used in roads construction and provision other infrastructures is diverted to security provision (Adebayo, 2013).

Since 1960, the period Nigeria got her independence from Britain, the country five national objectives were outlined, and two among them are related to national development i.e. the establishment of a strong and self-reliance nation and a country with the great and dynamic economy. unfortunately, these objectives were unable to achieve this may not be unconnected to problems related to insecurity crime and corruption (Onu, 2008).

6. **Conclusion**

Insurgency and security challenges in Nigeria is gradually taken another dimension to the extent now the government is blamed for not taking serious measures to bring the perpetrators to book This attitude make people perceived and levelled the country as a weak state. The paper had outlined the activities of various ethnic militias as a serious crime which failure to take drastic measures would lead to the disintegration of the country. The activities of most of these militia groups spread across the six geopolitical zones of Nigeria had impacted the Nigeria development in many ways. Economically it drags away investors and relocated to the neighbouring countries, politically it has succeeded in polarizing the country as well as the politicians especially the Northcentral zone (Middle belt region). Many leaders both religious and political as well as the government security agents believed that the crisis of this zone is masterminded by the political

elites (those on power and those who fought to gain the power but could not). Socially it delayed the implementation and execution of social amenities and other infrastructural facilities especially in the areas where Boko Haram and Niger Delta insurgents groups invaded. The paper observed that the inability of the government to punish the perpetrators of the conflict led to the emergence of many more militant groups and used brutal tactics of killing innocent travellers maiming their dead bodies. This indicates that allowing the culprits to go unpunished when committing such atrocities have contributed a lot to the present insecurity in the country. Therefore, the earlier the government change its attitude and take serious measure that will deter others from committing the same offence the better for the country.

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