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IMPACT OF TRADITIONAL RULERS ON PUBLIC SECURITY ENHANCEMENT IN NORTHERN SENATORIAL DISTRICT OF ADAMAWA STATE, NIGERIA

ABSTRACT

This study examines the impact of traditional rulers on public security enhancement in the Northern Senatorial District of Adamawa State, Nigeria, stressing their crucial role in the enhancement of public security and the maintenance of peace amidst growing security challenges in the zone, such as insurgency, banditry, and ethnic conflicts. The research adopted a survey research design. The study population comprises all the inhabitants of five local government areas that make up the northern senatorial district of Adamawa State, namely Mubi North, Mubi South, Maiha, Madagali, and Michika. 384 questionnaires were distributed to the respondents, of which only 362 were completed and retrieved successfully. The data collected were presented and analyzed in tabular form, and hypotheses were tested using regression analyses with the help of the Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS ver. 23.0). The regression coefficients offer valuable insights into the impact of various factors on the enhancement of public security in the Northern Senatorial District of Adamawa State. The role of Traditional Rulers (TR) shows a coefficient of 0.528 ($p < 0.000$), indicating a strong and significant positive contribution to public security. However, the study recommends that there is a need to encourage capacity building and training in terms of incessant training programs for traditional rulers to update their skills and knowledge in modern public security management, grant legitimate powers to traditional rulers on public security matters, conflict resolutions, and community policing for arrests and prosecutions where necessary to make them well-equipped to manage security issues for an effective enhancement of public security in their domains.

Keywords: Conflict resolution, Public Security, Peace building, Security enhancement, Traditional rulers.

Introduction

The existence of traditional institutions and monarchical activities in Nigeria before the coming of Europeans and their influences are derived from their societies' long-existing customs and beliefs. Traditional rulers are so much appreciated and serve as an imperative means of mobilizing their people. They are relied upon to advance societal, ethical values for bearable peace and security. This is primarily due to the legitimacy these traditions enjoy as the custodians of customs and conduct of society. (Edegoh, Kenechukwu and Asema, 2013).

Right from pre-colonial Nigeria, traditional rulers played an important role in ensuring the enhancement of public security in their domains. However, the coming of Europeans exposed the traditional rulers to some of their influences, to which they were subjected under the control of the colonial authority where the ultimate authority lies. The realization of the nation's independence brought a new set of people: the educated and political class who grabbed the country's political affairs. Traditional rulers positioned as administrators were switched as advisers in their different communities" (Olusola and Aisha, 2013). The newly emerged set of people saw the traditional rulers as a menace to their grasp on power and, therefore, fastened on the authorities as constitutional powers, which neglected the traditional rulers in Nigeria, particularly the northern Senatorial district of Adamawa State. The unjustified abandonment of the traditional rulers in the general administration of their people has meaningfully added to the security challenges facing all our immediate communities today. Traditional rulers such as Emirs, Chiefs, Obas, Village heads, and Wards heads, among others, are often seen as the first point of call in resolving disputes that will minimize security threats and guarantee enhanced public Security due to their deep-rooted connection with the people and their understanding of local customs and traditions, (Adeyemi, 2021). They operate within an informal justice system accessible and trusted by the community members, providing a valuable complement to the formal judicial system, which may be perceived as cumbersome to their respective community members.

In effect, Traditional rulers in Adamawa State, particularly the Northern Senatorial district, suffered similar security challenges that required traditional institutions' mediation on public security enhancement in the State. The district encompasses five local government areas of Adamawa State, namely Madagali, Maiha, Michika, Mubi-North, and Mubi-South. The total projected population is 1,051,700 (NBS, 2022), and the significant number of inhabitants in the area is predominantly farmers.

Statement of the Problem

The constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria has made it clear that the provision for the security and welfare of its citizenry is the sole responsibility of government and its statutory agencies, as contained in Section 14 (2) (b) of the 1999 Constitution as amended, which states that "the security and welfare of the people shall be the primary purpose of the government".in effect this constitutional provision made the traditional institutions in the state and that of northern senatorial zone to be in a state of neglect which rendered them inefficient in the enhancement of public security in their domains. However, a practical argument has been made that security is everybody's business, and if the community must be involved, the government must involve traditional rulers in public security enhancement. (Okonkwo, Onuigbo, Eme, & Ekekwe, 2019). Bearing in mind the above stated and the prevailing security challenges encountered in the northern senatorial district of Adamawa State comprises Armed Banditry, Armed robbery, kidnapping, Boko haram insurgency, Farmers Headers, and Crises, among others. This study assessed the impact of traditional rulers on enhancing public security in the northern senatorial district of Adamawa state with the following objectives.

Research Objectives

The broad objective of this study is to assess the impact of traditional rulers on public security enhancement in the northern senatorial district of Adamawa State with specific objectives as follows:

- i. To identify the influence of traditional rulers on public security enhancement in the northern senatorial district of Adamawa State.
- ii. To assess the immediate structure that organizes and manages the security service delivery by traditional rulers in the northern senatorial district of Adamawa State.
- iii. To examine the challenges traditional rulers face in enhancing public security in the northern senatorial district of Adamawa State.
- iv. To assess the accessibility, utilization and stability of public security enhancement by traditional rulers in the northern senatorial district of Adamawa State.
- v. To suggest possible policy options that can strengthen the enhancement of public security in the northern senatorial district of Adamawa State.

Research Questions

- i. What is the influence of traditional rulers on public security enhancement in the northern senatorial district of Adamawa State?
- ii. What is the immediate structure that organized and managed the security service delivery by traditional rulers in the northern senatorial district of Adamawa State?
- iii. What challenges do traditional rulers face in enhancing public security in the northern senatorial district of Adamawa State?
- iv. What is the accessibility, utilization and stability of public security enhancement by traditional rulers in the northern senatorial district of Adamawa State?
- v. What are the possible policy options that can strengthen the enhancement of public security in the northern senatorial district of Adamawa State?

Hypotheses

- H₀₁:** Traditional rulers do not influence public security enhancement in the northern senatorial district of Adamawa State.
- H₀₂:** Immediate structure does not impact public security enhancement in the northern senatorial district of Adamawa State.
- H₀₃:** The challenges faced by traditional rulers do not impact public security enhancement in the northern senatorial district of Adamawa State.
- H₀₄:** Accessibility, utilization and stability do not have an impact on public security enhancement in the northern senatorial district of Adamawa State.

Literature Review

Concept of Traditional Rulers

Adeyemi (2021) believes that Traditional rulers are seen as the custodians of culture and the moral compass of their societies, entrusted with the responsibility of upholding societal values and norms. Here their leadership is typically hereditary, passed down through generations, and deeply rooted in their communities' customs and traditions. Akinwale (2022) viewed Traditional rulers as people who utilize various mechanisms such as dialogue, negotiations, and customary courts to resolve conflicts and prevent escalation. The legitimacy and respect they command enable them to enforce decisions and promote reconciliation, essential for community cohesion and stability. Moreover, traditional rulers play a crucial role in community development and the social welfare of its citizenry; Usman (2023) opined that traditional rulers are leaders who are instrumental in mobilizing community resources, advocating for development projects, and ensuring that the benefits of such projects are equitably distributed.

Some of the Practical Functions of Traditional Rulers

In practical terms, traditional rulers do not have an official or legitimate role in contemporary Nigeria's political setting and governance. At best, they serve in an unofficial capacity as an advisory body to local, state, and federal government functionaries deep-rooted in the advent of colonialism and the establishment of modern state governance structures. During the colonial period, traditional rulers were often co-opted into the colonial administration, serving as intermediaries between the colonial authorities and the local population. (Adeyemi, 2021). This serves as an integration into the formal administrative system while conferring certain privileges and recognitions and also introduces new challenges and complexities to their roles. In contemporary times, traditional rulers operated within a dual governance system, working alongside modern political institutions. This dualism requires them to navigate between traditional customs and the legal frameworks of the state, as underscored by Adeyemi (2021). Usman (2023) advanced that the contemporary role of traditional rulers, among many other things, is preserving peace and maintaining public security and order in their territories, making them serve as major security and peace maintenance officers in their domains.

The Role of Traditional Rulers in the Enhancement of Public Security.

Usman (2023) argued that advocacy for community development entails the provision of enhanced public security and resource mobilization, facilitating grassroots projects and advocating for infrastructural development, education and healthcare services. These efforts put in by traditional rulers enhance public security and socio-economic opportunities and reduce inequalities that can exacerbate insecurity within the communities. Usman (2023) observed that traditional rulers while serving as a bridge between communities and government, including participation in public security enhancement meetings, programmes and projects, local governance structures, attending policy-making meetings, and representing community concerns activities to the higher authorities. This role, therefore, enhances public Security, communication, cooperation and mutual trust between the communities and the formal governance system.

Usman (2023) further viewed conflict prevention and early warning systems as the collaboration made by traditional rulers with local authorities, civil society organizations and community and sub-community leaders to implement security and conflict resolution strategies by upholding safety and security mode strategy, dialogue, inter-communal exchanges and conflict-sensitive development policies. These efforts of traditional rulers hitherto contribute to maintaining public security and general stability and preventing escalating insecurity and conflicts in their territories. Usman (2023) further upholds customary rituals, ceremonies, and traditional governance structures reinforcing community identity and solidarity. By celebrating cultural heritage and promoting understanding, traditional rulers foster a sense of belonging and respect among diverse ethnic and religious groups.

Adeyemi (2021) observed that traditional rulers leverage their respected positions and knowledge of customary laws to arbitrate on insecurity issues and disagreements related to land disputes, inheritance issues, and inter-communal conflicts. Their impartiality and ability to invoke traditional norms and values often contribute to the acceptance and effectiveness of their mediation efforts.

Challenges Faced by Traditional Rulers on Public Security Enhancement.

Traditional Rulers face several challenges in their efforts to foster public security, peace, and harmony within their communities. Adeyemi (2023) observed that the imposition of Local government officials and unfavorable policies usually undermined the authority and autonomy of traditional rulers, limiting their ability to enhance public security independently and effectively. This interference can lead to tension between traditional leadership structures and formal governance systems, hindering effective collaborative security enhancement and peacebuilding. Adeyemi (2023) further observed that limited access to funds for community development projects, infrastructure and educational programmes hampers traditional rulers' efforts to address underlying socio-economic grievances that fuel insecurity and conflicts. Without adequate resources, traditional rulers struggle to implement enhanced and sustainable public security strategies to meet the needs of their communities.

Adeyemi (2023) further argued that traditional rulers who mediate on the enhancement of public security, disputes, or advocate for peace amidst volatile situations are vulnerable to inadequate security measures and limited support from conventional law enforcement agencies, which further compromise their safety and ability to engage effectively in the enhancement of public security.

Significance of Traditional Rulers in Contemporary Security Architecture

Despite modernization, traditional rulers remain relevant in Nigeria's security architecture. Ochoche (2002) posits that their cultural and moral authority is indispensable in bridging the gap between formal security agencies and local communities. In the Northern Senatorial District of Adamawa State, traditional rulers' collaboration with state and non-state actors has created a more inclusive and participatory approach to security (Ibrahim, 2017). Similarly, Bello and Ahmed (2023) suggest increasing funding and integrating traditional rulers into local government security frameworks to maximize their contributions.

Traditional rulers remain integral to contemporary security architecture due to their unique position as mediators between local communities and formal state structures. As custodians of cultural heritage and

community values, they wield significant influence in fostering grassroots stability and social cohesion. Traditional rulers play a proactive role in conflict resolution, often using indigenous methods to mediate disputes and maintain peace in rural and semi-urban areas. Their deep understanding of local customs, interpersonal relationships, and land use dynamics enables them to preempt potential insecurity challenges and conflicts before they escalate into violence (Eze, 2018). However, the effectiveness of traditional rulers in security governance is contingent upon the level of state recognition and support they receive. Governments can enhance their impact by integrating them into formal security frameworks, providing resources, and respecting their autonomy (Olayemi, 2017).

Conceptual Review of Security

Security is the act of being harmless from all harm or risk, protecting and preserving core values and the absence of threats to acquire values. Security is about the survival and conditions of human existence, peace, development, and justice, whose absence creates conditions for conflict and insecurity (Francis, 2006). In its simpleminded form, security refers to the sensation of being safe and protected and the feeling of freedom from danger, fear, anxiety and unwanted violence (Wali & Ajuru, 2018). In a similar vein, Wali (2015) sees security as a condition of feeling safe from harm or danger, defence or protection, preservation of core values, and absence of threats to acquire values. From the aforesaid, security infers that complete protection is guaranteed to the community by ensuring that the safety of lives and properties is strictly adhered to, which results in effective public security enhancement.

Types of Security

Security is a sensation of being safe and protected and a feeling of freedom from danger, fear, anxiety and unwanted violence. This then implies that security is of categorizations, according to Ogaba, (2010), Smith and Brooks (2013), and UNDP Report (2021), as follows:

- i. **Community Security:** It protected people from losing traditional relationships, values, and sectarian alongside ethnic violence. Traditional communities, particularly minority ethnic groups, are repeatedly threatened. These threats are usually from the group, between groups, and dominant groups. In Nigeria, many communities witnessed ethnic clashes, land and boundary clashes, and intra-religious and inter-religious conflict. Smith and Brooks (2013),
- ii. **Economic Security:** It assured vital income for individuals, mostly from productive and remunerative work of a publicly financed safety net. Most people in Nigeria are economically unsecured due to the country's economic situation. This threat leads to political hostilities and other forms of violence. The most critical threats to economic security are poverty, unemployment, indebtedness, and lack of income. Smith and Brooks (2013),
- iii. **Environmental Security:** It aims to protect people from nature's short-term and long-term ravages, artificial threats in nature and deterioration of the natural environment. The major challenge in underdeveloped countries is the lack of access to clean water. In contrast, industrial countries have air pollution and global warming challenges due to greenhouse gas emissions. Smith and Brooks (2013),

- iv. **Food Security:** According to Report 2021, Food security requires people to have physical and economic access to basic food. The main threats to food security include hunger, famines, lack of physical and economic access to essential food, and money or purchasing power. (Report 2021).
- v. **Global Security** denotes measures taken by states and transnational organisations to guarantee existence and protection through diplomacy and military actions. It is seen as freedom from fear of poverty, hunger, unemployment, and other social, economic, and political deprivations. It may include National, Human, Environmental, Transnational, and Transcultural Security (Ogaba, 2010).
- vi. **Personal Security:** It involves protecting individuals and people from physical violence either from or outside the State, violent individuals, sub-state actors or domestic abuse. Thus, the more severe and common threats to personal security are from torture, War, ethnic tension, individuals or gangs, and workplace to place. These include theft, armed robbery, burglary, food poisoning, electrocution, fire outbreaks, and home accidents, among others. Smith and Brooks (2013),
- vii. **Political Security:** These guarantee and protect the citizen's fundamental human rights. It relates to whether people live in a society that honors their basic freedoms; some of the threats attached to these are political or State repression, for example, Political repression, torture, disappearance, and human rights abuse. Illegal detention and imprisonment. Smith and Brooks (2013),
- viii. **Public Security:** Security, in this sagacity, is an artefact of the resources people have for managing agitations and uncertainty on something that very much depends on their attachment to, and confident, effortless membership of a political community (Loader 2020).

Conceptual Review of Public Security

The word public in Polish means “state, common, concerning all, open, connected with an office, institution, intended for all, referring to all people, to the whole society” (Pieprzny, 2008). Public security constitutes a subset (subsystem) of internal security directly related to protection “within the state” (Gierszewski & Pieczywok, 2021). Public security is defined as: “the totality of conditions and institutions protecting the life, health, property of citizens and national property, the system and sovereignty of the state from phenomena threatening the legal order, as well as from phenomena that may disrupt the normal functioning of citizens, contrary to the generally accepted norms of conduct” (Ścibiorek & others., 2015) in (Gierszewski & Pieczywok, 2021). As part of the social contract, the state enjoys autonomy and monopoly to act in return for ensuring public safety and basic freedoms for the citizens. As rightly observed by (Assefa, 2022).

Public Security Bodies and Institutions

Gierszewski and Pieczywok (2021) believe public safety is primarily a task of the central, regional and local government administration and local self-government bodies. However, it allows distinguishing elements, to some extent, reflecting their essence. Concerning public security (Janusz & Andrzej, 2021).

Threats to Public Security

The concept of threat is an instinctive term connected with anxiety, danger, and uncertainty. In the literature, various positions of interpretation and definition of threat are made. The term “threat” is naturally understood and linked with human fear of losing values such as health, life, liberty, freedom, or material

goods. However, in literature, the term is defined otherwise. The antonym of security is also described as a state of non-threat, calmness, and certainty (Gierszewski & Pieczywok, 2021).

Types of Threats.

- i. Threats caused by natural forces.
- ii. Threats created by human activities.

i. Threats caused by natural forces

Political, religious, and economic tensions can cause threats to public security. These threats may cover a local, regional or nationwide area. Consequently, it may lead to tensions and fears in a municipality or district. Contemporary sources of threats to public security may include factors such as high levels of unemployment, economic stratification in society, increased external migration, weakening of social ties, and feelings of marginalization of large social groups, among others.

ii. Threats created by human activities

Norms, abuse of alcohol, drugs, increasingly popular legal highs, prostitution, gambling, homelessness, and aggression. All these threats are related to human activity. Consequently, they lead to self-destruction or harmful effects on members of the community in which the individual functions. Therefore, it is necessary not only to state that the phenomenon occurs in the local community but also to determine the degree of its nuisance, i.e., the impact on the sense of public security.

Insecurity Challenges in Northern Senatorial District of Adamawa State.

Generally, insecurity has continued to increase since 1999. The security crisis in the northern Senatorial district of Adamawa State has many different aspects. For the past two decades, fear of general insecurity has hampered commercial activities, caused epileptic social capital development and undermined normal economic activity in the area. Consequently, poverty has increased significantly, with many in the part of the state facing social and economic challenges. A complete lack of coordination or consistency in government activities recorded in the area and a reliance on outdated patterns in solving security matters has become an earring issue in the northern senatorial district of the state. Section 7 of the 1999 Constitution establishes local government as the third tier of government: the objective behind this is to bring government closer to the people and to encourage participatory democratic government and ensure the security of live and property of the people is preserved. The statutory allocations to local governments from the Federation Account had been shamelessly deducted by the state governor, leaving the local governments unable to pay even staff salaries for several months and its failure in providing security in their domains. Resulted to insecurity situation from the grass root where local government cannot cater for security challenges emanating at the grass root level. (Saidu, 2016).

Conceivable Solutions to Security Challenges

Nigeria may as a nation and the Northern Senatorial District of Adamawa State in particular wishes to overcome security threats should observe the following:

Akinsowon (2021), opined that, Combating insecurity goes beyond guns and drones, but rather spreading good education, good Governance and creating employment for the teeming youth who are awfully tough and restive because the future appears black, Government should improve on information technology by installing CCTVs to monitor illegal Immigrants that import arms and ammunitions into the country, tackle unemployment at all level, adequate remuneration of Security agencies to shun Bribery and Corruption and civil societies to raise public awareness and lobbying for concrete change for national integrity. Above all he further suggested that, Government need to modernize the security agencies with training, intelligence sharing, advanced technology, logistics, motivations and changes on orientations.

The solution involves concerted efforts from all and sundry to build a nation where peace and justice shall reign. For effective national security be achieved in Nigeria, the traditional institutions needs to be fully integrated in the administration of their communities. Assigned Statutory functions can be given to traditional institutions/rulers in the area of Public Security enhancement, intelligence gathering, registration of residents and tenants, and other matters that may contribute to general security of their domains. This is borne out of the fact that, the traditional institutions have a better understanding of their environment and surrounding communities which some of the Nigeria security forces might not necessarily have.(Abubakar,2015).

Theoretical Framework

The study of the Impact of Traditional Rulers on Public Security Enhancement in Northern Senatorial District of Adamawa State is grounded in the Social Capital Theory. The Social Capital Theory, as proposed by Pierre Bourdieu (1986) and Robert Putnam (2000), highlights the significance of social networks, trust, and norms in fostering cooperation within communities. Traditional rulers, with their deep-rooted cultural influence, are seen as key figures in cultivating trust, Maintenance of Public Security, resolving conflicts, and maintaining social cohesion within their communities. Their ability to facilitate communication between local populations and formal security agencies aligns with the idea that strong social ties are essential for collective action and community resilience.

The Social Capital Theory suggests that the networks, norms, and trust developed within communities are essential for collective action and social cohesion (Putnam, 2000). Traditional rulers, as central figures within their communities, play a critical role in fostering these networks, enhancing trust among community members, and facilitating collaboration with formal security institutions. Their deep ties to the local population allow them to gather valuable intelligence, mediate conflicts, and mobilize local resources, thus strengthening social cohesion and contributing to enhanced public security (Bourdieu, 1986).

This theory is highly relevant in the Northern Senatorial District of Adamawa, where traditional leaders often act as intermediaries, leveraging their social capital influence to enhance security (Eze, 2018). By building networks of trust, traditional rulers can mobilize local communities to cooperate with law enforcement agencies, contribute to conflict resolution, and provide valuable local intelligence to state security forces. Social Capital Theory has been critiqued for overlooking inequalities within communities, as

power dynamics and exclusionary practices that can hinder the effectiveness of social networks (Morris, 2019). While traditional rulers are often seen as unifying figures, their influence can sometimes marginalize certain groups or perpetuate existing social hierarchies, limiting the inclusiveness of the security process.

Methodology

This study adopted survey design, the population of the study comprises of five (5) local governments area of Adamawa Northern Senatorial Districts, totaling 1,051,700 respondents (NBS, 2022). However, the study used 384 respondents as sample size determined through Krejcie and Morgan (1970) formula. The instrument used for data collection in this study was primary source, the primary data was mainly drawn from structured questionnaire administered to the respondents in Northern Senatorial District of Adamawa State. The data collected from the respondents was in the nature of quantitative data, it was therefore statistically analyzed using the descriptive and regression analysis which was used to test the hypotheses that exist between independent variable and the dependent variables with the help of Statistical Package Social Sciences (SPSS ver. 23.0).

The regression equation are as follows: $PSE = \alpha_0 + \alpha_1 TR + \alpha_2 IS + \alpha_3 CFTR + \alpha_4 AUS + \varepsilon_i$

PSE = Public Security Enhancement

α_0 = intercept term

TR = Traditional Ruler's

IS = Immediate Structure

$CFTR$ = Challenges Face by Traditional Ruler's

AUS = Accessibility, Utilization and Stability

$\alpha_1 TR$ = Coefficient of Traditional Ruler's

$\alpha_2 IS$ = Coefficient of Immediate Structure

$\alpha_3 CFTR$ = Coefficient of Challenges Face by Traditional Ruler's

$\alpha_4 AUS$ = Coefficient of Accessibility, Utilization and Stability

$\alpha_1 - \alpha_4$ = parameter estimate

ε_i = Error Term.

Data presentation and Analyses

The study presents and analyze the data collected from the respondents. The total rate of return of 362 respondents out of 384 initial sample respondents' of the study. The hypotheses of the study were tested and discussion of findings were presented.

Table 1: Traditional rulers on public security enhancement in northern senatorial district of Adamawa State

S/N	VARIABLES	SA	A	UD	D	SD	TOTAL
1.	To what extent do you agree that traditional rulers significantly influence public security enhancement in the Northern Senatorial District of Adamawa State?	302 (83.4%)	23 (6.4%)	22 (6.1%)	10 (2.8%)	5 (1.4%)	362 (100%)
2.	Does the Traditional rulers have well-organized structure in place to coordinate and deliver security services in their communities in the Northern Senatorial District of Adamawa State?	263 (72.7%)	60 (16.6%)	19 (5.2%)	12 (3.3%)	8 (2.2%)	362 (100%)
3.	Do you agree that traditional rulers face significant challenges in enhancing public security in the Northern Senatorial District of Adamawa State?	292 (80.7%)	30 (8.3%)	10 (2.8%)	20 (5.5%)	10 (2.8%)	362 (100%)
4.	Does traditional rulers' roles in accessibility, utilization, and stability have no noticeable impact on improving public security in the region?	200 (55.2%)	62 (17.1%)	90 (24.9%)	6 (1.7%)	4 (1.1%)	362 (100%)

Source: Computed using SPSS from field survey data 2024

Key: SA=strongly agreed, A=Agreed, UD= Undecided, D=Disagreed, SD=strongly disagreed, Frequency (Percentage).

Table 1 provide a detailed analysis of respondents' perceptions regarding the traditional rulers on public security enhancement in the Northern Senatorial District of Adamawa State. The data findings revealed a significant majority of 83.4% strongly agree, 6.4% agree with this assertion, while 6.1% are neutral, indicating a small portion of the population may perceive their influence as situational and 2.8% disagree. These findings aligned with the works of Olawepo and Faturoti (2023), who highlighted that traditional rulers in Northern Nigeria are often key figures in security management due to their intimate knowledge of local dynamics. However, critics like Adams and Buba (2023) caution that their influence may sometimes be limited by political interference or a lack of resources. Also, the findings indicate that 72.7% of respondents strongly agree, and 16.6% agree, that traditional rulers in the Northern Senatorial District of Adamawa State have well-organized structures to coordinate and deliver security services. This highlights the role in

community policing and public security management. However, 5.2% are neutral, while smaller proportions, 3.3% and 2.2%, disagree and strongly disagree, respectively, suggesting isolated doubts about the effectiveness of these structures. Olawepo and Faturoti (2023) support this view that traditional rulers often operate through established frameworks such as community councils and vigilante groups, which enable efficient public security and conflict resolution. Similarly, Musa and Tanko (2023) observe that internal conflicts within traditional institutions can occasionally disrupt their coordination.

Furthermore, the findings revealed that 80.7% of respondents strongly agree and 8.3% agree that traditional rulers face significant challenges in enhancing public security in the Northern Senatorial District of Adamawa State. This indicates a widespread acknowledgment of obstacles hindering their roles in public security management. There is notable consensus among respondents, although 2.8% are neutral, 5.5% disagree, and another 2.8% strongly disagree, suggesting minority views that traditional rulers may not face substantial difficulties. Adams and Buba (2023) emphasize political interference and marginalization by modern governance systems, which undermine the autonomy of traditional institutions. Similarly, Musa and Tanko (2023) highlight internal conflicts and lack of cohesion within traditional institutions as challenges that weaken their capacity to address security issues effectively. Additionally, the findings revealed that 55.2% of respondents strongly disagree and 17.1% disagree that traditional rulers' roles in accessibility, utilization, and stability have no noticeable impact on improving public security in the region. This indicates a strong belief that traditional rulers significantly influence public security through these roles. However, 24.9% of respondents are neutral, suggesting some uncertainty or context-specific perspectives. A minority, 1.7%, agree, and 1.1% strongly agree, reflecting minimal support for the notion that their impact is negligible. The findings of Olawepo and Faturoti (2023) affirm that traditional rulers enhance public security by improving accessibility to conflict resolution mechanisms, ensuring community stability through culturally embedded practices, and mobilizing resources effectively.

Regression Analysis

The study conducted regression analysis to show the relationship between traditional rulers (*TR, IS, CFTR, AUS*) as independent variables and public security enhancement as dependent variable.

Table 2: Model Summary

Model	R	R Square	Adjusted R Square	Std. Error of the Estimate
1	0.854 ^a	0.729	0.726	0.413

a. Predictors: (Constant), TR, IS, CRTR and AUS

Source: SPSS Computation, (2024).

The model summary had a coefficient of determination (R^2) of 0.729, indicating that 72.9% of the variation in public security enhancement was explained by the variables in the model leaving 27.1% of the variations in public security enhancement to be explained by variables not in the model. The adjusted R^2 indicates the

true behavior of R^2 that varies in accordance with the changes in independent variables. The findings indicate that 72.9% change in public security enhancement is accounted for, by the independent variables.

Table 3: ANOVA^a

Model		Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
1	Regression	163.262	4	40.816	239.805	0.000 ^b
	Residual	60.763	357	0.170		
	Total	224.025	361			

a. Dependent Variable: Public Security Enhancement

b. Predictors: (Constant), Traditional Ruler's (TR), Immediate Structure (IS), Challenges Face by Traditional Ruler's (CFTR), Accessibility, Utilization and Stability (AUS),

The ANOVA results in Table 3 at 0.05 level of significance indicates that F calculated is 239.805 at (p-value = 0.000^b) in explaining the linear relationship between traditional rulers and public security enhancement. This indicates that the overall model was significant and therefore is a good fit.

Table 4: Coefficients^a

Model		Unstandardized Coefficients		Standardized Coefficients	T	Sig.
		B	Std. Error	Beta		
1	(Constant)	0.589	0.049		11.903	0.000
	Traditional Ruler's	0.528	0.104	0.550	5.050	0.000
	Immediate Structure	0.108	0.098	0.324	4.803	0.001
	Challenges Face by Traditional Ruler's	0.054	0.095	0.561	6.671	0.000
	Accessibility, Utilization and Stability	0.361	0.044	0.438	8.163	0.000

a. Dependent Variable: Public Security Enhancement

The constant regression coefficient at 0.589, in Table 4 shows that a unit increase in traditional ruler's (TR), holding other variable constant, would increase public security enhancement by 0.528 (0.528, $p < 0.000$); hence, traditional rulers significantly contribute to public security, indicating a strong positive relationship. The coefficient for immediate structure is positive (0.108, $p = 0.001$) is statistically significant, implies that influence of the immediate structure would slightly increase public security outcomes in the selected zone. Whereas, a unit increase in challenges face by traditional ruler's (CFTR), would increase other variables held constant by 0.054 (0.054, $p = 0.000$); however, this relationship is statistically significant since the p-value is 0.000, which is much less than the p-value of 0.05. Finally, a unit increase in Accessibility, Utilization and Stability (AUS), holding other variables constant, would increase public security enhancement by 0.361

(0.361, $p < 0.000$), indicating that improving accessibility, effective utilization, and community stability significantly enhances security outcomes in Adamawa State Northern Senatorial District.

Discussion of Findings:

The regression coefficients offer valuable insights into the impact of various factors on public security enhancement in the Northern Senatorial District of Adamawa State. The role of Traditional Rulers (TR) shows a coefficient of 0.528 ($p < 0.000$), indicating a strong and significant positive contribution to public security. The standardized beta value (0.550) highlights that traditional rulers have the most substantial impact among the variables studied. This finding aligns with Olawepo and Faturoti's (2023) view that traditional rulers are instrumental in public security enhancement, conflict resolution and maintaining stability due to their cultural legitimacy and grassroots connections.

In regression analysis, a positive coefficient for a variable, such as immediate structure (0.108, $p = 0.000$), suggests that there is a strong relationship between that variable and the dependent variable (public security enhancement). Specifically, the coefficient of 0.108 means that as the immediate structure increases, the public security enhancement score would increase slightly, since the relationship is statistically significant since the p-value is 0.001, which is less than the common significance level of 0.05. Therefore, immediate structure have a strong or consistent influence on public security enhancement. Musa and Tanko (2023) identified similar limitations, citing efficiencies and cohesion within traditional rulers' governance structures.

The variable challenges faced by traditional rulers (CFTR) has a small positive coefficient of 0.054 ($p = 0.000$), which is also statistically significant. This result implies that the challenges faced by traditional rulers have a meaningful or consistent impact on public security enhancement. This significance indicate that traditional rulers' effectiveness in enhancing security is directly affected by the challenges they face, possibly due to their resilience, experience, or adaptive mechanisms in addressing these challenges. Adams and Buba (2023) attribute this resilience to the adaptability and dedication of traditional rulers, even in the face of political and logistical constraints.

Finally, Accessibility, Utilization, and Stability (AUS) shows a coefficient of 0.361 ($p < 0.000$), indicating a significant and positive effect on public security enhancement. The standardized beta value (0.438) demonstrates that improving access, proper utilization of resources, and community stability are critical for public security enhancement. Mohammed *et al.* (2022) similarly emphasized that these factors promote trust, collaborations, and rapid responses to security challenges, empowering traditional rulers to act effectively.

Conclusion

The study highlights the significant impact of traditional rulers on public security enhancement in the Northern Senatorial District of Adamawa State, Nigeria. The findings revealed that traditional rulers play a critical role in maintaining public security through their accessibility, utilization of meager resources at their disposal, and stabilization efforts within their communities. With a strong and positive contribution to public

security enhancement, evidenced by regression analysis, their roles remain essential in grassroots governance and conflict resolution.

However, the effectiveness of traditional rulers is influenced by several factors. While their immediate structural frameworks demonstrate high impact, challenges faced by traditional rulers, such as political interference and resource constraints, do significantly influence public security enhancement. The results also highlights the importance of enhancing accessibility, utilization, and stability as key drivers of improved public security outcomes. Lastly, traditional rulers remain integral to public security enhancement in the Northern Senatorial District of Adamawa State. Their influence can be further amplified through strategic support and collaboration in ensuring sustainable security and development in the region.

Recommendations:

The study came up with the following recommendations:

- i. **Institutional Support Enhancement:** Strengthen the institutional frameworks that support traditional rulers by providing more resources, clear guidelines, and frameworks for collaboration with government agencies to improve their capacity to address security challenges effectively.
- ii. **Expand Collaborations with Security Agencies:** Advance formal mechanisms for collaboration between traditional rulers and formal security agencies to foster better coordination in tackling public security issues and ensuring timely responses to emerging security challenges.
- iii. **Minimize Political Interference:** Reduction of Political interference in the actions of traditional rulers by endorsing autonomy and ensuring that their security roles are respected, consenting them to act without unwarranted pressure from the political actors.
- iv. **Encourage Communal Meetings:** Boost the traditional rulers to engage more actively with local communities to build confidence, increase cooperation, and ensure that community members vigorously partake in preserving security, thereby strengthening social cohesion.
- v. **Encourage Capacity Building and Training:** Offer continuous training programs for traditional rulers to update their skills and knowledge in modern public security management, grant legitimate powers to traditional rulers on security matters, conflict resolutions, and community policing for arrest and prosecutions where necessary in order to make them well-equipped to manage security issues in their domains.

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