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THE IMPACT OF INSECURITY ON ECONOMIC GROWTH AMONGST NORTH-EASTERN STATES OF NIGERIA

ABSTRACT

This article examines the impact of insecurity on economic growth in the North-Eastern states of Nigeria, a region plagued by persistent violent conflicts, particularly due to Boko Haram insurgency, banditry, and communal clashes. The study investigates how these security challenges have hindered economic development by disrupting agricultural activities, trade, and investment flows, which are the primary economic drivers in the region. Using data from official reports, surveys, and relevant literature, the article highlights key factors such as displacement of people, destruction of infrastructure, and loss of livelihoods. It further explores the resulting decline in GDP, employment rates, and government revenue. The findings reveal that insecurity has not only stifled local economies but also led to severe poverty and increased dependency on humanitarian aid. The article concludes by proposing policy recommendations, including improving security infrastructure, promoting peacebuilding efforts, and fostering regional economic diversification to mitigate the long-term impacts of insecurity on economic growth in North-Eastern Nigeria.

Keywords: *The Impact, Insecurity, Economic Growth, North-Eastern State and Nigeria*

The Introduction

Security is fundamental to the existence of a State, with the governments primarily tasked with the responsibility of ensuring the safety of citizens and fostering an environment conducive to growth and development (Amoyibo & Akpomera, 2013). The 1999 Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria reinforces this mandate, stating that "the security and welfare of the people shall be the primary purpose of government." However, Nigeria's persistent security challenges have undermined this obligation, affecting both lives and economic stability across the nation. In recent years, insecurity in Nigeria has escalated to critical levels, manifesting in various forms, including ethnic conflicts, kidnappings, terrorism, militancy, and herdsmen disturbances. These issues are particularly pronounced in the North-East, where Boko Haram, banditry, and insurgency have destabilized the region, disrupting governance and impeding economic growth (Bright, 2018). The effects of these crises are evident in daily reports of lost lives, dwindling populations, stagnating businesses, declining investments, and increasing unemployment. The widespread fear and uncertainty have caused multinational companies to

close operations and deterred further investments, posing a significant threat to national development. Beland (2005) defines insecurity as the absence of protection from crime and the lack of psychological security, which leads to emotional distress and limits opportunities for individuals to achieve their potential. In the North-Eastern geopolitical zone, comprising Adamawa, Bauchi, Borno, Gombe, Taraba, and Yobe states, the impact of insecurity is profound. Economic activities, both formal and informal, have been severely disrupted. Unemployment has surged, internally displaced persons (IDP) camps have proliferated, and state revenues have plummeted. In addition, the region has seen a decline in foreign exchange earnings and an increased cost of doing business due to the high risks associated with insecurity.

Despite the Nigerian government's efforts to address these challenges such as allocating substantial resources to security in annual budgets, relocating military personnel to conflict zones, and enacting anti-terrorism and anti-kidnapping laws the situation remains dire. The country's poor ranking on the Global Peace Index and the persistent economic downturn are testaments to the ongoing insecurity. This study, therefore, seeks to explore the impact of insecurity on economic growth in the North-Eastern states of Nigeria, focusing on how this instability hampers regional development and the broader economic landscape of the nation.

The Literature

Varying literature exist on insecurity and economic growth, but there is no extant literature with contemporary analysis of insecurity and economic growth, using North-Eastern States of Nigeria as a case study. This literature review will be predicated on the following subtitles for easy appreciation.

Insecurity is the extreme opposite of security. The import of this is that it is pertinent to conceptualize security before insecurity. Buzan (1991) sees security as political, economic, social and environmental threats that affect the individual as well as the state at national and international levels. To other scholars, security is the absence of threat to acquire values or tendencies that would undermine national cohesion and peace as criteria for the determination of the meaning of security. Security is the condition or feeling of safety from harm or danger, the defense, protection and absence of threat to acquire values (Oladeji and Folorunso 2007). Insecurity as an antithesis of security refers to a condition that exists due to lack of effective measures put in place to protect individuals, information and property against hostile persons, influences and actions. Insecurity is simply a situation in which individuals in a given society cannot go about their daily activities as a result of threat to and harmful disruption of their lives and property. According to Beland (2005) insecurity entails lack of protection from crime (being unsafe) and lack of freedom from psychological harm (unprotected from emotional stress resulting from paucity of assurance that an individual is accepted, has opportunity and choices to fulfill his or her own potentials including freedom from fear.

According to Beland (2005) insecurity is a state of fear or anxiety due to absence or lack of protection. Achumba, Ighomereho & Akpor- Robaro, (2013) defines insecurity from two perspectives. Firstly, insecurity is the state of being open or subject to danger or threat of danger, where danger is the condition of being susceptible to harm or injury. Secondly insecurity is the state of being exposed to risk or anxiety, where anxiety is a vague unpleasant emotion that is experienced in anticipation of some misfortune. These definitions of insecurity underscore a major point that those affected by insecurity are not only uncertain or

unaware of what would happen, but they are also vulnerable to the threats and dangers when they occur. In the context of this research, insecurity is defined as a breach of peace and security, whether historical, religious, ethno-regional, civil, social, economic, and political that contributes to recurring conflicts, and leads to Quantum destruction of lives and property.

Many studies have provided evidence on how insecurity hinders economic growth of a nation. For instance, Nwanegbo and Odigbo (2013) noted that security avails the opportunity for development of a nation. Ewetan and Urhie (2014) noted that insecurity hinders business activities and discourages foreign and local investors. Adegbami (2013) in his study opined that insecurity is detrimental to general well-being of the people, and has led to destruction of business and properties, and relocation of industries. Udeh and Ihezue (2013) also noted that insecurity challenges Nigeria's effort towards national economic development and consequently its vision 20:2020, and scares the attraction of foreign investment and their contributions to economic development in Nigeria.

Gaibulloev and Sandler (2009) noted that terrorism (transnational terrorist attacks) had a significant growth limiting effects and that terrorist incident per million persons reduces gross domestic product per capita growth by 1.5% in Asia. On the other hand, terrorism increases risk and uncertainty that limits investment and hinders foreign direct investment (Gaibulloev, 2009; Abadie, and Gardeazabal, 2008). Terrorism affects industries like airlines, tourism, manufacturing companies, and export sector, which can reduce gross domestic product and growth (Enders and Sandler, 2006.)

Tavaries (2004) carried out another study on the cost of terrorism, using sample size ranging from 1987 to 2001. The result showed that terrorism had a significant but negative impact on GDP growth. Gupta et al (2004) studied the impact of armed conflict and terrorism on macroeconomic variables, using a sample size of 66 low- and middle –income countries. It was observed that conflict indirectly reduces economic growth by increasing the defense spending share of government expenditure.

Eckstein and Tsiddon (2004) investigated the effect of terrorism on the macro economy of Israel, using quarterly data from 1980 through 2003. Applying vector autoregression (VAR), the result showed that terrorism has a significant negative impact on per capita GDP, investment and exports. Gaibulloev and Sandler (2009) in their study 'the impact of terrorism and conflicts on growth in Asia 1070-2004' observed that transnational terrorism attacks had a significant growth-limiting effect. it reduces growth by crowding in government expenditures. Achumba, et. al (2013) in their study insecurity in Nigeria and its implication for business investment and sustainable development indicated that insecurity challenges in the country is enormous and complex and would continue to be, if the situation remains unabated.

Otto and Ukpere (2012) carried out a study on national security and development in Nigeria. They observed that there is a positive relationship between security and development while insecurity is debilitating to the economic development of many less developed economies. Sandler and Ender (2008) concluded that 'given the low intensity of most terrorist campaigns, the economic consequences of terrorism are generally very modest and short-lived. The economic influence of terrorism is anticipated to surface in specific sectors that face an enhanced terrorism risk, such as the tourist industry or FDI'. These conclusions were drawn from their study' Economic consequences of terrorism in developed and developing countries. Despite all the literatures presented from various research, no study has been able to measure the effect of insecurity on economic

growth of North Eastern States of Nigeria, examining Ethno-Religious Conflicts, unemployment/ poverty issue and politically based violence, which is the focal point of this research.

Ethno-religious conflicts:

These conflicts are caused by suspicion and distrust among various ethnic groups and among the major religions in the country. Ethno-religious conflict is a situation in which the relationship between members of one ethnic or religious and another of such group in a multiethnic and multi-religious society is characterized by lack of cordiality, mutual suspicion and fear, and a tendency towards violent confrontation (Achumba, Ighomereho, & Akpor- Robaro, 2013).

The frequent and persistent ethnic conflicts and religious clashes between the two dominant religions (Islam and Christianity) is a major security challenge that confronts Nigeria. Since independence, Nigeria appears to have been bedeviled with ethno-religious conflicts. There are ethno-religious conflicts in all parts of Nigeria, and these have emerged as a result of new and particularistic forms of political consciousness and identity often structured around ethno-religious identities (Igbuzor, 2011).

Unemployment/poverty issues

According to Adagba, Ugwu, & Eme (2012) unemployment/poverty among Nigerians, especially the youths is a major cause of insecurity and violent crimes in Nigeria. In particular youth's unemployment has contributed to the rising cases of violent conflict in Nigeria. Also, one of the major causes of insecurity in the country is the failure of successive administration to address challenges of poverty, unemployment, and inequitable distribution of wealth among ethnic nationalities.

Unemployment

Unemployment is defined as when people are not engaged in meaningful work and are lacking the basic necessities of life. While we are not oblivious of the fact that there are other reasons why people engage in criminal activities, we cannot rule out the fact that activities resulting from unemployment are indirect consequences of corruption. Corruption leads to unemployment, unemployment to conflicts and conflicts to insecurity. Many Nigerian youths have become preys to terrorists and are easily radicalized. In the North-Eastern region for instance, were the many of the unemployed youths are members of the Boko-Haram sect.

Adegbami (2013) opined that, idle mind; they say is the devil workshop so as the rate of unemployment continues to raise, so also the wave of crimes and its attendant effects. The Nigerian Bureau of Statistics (NBS) cited in Ogah et al., (2011) puts unemployment in Nigeria at about 23.9 per cent and still raising. These unemployed people now employ themselves by engaging in illegal activities such as kidnapping, robbery, bunkering, and other fraudulent activities. This brings attention to their plight by engaging in destructive behavior at the slightest provocation. Nigeria is made up of unemployed youths who are ready to do anything, even engage in criminal activities as a way of engaging themselves if nobody does. As a result, these Jobless youths resort to armed robbery, electoral violence, and assassinations, kidnapping, and rituals, cultism as a way of making a living. This is why according to political activist Odumakin (2012) with 60 million unemployed youths, Nigeria will have no peace. The Boko-Haram leadership records success in luring the

Youths with money which majority them are unemployed. Although, the job they took is bad, yet they still took it. This is because most of the Boko-Haram members are illiterate and Illiteracy is one of the major causes of insecurity and is a very strong factor leading people against their own country. The name Boko-Haram is no more news in the country. Illiterate northerners came up with the ideology that education is bad. This development has multiplied the number of unemployed youth roaming the street and has become an easy tool for violence. This scenario has not only deepened the existing unemployment rate but also paints a gloomy picture of poverty in the area and Nigeria in general (Adagba, Ugwu, & Eme 2012).

Poverty

Another cause of insecurity is the poverty, which is a multidimensional phenomenon. The World Development Report 2000/2001 (World Bank, 2001) summarizes the various dimensions as a lack of opportunity, lack of empowerment and lack of security. The window of opportunity remains closed to the poor masses, and this makes them practically inactive in the society. Their lack of empowerment limits their choices in almost everything and their lack of security makes them vulnerable to diseases, violence and so on. Similarly, according to a United Nations statement, in Nigeria, widespread and severe poverty is a reality. It is a reality that depicts a lack of food, clothes, education and other basic amenities

Severely poor people lack the most basic necessities of life to a degree that it can be wondered how they manage to survive says: Consequently, due to poverty, many youths particularly so in the North-east have been denied choices and opportunities to go to better schools, hospitals, houses, basic social life as well as participate actively in the society. Impliedly means, poverty is characterized by lack of enough to feed and clothe a family, not having a school or clinic to go to; not having the land on which to grow one's food or a job to earn one's living, not having access to credit. It means insecurity, powerlessness and exclusion of individuals, households and communities. In view of these they may join any violence groups as majority of them are ill informed politically, socially, religiously, economically etc. As a result, most of the arm robbers, terrorist groups, Boko-Haram Members particularly so the foot soldiers came from poor masses; Ford (2007) as cited in Adebayo (2014) stated that; Poverty has been linked to high crime rates, especially in the northeast where there is a sharp contrast between the rich and the poor. The masses cause social unrest because the wealth gotten from their territory does not get to them. In the Nigerian society, the best way to acquire wealth is to enter the political sphere. Most of the time political success is tied to criminal activities. He ends the article by stating that the link between economic and political power must be broken for progress to be made.

Politically based violence

Nigeria has a long history of politically based violence since the collapse of the first republic on January 14, 1966 and the incursion of the military into governance that same date. The electoral politics in Nigeria right from 1960s till date have been characterized with violent conflicts, political thuggery, assassinations, and arson. Politicians in Nigerian do not accommodate dialogue, negotiation and consensus (Eme and Onyishi, 2011). Political contests are characterized by desperation, and violent struggle for political power among politicians. Recurring political violence in Nigeria could be attributed to over-zealousness and desperation of political gladiators to win elections or remain in office at all cost. These misadventures have often been catastrophic leading to decimation of innocent lives, disruption of economic activities, and the destruction of properties among others. This lack of party internal democracy is already being revealed in the party

primaries, and “selection” of national executive officers of the parties. Even politicians themselves are afraid of what the forthcoming general elections portends. An atmosphere of political insecurity is fast engulfing Nigeria’s nascent Fourth Republic.

Systemic and political corruption is a twin evil and hydra-headed monster that has held the Nigerian state captive. This has contributed to government failure and breakdown of institutional infrastructures. The state of insecurity in Nigeria is greatly a function of government failure, traceable to systemic and political corruption. It has added another dimension of violent conflicts which has eroded national values. Corruption is bad not because money and benefits change hands, and not because of the motives of participants, but because it privatizes valuable aspects of public life, bypassing processes of representation, debate, and choice. It has been described as cancer militating against Nigeria’s development, because corruption deeply threatens the fabric of the Nigeria society (Nwanegbo and Odigbo, 2013).

Economic implication of Insecurity

Insecurity, especially internal is not a problem that is unique to Nigeria alone. Other countries both developing and developed face the challenge. The difference however between some of them and our country Nigeria is how they manage the threat. Albinus, (2012) gave an insight into the precarious state of Nigeria nation by saying that within the last few year, heightened social insecurity in Nigeria has arguably fuelled the crime rate, living unpalatable consequences for the nation economy and its growth. The devastating effects of insecurity on economic growth has been recognized early enough in several literatures. UNDP (1994), Beland (2005); Collier Paul (2006); Achumba and Ighomereho (2013); Omoyibo and Akpomera (2013); Stewart (2004); Aderoju (2007) amongst others. Most of this study however examined the subject from a political-socio economic perspective, only a few purely economic study of the subject exist in the literature. UNDP (1994) defined human security with a view to understanding what insecurity entails. According to it, human security means, first, safety from such chronic threats as hunger, disease and repression. And second, it means protection from sudden and hurtful disruptions in the patterns of daily life – whether in homes, in jobs or in communities. The report identified seven elements that makes up human security: (i) Economic security; (ii) Food security; (iii) Health security; (iv) Environmental security; (v) Personal security; (vi) Community security; and (vii) Political security. Anything short of this definition and elements, amounts to insecurity.

According to Beland (2005) insecurity entails lack of protection from crime (being unsafe) and lack of freedom from psychological harm (unprotected from emotional stress resulting from paucity of assurance that an individual is accepted, has opportunity and choices to fulfill his or her own potentials including freedom from fear. As Achumba & Akpor-Robaro (2013) puts it, those affected by insecurity are not only uncertain or unaware of what would happen but they are also not able to stop it or protect themselves when it happens. In respect of the factors responsible for insecurity and conflicts, Collier (2006) stressed that countries which have a substantial share of their income (GDP) coming from the export of primary commodities are radically more at risk of conflict. The most dangerous level of primary commodity dependence is 26% of GDP. According to him, conflicts and insecurity is concentrated in countries with little education, fast population growth and economic decline. This was also the views expressed by Aderoju (2007). The effect of Insecurity on economic growth has been described to be negative.

Stewart (2004) analyzed the effect of conflict and insecurity on development for twenty five countries between 1960 – 1995 and found that economic growth was almost always affected, agricultural sector was badly hit, exports were negative, production fell, there was a shift from international to domestic markets, imports went up dominated by military expenditure and essential consumption goods, usually leading to a shortage of foreign exchange for economic inputs., consumption per head fell, government revenue as a share of GDP mostly fell and foreign and private investments including government investment fell. This was further corroborated in SIPRI yearbook 2015, where they observed that threats to security can have socioeconomic roots, including contests over natural resources, spillover effects of environmental degradation, economic and social inequalities, economic and political migration, natural disasters, among others. On the whole, this study is a departure from most of the existing literature as it examines the effect of insecurity on economy growth from a purely economic perspective.

Forms and the Causes of Insecurity

Political Factors

The unexpected power shift from the northern hegemony to a minority geo-political zone of South-south, as a result of the death of President Yar'adua could be linked to the high tempo of insecurity. That is, the death of President Yar'adua resulted in an alteration of the northern perpetual claim on political power in Nigeria. In addition, the refutation of the North-South agreement on rotational presidency within the People's Democratic Party (PDP) is also another major factor, thus the death of Yar'Adua and the ascendancy of Goodluck Jonathan as the president upset careful political arrangement (Ferrell, 2012). Other forms of insecurity include politically related assassinations. In addition to this is the continuing rancour among political leaders even within same party and rancour between the ruling party and the opposition (Wali, n.d.). There are also several economic related assassinations all over the nation which creates danger to the nation's economy. Furthermore, there is the power play and over-ambition of politicians who willfully encourage the procurement of weapons in order to pursue their inordinate political ambition (Egbewole, 2013).

Leadership Factor

The Nigerian state for some time now has not had the benefit of being administered by good leaders as most of the political leaders are in office for pecuniary gains. Often, sadly, these crops of political leaders oppress the citizens with the looted money, train thugs and hooligans who later turn to robbers or engage in other forms of crime when they are dumped by the politicians after elections thus constituting a major threat to the security of the nation.

Unemployment Factor

Idle hand, they say is the devil workshop so as the rate of unemployment continues to rise so does the wave of crime and its attendant effect. The Nigerian Bureau of Statistics (NBS) cited in Ogah, Fanimu, Shadare, Ebosele, Okere, Adepetun, and Lawrence, (2011) puts unemployment in Nigeria at 23.9 per cent and still raising. These unemployed people now employ themselves by engaging in illegal activities such as kidnapping, robbery, bunkering, and other nefarious activities.

Weak Judiciary

Legal systems, as Cooter (1996) puts it, in rule-of-law states establish the rules of the game and the mechanisms individuals may resort to enforce their rights. While, Hay, Shleifer and Vishny, (1996) opines that the rule of law means, in part, that people use the legal system to address people's behavior activities and resolve disputes. This includes learning what the legal rules say, structuring their political, social, economic etc. transactions using these rules, seeking to punish or obtain compensation from those who break the rules, and turning to the public officials, such as the courts and the police, to enforce these rules. Interestingly, as opined by Yahaya (2012), the general expectation has always been that the judiciary should function in such a manner as to mitigate, if not eliminate the problem; unfortunately, this is becoming one huge forlorn hope for judges to make money especially during election tribunals.

Jobs Racketeering Factor

Today in Nigeria, jobs are for sales and only for the highest bidders. Jobseekers to this extent have continued to suffer great losses, as often a lot of money has been collected from them without getting the promised jobs. For instance, recently job seekers filled online application for recruitment into the Nigeria Security and Civil Defense Corps (NSCDC) and were asked to pay certain amount of money into designated bank accounts or cash to some persons who claimed to be consultants to the Corps (Vanguard, 2013). On job racketeering also, the erstwhile Comptroller-General of Immigration (CGI), Mrs. Rose Uzoma, was sacked over alleged job racketeering at the Nigerian Immigration Service (NIS). This has brought to the fore the shady deals that permeate recruitment exercises in Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs) in Nigeria. Reports had it that the recruitment scandal was blown open when a House of Representatives Committee probed the CGI for carrying out a recruitment exercise without advertising it in the media as was usually the practice (sunnewsonline, 2013).

The Senate Committees on Federal Character and Inter-governmental Affairs has noted with dismay the irregularities which pervade employment at the Nigerian Immigration Services, Nigerian Customs Service, Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps and other Ministries, Departments and Agencies in Nigeria. Other reasons may include- growing poverty, poor infrastructural facilities, high illiteracy level (especially in northern Nigeria), social dislocation as a result of rural/urban migration and the breakdown of societal values, community unrest and the inefficient and ineffective security agents which are saddled with the responsibility of guaranteeing security to the citizens (Daniel, 2011).

Consequences of Insecurity in Nigeria

According to Ali (2013), the fear of insecurity in Nigeria is on the increase and this has been compounded by the rising waves of terrorism. Since the country returned to democratic rule in 1999, violent crimes in Nigeria, especially in the Northeast, and the emergence of Boko-Haram insurgency in the region was alleged to have been caused by the politicians buying arms for Youths to suppress or intimidate their opponents. This had led to the dramatic twist on the wave, dynamics and sophistication of insecurity in the area. In view of the above, Boko-Haram and terrorist activities which used to be one of the lowest concerns in the region has now assumed alarming proportion and has also taken the center stage not only in the region but also across the globe.

Due to the fear of the unknown, insurgency and terrorist activities, the security situation more especially in the north-east had led to the migration of people from the affected areas to the other safer states thereby

created economic depression in the area. As a result, most commercial activities have almost been paralyzed. Inflation had gone so high in the area due to few commercial activities operated. For example, Banks and other financial institutions operated in fewer hours. Food stuff, wearing materials, car spare parts and many more are not only in limited supply but also costlier. Furthermore, due to the insecurity, government revenue remained unachievable as most revenue generation areas of these states have either remained closed or partially operated.

Social activities in the area are also very poor due to the fear of the unknown. Most schools, whether private or public especially in some parts of Adamawa, Borno, and Gombe and Yobe states remained closed for a long time. As a result, students in these states were left behind in terms of teaching, learning and research. Majority of the staff particularly those coming from the southern part of the country had fled whether teachings or nonteaching. While those arounds were rendered unproductive. The situation is not limited to primary and secondary school teachers rather even university of Maiduguri was affected as many senior Professors had fled the university. The situation had affected most of the students in the areas of teaching, learning and research. Similarly, some of the vibrant Youth have either been kidnapped, abducted and killed while others were either forcefully lured into the Boko-Haram terrorist organization.

It was estimated according to Charas, Wali and Sambo (2015) that almost about 30% of the Youths especially in Borno and Yobe have been killed or missing. Others includes, kidnapped young girls and women have either been raped or impregnated by the Sect members. While those rescued were stigmatized with HIV/Aids various. Religious factor; most of the place of worships either mosques or churches became a soft target centre for killings and bombing. As a result, people no longer feel free to worship in the worshiping centers. Similarly, at a point, those with bear who left them as a religious symbol more especially the Muslims got harassed by the Military on suspicious of being a Boko-Haram member. Many innocent people got detained and some even killed on fault suspicion. The civilians were left in the centre between the Boko- Haram and the Military forces. (Ndubuisi-Okolo & Theresa 2019)

The Framework

To situate the study within a specific framework, criminological theories like the frustration-aggression theory is selected for this study. Criminological theories, provide the context for explaining insecurity and its causes in general (Agnew, 2010; Onwudiwe, Tsado, Ejiogu, McGee-Cobbs, & Okoye, 2016). Notwithstanding the criminological theory also provides the social and logical bedrock to recognize the scourge of insecurity.

Frustration-aggression theory

Dollard, Miller, and Doob (1939) provide an apt elucidation of causes of violent crime leading to insecurity. Based on their frustration-aggression theory, frustration and aggression are necessary conditions for violence. This means that thwarting an individual's expected goal attainment leads to heightened emotion, which can direct that individual to take aggressive action using any form of which belonging to a terrorist group like the Boko-Haram, Militant IPOPOP etc. which seem to give several advantages against the party assumed to be responsible for the misfortune. According to Baron and Richardson (2004), frustration is defined as the blocking of goal attainment, which then leads to aggressive behavior that is comparable to the extent of bridging the opportunity to attain goals or realize dreams. Both frustration and aggression work in pari passu in that the existence of one lead to the occurrence of the other. Accordingly, aggressive behavior requires the existence of frustration for it to be triggered and the existence of frustration leads to aggressive behavior. Gurr

(1970), Margolin (1977) and Nachmias (2004) agreed that depriving an individual from political, economic, and personal needs and denial to achieve certain expectations can spike violent civil conflicts leading to a high level of insecurity. Frustration is the expected result if attainments of these expectations are blocked. Most time violent groups members are angry over particular issues and feel frustrated because their cause has been exploited by those in power; at the same time, they are frequently economically marginalized, unemployed, or otherwise cannot attain their desired goals. Thus, the principles of frustration-aggression theory appositely fit the scenario in most states in the northeast today.

The Study Area

Our area of study in this research work covers North- Eastern of Nigeria, including Adamawa, Bauchi, Borno, Gombe, Taraba and Yobe. It occupies slightly less than one-third of Nigeria's total area and have a projected population of 23,558,674 or 13.5% of the country's population. The inhabitants are mainly Fulani with only Borno State has Kanuri people as majority with more than 100 minority ethnic groups. The area which constitutes North-East zone of Nigeria lies between the vast arid expanse of the Sahara and the dense tropical rain forest along the Guinea Coast. Delimiting the area is Cameroon on the east, Niger and Chad republics on the north, North-Central Nigeria on the west, and South-Eastern Nigeria on the south. This geographical area constitutes the largest zone in Nigeria and comprises of the presents states of Adamawa, Bauchi, Borno, Gombe, Taraba and Yobe since the states creation of 1996. It has a total of 103,639 square miles, representing 29.1 per cent of the total area of Nigeria. Interestingly the region is politically unique in its pre-colonial set up. This could be seen it is combination of the Kanem-Borno Empire in the northern part and the Sokoto caliphate controlling most of the southern part. Bornu-Kanem Empire converted to Islam before any other part of what is now Nigeria, and is the one section of the North that withstood the Sokoto jihad of the nineteenth century.

Natural Landscape, Climate and Vegetation

The most distinctive characteristic feature of the North- Eastern State is probably its geographical diversity. It contains high mountains and dissected plains. The climate is essentially continental in type, with rainfall totals varying from more than 60 inches in the south to less than 15 inches in the north (Barbour, 1971). The vegetation varies from dense Guinea savannah in the south, through a broad belt of Sudan savannah to a zone of thin Sahel savannah with thorny *acacias* and low annual grasses in the far north. The soils are very varied. In certain areas they are well suited to irrigation, elsewhere short periods of cultivation must be interspersed with longish periods of fallow.

The Population and Sample size Determination

According to Ahmad & Warraich (2013), the population of a study refers to the totality of the elements that forms the basis for the analysis. The respondents will comprise personnel of security agencies, such as the Nigerian Police Force (NPF), Department of State Services (DSS), Nigerian Security and Civil Defence Corps (NSCDC), as well as students of tertiary institutions, market women, administrators of tertiary institutions, rank and file of members of the public, traditional rulers and clan heads.

The Topman formula for sample size determination was used to determine the sample size for this study. The basis for using the Topman formula is that we had to carry out a pilot survey in order to estimate the proportion of respondent of interest. A “pilot survey” was carried out by interviewing a random sample of 40 respondents. Out of 40 security personnel, 32 of them agreed that the Independent variable, (insecurity)

influences the dependent variable (economic growth) in North-Eastern States of Nigeria while 8 security personnel drawn from the intelligence community concluded that insecurity does not influence economic growth in North-Eastern States of Nigeria.

Therefore, the proportion of those who agreed was $32/40 = 0.8$, while the proportion of those who disagree was $8/40 = 0.2$. By applying the Topman’s formula for sample determination, the sample size was determined as follows:

$$N = \frac{Z^2 \cdot P \cdot Q}{e^2}$$

Where:

- N = required sample size
- Z = the value of z-score associated with the degree of confidence selected = 1.96 (derived from the z-score table)
- p = probability of positive response = 0.8
- Q = probability of negative response = 0.2
- e² = error of margin = 0.05²

Where:

$$P = \frac{32}{40} = 0.8$$

$$Q = \frac{8}{40} = 0.2$$

$$N = \frac{1.96 \times 0.8 \times 0.2}{0.0025}$$

$$N = \frac{3.841 \times 0.16}{0.0025}$$

$$= \frac{0.61}{0.0025} = 246$$

The Model

The model contained three independent variables (Ethno-Religious Conflicts, unemployment/ poverty issue, politically based violence) and one dependent variable (Economic growth). The model specification for the study is as follows:

$$EG = b_0 + b_1ERC + b_2UPI + b_3LPT + E$$

Where;

EG = Economic growth

b₀ = the model intercept/slope

b₁ = Coefficient of Ethno-Religious Conflicts

ERC = Ethno-Religious Conflicts

b₂ = Coefficient of Unemployment/ poverty

UP = Unemployment/ Poverty Issue

b_3 = Coefficient of Leadership/power

LP = Leadership/Power Tussle

E = Error

The Result and Data Analysis

A total of 193 copies of questionnaire were administered to the respondents. Out of this number, 190 were returned and fit for analysis. Therefore, a response rate of 97 per cent was obtained.

4.1: Data presentation and analysis

Table 4.1: Distribution of respondents according to gender

	Frequency	Percent	Cumulative Percent
Male	95	50.0	50.0
Female	95	50.0	100.0
Total	190	100.0	

Source: Author's Field Survey, 2024

Table 4.1.1 above shows that 95 respondents out of 190 representing 50.0 percent were male while 95 respondents out of 190 representing 50.0 percent were female

Table 4.2: Distribution of respondents according to age

	Frequency	Percent	Cumulative Percent
11 - 20 years	78	41.1	41.1
21 - 30 years	73	38.4	79.5
31 - 40 years	27	14.2	93.7
41 years or above	12	6.3	100.0
Total	190	100.0	

Source: Author's Field Survey, 2024

Table 4.1.2 above shows that 78 respondents representing 41.1 percent fell between the age range of 11-20 years, 73 respondents representing 38.4 percent fell between the age range of 21-30years, 27 respondents

representing 14.2 percent fell between the age range of 31-40years, and 12 respondents representing 6.3 percent fell between the age range of 41 years and above

Table 4.3: Distribution of respondents according to marital status

	Frequency	Percent	Cumulative Percent
Single	96	50.5	50.5
Married	94	49.5	100.0
Total	190	100.0	

Source: Author' Field Survey, 2021

It is very clear that in table 4.1.3 above, 96 respondents representing 50.5 percent were still single, 94 respondents representing 49.5percent were married.

Table 4.4: Distribution of Respondents according to education qualification

	Frequency	Percent	Cumulative Percent
SSCE	44	23.2	23.2
OND/NCE/ND	52	27.4	50.5
HND/B.Sc./B.A./B.E	94	49.5	100.0
Total	190	100.0	

Source: Auuthor's Field Survey, 2024

Table 4.1.4 above shows that 44 respondents representing 23.2 percent had SSCE, 52 respondents representing 27.4 percent had OND/NCE/ND, 94 respondents representing 49.5 percent had HND/B.Sc./B.A./B.E.

Table 4.5: The frequent and persistent ethnic conflicts and religious clashes between the two dominant religions (Islam and Christianity) is a major security challenge that confronts Nigerians in the North East

	Frequency	Percent	Cumulative Percent
Strongly agree	32	16.8	16.8
Agree	101	53.2	70.0
Undecided	25	13.2	83.2
Disagree	28	14.7	97.9
Strongly disagree	4	2.1	100.0
Total	190	100.0	

Source: Author's Field Survey, 2024

From the analysis above, 32 respondents representing 16.8 percent strongly agreed that the frequent and persistent ethnic conflicts and religious clashes between the two dominant religions (Islam and Christianity) is

a major security challenge that confronts Nigerians in the North East, 101 respondents representing 53.2 percent agreed that, 25 respondents representing 13.2 percent were undecided about the issue, 28 respondent representing 14.7 percent disagreed, while 4 respondents representing 2.1 percent strongly disagreed to this issue

Table 4.6: There is lack of cordiality, mutual suspicion and tendencies of violent confrontation among the ethnic and religious societies in the North Eastern States of Nigeria.

	Frequency	Percent	Cumulative Percent
Strongly agree	35	18.4	18.4
Agree	100	52.6	71.1
Undecided	25	13.2	84.2
Disagree	27	14.2	98.4
Strongly disagree	3	1.6	100.0
Total	190	100.0	

Source: Author's Field Survey, 2024

The above table shows that 35 respondents representing 18.4 percent strongly agreed to the fact that there is lack of cordiality, mutual suspicion and tendencies of violent confrontation among the ethnic and religious societies in the North Eastern States of Nigeria, 100 respondents representing 52.6 percent agreed, 25 respondents representing 13.2 percent were undecided, 27 respondents representing 14.2 percent disagreed, while 3 respondents representing 1.6 percent strongly disagreed to this matter.

Table 4.7: Conflicts among the ethnic and religious societies in the North Eastern States of Nigeria affects economic activities

	Frequency	Percent	Cumulative Percent
Strongly agree	32	16.8	16.8
Agree	126	66.3	83.2
Undecided	8	4.2	87.4
Disagree	18	9.5	96.8
Strongly disagree	6	3.2	100.0
Total	190	100.0	

Source: Field Survey, 2024

In table 4.7, 32 respondents representing 16.8 percent strongly agreed that conflicts among the ethnic and religious societies in the North Eastern States of Nigeria affects economic activities, 126 respondents representing 66.3 percent agreed, 8 respondents representing 4.2 percent were undecided, 18 respondents representing 9.5 percent disagreed, while 6 respondents representing 3.2 percent strongly disagreed on this matter.

Table 4.8: Unemployment/poverty among, youths constitute a major cause of insecurity and violent crimes in the North Eastern States of Nigeria.

	Frequency	Percent	Cumulative Percent
Strongly agree	32	16.8	16.8
Agree	98	51.6	68.4
Undecided	28	14.7	83.2
Disagree	28	14.7	97.9
Strongly disagree	4	2.1	100.0
Total	190	100.0	

Source: *Author's Field Survey, 2024*

From the analysis above, 32 respondents representing 16.8 percent strongly agreed that unemployment/poverty among, youths constitute a major cause of insecurity and violent crimes in the North Eastern States of Nigeria, 98 respondents representing 51.6 percent agreed, 28 respondent representing 14.7 percent were undecided, 28 respondents representing 14.7 percent disagreed, while 4 respondents representing 2.1 percent strongly disagreed on this subject

Table 4.9: Violent crimes among youths affect economic activities in the North Eastern States of Nigeria

	Frequency	Percent	Cumulative Percent
Strongly agree	32	16.8	16.8
Agree	128	67.4	84.2
Undecided	6	3.2	87.4
Disagree	18	9.5	96.8
Strongly disagree	6	3.2	100.0
Total	190	100.0	

Source: *Author's Field Survey, 2024*

From table 4.9, the analysis above shows that, 32 respondents representing 16.8 percent strongly agreed that violent crimes among youths affects economic activities in the North Eastern States of Nigeria, 128 respondents representing 67.4 percent agreed, 6 respondents representing 3.2 percent were undecided about the issue, 18 respondent representing 9.5 percent disagreed, while 6 respondents representing 3.2 percent strongly disagreed on this

Table 4.10: Due to poverty, many youths particularly so in the North-east have been involved in all manner of crime in an effort to satisfy their needs

	Frequency	Percent	Cumulative Percent
Strongly agree	34	17.9	17.9
Agree	99	52.1	70.0
Undecided	25	13.2	83.2
Disagree	28	14.7	97.9
Strongly disagree	4	2.1	100.0
Total	190	100.0	

Source: *Author's Field Survey, 2024*

The above analysis in Table 4.10, shows that 34 respondents representing 17.9 percent strongly agreed that due to poverty, many youths particularly so in the North-east have been involved in all manner of crime in an effort to satisfy their needs, 99 respondents representing 52.1 percent agreed, 25 respondents representing 13.2 percent were undecided, 28 respondents representing 14.7 percent disagreed, while 4 respondents representing 2.1 percent strongly disagreed on the matter

Table 4.11: Leadership/power tussle among politicians has always led to massive destruction of lives and properties

	Frequency	Percent	Cumulative Percent
Strongly agree	36	18.9	18.9
Agree	100	52.6	71.6
Undecided	24	12.6	84.2
Disagree	27	14.2	98.4
Strongly disagree	3	1.6	100.0
Total	190	100.0	

Source: *Author's Field Survey, 2024*

This analysis clearly shows that 36 respondent representing 18.9 percent strongly agreed that Leadership/power tussle among politicians has always led to massive destruction of lives and properties, 100 respondent representing 52.6 percent agreed, 24 respondent representing 12.6 percent were undecided, 27 respondent representing 14.2 percent disagreed, while 3 respondent representing 1.6 percent strongly disagreed on the matter.

Table 4.12: Politicians create an atmosphere of insecurity in their struggle for political power in the North Eastern States of Nigeria

	Frequency	Percent	Cumulative Percent
Strongly agree	34	17.9	17.9
Agree	126	66.3	84.2
Undecided	6	3.2	87.4
Disagree	18	9.5	96.8
Strongly disagree	6	3.2	100.0
Total	190	100.0	

Source: Author's Field Survey, 2024

Table 4.12 shows that 34 respondents representing 17.9 percent strongly agreed that politicians create an atmosphere of insecurity in their struggle for political power in the North Eastern States of Nigeria, 126 respondents representing 66.3 percent agreed, 6 respondents representing 3.2 percent were undecided, 18 respondents representing 9.5 percent disagreed, while 6 respondents representing 3.2 percent strongly disagreed on the matter

Table 4.13: OThe struggle for power has often been catastrophic leading to decimation of innocent lives, disruption of economic activities

	Frequency	Percent	Cumulative Percent
Strongly agree	32	16.8	16.8
Agree	99	52.1	68.9
Undecided	25	13.2	82.1
Disagree	30	15.8	97.9
Strongly disagree	4	2.1	100.0
Total	190	100.0	

Source: Author's Field Survey, 2024

Table 4.13 analysis shows that 32 respondents representing 16.8 percent strongly agreed that the struggle for power has often been catastrophic leading to decimation of innocent lives, disruption of economic activities, 99 respondent representing 52.1 percent agreed to this, 25 respondent representing 13.2 percent were undecided, 30 respondent representing 15.8 percent disagreed, while 4 respondent representing 2.1 percent strongly disagreed to this.

Table 4.14: Economic activities are hindered by threat and harmful disruption of their lives and property

	Frequency	Percent	Cumulative Percent
Strongly agree	35	18.4	18.4
Agree	126	66.3	84.7
Undecided	6	3.2	87.9
Disagree	20	10.5	98.4
Strongly disagree	3	1.6	100.0
Total	190	100.0	

Source: Author's Field Survey, 2024

Table 4.14 analysis shows that 35 respondents representing 18.4 percent strongly agreed that economic activities are hindered by threat and harmful disruption of their lives and property, 126 respondent representing 66.3 percent agreed, 6 respondent representing 3.2 percent were undecided, 20 respondent representing 10.5 percent disagreed, while 3 respondent representing 1.6 percent strongly disagreed on the matter.

Table 4.15: The widespread of conflict and insecurity resulting from Ethic/Religious groups, Unemployment/poverty and Leadership/power tussle has affected the economic growth in North-Eastern States of Nigeria

	Frequency	Percent	Cumulative Percent
Strongly agree	35	18.4	18.4
Agree	101	53.2	71.6
Undecided	24	12.6	84.2
Disagree	27	14.2	98.4
Strongly disagree	3	1.6	100.0
Total	190	100.0	

Source: Author's Field Survey, 2024

The above analysis shows that of the 190 respondents that participated in this study 35 respondents representing 18.4 percent strongly agreed that the widespread of conflict and insecurity resulting from Ethic/Religious groups, Unemployment/poverty and Leadership/power tussle has affected the economic growth in North-Eastern States of Nigeria, 101 respondents representing 53.2 percent agreed, 24 respondent representing 12.6 percent were undecided, 27 respondent representing 14.2 percent disagreed, while respondents representing 1.6 percent strongly disagreed on the matter.

Table 4.16: Fear of the unknown, insurgency and terrorist activities, created economic depression in the North Eastern States of Nigeria

	Frequency	Percent	Cumulative Percent
Strongly agree	33	17.4	17.4
Agree	126	66.3	83.7
Undecided	6	3.2	86.8
Disagree	19	10.0	96.8
Strongly disagree	6	3.2	100.0
Total	190	100.0	

Source: Author's Field Survey, 2024

Table 4.16 shows that 33 respondents representing 17.4 percent strongly agreed that, 126 respondents representing 66.3 percent agreed, 6 respondents representing 3.2 percent were undecided, 19 respondents representing 10.0 percent disagreed, while 6 respondents representing 3.2 percent strongly disagreed on this subject.

4.2: Test of hypotheses

HO₁: Ethno-Religious Conflicts has no effect on economic growth in North-Eastern States of Nigeria

Table 4.17: Model summary showing the effect of Ethno-Religious Conflicts on the economic growth in North-Eastern States of Nigeria

Model	R	R Square	Adjusted Square	R	Std. Error of the Estimate
1	.969 ^a	.939	.939		.62463

a. Predictors: (Constant), Ethno-Religious Conflicts

Table 4.18: ANOVA^a showing the effect of Ethno-Religious Conflicts on the economic growth in North-Eastern States of Nigeria

Model	Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
1 Regression	1126.903	3	375.634	962.756	.000 ^b
Residual	72.571	186	.390		
Total	1199.474	189			

- a. Dependent Variable: Economic growth
- b. Predictors: (Constant), Ethno-Religious Conflicts

Table 4.19: Coefficients^a showing the effect of Ethno-Religious Conflicts on the economic growth in North-Eastern States of Nigeria

Model	Unstandardized Coefficients		Standardized Coefficients	t	Sig.
	B	Std. Error	Beta		
1 (Constant)	.855	.280		3.049	.003
Ethno-Religious Conflicts	.958	.081	.377	11.856	.000
	.975	.082	.378	11.829	.000
	1.833	.053	.672	34.816	.000

- a. Dependent Variable: Economic growth

Tables 4.17, 4.18 and 4.19 above report the results of the multiple regression analysis carried out to test Hypothesis 1. The results show that Ethno-Religious Conflicts significantly affects the economic growth of the North-Eastern States of Nigeria ($b = 0.958$, $b = 0.975$, $b = 1.833$, $p < 0.05$). Therefore, Hypothesis 1 is rejected. Tables 4.17 and 4.18 further report a significant F statistic, indicating the model’s strong prediction strength ($F = 962.756$, $R^2 = 93.9\%$, $p < 0.05$). The R^2 of 93.9 percent implies that for every unit change in the economic growth of the North-Eastern States of Nigeria, 93.9 percent of such change is attributed to Ethno-Religious Conflicts.

HO₂: Unemployment/ poverty issue has no significant influence on the economic growth in North-Eastern States of Nigeria

Table 4.20: Model summary showing the influence of Unemployment/ poverty issue on the economic growth in North-Eastern States of Nigeria

Model	R	R Square	Adjusted R Square	Std. Error of the Estimate
1	.948 ^a	.900	.898	.80488

a. Predictors: (Constant), Unemployment/ poverty issue.

Table 4.21: ANOVA^a showing the influence of Unemployment/ poverty issue on the economic growth in North-Eastern States of Nigeria

Model		Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
1	Regression	1078.978	3	359.659	555.178	.000 ^b
	Residual	120.496	186	.648		
	Total	1199.474	189			

a. Dependent Variable: economic growth

b. Predictors: (Constant), Unemployment/ poverty issue.

Table 4.22: Coefficients^a showing the influence of Unemployment/ poverty issue on the economic growth in North-Eastern States of Nigeria

Model		Unstandardized Coefficients		Standardized Coefficients	t	Sig.
		B	Std. Error	Beta		
1	(Constant)	2.384	.319		7.485	.000
	Unemployment/ poverty issue	1.696	.085	.669	20.030	.000
		1.634	.064	.596	25.544	.000
		.048	.071	.023	.677	.499

a. Dependent Variable: economic growth

Tables 4.20, 4.21 and 4.22 report the results of the multiple regression analysis carried out to test Hypothesis 2. The results show that unemployment/ poverty related issue significantly influence the economic growth of the North-Eastern States of Nigeria ($b = 1.696$, $b = 1.634$, $b = 0.048$, $p < 0.05$). Therefore, Hypothesis 2 is rejected. Tables 4.20 and 4.21 further report a significant F statistic, indicating the model's strong prediction strength ($F = 555.178$, $R^2 = 94.8^a \%$, $p < 0.05$). The R^2 of 94.8 percent implies that for every unit change in

the economic growth of the North-Eastern States of Nigeria, 94.8 percent of such change is influenced by unemployment/ poverty related issue

HO₃: Leadership/power tussle has no effect on the economic growth in North-Eastern States of Nigeria

Table 4.23: Model summary showing the effect of Leadership/power tussle on the economic growth in North-Eastern States of Nigeria

Model	R	R Square	Adjusted R Square	Std. Error of the Estimate
1	.954 ^a	.911	.909	.75907

a. Predictors: (Constant), Leadership/power tussle

Table 4.24: ANOVA^a showing the effect of Leadership/power tussle on the economic growth in North-Eastern States of Nigeria

Model	Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
1 Regression	1092.303	3	364.101	631.916	.000 ^b
Residual	107.171	186	.576		
Total	1199.474	189			

a. Dependent Variable: economic growth

b. Predictors: (Constant), Leadership/power tussle

Table 4.25: Coefficients^a showing the effect of Leadership/power tussle on the economic growth in North-Eastern States of Nigeria

Model	Unstandardized Coefficients		Standardized Coefficients	t	Sig.
	B	Std. Error	Beta		
(Constant)	1.083	.340		3.183	.002
1 Leadership/power tussle	.824	.099	.327	8.344	.000
	1.056	.101	.410	10.453	.000
	1.810	.064	.666	28.174	.000

a. Dependent Variable: economic growth

Tables 4.23, 4.24, 4.25 report the results of the multiple regression analysis carried out to test Hypothesis 3. The results show that leadership/power tussle have a significant effect on the economic growth in North-Eastern States of Nigeria ($b = 0.824$, $b = 1.056$, $b = 1.810$, $p < 0.05$). Therefore, Hypothesis 3 is rejected. Tables 4.23 and 4.24 further report a significant F statistic, indicating the model's strong prediction strength ($F = 631.916$, $R^2 = 95.4^a$ %, $p < 0.05$). The R^2 of 95.4 percent implies that for every unit change in the economic growth in North-Eastern States of Nigeria, 95.4 percent is jointly attributed to Leadership/power tussle

The Findings

The effect of Insecurity on economic growth has been described to be negative. Stewart (2004) in his analysis of the effect of conflict and insecurity on economic development and found that economic growth was affected, agricultural sector was badly hit, exports were negative, production fell and there was a shift from international to domestic markets. The findings of the study revealed ethno religious conflict negatively affect the economic growth of the north eastern states in Nigeria. To support this finding, Oladoyinbo (2007) posit that, the nature of the crises in Northern part of Nigeria is complex, tribal, religious, and social. Oladoyinbo further stated that ethnic religious crisis in this part of the country has claimed numerous lives of Nigerians and property worth billions of naira.

The results of hypothesis two revealed a significant influence of unemployment/ poverty related on the economic growth of the North-Eastern States of Nigeria This finding is supported by Ndubuisi-Okolo and Theresa (2019) stated that, high level of unemployment and poverty among Nigerians, especially the youths, result to violent crime in the northeast.

The test of hypothesis two revealed that leadership/power tussle have a significant effect on the economic growth in North-Eastern States of Nigeria. In line with this finding, Ebipre and Wilson, (2020) posit that, leadership and political power tussle is the major cause of some of this crisis that erupted in that part of the country.

The Summary

This study focused on insecurity and economic growth in North-Eastern States of Nigeria. From the analysis of data gathered through relevant sources and test of hypotheses this study summarizes the following:

The research work revealed that Ethno-Religious Conflicts has a strong negative effect on the economic growth of North-Eastern States of Nigeria.

It was also discovered in this study that Unemployment/ poverty related issue has a strong negative effect on the economic growth in North-Eastern States of Nigeria

Also, from the findings leadership/power tussle has a strong negative influence on the economic growth in North-Eastern States of Nigeria.

The Conclusion

The discourse shows that Nigeria is confronted with the problem of insecurity. This is made manifest in the Boko Haram's murderous campaign against individuals and institutions in the Northern East region of Nigeria. The upsurge of terror unleashed by this Islamic religious sect is rather unprecedented with monumental loss of lives and property. Base on the findings of this study one may conclude that insecurity had negative impact on economic growth in Nigeria. The result revealed that Ethno-Religious Conflicts, Unemployment/ poverty issue and Leadership/power tussle are the root cause of insecurity since they may translate into violence. The problem of insecurity as identified in this study as the outcome of frustrated expectations which breed aggression. The way the Nigerian society is structured paved way for frustration and that people are inevitably compelled to express their frustration through various shades of anti-social behavior including violent responses that are directed at those perceived to be responsible for their predicaments.

The Recommendation

Based on the summary and conclusions of this study, the following recommendations are proffered:

- i. The Nigerian Government need to step up physical security measures around the country via the provision of security facilities and the development of stringent measures to be meted out on security defaulters. This implies that Government must be proactive in dealing with security issues and threats, through training, modern methods of intelligence gathering, and intelligence sharing, logistics and deploying advanced technology in managing security challenges.
- ii. The Nigerian Government should set up a committee to look into the Nigerian constitution and ensure that the fundamental human rights are strictly adhered to especially the one pertaining to freedom of worship. This is because the major challenge confronting our great nation has correlation with religion.
- iii. Government Should as a matter of urgency pay crucial attention to issues of injustices, victimization, marginalization, power tussle, discrimination and security to create a safe and an enabling environment for investments to boost industrialization and sustainable development thereby enhancing the livelihoods of the greatest numbers of its citizens must be created.

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