

## **SECURITY AND NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT IN CONTEMPORARY NIGERIA: ISSUES, CHALLENGES AND PROSPECTS**

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**ABSTRACT:** Nigeria is a country that has been plagued by various forms of insecurity, including terrorism, insurgency and communal clashes. These security challenges have hindered the country's development, resulting in economic and social setbacks. This study therefore examines the relationship between security and national development in Nigeria. The study adopts the frustration-aggression theory to explain some of the causes of insecurity in Nigeria, such as corruption, poverty and unemployment. The relevant data for this study were collected from secondary sources. The finding of the study reveals that insecurity has a negative impact on national development in Nigeria, affecting economic growth, social order, and political stability. The study identified factors attributed to the rising state of insecurity in Nigeria to include bad governance, unemployment and poverty, porous borders and arms proliferation, weak and overburdened security apparatus, defective intelligence gathering and coordination, and weak judicial system. The study argues that there is a strong relationship between security and national development in Nigeria, as there can be no development without security and there can be no security without development. Development can only take place when there is adequate security, while development initiatives can also contribute to addressing the root causes of insecurity in the country. Therefore, it is crucial for the government to address insecurity in the country to promote national development. To this end, the study recommends good governance, improving the capacity and effectiveness of security forces and intelligence gathering, community policing, strong and efficient justice system, and provision of economic opportunities.

**Keywords:** Insecurity, Security, Development, National Development, Nigeria

### **Introduction**

In the contemporary world, the security of life and property remains significant to the socio-economic survival of any given society. Nwanegbo and Odigbo (2013) posit that security is a pillar upon which every meaningful development could be achieved and sustained. It is the most vital element in human life without which social, economic, and political achievements cannot be attained. To achieve that, the government owns the responsibility to adequately provide security in a given social formation. The 1999 Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, in Chapter 2, Section 14(b) provides that the primary purpose of government shall be the security and welfare of the citizens. Therefore, the primary responsibility of government is to protect the lives and properties of citizens, efficiently harness and effectively utilize societal resources to address the fundamental need and aspirations of the citizens, and defend the territorial integrity of the country against incursions and invasion against any threat from external sources. The elected government has the responsibility to ensure the management of the security sector is in line with democratic best practices and provision of security as a public

good. As a result, government need detailed and extensive plans and management structures to ensure security policies and practices are transparent and accountable. To be able to discharge these responsibilities efficiently, effectively and creditably, the state has administrative, legislative and judicial structures and institutions to rely upon in the management of societal relations and resources. It also has the power to legitimately use force, using police, armed forces and a range of other security agencies, to support its role, obligations and responsibilities (Jega, 2021).

However, the state seems to be incapable of protecting the lives and property of its citizens. There seems to be lack of competence and ability to protect citizens from internal and external threats. According to El-Rufai (2021) “the Nigerian state has not jealously and consistently protected its prerogatives and status as the leviathan, the guarantor of security, the protector of rights and the promoter of the rule of law”. Insecurity in Nigeria has therefore become an issue of grave concern to all well-meaning citizens most of who continue to wonder how the country arrived at such a dastardly situation where no one is safe; and worse still, rather than abate, the problem is escalating and now totally out of control (Oyewusi, 2022). Insecurity has heightened, leading to severe unimaginable social, economic and political consequences which have affected national development. Nigerians are contending with a plethora of challenges from kidnapping, insurgency, banditry, terrorism, communal strife and wanton killings. These deep feeling of insecurity of lives and property have brought a seeming impression that the criminal elements are having the upper hand and making Nigerians reach the least disputable conclusion that the country is no longer safe. These security problems cut across the six regions of the country. These ongoing issues only evidences the failure of the Nigerian government to contain the violence from other states and implement far-reaching security sector reforms that will ensure that the remote and immediate factors enabling the violence are checked. There is no doubt that every country’s development is relative to the peace that obtains in its national space. Insecurity disrupts peace and security, scare away investors, growth and development. Against the backdrop of the upsurge in incidences of insecurity in recent times, this study assesses the relationship between security and national development in contemporary Nigeria.

### **Conceptual Framework**

This section examines the key concepts in this paper. These include security/insecurity and national development.

**Security/Insecurity:** Security is the perceived or actual ability to prepare for, adapt to, withstand, and recover from dangers and crises caused by people deliberate, intentional, and malicious acts such as terrorism, sabotage, organize crime, or hacking (Jore, 2019). Security is generally agreed to be about feeling of being safe from harm, fear, anxiety, oppression, danger, poverty, defence, protection and preservation of core values, and threat to those values (Afolabi, 2015). Therefore, security refers to the state of being protected against threats, dangers, or harm. In the context of personal security, it can refer to physical safety, financial stability, or emotional well-being.

Insecurity on the other hand refers to a feeling of vulnerability or lack of safety. It can manifest in various ways, such as social anxiety, or physical danger. Insecurity is defined to mean a condition of social being that is characterized by openness to danger and threat that is usually detrimental to life and property in a given society (Raimi, 2017). Adebajoko and Ugwuoke

(2014) opine that insecurity is the state of being subject in every respect to terror, threat, risk, molestation, bullying, harassment, etc. Insecurity, for example, can be conceived as a threat to the state that often accounted for the arms and nuclear weapons race to protect the state. Beland (2005) opined that insecurity is the state of fear or anxiety stemming from a concrete or alleged lack of protection. It refers to lack or inadequate freedom from danger. Achumba et al. (2013) define 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. From the exposition above, the phenomenon of security or insecurity implies both physical occurrence and psychological state of mind that constitutes a challenge to peace and development of both the individuals and the societies. Ishaya (2021a) defined insecurity as the state of fear or anxiety stemming from a concrete or alleged lack of protection. It is inadequate freedom from danger. This definition reflects physical insecurity which is the most visible form of insecurity and it feeds into many other forms of insecurity such as economic security and social security. Ishaya (2021b) insecurity comes from anything that threatens people survival, livelihood and dignity. It is exacerbated by social, economic, political, legal and other forms of injustice perpetrated against a person, group or nation. Insecurity is the absence of security on both military and on human security perspectives.

**National Development:** The term, national development, refers to the improvement of a country in all areas, including the political, economic, social, cultural, scientific and material spheres. The capacity of nation to enhance its citizen's standard of living is an indicator of the nation's level of development (Unacademy, nd). National development refers to the growth of a nation in terms of internal cohesion, integration, unity, economic well-being, mass participation in government and educational growth (Bamgbose, 2022). National development is measured in terms of the qualitative advancement of the lives of the citizens of a country. National development is explained in terms of measurable growth which results in an improved standard of living. It is usually a gradual and advanced improvement through progressive changes in the socio-political life of a nation. Some commonly used indicators of national development include Gross Domestic Product (GDP), Human Development Index (HDI), poverty rate, unemployment rate, and good governance.

### **Security and National Development: Nexus**

The relationship between security and development in Nigeria is complex and interdependent. Ebeh (2015) posits that security and national development are two sides of the same coin and cannot be detached. The relationship between security and development work both ways. On the one hand, security is a critical component for development to take place in Nigeria. Without adequate security, economic growth and development can be significantly hindered. This is because insecurity can discourage foreign direct investment, reduce business activities and limit access to critical infrastructure. In addition, the presence of violence and conflict in Nigeria can lead to displacement, loss of lives, and property damage, which negatively affects the economic and social wellbeing of the country. On the other hand, development initiatives can also contribute to security in Nigeria. The lack of economic opportunities and access to basic amenities has been identified as one of the root causes of insecurity in the country. Therefore, creating jobs, reducing poverty and inequality, and improving access to basic amenities can help to reduce the incidence of insecurity in Nigeria. From the above analysis, security and development are intertwined in Nigeria. Sustainable development can only take

place in an environment of adequate security, while development initiatives can contribute to addressing the root causes of insecurity in the country.

### **Security Challenges in Nigeria**

The security situation in Nigeria has been a major concern in recent years, and it can be described as bad in many parts of the country. Nigeria is facing various security challenges, including terrorism, religious extremism, kidnaping and banditry, farmers/herders' conflict, militancy and separatist agitation, armed robbery, sea piracy, porous borders, cybercrimes and socio-political threats (Federal Government of Nigeria, 2019). The northeast region of Nigeria has been the epicentre of terrorism, with the Boko Haram insurgency and its splinter group, the Islamic State West Africa Province (ISWAP), carrying out deadly attacks on civilians and security forces. The group has killed thousands of people, displaced millions, and destroyed properties worth billions of dollars. Although the Nigerian military has made significant progress in the fight against the insurgency, the group still carries out sporadic attacks, especially in Borno, Yobe, and Adamawa states. In recent years, other regions of the country have also been facing various security challenges. In the northwest region, banditry, cattle rustling, and kidnaping for ransom have become widespread, with criminal gangs operating freely and attacking communities. The middle belt region has been facing communal conflicts between farmers and herders, which have resulted in the loss of lives and properties. In the southern region, there have been reports of attacks on security personnel, oil facilities, and other critical infrastructure.

These security challenges have had a significant impact on the country's ranking on various global indices, such as Fragile States Index, Global Peace Index, and Global Terrorism Index. The Global Peace Index (2022) published by the Institute for Economics & Peace measures the level of peacefulness in 163 independent states and territories. In the 2022 report, Nigeria ranked 143<sup>rd</sup> out of 163 countries, with a score of 2.725. The Global Terrorism Index (2023) also published by the Institute for Economics & Peace analyses the impact of terrorism for 163 countries. The 2023 report ranked Nigeria among the 10 countries most impacted by terrorism. Nigeria was ranked as the 8<sup>th</sup> country most impacted by terrorist activity, with a score of 8.065 out of 10. The Fragile States Index (2022) published by the Fund for Peace ranks countries based on their vulnerability to conflict and instability. Nigeria was ranked as the 16<sup>th</sup> most fragile state out of 179 countries. The country has a total score of 97.2 out of 120. The country's ranking on these entire indexes all reflect the worsening security situation in the country, with the government and security agencies facing significant challenges tackling them. This may have contributed to the agitations for state police or community policing, leading to the emergence of regional security outfits, such as, Civilian JTF, Hisbah, Yausakai, Yanbanga, Amotekun in the South-West, Shege-Kafasa in the North-West and Odinigwe in the South-East. All these are mainly expressions of people's desperation and disappointment with the failure of the state security architecture to protect them. Today, the wave of insecurity across the country has regrettably increased, with devastating consequences on national unity and development (Omaki, 2021).

### **Causes of Insecurity in Nigeria**

Several factors have been attributed to the rising state of insecurity. These are bad governance, unemployment and poverty, porous borders and arms proliferation, weak and overburdened security apparatus, defective intelligence gathering and coordination, and weak judicial system.

**Bad Governance:** Bad governance is government’s incapacity to manage public affairs and resources, as well as a government's failure to meet societal requirements while making the best use of all available resources (Jega, 2021). According to Kobani and Mba (2022) bad governance is being increasingly regarded as one of the root causes of all evil within our societies. Bad governance is the opposite of good governance. It is the failure to govern competently, effectively and proficiently. Any leadership that is devoid of transparency, accountability, credibility, justice, selflessness, and fair play is a bad leadership (Mukhtar et al., 2017). Government’s main function is to protect lives and properties of its citizens by providing water, electricity, good road network, standard education and general infrastructure; many governments due to bad governance had drifted away from this purpose to pursue other selfish desires. This had worsened the security challenges in the society (Onwuatuegwu, 2020). Lack of accountability and transparency, interference with the rule of law, and corruption are all characteristics of “bad governance”. The indicators of good governance according to the United Nations (2016) are “participation, rule of law, transparency, responsiveness, consensus-oriented, equity and inclusiveness, effectiveness and efficiency, and accountability”. In the Transparency International, Corruption Perception Index (2021), Nigeria ranked 154 out of 180 countries scoring 24 out of 100 points. The interference and disregard for the rule of law has also continued to pose grave danger to the progress and development of the country. The Rule of Law index compiled by the World Justice Project (2022) ranked Nigeria 118<sup>th</sup> out of 140 countries worldwide with an overall score of 0.41. Regionally, Nigeria ranked 24<sup>th</sup> out of 34 countries and also 24<sup>th</sup> out of 38 countries on the income rank. The WJP’s framework for rule of law covers eight factors, constraints on government powers, absence of corruption, open government, fundamental rights, order and security, regulatory enforcement, civil justice, and criminal justice.

**Table 1: Nigeria’s Factors Score and Rank on the WJP Rule of Law Index 2022**

S/N	Factors	Factor Score	Global Rank	Regional Rank	Income Rank
1	Constraints on Government Powers	0.49	87/140	16/34	13/38
2	Absence of Corruption	0.31	120/140	23/34	28/38
3	Open Government	0.42	103/140	14/34	20/38
4	Fundamental Rights	0.42	113/140	23/34	22/38
5	Order and Security	0.36	138/140	34/34	37/38
6	Regulatory Enforcement	0.41	116/140	22/34	26/38
7	Civil Justice	0.46	97/140	15/34	19/38
8	Criminal Justice	0.38	90/140	14/34	16/38

*Source: WJP Rule of Law Index, 2022.*

Table 1 shows Nigeria’s score and rank on the WJP eight factors of the index. The score ranges from 0 to 1, where 1 signifies the highest possible score and 0 signifies the lowest score. A careful look at factor 5, order and security shows that Nigeria ranks 138 out of 140 countries globally, and the least ranked, 34<sup>th</sup> regionally.

**Unemployment and Poverty:** Unemployment has a severe negative implication on sustainable and national development in Nigeria (Madobi, 2021). It exacerbates inequalities and fuels a sense of resentment. The unemployed people are often more at risk of depression, anxiety and stress which occasionally lead to violence (Sarafa-Yusuf, 2022). According to the

National Bureau of Statistics (2020), unemployment among young Nigerians (15-34 years) is the highest in the country, with 21.72 million or 42.5 per cent of the 29.94 young Nigerians in the labour force unemployed while the national unemployment rate stood at 33.3 per cent as at Q4, December 2020. Unemployment leads to poverty which is also a threat to human existence. Nigeria is a country with a high level of multidimensional poverty, meaning that poverty is not just about income but also includes a lack of access to basic services and opportunities. According to the Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI) released by the National Bureau of Statistics (2022), 63% of persons living within Nigeria (133 million people) are multidimensionally poor. 65% of the poor (86 million people) live in the North, while 35% (nearly 47 million) live in the South. The presence of poverty with attendant lack of food makes the poor to result in violence and other vices that impact negatively on the security of the country (Egbefo & Salihu, 2014). They come up with things that are not healthy for the society as they go into kidnapping, killing, terrorism and armed robbery to survive and this makes the value for human lives and properties to be threatened (Onwuatuegwu, 2020). These youths are vulnerable and lack the capacity and skills to sustainably engage in or finance enterprises (Asaleye et al., 2018). Also, poverty and illiteracy contribute to insecurity. The unplanned population in the hands of families that cannot provide basic needs will exacerbate the insecurity in the society. The persistence of huge unemployment and lack of opportunities for meaningful sources of income create a pool of youths that can be recruited into criminal gangs including reinforcement to the terrorist groups.

**Porous Borders and Arms Proliferation:** Nigeria's borders are poorly policed. The porous nature of these borders heightens the potential spread of terrorist activities into the country (Ojewale, 2021). The northern part of Nigeria borders Niger Republic by about 1,497km; the North-East borders Chad by about 87km; the eastern part borders Cameroon by about 1,600km, and the western part borders the Republic of Benin by about 773km (Ajaja, 2021). These porous borders have occasioned proliferation of arms and booming business of gun-running which fuels insecurity in the country. According to a report by SB Morgan Intelligence, the number of small arms in circulation in the hands of civilian non-state actors in Nigeria is estimated at 6,145,000, while the armed forces and law enforcement collectively account for 586,600 firearms (SBM, 2021). This report was further corroborated by Nigeria's former Head of State, Gen. Abdulsalami Abubakar (rtd) who lamented that there are over six million of all calibre of weapons in circulation in the country (Daka, et al., 2021). Hull et al. (2007) argued that the proliferation of arms increases the level of destruction and creates a vicious cycle whereby competing militias engage in arms race to gain dominance in capability. This free access has resulted in violence, militancy, kidnappings, armed robbery, mass killings, and communal, ethnic and religious clashes and Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) across the country across various regions of the country. Insecurity in the country is more concentrated in desert, farms, bushes and rural areas where insurgents take advantage of the less population in those areas to carry out their activities.

**Weak and Overburdened Security Apparatus:** The Nigeria Police Force, as the leading principal law enforcement agency in Nigeria, is the closest security agency to the people and is statutorily saddled with responsibilities of maintenance of laws and order, internal security and protection of lives and properties within the shores of the nation. The Nigeria Police Force, like other security agencies, derives its powers, functions and responsibilities from the 1999 Constitution (Bakare, 2021). The police are very important in the maintenance of law and order in any democratic society. They are the closest law enforcement agents to the public. Unlike the military and other paramilitary agencies that concentrate on their specific core job/roles in

the society, police roles cover every segment of group social interactions in the society. However, the security outfit in Nigeria does not measure up to standard in terms of personnel and machinery. The personnel in the security sector are not adequately catered for in terms of remuneration and promotion, and this makes them unwilling to do the job with maximum efforts (Onwuatuegwu, 2020). This weak security system can be due to a number of factors including corruption, insufficient police, and other security agencies funding, lack of modern equipment, poor safety personnel health, and inadequate staff. The Nigerian population is approximated at 220 million with the personnel strength of the Nigeria Police Force at 370,000 (Bakare, 2021). Olorisakin (2008) asserts that the police population ratio in Nigeria is 1:450 which falls below the United Nations' standard in (Zubairu, 2020). This shows that the country is grossly under-policed. The Military also appears to be overwhelmed by the insecurity. The primary duty of the military as enshrined in the constitution is to defend the territorial integrity of the country. However, report shows that the Nigerian military services are on active deployment in no fewer than 30 states of the federation, tackling internal security threats that ordinarily should have been left to the police to contain (Ogundipe, 2016). The Chief of Defence Staff, Lucky Irabor reveals that 80 per cent of Nigeria's Armed Forces personnel are currently deployed in all the 36 states of the federation performing police duties (Punch, 2022). The military, unlike the police, is not trained for law enforcement, and its interaction with the civil population should ideally be minimal. With security forces stretched, terror groups have been able to operate with little resistance in the northwest. Inevitably, friction, violence and human rights abuses have ensued (Punch, 2022). This makes our security sector to be porous and not being able to curtail the challenges in the country. The increasing use of the military has weakened the police and negatively reoriented the military from their traditional military roles.

**Defective Intelligence Gathering and Coordination:** There is an abysmal lack of intelligence gathering by security agencies, traditional institutions and government at all levels. Intelligence connotes the identification, collection, collation, evaluation, analysis, integration, and interpretation of information received from the field operations, by policy makers and security formations. When effectively utilized, the information gathered through intelligence places government and security agents far above enemies or adversaries (Nwagboso & Nwagboso, 2021). However, there is absence of effective information and intelligence gathering among the security agencies in Nigeria. According to Ashaolu (2012), "the dearth of intelligence gathering capabilities will continue to stall Nigeria's search for a lasting solution to insecurity". Bodunde et al. (2019) submits that individual outfit keeps its intelligence gathered within itself with a view to promoting unnecessary relevance and competition among other outfits rather than sharing intelligence together to achieve common purpose. Raimi and Ene (2019) posit that security agencies themselves sabotage the intelligence gathering process by acting as snitches for the dreaded non-state actors, making it difficult to effectively combat the insecurity.

**Weak Judicial System:** The judiciary is saddled with the responsibility of interpretation of the law and adjudication in civil and criminal cases. In doing this, it ensures that rules are not broken and social order is maintained. However, the judicial system in Nigeria has been widely criticized for being weak and ineffective, with many concerns raised about ineffectiveness of the system. There is slow pace of prosecution of persons responsible for violent crimes, including, kidnaping, attacks on communities which encourages the commission of violent crimes. Cases can take years to be resolved, and delays are often caused by the overburdened court system, inadequate infrastructure, and a shortage of judges and support staff (Danladi, 2016). This has resulted in a backlog of cases and many people being held in pre-trial detention

for extended periods. The judiciary due to the flaws inherent in its system hinders the dispensation of justice (Obarisagbon & Akintoye, 2019).

### **Theoretical Framework**

This study adopts the frustration aggression theory to provide insights into the causes of insecurity in Nigeria. The frustration-aggression theory was first proposed by John Dollard et al. (1939), and modified by scholars like Leonard Berkowitz (1962) and Aubrey Yates (1962). According to this theory, frustration produces a state of psychological tension that can lead to aggressive behaviour if the individual is unable to find an alternative way to reach their goal. Therefore, aggression is a natural response to frustration and that all individuals are capable of behaving aggressively when frustrated. The use of frustration aggression theory in this study is motivated by its ability to provide explanation into some of the causes of insecurity in Nigeria. Insecurity in Nigeria is a complex issue that has multiple causes, including economic, political, social, and environmental factors. Nigeria is a country with significant economic challenges, including high levels of corruption, poverty, unemployment, and inequality. These economic challenges can lead to frustration among individuals and communities, which can manifest in various forms of aggressive behaviour, such as theft, robbery, and kidnapping, banditry, violent crime.

### **Effects of Insecurity on National Development in Nigeria**

Insecurity in Nigeria has a significant negative impact on its national development. A nation that is riddled with crisis and insecurity can hardly make progress. Insecurity can affect Nigeria's development in several ways:

1. **Social Effects:** The social effects of insecurity are often enormous and cannot be easily quantified. Insecurity can lead to loss of lives, injuries, and displacement of people, which can affect the education, health, and wellbeing of individuals. Most of the victims of insecurity are killed, injured, abused, kidnapped and displaced. Children may be forced out of school, and people may be unable to access basic healthcare services, which can impact the human development index of the country. A report by the United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) disclosed that Nigeria currently has 3.2 million IDPs and 84,000 refugees (Olugbode, 2022).
2. **Economic Effects:** According to Stewart (2004), the economic cost of insecurity is enormous. Insecurity hinders business activities and discourages local and foreign investors which invariably slow down economic growth and development. This is because investors are usually reluctant to invest in an environment characterized by high insecurity due to the risks involved. Insecurity can also disrupt economic activities such as farming, transportation, and trading, which can result in loss of income and jobs. In a state of insecurity, agricultural activities are often disrupted. In most cases, crops are either destroyed or abandoned because of the widespread violence caused by insurgencies. Agriculture is the backbone of Nigeria's economy. But despite the sector's significant contribution to economic stability and employment, the rise in insecurity has led to an increase in food prices and greater reliance on imports. It has serious effects on the economy and its sustainability. The disruptions therefore affect the agricultural sector which accounts for about 25.58% of the GDP in 2022 (NBS, 2023). Other economic problems caused by insecurity are, food insecurity, disruption of work on



farms, industries and public sector institutions, destruction of private property, inflation and fluctuation in prices of goods and services among others.

- 3. Political Effects:** Insecurity can also have a negative impact on political stability and governance. The problems of insecurity have damaging consequences of giving signals to the rest of the international community that Nigeria is not safe and secured place. This therefore undermines democracy, rule of law and the ability of the country to promote development. Insecurity can undermine the credibility of the government and reduce its capacity to provide basic services to citizens. It can also lead to a loss of legitimacy of the government and a rise in social tension, which can further escalate insecurity in the country.

## **Conclusion**

Insecurity is a major issue that affects many aspects of national development in Nigeria. The country has faced a range of security challenges in recent years, including terrorism, insurgency, banditry, kidnapping, farmer-herder crisis. These challenges have had a negative impact on the country's overall development. In addition to the security challenges, Nigeria also faces a range of developmental issues, including poverty, corruption, and unemployment. Addressing these issues is crucial for Nigeria's long-term development and stability. To address the issue of insecurity and promote national development, the Nigerian government and other stakeholders need to take a multifaceted approach that addresses the root causes of insecurity and promote inclusive national development. These include measures such as strengthening security institutions, promoting good governance and accountability, investing in infrastructure and social development, and addressing socio-economic disparities and marginalization.

## **Recommendations**

Based on the findings, the study makes the following recommendations;

1. There is need for good governance, by ensuring transparency and accountability in all aspects of governance. This will prevent corruption, promote trust between the government and citizens, and ensure that public resources are used effectively and efficiently.
2. There is a need to improve the capacity and effectiveness of security forces and intelligence gathering in Nigeria. This includes providing them with better training, equipment, and resources.
3. There is need to increase community policing to enhance security in Nigeria. This approach can help to build trust between law enforcement agencies and communities, and encourage citizens to play a more active role in securing their neighbourhoods.
4. A strong and efficient justice system is necessary to prosecute criminals and bring them to justice. The Nigerian government should ensure that the justice system is adequately funded and staffed, and that cases are promptly and fairly adjudicated. This will help promote and strengthen the rule of law, and protect fundamental human rights of citizens.
5. The government should prioritize economic development by creating an enabling environment for businesses to thrive, promoting entrepreneurship and innovation, and investing in infrastructure and human capital development. This will help to reduce poverty and unemployment, which are significant drivers of insecurity.

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