

MILITARY INVOLVEMENT IN POLITICS: A PRELUDE TO SABOTAGE BEHAVIOURS AND MUTINY

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Abstract

Military government emerge through violent seizure of power from an elected government, they suspend all hitherto legitimate arms and processes of government when they succeed. Sabotage, the wilful and malicious disruption of the normal processes and function of the nation with respect to national defense, and mutiny, the act of refusing to obey the orders of authority seem to be the aftermaths of military intervention in politics since this jeopardized their professionalism. This position is supported by the MODE theory which explained that love for power, and wealth (slave mentality) is an attitudinal disposition among Nigeria elites both civilian and military, which predisposes them to Machiavellians unscrupulousness. If the military would be supported with increased funding to enable them purchase efficient weapons and obtain correct training and motivation, sabotage behavior that fuel insurgency will be curtailed.

INTRODUCTION

The complex task of keeping Nigeria united, and protecting and securing the nation from internal and external aggression and attacks undoubtedly rests on the Nigerian Armed forces which consist of the Army, the Navy and the Air Force. Section 217 of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (as amended) addresses the Nigeria Armed Forces, and *inter allia* states:

1. There shall be Armed Forces for the Federation which shall consist of an Army, a Navy, an Air Force and such other branches of the Armed Forces of the Federation as may be established by an act of the National Assembly.
2. The Federation shall subject to an Act of the National Assembly made in that behalf, equip and maintain the Armed forces as may be considered adequate and effective for the purpose of:
 - a) Defending Nigeria from external aggression
 - b) Maintaining its territorial integrity and securing its borders from violation on land, sea or air
 - c) Suppress insurrection and act in aid of civil authorities to restore order when called upon to do so by the President but subject to such conditions as may be prescribed by an act of the National Assembly

Unfortunately, even though this part of the constitution had been there since independence, the Military had not respected it, rather, they involved themselves more in politics than in National security.

Military governments emerge through violent seizure of power from an elected government, or a monarchy. Even though few of such take over may be bloodless, most are very bloody. When they succeed, they suspend and proscribe all hitherto legitimate arms and processes of government, and set their own laws in form of decrees. Under military rule, might become right.

Reasons Adduced by the military for usurping power

Following from the arguments rendered in Okoye (1995), military intervention in politics occurs for three reasons: uncultured political culture, mismanagement of public funds and attendant economic hardship among citizens, and social polarization on one side, as well as improper training and orientation of the military.

Indeed, these suggested reasons fit into the Nigerian case. Okoye (2007) had argued that the prevailing political culture in Nigeria portrays politics as the most lucrative business venture, hence operators of Government machinery use them to enrich themselves and relations, as well as suppress perceived opposition and enemies. Obi-Nwosu (2012) seems to strongly support this view when he argued that the problem of underdevelopment was politically motivated since those in government display slave mentality to wealth, foreign allure and power. Obi-Nwosu (2013) further argues that Nigerian political elites deliberately punctuate laws with loop-holes so that perceived enemies can be dealt with easily while friends will never be convicted, the scenario according to him makes the rule of law impracticable.

Furthermore, Chrisdon (2013) in a discourse holds that corruption is a basic problem every civilian government has to fight in order to keep the soldiers out of politics. Take for instance the 1983 coup of Babangida accused buhari lead administration of president Shehu Shagari 1979-1983. Babangida also accompanied of massive fraud in the issuance of import licenses and counter trade agreements. The decision to try the corrupt politicians was quite popular. The resultant imprisonment of many because they did not steal but that due process was not followed in dealing with their cases, just as the nation return to democratic rule in 1999, with president Obasanjo who was a military heads of state during Murtala Mohammed regime. His government took some slides that left Nigeria anti- corruption crusade unsurpassed. For one thing, nobody expected Obasanjo to muster the courage to cast the first stone at corruption. Shortly into new administration, report started floating about some billions of naira that was withdrawn from the central bank and was accounted for. We have had numerous issue of economic sabotage. In this current republic, the case of Ibori, Alamesya, Bankole etc. anti-corruption agency could not conduct a thorough investigation on. And the recent corruption probe rocking the NNPC and the house of representative (620,000 bribery of Faropuk Lanwan).

The civilian government need to tackle the issue of corruption seriously with all the various agency established such as the independent corrupt practice commission (ICPC) and Economic and financial crime commission (EFCC). The agencies should be well equipped and trained and be given free hand to carry out their functions diligently without any interference. Not what is obtain now in the country, take a look at the case of Ibori. Ibori was sentence to jail by London court for some charges which he was tried and sent free in this country. These goes a long way to show how corrupt a civilian rule is in Nigeria. They should be well funded to prevent them being venerable to bribery and corruption.

SABOTAGE BEHAVIOUR

Sabotage is the deliberate destruction of property or slowing down of work with the intention of damaging a business or economic system, or weakening a government or nation in a time - of national emergency. The word (sabotage) is said to date from a French railway strike of 1910 when workers destroyed the wooden shoes (sabots) that held the rails in place. A few years later sabotage was employed in the United States in the form of slowdowns, particularly in situations that made a strike untenable, such as by migratory workers whose employment was temporary. During World War 11, anti-German resistance and partisan movements in Europe practiced effective sabotage against factories, military installations, railroads, bridges and so on, especially in the Soviet Union. After the war, sabotage became the basic weapon of the numerous insurgent groups associated with anti-colonial separatist and communist-backed movements (Koch, 1999).

Sabotage behaviour is a withdrawal behavior from a person or group of person's with a deliberate intention to destroy, harm and frustrate personal or group efforts. Behaviour such as a retreat of a military force in the face of enemy attack or after a defeat, leaking classified information, pilferage, subversive activity and defections by military personnel are termed military sabotage. It is also any act that may injure, interfere with or obstruct the nation or any associate nation in preparing for or in carrying on war. It is the wilful and malicious disruption of the normal processes and functions of the nation with respect to national defense. Hence sabotage is counter-productive in nature. It is sabotage when the military seizes power by coups and rule by decrees and force when there's no reason for military take-over from civilian rule. The armed forces are expected to support and protect civilian rule and make sure the security of the nation is not shaken. The country will suffer setback in all sectors - politically, economically etc. when such occurs. It is sabotage when military personnel takes sides by compromising their allegiance on personal, religious or ethnic lines. Such actions create fault lines in the security defense system of a nation.

The United States of America's Army manual (n.d.), described how sabotage behaviour can be recognized, personality traits and characteristics of saboteurs, sabotage target analysis and methods of operation were also addressed. Recognition of an act of sabotage as such is often difficult as the ultimate target may not be readily apparent and the act itself frequently destroys evidence of sabotage. To employ effective countermeasures against the threat of sabotage, it is necessary to understand some of the methods and targets of the saboteurs or group of saboteurs in the Nigerian Military.

Personality Characteristics of Saboteurs

- i. May be highly trained professionals or rank amateurs
- ii. May be computer programmers, laborers, machinists, flight engineers, foremen or members of the management.
- iii. May be specially trained enemy agents assigned on specific mission or individual or group sympathizers with regards to ethnicity, tribe or extremist religious inclination, or disaffected natives who act for their own personal reasons or interests.
- iv. May work alone or in groups. They may infiltrate military or industrial groups as legitimate members or they may work from outside
- v. May or may not have affiliation with foreign or military groups
- vi. May be discontented employees
- vii. Very vulnerable to subversive propaganda. May be mentally ill .Actions cannot be predicted or anticipated, acts on impulse.

(Source: www.Library.enlisted.info/field-manuals)

Personality Characteristics of Enemy Special Agents

The motivation of an enemy special agent or an enemy sympathizer is obvious. The motivations of disaffected natives are much more complex. Special agents are focused, directed, trained, supported and equipped by a sabotage organization. Efforts are coordinated in an overall attempt to impede or disrupt industrial potential. They can lie dormant for years awaiting a desired opportunity. Correspondingly such agents are more difficult to detect, and individual motives may be as varied as the personality. They might work for pay (salary), hatred, revenge, sincere beliefs, settlement of real or imaginary grievances, blackmail purposes, regain of political power, religious extremism and dominance etc.

Sabotage Targets

In choosing their targets, saboteurs are influenced by two basic considerations analogous to those found in a tactical situation; namely the objective, and the best hour to attain their plan. They ask questions such as - "Is the destruction of the target insufficient in itself, or is it but a contribution to a larger plan"? The ultimate in sabotage is complete and permanent destruction of the target. When this cannot be attained there may be lesser targets, and enough of these are strategically grouped which might achieve comparable results.

Target Analysis

In analyzing a sabotage target, the saboteur considers the following factors.

- i. The importance of the installation or facility from a technical or military standpoint. Will its complete or partial destruction hinder or breach the overall defense?
- ii. When complete destruction is not possible, what specific items of technical or military importance will have the most crippling effect on the mission of the installation?
- iii. Industry: This represents innumerable possibilities for explosive or mechanical sabotage.
- iv. Warehouses and supply depots; Material in storage is subject to ordinary explosives or incendiary sabotage. There is also an opportunity for delayed sabotage by the introduction of abrasives, contaminants, or adulterants into the items stockpiled. This latter type of sabotage will not normally be discovered until the material is put into use, and it is difficult to detect or trace.
- v. Transportation; The propelling machinery and cargoes of land, sea, air and rail lines are subject to acts of sabotage.
- vi. Materials In transit: Supplies or equipment of any type in transit may be sabotaged either by the means of transport or directly attacking the material or both. For example, a bomb placed on the hold of a ship may damage the ship and the cargo.

(Source: www.Library.enlisted.info/field-manuals)

Sabotage Methods

There are major ways to commit sabotage, and new methods and devices are constantly being adopted

- i. A major sabotage effort may be undertaken after thorough study of the physical layout of the facility and its production processes by technical personnel fully qualified to select one or more of the most vulnerable parts of the facility.
- ii. Sabotage on the other hand can be improvised by the saboteur, relying solely upon his own knowledge of the facility and the materials available to him. The device or agent selected for sabotage may range from the crude e.g. Improvised Explosive deliberate about their actions; attitudes towards the target or behavior can be activated in memory and affect the way the target is perceived. These perceptions in turn influence how people define the behavioral event in turn determines behavior towards it. From the fore going, it is reasonable to argue that love for power and wealth (slave mentality), is an attitudinal disposition among Nigeria elites both civilian and military and the advantage it confers on them without seeing consequences motivated seizure of power by the military. It could also be reasoned that when the gains are

perceived as not enough by a particular elite group, they find ways to define the actions and institutions of the 'present government and the operations of government machinery so as to malign them and engender distrust among citizens. This definition- corrupt, inept, and insensitive or the like mere definitions coined to justify their behaviors towards are phase described as sabotage and mutiny. The authors opine that this is a concentric cycle in Nigeria and unless the promoting attitudes are dealt with, insurgency, militancy and economic sabotage will continue to punctuate the political life of the country.

Conclusion and Recommendation

Politics an aspect of human activity that deals with the distribution of power, influence and authority in the state for the purpose of order and good governance of the state. Nonetheless, the prevailing political culture in Nigeria today, portrays politics as the most lucrative business venture, hence operators of government machinery use positions in government to enrich themselves and relatives. The MODE theory links military intervention, to the current insurgency and terrorism.

The Federal Government of Nigeria has supported the Nigerian military in combating crime and defending the country but terrorists and insurgents has stepped up their operations, it is expected that the military needs to upgrade their skills, operations and arsenal to protect the Nation. The current fight against terrorism has taken new levels. The Nigerian Military needs increased funding to enable them purchase efficient weapons to tackle rising insurgency. Counter measures such as army personnel and terrorist personality profiling, adequate planning by trusted and loyal officers, risk analysis and evaluation of military personnel, education of sabotage techniques. Classified information should be safe - guarded. Routine physical surveys and inspections are necessary. Building and maintaining of employee morale is of utmost importance. Informing military personnel of threatening dangers; how they may be recognized and what protective measures are available to combat them. Border-control surveillance around Nigeria should be tightened up. Immigration, emigration and refugee entrants should be properly scrutinized to help in the monitoring of those coming in and going out of the country.

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