

Effect Of Public Security Situation On Agriculture And Transportation In Nigeria

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Abstract: The Research titled “the effect of Public security situation on Agriculture and transportation in Nigeria.” Is an investigation which intends to uncover the possible influence Public security issues in Nigeria on Agriculture and the Transportation Industry of the Nations economy. The study adopted an explorative research design. The study was built on the Qualitative research model and the findings shows the prevailing conditions of Public security in Nigeria to be unsatisfactory on the part of the government and its security agencies and the effect to be counter-productive to the development of the agricultural and transportation sector of the country.

Keywords: Public Security, Agriculture, Transportation, Economy and security agents.

INTRODUCTION

Security is a key responsibility of any government of the world to the general public. Public security is one of the inalienable right of the citizenry. Public security is the function of governments to ensure the protection of citizens, persons in their territory, organizations, and institutions against threats to their well-being – and to the prosperity of their communities (DBPedia, 2020). This definition varies from another concept of Public security in the Business Sector hence, associated with a bond, note, certificate of indebtedness or other obligation for the payment of money, issued by the state or by any of its departments, agencies or other instrumentalities or by any of its political subdivisions (Law Insider, 2022). The subject of Public security as particular to this research involves the security of lives and property of the commonwealth of a given polity. Recently in the Nigerian landscape the issues of public security engineered a change of government in 2015 general elections (Zane, 2015) as well as the call to impeach its succeeding government in 2022 (Jimoh and Akubo, 2022). Public security problems appears to be a serious social dilemma in many nations of the world. In many cases, it is visible in local contexts such as poverty driven societies, drug battered and criminal societies and uncontrolled population and migrations (IDE-JETRO, 2020).

In Nigeria efforts have been made to increase the security votes of the government at over 100% increment to a tune of 375 Billion Naira annually (Nwachukwu, 2021), with hopes that security agents would be motivated to perform better. All across the world security agents could either work for the government or private organizations, this brings about issues of public security and private security often associated with public police and private police. As explained by Canvas (2020) the Basic difference between public police and private police is that public police belong to commonwealth organizations and private police are of business concerns. In Nigeria, the public security agency is associated with Law enforcement officers, firefighters, ambulance and rescue personnel, those in drugs and narcotics control, road traffic controllers, communications and dispatch manpower, public employees, and emergency service providers are among prominent public safety professionals. Meanwhile and local societies has overtime hired the services of private security from socio-cultural groups such as Odua Peoples Congress, Bakassi and Movement for Emancipation of Niger Delta.

The gradual dissatisfaction on the quality of services provided by Public security officers gave reason for the rise of private security in many societies of the country often characterized as vigilante groups and security companies. Among these common security challenge in the country includes the wide spread narcotic use and drug trafik, human trafficking, trespassing, burglary, harassment, juvenile delinquency, kidnapping, terrorism, Bandit attacks, armed robbery, littering, inappropriate social behavior, inebriation, and other quality of life issues. This problems have largely affected the economy such that it affects agricultural production and the transportation of people, goods and services from one location to another (Anyagwu, 2021), hence, great emphasis should made to uncover these problems as it affects agriculture and transportation industry.

According to a fundamental discuss by Ismail (2021), the word “agriculture” is derived from two Latin words, “agricultūra,” from “ager,” which means “field”, and cultūra, which means “cultivation” or “growing”. It is also noted that the National geographic (2020) argues that Agriculture is the art and science of cultivating the soil, growing crops and raising livestock. the art and science of cultivating land for growing crops (farming) or raising livestock (ranching) leather are all agricultural products. Agriculture also provides wood for construction and paper products. These products, as well as the agricultural methods used, may vary from one part of the world to another. In addition, Science Daily (2021) says that Agriculture is the process of producing food, feed, fiber and many other desired products by the cultivation of certain plants and the raising of domesticated animals (livestock). The science or practice of farming, including cultivation of the soil for the growing of crops and the rearing of animals to provide food, wool, and other products.

The benefits of agriculture to the human society is never ending, however, many raw materials, whether it’s cotton, sugar, wood, or palm oil, come from agriculture. These materials are essential to major industries in ways many people aren’t even aware of, such as the manufacturing of pharmaceuticals, diesel fuel, plastic, and more. developing countries still get most of their national income from agricultural exports. agricultural industry is still one of the biggest sources of employment and in many areas agriculture is that it’s the source of the world’s food supply (Soken-Huberty, 2022). It is noteworthy to mention that Infoguide

Nigeria (2022) discovers that agricultural activities, especially in the area of tree planting and cultivation of crops help protect the environment. The activities of land cultivators or Farmers contribute to the prevention of erosion in the environment. In the area of forestry, the environment benefits from the protection of trees against strong winds and storms.

The agricultural activities in Nigeria employs different methods or techniques, hence, the Conserve Energy future (2021) argues that methods of sustainable agriculture are Crop Rotation, Permaculture, Cover Crops, Soil Enrichment, Natural Pest Predators, Bio intensive diversity. Modern method of irrigation which are efficient in supplying water to the crops. They help us to use water economically without wastage. They include drip irrigation and sprinkler system which require power from solar energy or biogas (Topp, 2021). Despite the introduction of technology to agriculture, Climate change problems negatively affect soil texture and migrations such that many farmers in Nigeria are poor because they produce very little output and hence sell very small amounts, which in turn cannot help them to expand their farms and increase production (Thisday, 2021). What makes matters more difficult for farmers in Nigeria is the growing trend of insecurity in their respective farmlands to herdsmen and Bandit, it is commonly observed that many farmers have quit agriculture. In addition, they find it difficult to move their products from the farm to the market. This implies that transportation industry may likely be facing the challenge of insecurity.

According to the argument made by Law Insider (2020), the Transportation Industry means any industry, business, or establishment operated for the purpose of conveying persons or property from one place to another whether by rail, highway, air, or water, and all operations and services in connection therewith; and also includes storing or warehousing of goods or property, and the repairing parking rental, maintaining and cleaning of vehicles. In addition, the transportation sector is an important industry sector in the economy that deals with the movement of people and products consists of several industries including air freight and logistics, airlines, marine, road and rail, and transportation infrastructure (Adams, 2020).

Among the benefits of transportation is that it enables trade, commerce, and communication that establish civilization. It helps in process of production and distribution., Profit maximization, is transportation that acts as a link between manufacturing facilities and consumer markets (Commerce Mates, 2021). The literature by Bhasin (2020) argues that it helps in mass production and stability of prices, helps in the mobility of labour as well as information and knowledge amongst individuals. It is also a factor in minimizing ignorance and prejudice that is prevalent in society. As well as promoting corporation between economic groups. Trade is not restricted to the boundaries of a nation, but has spread throughout the world; hence, transportation encourages international trade and assists in stability of prices of commodities and helps provide alternative for consumers (Agarwal, 2013)

The means or mode of transportation are bus, train, aeroplane, ship, car, etc while the mode of transportation refers to road, air, sea/ocean, etc. This is any of the different types of transport machines used for moving people or cargo (Saloodo, 2013). Infoguide Nigeria (2021) narrates that the major problems of Transportation in Nigeria includes: undefined Bus Shelters; Insufficient Pedestrian Infrastructure; unsignalled Junctions; Bad Roads; Road-Side Parking; High Traffic Demand/Motorization Rate; Poorly Planned Junction Geometry and Insufficient Public Transport Modes, but rising security issues in the country may likely reinforce problems in the transport industry especially with the growing trends of Bandit attacks, kidnaps and terrorism. It becomes imperative to uncover the possible effect of insecurity on the transportation system in the country.

2.0 METHODOLOGY

The study followed a qualitative research model, thus it applies a non numeric and a non statistical approach towards data collection and analyses. Data were sourced from secondary sources of data collection. The Explorative research design was used for the study because the study intends assessing the trends on Public Security and its effect in Agriculture and Transportation in Nigeria. The Content was broken down into the following appropriate subheadings.

3.0 DISCUSSION

The study was well deliberated under the following headlines,

- i. The influence of Public security on the Agricultural sector
- ii. The influence of Public security on the transportation industry in Nigeria

The influence of Public security on transportation industry in Nigeria

Security has been, is, and will be the subject of intensive scientific research (Kamiński, 1992). security has been connected with man's natural feelings of anxiety and fear of danger. (Gierszewski, 2013), the feelings of danger is largely experienced by many Nigerians who commute from one place to another because it was reported that there are still concerns among travellers, road users, transporters and indeed most Nigerians about the dilapidated state of most federal roads where terrorists and kidnappers have now turned into their operational areas (This Day, 2022). The Nigerian Transportation Commissioners Forum was reported to have said that the level of insecurity on the country's roads, may spell doom for road transport in the country. And it has great affect on the distribution of agricultural produce and logistics (Akomolafe 2021). They further report that insecurity on the roads has led to the massive loss of human and material resources. Citing the recent attack on military officers in different checkpoints in Cross River and Anambra states, the forum expressed sadness at the rate criminal elements were emboldened to attack security apparatus on the road. In addition, Enimola (2022) finds that Gunmen has at a time attacked train a travelling from the Nigerian capital, Abuja, to the city of Kaduna, in an "unprecedented" act of violence that will heighten concerns about a breakdown of security in the country's troubled northern region. Series of attacks were experienced across water, road, and pipelines in different parts of the nation. The examples of dangerous roads identified in Nigerian roads are the Abuja-Kaduna highway, Benin-Ore Highway, Benin-Auchi-Okene Highway, Keffi-Akwanga Highway, Akure-Owo Expressway, Abuja-Abaji-Lokoja Road, Zaria-Sokoto-Gusau, Bauchi-Tafawa-Balewa Highway, Wukari-Takum Road, and Minna-Kotongora Road.

The maritime sector within the Niger Delta region especially south of the port and oil terminals were also areas targeted for abduction of seafarers, sea travellers', involving theft of cash and personal belongings. The kind of vessels targeted ranged from oil tankers to product tankers, bulk carriers, container ships and fishing boats to offshore support vessels (Okotie, 2022). Addition, the 2021 Global Peace Index [GPI] (2021) ranked Nigeria at 146th and the 8th least peaceful in Africa, and interestingly Nigerian Council of Registered Insurance Brokers (NCRIB) also drew attention of government to challenges such as kidnapping, insecurity

etc., as partly responsible for why investors find Nigeria unattractive despite our potentials, resources and population. It is also reported that an average of 13 persons were abducted daily in the first half of 2021 in Nigeria (*Ibid*).

The influence of Public security on Agricultural sector

Agriculture is the broad term for everything that goes into growing crops and raising animals, to provide food and materials that people can use and enjoy. Farming, which involves cultivating the land and raising livestock, is one part of agriculture, which also includes plant science (Reallive Farms, 2021). Major crops produced in Nigeria include beans, rice, sesame, cashew nuts, cassava, cocoa beans, groundnuts, gum arabic, kolanut, maize (corn), melon, millet, palm kernels, palm oil, plantains, rice, rubber, sorghum, soybeans, bananas and yams. In the past, Nigeria was famous for the export of groundnut and palm kernel oil.

According to a World Bank report (2005), it was stated that about two thirds of the world population are mainly concentrated in rural areas, which are predominantly agriculture-oriented areas. Therefore in respect to poverty eradication and raising the welfare standards of the population; more focus should be put on agricultural activities (Tili, 2020). But the challenges of insecurity has largely affected the progress of agriculture in the country. For instance, Aminu (2022) argues that Between 2015 and 2018, the Agricultural sector contributed 25 per cent of the country's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and accounted for 48 per cent of the labour force. There were also expectations that export revenue will be generated to compete with the oil sector and support sustainable income and job growth. But at the development of public insecurity in Nigeria between 2019 and 2020, it was found that agriculture contributed 22 per cent of the GDP and accounted for 34 per cent of the economy's labour force.

Food inflation has been on the rise in Nigeria due to multiple factors ranging from insecurity to transport and infrastructure, however, with the rising cases of insecurity in Nigeria, especially with the death of farmers at the hands of armed herdsmen and other militia groups, it is no surprise that Nigeria is producing less food. Food inflation remains a hot discussion topic among Nigerians. World Bank in its recent report on Nigeria published this month stated that on the supply side, a combination of unfavourable weather, insecurity and conflict, and pandemic-related shocks affecting food production is pushing food prices up clearly citing the effects of insecurity on Nigeria's farming output (Ukpe, 2021).

Agriculture in Nigeria is the most important sector of the economy from the standpoint of rural employment, sufficiency in food and fibre, and export earning prior to the discovery of oil (Towobola, et.al 2014). However, the on-going Boko Haram insurgency has affected the rural agricultural economy in all areas and most especially the northern, part of Nigeria, hence, this work is an appraisal of the impact of Boko Haram insurgency on the agricultural sector of the Nigerian business environment. In line with this argument, Mojeed (2021) posits that the emergence of insecurity in different forms has become a major threat to Nigeria's food security in recent months. People are a little bit scared to visit their farms, their problem have been the invasion of their farms by herdsmen.

In addition, Nnodim (2022) argues that the Nigerian farmers have quantified their production losses occasioned by the level of insecurity across the country to about 50 per cent. Describing the development as precarious, the farmers expressed fears of imminent food crisis should the Federal Government still fail to check Nigeria's worsening security situation. Relief Web (2022) shares that issues of Insecurity in Nigeria and the Lake Chad Basin contributes to 54 per cent of the food crisis in Africa, according to the World Food Programme (WFP). Besides this, there seems to be an insufficient focus on the impact of insecurity on food availability. Many Nigerian farmers are faced with recurrent terror and climate change. Rising violent conflicts limit access to farmlands, destroying farms, and disrupt agricultural activities. The reports by the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) estimates that about 14.4 million Nigerians face a food crisis. The FAO also holds that the figure consists of 385,000 internally displaced persons (IDPs) in 21 states and Abuja's Federal Capital Territory (FCT). econometrics analysis showed that Gross Domestic Product (GDP) is affected directly by food production level and government agricultural expenditure, while insurgency such as Boko-Haram, Niger-Delta, Herders/Farmers and ethno-religious crisis affects GDP negatively (Enimu, Edet, & Kyari. 2019).

Solutions to Public Security problems

Public security is expected to manage national security, social order and safety, and control of crime and law violation; Fighting plots and activities of hostile forces, crimes and violations against national security, social order and safety (Ministry of public security, 2022). Hence, The relationship between private and public police could be maintained and improved if all those involved would work together as a team as opposed to working against each other. These organizations should take lessons from the states that contract with private police to work together in prevention of crime. The two need to have mutual respect for the job the other does (Bartleby 2019).

In addition, Digital technology is a vital tool in helping public safety institutions to prevent and fight crime more efficiently and effectively and serve citizens better. It has the potential to transform the way public safety is delivered in our communities. The digitization of police and other public safety institutions is helping in facilitating effective, efficient, and proactive policing. Through public safety technology, law enforcement and safety institutions provide more data – accurately and transparently – as a fundamental step in creating true community policing that brings officers, citizens, and decision-makers together. Essentially, the primary goals of public safety institutions are to protect, prevent, detect and respond proactively to solve incidents/threats by ensuring effective coordination among relevant agencies during and after such incidents (Ibanga, 2021).

Generally Public security agents should be committed to the prevention of and protection from events that could endanger the safety of the general public from significant danger, injury, or property damage, such as crimes or disasters (natural or human-made).

CONCLUSION

Public security is the function of governments to ensure the protection of citizens, persons in their territory, organizations, and institutions against threats to their well-being and to the prosperity of their communities. Public security problems appears to be a serious social dilemma in many nations of the world. In Nigeria, there is a gradual dissatisfaction on the quality of services provided by Public security officers. Among these common security challenge in the country includes the wide spread narcotic use and drug trafik, human trafikking, trespassing, burglary, harassment, juvenile delinquency, kidnapping, terrorism, Bandit attacks,

armed robbery, littering, inappropriate social behavior, inebriation, and other quality of life issues. These problems have largely affected the economy such that it affects agricultural production and the transportation of people, goods and services from one location to another.

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