



BEST FOOT

FORWARD :



*Agenda For Sustainable
Development in
Nigeria*

**Antonia T. Simbine
and
Louis N. Chete**

**BEST FOOT FORWARD: AGENDA
FOR SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT IN NIGERIA**

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SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC RESEARCH (NISER), IBADAN**

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Ibadan, 2023

ISBN- 978-978-181-630-7

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CHAPTER 12

OVERCOMING THE CHALLENGES OF INSECURITY IN NIGERIA

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Abstract

Insecurity constitutes an existential challenge and remains a scourge that undermines Nigeria's march to progress. Various dimensions of insecurity have plagued Nigeria since independence in 1960. It is notable that in the Fourth Republic (1999–2023), insecurity has reached unprecedented heights, with gross implications for national development. It is more disturbing that it has become more widespread and regionalised with Nigeria rated by Global Terrorism Index (GTI, 2022) as the third most insecure country in the world, after Afghanistan and Iraq. Although the Federal Government has embarked upon various measures to curb insecurity in the country, they have proved largely unworkable due to poor conceptualisation and ineffective implementation, among other factors. Thus, this chapter investigates the root causes of insecurity and provides strategic policy options towards overcoming its challenge in Nigeria.

Keywords: Insecurity, challenges, overcoming, Nigeria

Background

Insecurity is anything that endangers human existence and negatively impacts the environment. Specifically, it is the absence of safety alongside presence of hazard and uncertainty (Ewetan and Urhie 2014). In nearly every region of Nigeria, there is pervasive insecurity which has resulted in significant property damage and killing of people, including foreigners, security personnel, elected officials, government employees, and innocent citizens. Insecurity has not only impeded socioeconomic progress of Nigeria, but it has also posed a significant threat to national cohesion (Austin-Egole et al., 2022). Expectedly, domestic, and foreign investors are reluctant to invest in Nigeria's economy because of fear of losing their hard-earned money (Yusuf and

Mohd, 2022). According to Ukwueze, Asogwa, Nwodo, and Ogbonna (2019), Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) has been shown to have been negatively and significantly impacted by insecurity, military spending, ethnic conflict, and terrorist attacks in Nigeria, thereby reducing FDI's that would have been channelled to the development of critical infrastructure, like roads, schools, hospitals, and power. Further, with about 14.4 million people including 385,000 internally displaced persons (IDPs) in 21 states and FCT experiencing food crisis by May 2022, a projected 19.4 million people was expected to face more food insecurity by August of the same year. This continuing food crisis which spiralled into 2023 was caused partly by insecurity (Udegbumam, 2022).

It is notable that the Federal Government has embarked upon various measures to curb the challenge of insecurity in the country. These include several military operations, which were considered as hard measures, and criticised for violating human rights. Other strategies are community policing through neighbourhood watch and police-community partnerships, Joint Task Forces (JTFs), comprising different branches of the military and other security agencies, and intelligence gathering, which have been characterised by ineffective implementation. This chapter investigates the causes of insecurity and offers policy prescriptions for resolving insecurity issues in Nigeria.

Current State of Insecurity in Nigeria

Insecurity constitutes an existential challenge and remains a scourge undermining Nigeria's march to progress. Various dimensions of insecurity have plagued Nigeria since independence in 1960. However, since the onset of the Fourth Republic (1999–2023), the level of insecurity has reached unprecedented heights. This dimension of insecurity which varies from kidnapping, banditry, herder-farmer, political violence, ethnic and religious conflicts to terrorism is common and regionalised in Nigeria. In the southwest, banditry, herder-farmer disputes, armed robbery, kidnapping, domestic violence, and targeted assassination are on the rise. Ritual killings, commercial crime, secessionist activity, kidnappings, disputes between herders and farmers, shootings by unidentified shooters, and banditry are common in the southeast. The south-south is rife with threats from terrorism, kidnapping, and environmental damage. The more than a decade-old humanitarian catastrophe that has wreaked havoc in the northeast is

traceable to the Boko Haram insurgency and activities of the Islamic State in West Africa Province. Robbery, ethno-religious killings, and illegal mining are common in the northwest (Agbelusi, 2022). As a result, Nigeria is now rated by Global Terrorism Index (GTI, 2022) as the third most-insecure country in the world, after Afghanistan and Iraq.

Again, with Nigeria's poverty incidence exceeding World Bank's Projection, 133 million Nigerians (63%) live in multidimensional poverty. According to the NBS's most recent National Multidimensional Poverty Index study, 63% of Nigerians are poor due to lack of access to security, work, good living conditions, and health care (Tunji, 2022). This is further complicated by the fact that youths constitute over 60% of the Nigerian population and 33.3% of the unemployed (NBS, 2023). Indeed, Nigeria is being increasingly saturated with idle youths who are daily exposed to crime. It is perhaps not surprising that most of those conscripted into terrorism, the herders/farmers conflict, banditry/kidnapping, political violence, and communal unrest are mostly unemployed youths.

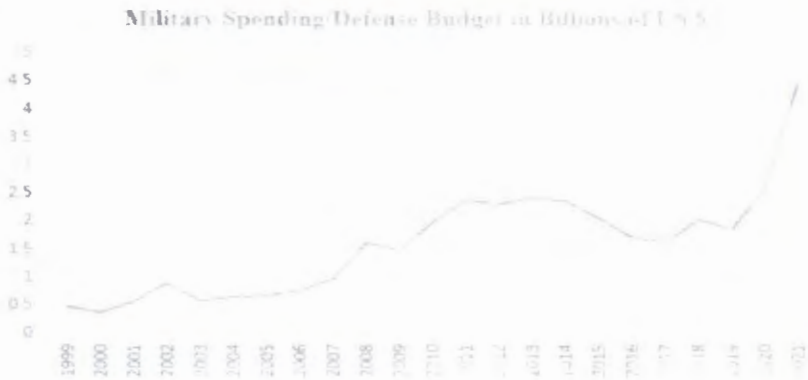
Several factors across socio-economic and political spheres account for the dimensions of insecurity in contemporary Nigeria. These factors are interwoven and complex, given that one factor alone does not account for a dimension or dimensions of insecurity. Hence, several of these drivers of insecurity are potent causes for almost all levels of insecurity in Nigeria. Thus, dimensions of insecurity are fuelled by a variety of issues, including economic inequality and poverty, high unemployment rate, political corruption, inequality, ethnic and linguistic composition, lack of basic infrastructural facilities, open and porous borders as well as the single-tier policing structure. However, as Oladeji (forthcoming) observes, one of the significant drivers of the current pervasive insecurity in Nigeria is the distance of law enforcement institutions and agencies to the people, due largely to adoption of centralised policing in a large and expansive country. Without trivialising other drivers of insecurity, centralised policing has led to inadequate security and ineffective enforcement of law and order around the country. Again, the fact that Nigeria remains the only federal state with centralised policing calls for concern, especially when centralisation involves institutions charged with maintenance of security, and law and order.

Strategies Previously Used to Address Insecurity in Nigeria

Given the persistent insecurity problems that have marred Nigeria's experience with democracy, particularly after 1999, the government has employed various strategies to address insecurity in the country. This section discusses those strategies under the four democratic administrations from 1999 to date. Compared to soft measures, the Federal Government sees the deployment of hard strategies as more effective. In addition, many administrations presented their unique approaches to addressing insecurity. However, Nwagboso (2018) noted that, between 2001 and 2018, Nigeria's domestic political climate posed several security issues, which according to some observers, could be primarily the result of inadequate implementation strategies used by the government and security officials to address the country's internal security issues. Remarkably, the strategic framework of the Medium-Term National Development Plan (MTNDP) 2021-2025, developed by the Buhari administration, highlighted security strategies such as bilateral security agreements, defence innovation and others introduced by previous administrations. Evidently, a dominant feature of the Nigerian state is the increasing use of Non-State Armed Groups (NSAGs) like Community-Based Voluntary Policing Groups (CBVPGs) in their various forms. This suggests governance deficits and or deepening state fragility. Thus, the Nigerian state's inability to effectively secure its citizens has led to increasing engagement of voluntary policing groups (VPGs) and other non-state actors to fill security gaps and protect communities. However, in many cases, community defence groups' risks often outweigh their benefits as they morph into predatory and criminalised groups, unleashing violence, and serious human rights abuses.

Considering the foregoing, the following strategies have been used to address insecurity challenges in Nigeria:

- a. **Increasing Defence Budgetary Allocation:** One of the common strategies adopted to curb insecurity in Nigeria, mainly since the onset of the fourth democratic republic in 1999, was an ever-increasing defence budgetary allocation, albeit at the expense of other sectors like health and education. As depicted in Figure 1, from Obasanjo's administration (1999-2007), there was a steady rise in the defence budget, which reached N2.41 trillion in 2022, representing 15 percent of the entire budget, surpassing allocations to education and health (Abdul, 2021).

Figure 12.1: Military Expenditure on Defence (1999-2021)

Source: World Bank.

- b. Introduction of Military Operations:** From the Obasanjo era (1999-2007), the use of military operation with different codenames has become a norm in Nigeria. Even though the administration was globally criticised for its highhandedness in deploying the military to entrench peace in the country, it soon became a template for other administrations, especially the Buhari administration. Thus, over 40 military operations have been mounted to tackle insurgency in the northeast, banditry in the northwest, and pockets of unrest across the country (Mac-Leva, Mutum and Ibrahim, 2020).
- c. Nigeria Police Reforms:** Since the re-emergence of civil rule in 1999, several reforms of the police sector have been carried out. Under Obasanjo's administration (1999-2007), the reform included an increase of the personnel by half, from 120,000 to 240,000, between 1999 and 2003 to tackle insecurity. In 2008, under Yar'Adua administration, a six-man Presidential Committee on Reform of the Nigerian Police Force was inaugurated; however, like other reforms before it, its recommendations, which were made public, were not implemented. Similarly, under the Jonathan administration, efforts were made to reform the police force. A new committee was inaugurated, but the Dikko committee report in 2012 was discarded. The Buhari administration implemented notable

reforms in the Police Sector. First, three (3) vital Acts: the Nigeria Police Trust Fund (Establishment) Act, 2019; Nigeria Police Act, 2020 (the first overhaul of the over 70 years Police Act, and the Nigeria Police Academy (Establishment) Act, 2021 were enacted. Second, the President approved the recruitment and training of 10,000 new police personnel annually and concluded the 2019 and 2020/2021 recruitment. Third, the administration approved a new salary structure for the police force with packages like tax exemption/waiver for junior personnel and increases in shift duty allowances/supervisors' allowances. It also established the Police Trust Fund to mobilise more funding for the Nigeria Police Force. Finally, a new Presidential Committee on Police Reforms was inaugurated with a 5-year plan outlining plans for reform, re-equipping, reorientation, and modernisation of the police force (Premium Times, 2021).

- d. Counter-Terrorism Measures and De-radicalisation Programmes:** Starting from Jonathan's administration, several measures to combat the Boko Haram insurgency were adopted. First, it enacted the Terrorism Prevention Act in 2011 and amended it in 2013. Second, the government formulated the National Counter-Terrorism Strategy (NACTEST) in 2016 under the Buhari administration. In 2017, the Office of National Security Adviser (ONSA) introduced the Policy Framework and National Action Plan for Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism. Although like other strategies, this focused primarily on preventing youth radicalisation and recruitment into violent extremist groups and terrorism. The policy framework aims to do this by integrating efforts to address the economic and social effects of violent extremism with restoration and stabilisation of the northeast and other zones of Nigeria devastated by violent conflicts (UNDP, 2019).
- e. National Reconciliation and Rehabilitation Programmes:** In 2000, under the Obasanjo administration, the Niger Delta Development Commission (NDDC), which dealt with the oil-rich region, was established to address the agitations of militants. Its mission was primarily to “offer a lasting solution to the socio-

economic difficulties of the Niger Delta Region and to facilitate the rapid and sustainable development of the Niger Delta into a region that is economically prosperous, socially stable, ecologically regenerative and politically peaceful.” (NDDC Website, n.d.). About 23 years after its establishment, the region has not improved for many reasons, notably impunity, lack of accountability, corruption, and gross mismanagement. Peterside (2023) observed that NDDC got N6 trillion at inception while 13,777 contracts amongst others, valued at over N3.3 trillion Naira, awarded between 2001 and 2019 cannot be fully accounted for. The Buhari government constituted a new management board on January 4, 2023, with the hope that the NDDC would make a significant impact on the nine states in the region and provoke marked improvements in infrastructure, security, human capacity, and women's and youth development (Ukpong, 2023).

- f. **Control of the Proliferation and Circulation of Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW):** Under the Buhari administration, some measures were taken to control the proliferation and circulation of small arms and light weapons (SALW). First, on February 8, 2022, the Senate moved to repeal Firearms Control Act No. 32 of 1959 Cap. F28 Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004 and enact the Firearms Control 2022 to prevent the proliferation of illegally possessed firearms and to prevent crime involving the use of firearms (Omotayo, 2022). Second, on May 3, 2021, the President established the National Centre for the Control of Small Arms and Light Weapons (NCCSALW), domiciled in the Office of the National Security Adviser. Similarly, the Senate passed a bill to create the National Commission for the Coordination and Control of the Proliferation of Small Arms and Light Weapons (PLAC, 2022). While there is a need to merge these two bills into one and opt for a Commission rather than a Centre, there have been calls from various groups requesting the President's assent to the bills (Sahara Reporters, 2022).

Other strategies like community policing through neighbourhood watch and police-community partnership, Joint Task Forces (JTF), comprising different branches of the military and other security agencies, and intelligence gathering were some other strategies employed by the government across administrations to address insecurity in Nigeria. Despite adoption of these measures, there remains a prevailing high level of insecurity in the country due to ineffective implementation. Therefore, there is need to consolidate security strategies and effectively implement them to address persistent insecurity challenges in Nigeria.

Desired State of Security in Nigeria

Section 14(2) (b) of the Nigerian 1999 Constitution as (amended) states that “the security and welfare of the people shall be the primary purpose of the government”. Thus, the desired state of security in Nigeria is such that the state will live up to its constitutional mandate of providing adequate security and facilitate improved welfare of the citizenry. The desired state, therefore, includes a situation where the law enforcement agencies, such as police, can detect and prevent crime; where the military can maintain the country's territorial integrity and suppress insurrections; where there is minimal or zero ethno-religious violence, banditry, terrorism, farmer-herder conflicts, and kidnappings, among others; where citizens can get restitution and justice for harm done to them; and where the citizens can exercise their human rights and fundamental freedom.

It is instructive that, since the current state of insecurity in the country has been sustained by a regressing economy, mounting social challenges, including massive youth unemployment, and a growing sense of disenchantment with government and its representatives, achieving the desired state of security implies a reversal of the current situation. In achieving the desired state, we propose the use of the PESTLE framework as encapsulated below. The PESTLE framework, encompassing political, economic, social, technological, legal, and environmental dimensions, is an analytical framework outlining policy options and interventions for addressing Nigeria's insecurity challenges. The six dimensions of intervention also embody the desired state of security that has the potential of alleviating the risks and consequences of insecurity in Nigeria.

- a. Political Interventions:** Political interventions entail strengthening Nigeria's security governance structure, including reforming the police, military, and other security agencies. This can be done through effective finance strategy; capacity building to improve intelligence gathering and analysis, addressing lingering sectarian grievances; crime prevention and prosecution; institutional checks to minimise impunity, human rights abuses, and corruption within the sector. Developing new approaches, such as decentralising Nigeria's security architecture (e.g., creating state and community policing) and establishing and strengthening international cooperation to deal with transnational security threats, is sacrosanct to maintaining law and order. To resolve this, the government and aggrieved parties must establish and engage in peace-building and peace-making initiatives that involve mediation, conciliation, and judicial settlement (Lucuta, 2014). Moreover, penal, and judicial reforms will provide aggrieved individuals or groups with legal pathway to restitution instead of resorting to violence. Good governance is the ultimate antidote to sustainable peace and security. Governance indicators such as accountability, control of corruption, regulatory quality, and government effectiveness must be strengthened and entrenched in public life to create an environment where the government can provide basic needs and resolve and manage grievances, tensions, and competing needs before they degenerate into violent conflicts.
- b. Economic Interventions:** Economic interventions involve intensive and extensive investment in infrastructural development, job creation and poverty reduction programmes to improve citizen's economic outcomes and conditions. Although employment and poverty schemes have been implemented over the years, they were ineffective and short-lived. Thus, new policies should be long-term, comprehensive, and all-encompassing, focusing on capacity building, education, social safety net, and digital skills, among others. To deviate from previous initiatives, a policy evaluation mechanism should be adopted as a critical part of these policies to measure the variation between expected and actual outcomes and decide whether a policy should be continued, terminated, or modified. More so, investment in infrastructure needs to be

methodical and geared towards boosting economic activities. This involves massive investment in the power and transportation sectors, which can immediately impact economic activities and foster job creation.

- c. **Social Interventions:** Social interventions are quite like economic interventions as they both focus on improving the well-being of the people. Social interventions involve policies tailored towards addressing poverty, inequality and providing social amenities such as healthcare, education, water supply, and sanitation. Social interventions are required to be coordinated in a decentralised manner which involves local, state, and federal governments. At the federal level, unemployment, especially of the youth, must be tackled with uncommon vigour and determination. Revitalising local industrialisation and agriculture are very crucial in this regard. At the local level, local governments should be empowered to provide primary healthcare, education, and sanitation in their localities. The state governments should invest in secondary education, health care, and water supply. At the same time, the Federal Government should strengthen the overall health care and education policies and invest in tertiary education and health care. Social interventions also involve collaboration with NGOs and international communities to provide coordinated assistance (food, cash transfer, immunisation, etc.) to disadvantaged, isolated and neglected groups and communities across the country. Furthermore, promoting inter-ethnic and religious dialogue will reduce suspicion and tension, which fuel ethno-religious conflicts in the country. The National Orientation Agency needs to be reformed and strengthened to promote values, ethics, morals (Onifade et al., 2013), and national identity as opposed to the predominant ethnic identities which divides the country. The youths make up the largest segment of the population and are more likely to engage in violent crimes. Hence, the government and the private sector need to mount youth-based peace campaigns and incorporate the youths into peacebuilding through peace education, volunteerism, skill acquisition and entrepreneurship, sports, and entertainment, among others (World Bank, 2018).

- d. Technological Interventions:** In a highly globalised fast-paced world, technology evolves at an unprecedented level, and so is its adoption by bad actors. For instance, terrorists are now adopting internet-based tools to recruit new members and propagate their ideologies and atrocities. Also, common criminals are adopting digital tools for criminal activities. Hence, state-of-the-art technology must be adopted to address the ever-evolving security threats. Technological interventions involve massive investment in forensic infrastructure, including digital forensic laboratories; computer emergency response teams (CERTs); and tracking devices; among others, which can help security agents detect, prevent, and prosecute crime, including computer-related crimes. Adopting advanced technology to reduce crime, violence, and conflict statistics is imperative (World Bank, 2020). Big data, for instance, can play a significant role in tracking hate speech, identifying warning signs of potential conflicts, forecasting occurrences of widespread violence, gathering information from the public for situational analysis, evaluating security threats and needs using satellite images, and enhancing early warning systems (World Bank, n.d.).
- e. Legal Interventions:** Legal factors involve security-related legal frameworks. In Nigeria, this includes, but is not limited to the Advance Fee Fraud and Related Offences Act of 2006, Cybercrimes Act of 2015; Nigeria Criminal Code Act of 1990; Terrorism (Prevention) (Amendment) Act of 2013; among others. Legal interventions should establish new laws to counter the growing threats of insecurity. Alternatively, older legal instruments should be revised and strengthened to meet international best practices and adapt to the current realities. Particularly, the government should prioritise harmonising national, regional, and international laws that are security related. This will prevent fragmented legal frameworks, ensure uniformity and standardisation, and, most especially, promote mutual legal assistance/international cooperation. However, the effectiveness of these legal instruments depends on the ability and the will of the state and the political leadership to implement them.

¹³¹Big data is an umbrella term used to describe the constantly increasing flows of data emitted from connected individuals and things, as well as a new generation of approaches being used to deliver insight and value from these data flows" (World Bank, n.d.).

f. Environmental Interventions: Environmental problems, such as erosion, flood disasters, desertification, bush burning, oil spillage and others are major challenges to Nigeria's security. As conveyed by Fagbohun (2010), the harm done to the environment can threaten security as the deterioration of natural support systems that sustain all human activity may jeopardise a nation's fundamental security. The farmer-herder conflict has been linked to desertification in the northern part of the country (Adekola, 2018), and militancy in the Niger Delta region has been aggravated by oil spillage and environmental destruction in the region (Olaniyan, 2017). To address the environmental aspect of insecurity in Nigeria, there should be a comprehensive and standalone environmental law that protects the environment-both fauna and flora, as well as the water bodies, air, and soil-and criminalise every act of environmental degradation. Specifically, massive investments are needed to clean up oil spillage, recharge lakes, and improve water management systems, tree-planting programmes, and climate-friendly farming system, among others (Carvalho, 2022).

Table 12.1: PESTLE Framework for Overcoming Insecurity Challenges in Nigeria

S/N	Dimensions	Interventions	Responsible MDAs or Government Organs
1	Political	1. Security structure reforms: especially adoption of decentralised policing architecture and use of technology to deter crime. 2. Strengthening international cooperation. 3. Adopting and implementing peacebuilding and peace-making strategies. 4. Improving the quality of governance, especially in areas of corruption control, government effectiveness, and regulatory quality.	1. The executive and legislature, particularly, the National Assembly, Ministry of Defence, Ministry of Interior, and Ministry of Science and Technology. 2. Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Nigerian Police Force (through the INTERPOL), and Nigerian Armed Forces. 3. The executive, legislature, and Ministry of Information and Culture. 4. The executive, legislature, judiciary, Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, and Independent Corrupt Practices and Other Related Offences Commission.

2	Economic	1. Infrastructural development.	1. The executive, Ministry of Works and Housing, Ministry of Power, Ministry of Transportation, Ministry of Land and Urban Development.
		2. Job creation.	2. The executive, Ministry of Labour, Ministry of Sport and Youth Development, Ministry of Labour, and Employment.
		3. Poverty reduction schemes (with policy evaluation mechanisms)	3. Executive, Ministry of Finance, Budget, and National Planning.
3	Social	1. Provision of quality and affordable healthcare.	1. The executive, Ministry of Health, National Insurance Scheme (NHIS), and National Primary Health Care Development Agency (NPHCDA).
		2. Provision of quality education.	2. Ministry of Education, Universal Basic Education Commission (UBEC), National Commission for Nomadic Education (NCNE), Tertiary Education Trust Fund (TET FUND).
		3. Provision of safe water and proper sanitation facilities.	3. Ministry of Environment, various state ministries and agencies for sanitation and environmental protection, and the National Environmental Standards and Regulations Enforcement Agency (NESREA).
		4. Promoting national values and identity.	4. The executive, the legislature, National Orientation Agency.
		5. Inter-ethnic and religious dialogue and reconciliation.	5. The executive, the legislature, the judiciary, and Federal Character Commission.
		6. Youth-based peace and programmes.	6. National Orientation Commission and Ministry of Sport and Youth Development.
4	Technological	1. Investing in forensic technology.	1. National Information Technology Development Agency (NITDA), Nigerian Police Force (NPF) (Cybercrime Unit), Nigerian Armed Forces (NAF), Defence Intelligence Agency (DIA), and National Intelligence Agency (NIA), and State Security Service (SSS).
		2. Big data utilisation.	
		3. Establishing Computer Emergency Response	

5	Legal	1. Establishing relevant laws. 2. Reviewing and strengthening older laws. 3. Harmonizing national laws with international and regional standards.	1. The executive and legislature. 2. The executive and legislature. 3. The executive and legislature.
6	Environmental	1. Establishing a new environmental law. 2. Oil spillage clean up. 3. Recharging lakes (especially Lake Chad). 4. Improving water management system. 5. Tree-planting programmes. 6. Climate-friendly farming system.	1. The executive, legislature, and Ministry of Environment. 2. Ministry of Environment and the National Oil Spill Detection and Response Agency (NOSDRA). 3. Ministry of Environment and Nigeria Hydrological Services Agency (NHSA). 4. Various state water agencies, River Basin Development Authorities, and the Ministry of Environment. 5. Forestry Research Institute of Nigeria (FRIN) and National Biosafety Management Agency (NBMA). 6. Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development.

Note. This table shows the six dimensions of the PESTLE framework, specific policy interventions for overcoming insecurity challenges, and the corresponding MDAs or government organs responsible for each intervention.

In addition to the foregoing, the incoming administration must build on the security infrastructure it inherited from the previous administration. The security architecture must be further enabled by cutting edge and innovative technology solutions that have the potentials to tackle the security problems.

Implementing the Policy Prescriptions

Short-term

- Strengthen the security sector through adequate funding and personnel.
- Collaborate with private and regional security outfits.
- Review, harmonise, and strengthen existing security laws to adapt to current realities.

- Invest in security-related technology such as forensic tools, tracking and surveillance tools, and adopt and utilise big data.

Medium-term

- Implement security sector reforms and decentralisation (for example, decentralised policing)
- Improve socio-economic conditions, especially unemployment and poverty.
- Invest in security-related technology to adapt to the evolving nature of crimes in the 21st century.
- Provide basic amenities such as electricity, healthcare, quality education, sanitation, safe water, etc.

Long-term

- Entrench good governance (especially in accountability and transparency) in the public sector.
- Ensure socio-economic stability through long-term economic and social plans.
- Inculcate moral values, patriotism, and a sense of Nigerian identity instead of sectarian/ethnic identity.
- Build peace and promote peace-making initiatives for addressing lingering grievances from perceived injustices. This can be done through regular inter-ethnic and religious dialogues and reconciliation.

Conclusion

Contemporary Nigeria is a theatre of insecurity. There is a rising wave of violent crises in all the geopolitical zones of the country, with sporadic attacks on government properties, officials, killings of innocent and defenceless Nigerians. The menace of insecurity has constituted a serious threat to lives and properties, hampered business activities and hindered inflow of both local and foreign investors, all of which have retarded economic and political developments of the country. Constitutionally, the primary duty of the Nigerian state is to guarantee the security and welfare of the citizens. To effectively perform this duty, the Nigerian state needs to invest both human and material resources in reforming the security sector, build the capacity of security agencies to anticipate and prosecute crime, and address economic, political, ethnic, and religious grievances fuelling insecurity in the country.

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