



# **WE ARE PAYING FOR OUR EVIL DEEDS**



**EVIL PERVADES ALL STRATA OF THE  
NIGERIAN NATION, WITH CORRUPTION  
BEING ITS MAJOR DRIVER. EVIL BEHAVIOR  
IS RAMPANT AT ALL LEVELS; AND WE ARE  
NOW PAYING THE WAGES OF THOSE SINS  
THROUGH BANDITRY, INSURGENCY AND  
A MYRIAD OF SORTS OF INSECURITIES**

**Prof. Sani Abubakar Lugga, MFR  
The 5th Waziri of Katsina**





**Nigeria is a Nation of over 90% Muslims and Christians. Allah/God commands Leaders and Citizens to ensure the forbidding of evil, enjoining what is right and upholding justice (Qur'an 3:104, Qur'an 4:135, and 1 Peter 3:11, Isaiah 32:1-5). Allah/God showers His Mercy on the obedient; and unleashes calamities on the disobedient. (Qur'an 9:71 and Romans 2:8-10). Nigeria is bedevilled with insecurity, instability and under development where poverty, unemployment, corruption and injustice pervade. A few Political, Business, Religious and Traditional Leaders boast of billions of Naira, most of which was stolen from public funds; while the vast majority of the Citizens wallow in abject poverty. Even the Ordinary Citizens have now been transformed by bad Leaders into thieves of shoes and mobile phones in the Mosques, in the Churches and even in the Graveyards. This Book relates the evils in Nigeria, which are making Allah/God to be unleashing calamities on the Nation. Nigeria has more Churches and more Mosques than any Country in the World. But the more Nigerians pray, the more the calamities fall on the Nation. This Book also gives recommendations on the positive management of the calamities; but warns that all the strata of the Nation must repent and change their bad habits for good habits; otherwise nothing will change; and calamities will continue to fall on the Nation!**



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**MASS BURIAL OF BANDITRY VICTIMS BEING LED  
BY HRH THE EMIR OF KATSINA ON 22 MAY 2019**



**MASS BURIAL OF BANDITRY VICTIMS BEING LED  
BY HRH EMIR OF KAURA NAMODA ON 5 APRIL 2019**



**MASS BURIAL OF BANDITRY VICTIMS BEING LED  
BY HRH THE EMIR OF ANKA ON 9 MARCH 2019**



**MILITARY INVADES RUGU FOREST BORDERING KATSINA AND ZAMFARA STATES, SMOKES OUT BANDITS, RESCUES KIDNAPED VICTIMS**



**Source: Daily Post Newspaper, September 19, 2021**



**Source: Photo Released by the Military on September 5, 2020 during Operation in Rugu Forest**

**BANDITS AND TERRORISTS ON THE PROWL  
IN THE FOREST (Sources: ripplesnigeria.com;  
secretreporter.com; capitalpost.ng;  
chronicle.ng; blueprint.ng**





**BANDITS AND TERRORISTS ON THE PROWL IN  
THE FOREST (Sources: ripplesnigeria.com;  
capitalpost.ng; chronicle.ng; blueprint.ng)**



## THE RELEASE OF 344 KANKARA STUDENTS BY BANDITS IN KATSINA STATE



On Friday, 11 December 2020 at about 11.40 pm, Bandits stormed Government Science Secondary School, Kankara in Kankara Local Government Area of Katsina State; shooting sporadically after which about 884 boarding students of the school were thrown into disarray. Policemen responded to the attack and engaged the bandits in a gun duel which gave several students the opportunity to scale the fence of the school and ran away. Later, a video clip went viral showing the abducted students in the Rugu Forest and one bandit claiming that it was a joint Boko Haram/Bandits operation. About one week later, on Thursday 17 December, 344 students gained their freedom and were later presented to President Muhammadu Buhari at Government House Katsina before they were reunited with their parents and guardians. (Sources: Independent Newspaper Nigeria; Vanguard Newspaper





## **KATSINA STATE POLICE ARREST 999 SUSPECTS IN 2021**



**In an end of the year Press Briefing on 30 December 2021, the Katsina State Police Command said it arrested a total of 999 suspects in connection with 608 reported criminal cases in the year 2021. 874 of the arrested suspects were undergoing prosecution in various Courts of Law in the State. 1,243 domestic animals were recovered from the hoodlums, which consisted of 867 cows, 352 sheep, 24 goats and 1 donkey. In connection to rape, 246 suspects were arrested in 195 reported cases. 63 victims were rescued in 4 reported cases of Human Trafficking. 20 stolen motor vehicles and 18 motorcycles were also recovered. However, the Command lost 5 policemen while it neutralized 38 bandits. (Source: Daily Nigerian News)**

## **14 YEARS OLD BOY ARRESTED ALONG 19 OTHERS**



**Katsina State Police paraded a 14-year-old boy and 19 others who were arrested for allegedly being bandits. The teenager was said to have shot and killed 2 persons in one of the attacks he participated in at Mallamawa Village in Jibiya Local Government Area of Katsina State. The boy confessed to having acquired technical skills of operating the AK 47 rifle from bandits in the forest under Bandits' Commander Maliki in Rugu Forest. (Source: AIT live)**

## **BANDITS' GIRLFRIENDS AND INFORMANTS ARRESTED**



Katsina State Police on Wednesday, 16 May 2019, paraded four women said to be informants, girls and cooks of bandits in the State. They are aged 20, 19, 45, and 20; and were arrested during a sting operation at Rugu Forest (Source: Punch Nigeria)

## **FEMALE GUNRUNNER ARRESTED WITH 2.4m NAIRA CASH**

On 31 July 2021, Katsina State Police arrested a 27-year-old woman suspected to be a notorious gun-runner with the sum of N2,405,000 in Batsari Local Government Area of the State. She hails from Baranda Village, a Fulani settlement in Batsari Local Government and is the wife of a notorious bandit terrorising Katsina and Kaduna States. (Source: This Day Live)



## **WOMEN SELLING FUEL TO BANDITS ARRESTED**



On 23 September 2021, the Police in Katsina State paraded three women for allegedly selling fuel to bandits in Rugu Forest. The women were aged 50, 45 and 16; all of Malali Quarters, in Katsina Local Government Area of the State. The Police said the suspects were arrested along the Katsina-Jibia road. (Source: Premium Times Nigeria)

**KATSINA STATE GOVERNMENT IS SPENDING OVER N100m TO REHABILITATE SHIMFIDA VILLAGE THAT WAS DESTROYED BY BANDITS WITH THE VILLAGERS NOW REFUGEES IN NEIGHBORING NIGER REPUBLIC**

Seven children were reported dead and several others injured following a stampede in Shimfida Village of Jibia Local Government Area of Katsina State on Thursday, March 10, 2022, after Soldiers stationed at the Village Government Secondary School were withdrawn. Bandits immediately invaded the community, shooting sporadically, kidnapping some of the villagers and totally destroying the Village. About 13,500 Villagers are now refugees in Niger Republic. (Images: nairaland; newsbreak.ng; saharareporters)

**BELOW ARE THE PATHETIC IMAGES FROM THE VILLAGE**





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## Chapter One

### NIGERIA UNDER A SECURITY EMERGENCY

Channels Television, Online and TV; of 13<sup>th</sup> April, 2022 reports the frustration of the National Assembly as follows:

*“Members of the House of Representatives have again voiced their displeasure over the continued killings by bandits and terrorists groups in the country. They, therefore, called on the Federal Government to engage the services of Mercenaries to supplement the efforts of Security Agencies in containing the situation. In addition to this, the Lawmakers renewed their call on President Muhammadu Buhari to declare a State of Emergency in the security sector”.*

Nigeria is certainly under a SECURITY EMERGENCY, whether this is declared by the Government or not. The two major factors that determine whether a community or a Nation is under a security emergency are visibly evident in Nigeria. Firstly, there is “Scelerophobia”, which is the fear of insurgents, militants, bandits, robbers, kidnappers, burglars, or crime and criminals in general. Secondly, there is “Agoraphobia”, which is the fear of being in situations where escape might be difficult or even impossible, or that help wouldn't be available if things go wrong. These two factors have definitively gripped the Nigerian Nation!

Instilling fear and creating confusion are the prime psychological weapons in use by insurgents, bandits, militants and other criminal elements. Today, Nigerians are virtual prisoners in their homes as they are too afraid to move out, especially during the night. Bandits and insurgents nowadays do not only attack on the roads, but also attack and kidnap people in their homes. Offices and markets are being bombed, therefore clients and customers,

as well as staff and shopkeepers, are always on the watch-out for insurgents, armed robbers and/or bandits. Farmers are afraid of herders and herders are afraid of rustlers. Schools, Churches and Mosques are no more the safe havens they used to be. Parents and teachers are always afraid of attacks and kidnappings. Mosques and Churches are now objects of bombing. The Roads are too unsafe that even top security officers now patronise the Kaduna-Abuja train services, as they are afraid of using the Kaduna-Abuja highway. Security Services Chiefs have just voiced out their fears of foreign involvement in Nigeria's security challenges to the National Assembly. These unsavoury happenings have clearly demonstrated the unfortunate high level of the fear of criminality instilled in the minds of all Nigerians by insurgents, bandits, rustlers and other criminal elements.

Having succeeded in instilling fear, the criminals are now creating confusion by setting security agencies against each other, political leadership against political opposition, religious leaders against religious leaders, ethnic leaders against ethnic leaders; and most dangerously, citizens against citizens!

It is common knowledge that there is no adequate synergy between Nigerian security forces, as sometimes some of them fall victims of the firepower of a sister security force.

The opposition always accuses those in power of inefficiency and the mismanagement of the security architecture; while those in power accuse the opposition of playing politics with serious security issues.

Religion is now a weapon of ridicule and of devilish attacks being perpetuated by one religion against the other; especially



Islam versus Christianity, whose adherents make up over 90% of the Nigerian population.

The unsavoury religious situation is taking such a dangerous dimension as to make one ask, “How and why is it that Religions, which supposedly espouse peace, love and harmony, are so much connected with intolerance, violence and aggression?”

Ethnicity, language and culture are no more the traditional symbols of cohesion, understanding and respect for one another, as they have been turned into war arsenals! The Hausa, the Yoruba, the Fulani, the Igbo, the Kanuri and other major ethnic nationalities have formed various distinct groups, with one group fighting the other and passing the insecurity buck from one group to the other.

Nigerians at all levels have now been programmed to be preoccupied with fanning ambers of devilish religious and ethnic hatred instead of uniting and seeing the insurgents, the bandits, the kidnappers, the rustlers and all other criminals as the criminals they are; and to support all measures to contain their criminality.

To some extent, the fear of crime is normal and essential for safety and well being. However, in extreme cases, many normal things become abnormal and difficult for the suffering person. For example, one might go to great lengths to prevent crime, such as locking one's home or constantly checking and rechecking locks to an extent that it becomes an obsession.

Many refuse to step out of their homes after dark or travel to other places for the fear of being attacked or kidnapped. Their phobia leads to constant fatigue as it causes them to believe that they need to be vigilant all the times. Trauma transference which

occurs from physically watching someone become the victim of crime can create fear.

In addition, social and conventional media films, news and reports about crimes like teenagers being shot, women being raped, homes being vandalised, etc; all enhance the level of fear of crime.

Newspapers and television news and social media postings are always filled with terrible stories of bombings, kidnappings, murder, rape, armed robbery, etc; these inflame crime-phobia.

In Nigeria today, being careful and cautious have become a way of life, so much so that it becomes almost impossible for Nigerians to leave their houses and other places of abode because they are so paralysed by worry and fear. And when they do go out, they are so concerned about all of the bad things that could conceivably happen; therefore it is impossible for them to feel comfortable or to enjoy themselves or to even concentrate in school or at work.

Over time, this fear has degenerated into full-blown agoraphobia and Nigerians have lost their innate freedom as they literally have become prisoners in their own homes.

Often, people who are afraid of crime expect the government and its security forces to help them. However, the government and its security agencies might not always be in a position to stop or prevent crime. This is clearly the case in Nigeria today. In such cases, the phobias might resort to vandalism or taking the matters in their own hands. Hence it is vital that the government takes all necessary steps of protecting its citizens in order to avoid chaos and uprisings.

All the pointers to peoples' resort to security self-help are glaringly in the Nigerian horizon. Vigilante and Neighbourhood Watch Groups have been established in virtually every nook, corner and cranny in Nigeria. Civilian Joint Task Forces, as against Military and Police Joint Task Forces, have been established particularly in the North East States and the North West States; where insurgency and banditry are endemic respectively.

The heat was getting too much that, against what the Federal Government called "illegal", the South-West States Governors officially established a well funded security outfit they called "*Amotekun*" with the leopard as its symbol. A Youths Group in the Northern States followed suit and announced the establishment of a similar "illegal" security outfit called "*Shege Ka Fasa*" with the lion as its symbol.

These are the culmination of dissatisfaction with government's handling of the security situation and the clear manifestation of the high level of chaos, fear and confusion in Nigeria.



## Chapter Two

### FORBID WHAT IS EVIL, ENJOIN WHAT IS RIGHT AND UPHOLD JUSTICE

#### WHAT IS THE MEANING OF EVIL?

Five English Dictionaries give five definitions of the word “Evil” (**Ra’** in Hebrew and **Munkar** in Arabic) as follows: (1) *That which causes harm, misfortune, or destruction.* (2) *Anything that causes harm, pain, misery, disaster, etc.* (3) *The state of being morally bad or wrong; or being wicked.* (4) *Threatening or bringing misfortune, danger, destruction to lives and properties, ill-luck, disaster, etc.* (5) *Something that is a cause or source of suffering, injury, or destruction.*

An English/Arabic Dictionary gives the definition of the word “Evil” (**Ra’** in Hebrew and **مُنْكَر** - **Munkar** in Arabic) as follows: *Anything e.g. action, deed, saying, community custom, commonly known thing that is unrecognized, not acknowledged, disapproved, unidentified, unacquainted with, deemed unpleasant or unfamiliar or strange by sound intellect/reason or by established Islamic teachings, or by both.*

**In Islamic and Christian Contexts:** the word “Evil” can simply be defined as, “polytheism, the disbelief in the Supremacy of Allah/God; and saying and practicing everything that is bad, especially those that Allah/God has forbidden.

#### QUOTATIONS FROM THE BIBLE AND THE QUR’AN ON EVIL, JUSTICE

Below are some Verses of the Glorious Qur’an, some Verses of the Holy Bible and some Hadith of Prophet Muhammad (SAW) on the commands to forbid evil and to enjoin what is right; and

the rewards for obedience and the consequences of disobedience to the commands.

**The Glorious Qur'an states,**

*Let arise from among you a group of people inviting to what is good, enjoining what is right and forbidding what is evil. They are the ones to attain felicity. (Qur'an 3:104).*

*Establish prayer, enjoin what is good and forbid what is evil, and endure patiently whatever befalls you. Verily! These are among the most important Commandments ordained by Allah. (Qur'an 31:17)*

*The Believers, men and women, are protectors of one another. They enjoin what is good, and forbid what is evil. They observe regular prayers, practise regular charity, and obey Allah and His Messenger. On them, Allah will pour His Mercy. (Qur'an 9:71)*

*(It is the Believers) who repent, who are devoted to worship, who praise their Lord, who fast, who bow down and prostrate themselves, who encourage good and forbid evil, and who observe the limits set by Allah... (Qur'an 9:112)*

*O you who believe! be maintainers of justice, bearers of witness of Allah's sake, though it may be against your own selves or (your) parents or near relatives; if he be rich or poor, Allah is nearer to them both in compassion; therefore do not follow (your) low desires, lest you deviate; and if you swerve or turn aside, then surely Allah is aware of what you do. (Qur'an 4:135)*

**The Holy Bible states,**

*Abstain from every form of evil. (1 Thessalonians 5:22)*

*Let love be genuine. Abhor what is evil; hold fast to what is good. (Romans 12:9)*

*Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.  
(Romans 12:21)*

*But for those who are self-seeking and who reject the truth and follow evil, there will be God's wrath and anger. There will be trouble and distress for every human being who does evil... But there will be glory, honour and peace for everyone who does good... (Romans 12:8-10)*

*Let him turn away from evil and do good; let him seek peace and pursue it. Because the Eyes of the Lord are on the righteous, and His Ears are open to their prayers. But the Face of the Lord is against those who do evil (1 Peter 3:11-12)*

*Beloved, do not imitate evil but imitate good. Whoever does good is from God; whoever does evil has not seen God. (3 John 1:11)*

*For those who are evil will be destroyed, but those who hope in the Lord will inherit the Land. (Psalm 37:9)*

*Woe to those who call evil good, and good evil; Who substitute darkness for light and light for darkness; Who substitute bitter for sweet and sweet for bitter! (Isaiah 5:20)*

*Behold, a King will reign in righteousness, and Princes will rule in justice. Each will be like a hiding place from the wind, a shelter from the storm, like streams of water in a dry place, like the shade of a great rock in a weary land. Then the eyes of those who see will not be closed, and the ears of those who hear will give attention. The heart of the hasty will understand and know, and the tongue of the stammerers will hasten to speak distinctly. The fool will no more be called noble, nor the scoundrel said to be honourable. (Isaiah 32:1-5)*

**Prophet Muhammad (SAW) said,**

*Whoever amongst you sees evil being committed, he must change it with his Hands (i.e. use his authority); if he is incapable of doing so, then with his Tongue (i.e. to give advice); if he is incapable of doing so, then with his Heart (i.e. to hate it), and that is the weakest of Faith. (Sahih Muslim)*

*(Hadith Qudsi) Allah (SWT) says: Enjoin good and forbid evil before you supplicate Me and I will not answer you; and before you ask Me and I will not give you; and before you ask Me for help and I will not help you (Ahmad)*

*By Him (Allah) in Whose Hands my life is, you must enjoin good and forbid evil; or else Allah will certainly send His punishment to you. Then you will make supplication to Allah and He will not answer it. (At-Tirmithi)*

## **FORBID WHAT IS EVIL, ENJOIN WHAT IS RIGHT AND UPHOLD JUSTICE**

The quoted Qur'an and Bible Verses are clear and unambiguous; and among the most important commands from Allah/God. Glad tidings are given in the Verses to those who obey the commandments, as they are the ones who shall attain Allah/God's Felicity, Grace and Mercy both in this World and in the Hereafter. Transgressors shall be doomed to punishments both in this World and in the Hereafter. The quoted Hadith of Prophet Muhammad (SAW) instructs people who have authority to use their power to remove/forbid evil; those who are not in a position of authority but have the leeway to offer advice, to offer that advice for the removal/forbidding of evil; and those who are ordinary citizens who have no authority and have no leeway to offer advice, to hate the committing of evil, and that is the least of



what is expected of the Faithful. Not forbidding evil and not enjoining what is right shall invite Allah's wrath to the extent of His forsaking the people and not accepting their supplications. This is clearly the misfortune that has befallen Nigeria!

Have Nigerians ever bothered to ask why, for decades, things continue to go from bad to worse in a country that is daily in prayers? Are Nigerian leaders not reputed to be in the forefront in sending **“prayer warriors”** to Mecca and to Jerusalem for prayers and still Allah/God refused to make things better for the Nation? Prayers are so important in Nigeria that all public and private functions have Muslim and Christian (or a combination of both) “opening” and “closing” prayers in their programme of activities. Indeed, for several years now, a former Head of State has been leading prayer sessions in all the States of the Federation (under the aegis of “Nigeria Prays” Group). The result is yet to be felt.

It is therefore of utmost importance that Nigerians should engage seriously on repentance and prayers, working hard, changing evil habits for good ones, doing righteous deeds, and obeying the Lord's decrees and commands. These shall lead to the attainment of the goodies of life in the World and to salvation in the Hereafter! What is clearly, dearly and urgently needed in Nigeria today is for Nigerians to grossly engage in forbidding what is evil, enjoining what is right and upholding justice as commanded by Allah/God!

## **Chapter Three**

### **SOME CAUSES OF BANDITRY AND OTHER SECURITY CHALLENGES IN NIGERIA**

It is glaringly clear that, disobedience to Allah/God's commands on forbidding what is evil, enjoining what is right and upholding justice had led to the situation where Allah/God has unleashed a retinue of social, economic and security challenges on Nigeria. And He has ignored the supplications of Nigerians for peace and security; despite Nigeria having more Churches, more Mosques and more Prayer Warriors than any Country in the World.

#### **THE EVIL ATTRIBUTES OF THE VARIOUS CLASSES OF NIGERIANS: A BAD LEADERSHIP THAT LED TO A BAD FOLLOWERSHIP**

Generally, Leaders are blamed for a country's problems; this may be so, but Leaders are a mirror image of the society as they are members of the same society! Good leaders emerge from a good society and bad leaders emerge from a bad society. However, it is established in general that, a bad leadership always creates a bad followership. Nevertheless, all members of a bad society (bad leaders and bad followers) have to change their evil habits and attitudes for the society as a whole to change from a bad one to a good one. It is therefore necessary for the Leadership and the Followership to Forbid Evil, to Enjoin what is Right and to Uphold Justice!

**Below are some evil attributes of the various classes of Nigerians, which must have attracted the wrath of Allah/God on the Nation.**

1. A POLITICAL CLASS that is self centred and unprincipled; has no focus and takes politics as merchandise and as "do or die

affairs" where thuggery is germane and rigging is sanctioned. The same Political Class has ignored the fundamental purpose of government as enshrined in the Nigerian Constitution, which is to uphold "the security and welfare of the people".

2. AN EXECUTIVE that is corrupt and unjust as exemplified by several findings of tribunals, commissions of enquiries and law enforcement agencies, with several Executive cases of corruption in the Courts of Law; or with Executive convicts behind bars in Correctional Centres.
3. A LEGISLATURE that ignores its constitutional functions of Law making and checking the excesses of the other Arms of Government; and occupies itself with fraudulent constituency contracts and corrupt oversight functions.
4. A JUDICIARY that seems to say that justice is for the rich and the powerful. Judicial technicalities and high legal fees certainly favour only the rich and the powerful. In addition, several Judges and Judicial Officers have been accused of gross misconduct and corrupt practices.
5. A PRESS that is seemingly gagged, as there is no freedom of information and the press reputation affected by the "brown envelope" syndrome. The proliferation of unpatriotic social media that engages in fake news and social misdemeanour has further dented the image of the press.
6. TRADITIONAL INSTITUTIONS that are becoming politicised and corrupt at the expense of upholding culture, tradition and moral values. And selling traditional offices and titles to the highest bidder and not in accordance with traditional norms.
7. RELIGIOUS LEADERS who are preoccupied with making money from politicians and other unjust wealthy and influential

persons and not preaching the true words of Allah/God. Take note of the government sponsored "prayer warriors" to Mecca and Jerusalem; and the private jet owning fake-prophets who milk their very poor flock dry!

8. ORDINARY CITIZENS who have forgotten the virtues of honesty and trusts; and who are busy engaging in dishonesty and cheating each other; and fronting for corrupt leaders.
9. YOUTHS who are addicted to drugs and other illicit intoxicants and allow themselves to be used as political thugs, killing and maiming each other on behalf of corrupt politicians and/or selfish ethnic and religious leaders.
10. MASONS, ARTISANS AND LEBOURERS who malingering at work and steal the tools and materials given to them to work at construction sites.
11. CONTRACTORS who corruptly inflate contract sums ten or even hundred fold and execute shoddy jobs leading to the frequent collapse of private and public infrastructures.
12. MERCHANTS who manipulate weights and measures, create artificial scarcities and profiteer at the detriment of their customers instead of making lawful profits.
13. BLACK MARKETERS who hoard essential commodities and inflate prices.
14. FARM WORKERS who steal the produce on their employers' farms and fields.
15. DRIVERS who siphon fuel from their masters' cars.
16. SHOP ATTENDANTS who misappropriate the sales proceeds.
17. SECURITY MEN who connive with thieves to steal from their masters' compounds; or to abduct or murder their masters.



18. POLICEMEN AND OTHER SECURITY OFFICERS some of who have been found to use the arms and ammunition given to them to defend the nation and its citizens in armed robbery, banditry and insurgency.
19. PRESIDENTS, GOVERNORS, MINISTERS, CHAIRMEN OF LOCAL GOVERNMENTS, ETC., who have stolen billions of Naira from public funds and go scot free; or at the best, be jailed by the Courts of Law, just to receive a Presidential pardon later!
20. POLICE OFFICERS who are grossly corrupt. Recall the case of an Inspector General of Police who was convicted by a Court of Law for embezzling 17 billion Naira
21. ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL CRIMES COMMISSION BOSSES accused, arrested and prosecuted for being financially corrupt.
22. BANK EXECUTIVES who grant themselves, their associates and their girlfriends unsecured loans. Collapsed commercial banks are testimonies.
23. MONEY LAUNDERERS who encouraged Executive money laundering, yahoo-yahoo operations and who have scared away foreign investors.
24. DRUGS TRAFFICKERS who have put the country into disrepute and have rendered several youths insane. Their activities have also given criminals the boosters for crimes.
25. LECTURERS AND STUDENTS who engage in cultism, sex-for-marks indecencies and examination malpractices.
26. PUBLIC HOSPITALS that were mere consulting clinics (credit to Major General Muhammadu Buhari in 1983). And

today they do not even qualify as consulting clinics because the Leaders, the Wealthy and their families fly out of Nigeria for medical care and the vast poor Nigerians suffer the absence of even a basic functional healthcare facility!

27. PUBLIC SCHOOLS, COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES that are grossly neglected and that lack basic infrastructure and basic teaching facilities. Children of the Leaders and the Wealthy patronise foreign and local private educational institutions while those of the ordinary Nigerians roam the streets as beggars or are in non-functioning public institutions.
28. THE BEST ARABLE LAND IN THE WORLD that is left uncultivated. Nigeria could feed her citizens and feed several other Countries if agriculture were boosted on the Allah/God endowed arable land.
29. ROADS that are death traps due to their deplorable natures.
30. WATER BOARDS that manage dry water taps.
31. A NATIONAL ELECTRICITY AUTHORITY that manages darkness and power failures.
32. CRIMINALS who have superior weapons to those of the Army and the Police Force.
33. MILITANTS; some of who have taken over the nation's oil wells and others have made secession their main focus.
34. BANDITS AND INSURGENTS who have made the country so unsafe.

These **“Evil Attributes”** that make up the **“Nigerian Community”** must be changed for the better if Nigeria is to become peaceful, secure and developed. Otherwise Allah/God will not shower His Grace and Mercy on the Nation.

## **SOME FACTORS THAT CAUSE SECURITY CHALLENGES IN NIGERIA**

The evil attributes that make up the Nigerian People gave birth to the causes that made Allah/God to unleash multifaceted security challenges on the Nation. An analysis of available Committees and Panels Reports and other Literature on security challenges in Nigeria would show that the factors that cause and/or fuel insecurity in Nigeria include (and not limited to) the following:

1. Mass poverty that glaringly shows the high disparity between the social and economic classes, where very few are extremely rich and they show this off, while the vast majority are living in abject poverty and squalor.
2. Hunger that drives people into anger; where people are hungry and they cannot afford to purchase even one daily meal because of the twin poverty and high cost of living.
3. Out of school children and mass illiteracy in all its ramifications that pervades the people.
4. Youth unemployment, where able bodied youths, especially secondary and tertiary institutions' graduates, roam the streets for in search of employment or means of self-employment.
5. The alarming rate of drugs addiction; and the damage it has done and is doing to the youth in particular; and it's boosting action for criminals.
6. The *Almajiri* syndrome that is unfortunately attributed to Islam, while Islam does not encourage begging.
7. Bribery and corruption which has become endemic in all facets of the public and private sectors, and which serve as boosters for unending social and economic woes.

8. Misuse of Religions and ethnicity for political or other selfish aims; and religious and ethnic conflicts and intolerance.
9. Land Use Dispute and the “settler/indigene” syndrome where citizens are classified as “foreigners” in some areas of the same country.
10. Porous borders that allow free flow of criminals and arms.
11. The proliferation of small arms and light weapons that aid the committing of violent crimes.
12. The involvement of foreign criminals who fuel the various insurgencies and crimes through financial, material and moral support.
13. Poor Criminal Justice System where criminals carry out crimes and other violent acts with impunity because of the absence of the implementation of punishments and other deterrent measures to punish perpetrators.
14. Negative politicking by politicians and political parties through the misuse of youths as thugs and the use of foul language against opponents thereby fuelling fatal conflicts.
15. The pitiful condition of the security personnel (particularly the Police) who require urgent improvement in their conditions of service, professional training, infrastructure and equipment.

## **A BRIEF ON SOME SELECT FACTORS THAT CAUSED THE SECURITY CHALLENGES IN NIGERIA**

### **1. Poverty and Unemployment**

The National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) of Nigeria on Monday 15<sup>th</sup> March 2021 released the “Poverty and Inequality in Nigeria Report”, which states that 40% of the Nigerian population, or



almost 83 million people, live below the country's poverty line of 137,430 Naira (\$249.87) per year. Another 25 percent or 53 million Nigerians are reported to be vulnerable to poverty. The unemployment rate increased to 33% making more than half of the labour force in Nigeria to be unemployed or underemployed.

There is no iota of doubt that terrorists, insurgents, bandits and other criminal elements recruit their members from the massive number of the poverty stricken and the unemployed, but energetic youths who are "idle minds, the workshops of the Devil". Therefore mass poverty and mass unemployment are among the very top factors that cause insecurity, as those drafted into criminality usually feel cheated and neglected by the society and therefore could easily be recruited to fight the same society.

This fact has been amply documented by all successive Committees and Panels that investigated violent conflicts in Nigeria; and it was unveiled as early as 1980 in the Report of the Tribunal set up after the infamous Maitastine riots in Kano and some other parts of the Northern States. That Report of Justice Aniagolu Tribunal states, "*The uprising was partly caused by the lack of job opportunities in the rural areas, which made it possible for young men to be attracted to the cities where they are vulnerable to exploitation and temptation out of joblessness*". (Zahardeen, 1988).

## **2. Hunger and High Cost of Living**

Hunger is the major driver of people into anger and subsequent criminality. When people are hungry and they cannot afford a single meal in a single day because of unemployment and high cost of living, the result is certainly insecurity. A cursory look at the prices of major local food items, which a majority of people

depend on, over the last eight years, shall certainly reveal a frightening hunger situation in Nigeria.

**Table 12** below shows the astronomical high rise in the average prices of food items over the last eight years (between the year 2014 and the year 2022), as a result of Field Survey in Katsina and Batsari Markets in Katsina State.

<b>FOOD ITEM</b>	<b>2014 PRICE</b>	<b>2022 PRICE</b>
Millet (Gero) 100 kg bag	₦4,200	₦24,000
Corn (Dawa) 100 kg bag	₦3,800	₦24,000
Maize (Masara) 100 kg bag	₦4,300	₦25,000
Beans (Wake) 100 kg bag	₦8,000	₦49,000
Rice (Shinkafa) 50 kg bag	₦7,500	₦25,000

### **3. Illiteracy and Out of School Children**

Several media reports quoted the statement by the Executive Secretary (ES) of the Universal Basic Education Commission (UBEC) to the Northern Nigerian Traditional Rulers Conference on Out-of-School Children, which was held on October 10<sup>th</sup> 2018. The ES was quoted as saying that, there were 13.2 million out-of-school children in Nigeria and that, 7.93 million were girls while 5.28 million were boys. In February 2018, the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) revealed that 50.8 per cent of Nigerian children, between the ages of 5 and 17, were involved in child labour. The implications for these are that, these Nigerian children risk being illiterates, which leads them to social vices ranging from vandalism and thefts to banditry and terrorism.

#### **4. Proliferation of Small and Light Weapons**

The proliferation of small and light weapons is the main fuel that oils fatal conflicts, like insurgency, banditry, terrorism, murder and armed robbery. The disclosure as far back as 2016, that there were over two million illegal small and light weapons in circulation in Nigeria is quite disturbing and a pointer to the difficulty (or even the impossibility) of containing violent conflicts and crimes in the Country. The Daily Trust Newspaper of March 12<sup>th</sup>, 2016, reports that, the President of the West Africa Action Network on Small Arms and a Member of the Nigerian Presidential Committee on Small Arms and Light Weapons, Dr. Dickson, told Daily Trust that from the Small Arms Survey Group in Geneva to the International Action Network on Small Arms, including Oxfam, Grip and other researchers and international NGOs, there are indications that there have been over 690 million illicit Small and Light Weapons in circulation across the World and approximately 100 million of these weapons are in Sub-Saharan Africa, with 8 to 9 million in West Africa and 2 to 3 million in Nigeria.

#### **5. Endemic Bribery and Corruption**

Corruption could conclusively be classified as one of the major factors breeding insecurity in Nations like Nigeria where it is endemic. Corruption has been so endemic in Nigeria that all governments have been claiming to be fighting it! From the 15<sup>th</sup> January radio broadcast heralding Nigeria's first military coup, to President Muhammadu Buhari's 2019 swearing-in Speech for a second term in office; the story has been the same: **"We shall fight Corruption"**. The then Military Head of State, Major General Muhammadu Buhari, started the fight against corruption in his first coming in December 1983 as Nigeria's Military

Leader with all the powers inherent in that absolute dictatorship. He fought corruption for about one and a half year's between January 1984 and August 1985. Corruption fought back and defeated him, a full Military General in full military uniform, who once fought in the Nigerian civil war and won. It looks like the new civilian democrat, President Muhammadu Buhari, cannot defeat corruption even this time around. Certainly, President Buhari and his Cabinet Members are seeing what the ordinary Nigerians, are seeing. They see corruption fighting them back even in the highly fortified Presidential Villa in Abuja. They know full well that corruption has eaten deep into the fabrics of all the strata of the Nigerian Nation.

President Buhari was watching some of those he entrusts with investigating corruption being accused of corruption. He sees the Prosecutors, the Lawyers and the Judges being accused of corruption. He knows that the allegedly corrupt persons he is pursuing are celebrated heroes in their communities. Those President Buhari is fighting are not only fighting back in the Courts of Law. No. They are blocking all avenues for the government's progress, manipulating the economy and upsetting the social order and making life unbearable for the ordinary citizens who are the massive supporters of Buhari.

The Nigerian masses had such a high expectation from Buhari's government, the type that was never expected from any other government before it! Corruption is fighting back so much, that the peoples' suffering is steadily translating into loss of confidence in the government they fought tooth-and-nail to install! President Buhari's recent presidential pardon on 14<sup>th</sup> April 2022 to two States Governors who were arrested by the EFCC for corruption, investigated for corruption, found guilty of



corruption to the tunes of billions of Naira and jailed by the Courts of Competent Jurisdiction for corruption; has certainly proven beyond any reasonable doubts that the President has once again lost his fight against Nigerian corruption!

## **6. The Misuse of Religion and Ethnicity**

Religion is now a weapon of verbal ridicule and of devilish fatal attacks being perpetuated in Nigeria by especially Muslims versus Christians who make up over 95% of the Nigerian population. Ethnicity, language and culture are no more the traditional symbols of cohesion, understanding and respect for one another, as they have been turned into war arsenals! The Hausa, the Yoruba, the Fulani, the Igbo, the Kanuri and other major ethnic nationalities have formed various pressure groups and associations, with one group fighting the other. Nigerians at all levels have now been programmed to be preoccupied with fanning ambers of devilish religious and ethnic hatred to the extent of giving every issue in Nigeria a religious/ethnic face. For example, instead of uniting and seeing the insurgents, the bandits, the kidnappers, the rustlers and all other criminals as the criminals they are; and to support all measures to contain their criminality; such criminals are always clothed in a particular Religious or Ethnic Toga. Christianity and Islam have such closeness and similarities that are not found between any of the other largest Religions of the World. Islam and Christianity have very similar Laws, Rules and Regulations on spiritual, social, economic, administrative and moral affairs and the provisions on how to conduct these affairs peacefully and harmoniously.

Nigerian Christians and Muslims make up over 95% of the Nigerian population and 100% of the Nigerian Leadership; therefore they should be imbibing and practicing the spiritual and

temporal dictates of the two Great Religions. By so doing, the myriad of security and other challenges that are threatening Nigeria's corporate existence today would become history; thereby leading to the achievement of peace and stability with resultant socioeconomic development. This is because the two great Religions have addressed both the causes of; and the remedies to these challenges.

Christianity and Islam have outlawed insurgency, militancy, murder, armed robbery, kidnapping, rustling, cultism, drugs addiction, corruption, nepotism, injustice, political assassinations, economic sabotage, oil bunkering, money laundering, electoral malpractices, etc. In addition, Islam and Christianity have provided remedies to these challenges in the forms of good leaderships at the spiritual and the temporal levels that would ensure people living in accordance with Islamic and Christian injunctions. These injunctions are: the worship of Allah-God alone and the practice of the virtues of love, forgiveness, peace, unity, mutual understanding, mutual respect, progress, honesty, sincerity, justice, fairness, good governance and all other beautiful attributes of the Christian and the Islamic Faiths. With these, one is made to ask, "How and why is it that Islam and Christianity, which are founded on peace, love and harmony, are so much connected with intolerance, violence and aggression in Nigeria?"

## **7. Proliferation of Religious Organisations and Sects**

Another major cause of conflicts, which normally degenerate into serious crises, is the proliferation of religious organisations and sects. This leads to the misuse of the term, "freedom of religion". Religious conflicts easily create tension, lead to bloodshed and destruction of properties and are extremely difficult to contain.

The proliferation of religious organisations normally leads to the emergence of extremist groups that sometimes turn so violent as to degenerate into terrorism and/or insurgency. The likes of the Boko Haram Group emerged this way. Certainly, the emergence of too many religious groups, each claiming to be propagating their Religion, calls for caution.

This situation causes tension between sects of the same Religion and between one Religion and the other. In Nigeria for example, checks at the Corporate Affairs Commission revealed that over 105,000 Muslim and Christian Organisations had been registered by the Commission as at December 2015. Considering the daily “no-objection” advertisements by religious organisations and groups in the daily newspapers as a prerequisite for registration, it is estimated that the number might have passed the half a million mark by now.

## Chapter Four

### THE NEED FOR REPENTANCE, PRAYERS AND ACTION; FOR ALLAH/GOD TO HAVE MERCY ON; AND TO GRACE NIGERIA

#### SPIRITUALITY AND MORALITY TO THE RESCUE

The Nigerian constitution opens with, *"We the people of the Federal Republic of Nigeria: Having firmly and solemnly resolved: To live in unity and harmony as one indivisible and indissoluble Sovereign Nation **under God**"*. Nigerian leaders take their oaths of office holding the Glorious Qur'an or the Holy Bible in their hands and at the end saying, *"So **help me God**"*. Nigeria is a Nation habited predominantly by Muslims and Christians who profess to be either "born again Christians" or "Shari'ah compliant Muslims".

Therefore if Nigerian Muslims and Christians are true to their faiths, they must combine the **spiritual** aspect of their religiosity with a **moral** change of attitude for Allah/God to change the Nation's bad conditions for good ones.

It is a common phenomenon for people to rush to their places of worship and pray for succour when they are in difficulty. For example, Muslims normally rush to the Mosques to beseech Allah to give them good health, peace, security, good government, progress and prosperity in this World and salvation in the Hereafter. Christians follow suit through the Churches to beseech God for the same. But, for Allah/God to answer peoples' prayers, the people must be Allah/God fearing, love one another, change their bad habits to good ones and above all work hard! For example, in addition to prayers,

1. If people want good health, they must take care of their bodies and environments and avoid harmful foods and other harmful materials.
2. If they want peace and security, they must unite and live as brothers and sisters and avoid anything that will disturb their peace.
3. If they want good government, they must elect good leaders.
4. If they want progress and prosperity, they must seek for knowledge and work hard.
5. If they want salvation in the Hereafter, they must worship Allah-God as He ordained it.

Many Verses of the Glorious Qur'an and the teachings of Prophet Muhammad (SAW) and many Verses of the Holy Bible and the teachings of Jesus Christ (AS) support the above assertions.

The Qur'an states that,

*“Verily, Allah will not change the condition of a people as long as they do not change their state of affairs themselves”.* (Qur'an 13:11).

The Bible states that,

*“Faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead”.* (James 2:17).

Have Nigerians ever bothered to ask why, for decades, things continue to go from bad to worse in a country that is daily in prayers? Are Nigerian leaders not reputed to be in the forefront in sending **“prayer warriors”** to Mecca and Jerusalem and still Allah/God refused to make things better for the Nation? Prayers are so important in Nigeria that all public and private functions have Muslim and Christian (or a combination of both) “opening”

and “closing” prayers in their programme of activities. Indeed, for several years now, a former Head of State has been leading prayer sessions in all the States of the Federation (under the aegis of “Nigeria Prays” Group). The result is yet to be felt.

It is therefore of utmost importance that Nigerians should engage seriously on repentance and prayers, working hard, changing badly for good habits, doing righteous deeds, and obeying the Lord’s decrees and commands. These shall lead to the attainment of the goodies of life in the World and to salvation in the Hereafter!

The Glorious Qur’an states that,

*“And whoever does righteous deeds, whether male or female, and is a believer. We shall surely give him a goodly life in this World, and We shall reward such according to the best of their deeds”.*  
(Qur'an 16:97)

The Holy Bible states that,

*“If you follow My decrees and are careful to obey My commands, I will send you rains in its season, and the ground will yield its crops and the trees of the field their fruit. Your threshing will continue until grape harvest and the grape harvest will continue until planting, and you will eat all the food you want and live in safety in your land. I will grant peace in the land, and you will lie down and no one will make you afraid”* (Leviticus 26:3-6)

## **GOOD LEADERSHIP.**

The two great Religions of Christianity and Islam teach the importance of good leadership and its benefits. They also teach the misfortunes of having bad leadership. Islam and Christianity teach their adherents that **“they are all shepherds who shall**



**account for their flocks”** either in this Temporary World or in the Permanent Hereafter; or both.

There are several levels of leadership in Islam and Christianity. In these two Religions, Governors and Presidents; Emirs and Chiefs; family, ward, village and District Heads; Pastors and Imams; employers of labour, managers and directors; etc. are all considered as **Leaders** and they shall all account for the “flocks” they lead.

However, the two Great Religions lay the greatest emphasis on the importance of:

*“Those leaders who have authority and responsibility over the people, the wealth and the affairs of a Nation and the power to reward those who are good and to punish those who do bad”.*

In the Nigerian context, the three major arms of government (i.e. the Executive, the Legislature and the Judiciary) are the ones that have the authority and the responsibility over the wealth and affairs of the Nation and can reward and punish people accordingly. Therefore they carry the responsibility of about 200 million Nigerians and shall account to Nigerians in this World and before Allah/God in the Hereafter!

The Holy Bible states that,

*“For they (leaders) keep watch over you as they who must give an account (to God)”.* (Hebrews 13:17)

Prophet Muhammad (SAW) said,

*“A leader is a steward in respect of those who are placed under him...and is accountable (to Allah) for those people and things placed under his care”.* (Bukhari and Muslim)

Christianity and Islam place great premium in quality leadership. Muslim and Christian Scholars and Social Scientists have, over the centuries, compiled the qualities of persons who make up good leadership. Therefore there is enough religious literature to guide Nigerians in choosing good Nigerian Leaders; under the Grace and the Mercy of Allah/God.

### **GOOD FOLLOWERSHIP**

As stated earlier; generally, leaders are blamed for a country's problems; this may be so, but leaders are a mirror image of the society. Good leaders emerge from a good society and bad leaders emerge from a bad society.

Therefore, having good citizens as followers shall lead to having honest, peace loving and Allah/God fearing politicians, traditional rulers, judges, pressmen, security personnel, farmers, masons, carpenters, teachers, students, clergymen, contractors, merchants, investors, bankers, engineers, drivers, shop attendants, and all others who make up the Nigerian Nation.

As it is with leaders who have authority as mentioned above, so it is with followers. Each and every soul shall account for its deeds while on Earth before the Almighty Allah/God in the Hereafter.

### **IF YOU FAIL, RESIGN OR BE REMOVED**

Whoever is entrusted with any responsibility and fails to positively perform, should either resign or be removed in order to appoint any other person who can positively perform. This is more applicable to Leaders as the Nigerian Constitution has no room for failures in leadership. And above all, all Nigerian Leaders are either Christians or Muslims and Allah/God does not overburden any Soul, as He states that,

*“Allah does not place a burden on any person greater than what he/she can bear...” (Qur’an 2:286)*

*“...But God is Merciful; He will not suffer you to be tempted above what you are able to bear...” (1Corinthinas 10:13)*

No Leader (or any other person for that matter) shall have an excuse to posterity or to Allah/God for failing to credibly perform his/her duties and still cling to power. Even in Worship for example, Allah/God has removed the burden of fasting on those who are sick and cannot fast. Therefore, any person who cannot perform anything, should leave that to those who can perform. This is the fundamental command of Allah/God. Perhaps, resignation or removal through legal means would be the answer to Leaders who are failures!

## **Chapter Five**

### **MANAGEMENT OF OF BANDITRY AND OTHER DEADLY SECURITY CHALLENGES**

#### **STEP ONE: FORBID WHAT IS EVIL AND ENJOIN WHAT IS RIGHT**

First and foremost, efforts to end terrorism, banditry and other criminalities in Nigeria will require greater will by the Leaders in particular and the Citizenry in general. In these regards, Leaders must exhibit justice, fairness, trustworthiness and must provide enabling atmospheres for citizens to obtain the basic needs of life. These are the prerequisites for peace, security and development. For example, it is not enough just to kill bandits or to jail them, as long as the socio-economic factors that led them into banditry are not addressed. Youths shall always be attracted to criminal activities as long as there is massive unemployment, hunger, illiteracy and all sorts of imbalances in the socio-economic spheres of life. Merely killing a banditry group's leader, for example, may result into the emergence of many splinter groups recruiting more bandits. It is on record that, the killing of the late bandit kingpin, Buharin Daji, led his bandit group to fracture into nearly thirty groups thus increasing insecurity rather than reducing it. All measures to contain criminalities must be built on the premise of justice and fairness where all citizens are provided with the protection of their lives and properties; and with the basic welfare for meaningful living. Otherwise, nothing can contain insecurities!

Therefore, evil factors must be effectively managed if existing security challenges are to be controlled and if future occurrence is to be prevented.

## **STEP TWO: THE MANAGEMENT OF SECURITY CHALLENGES THAT ARE EXISTING**

When there is an existing occurrence of deadly security challenges like militancy, insurgency, banditry, etc, a tripartite approach is recommended for the effective management of such heightened security challenges; like those that have been bedevilling Nigeria. In the tripartite approach, no one leg of it is sufficient enough to contain the situations, therefore an appropriate combination is recommended. The tripartite approach is made up of the following options:

### **Option One: Military/Police Action**

There is no doubt that the level of sophistication and the extent of damage caused by banditry, insurgency, terrorism and militancy require military actions, which the Nigerian Federal Government has already adopted. The military option should however be stepped up in order to totally dislodge these types of criminals from their enclaves and make them incapable of making coordinated attacks.

In addition, Government should ensure that the statutory functions of the Police Force are not jeopardised by making the Military to be performing purely Police duties of quelling riots and handling purely general criminal activities and maintaining Law and Order. The neglect of the Police Force by the long-stay of military regimes in the past is still evident and something should be done to rectify the situation. The Police need better arms, ammunition and other modern security gadgets and equipment. They also need better facilities and better remuneration packages to perform more efficiently.

A situation where the Police are poorly paid and the families of those killed in the line of duty are not paid their entitlements promptly (or even not at all) could never be encouraging to others to stake their lives in the performance of their statutory and risky duties. Other Security Agencies also need to be catered for by the government to enable them perform their duties diligently and effectively for them to support the Police Force and the Military. These Agencies include the Directorate of State Services (DSS), National Intelligence Agency (NIA), Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps (NSCDC), Nigeria Customs Service (NCS), Nigeria Immigration Service (NIS), Nigeria Correctional Service (NCS), Federal Roads safety Corps (FRSC), etc.

## **Option Two: Dialogue and Amnesty**

### **(a) In The Events Of Normal Conflicts**

There is the need to understand that effective management of a conflict could make it a learning process since it could create opportunities for people to understand each other better, respect each other, accommodate each other's strengths and weaknesses; and live peacefully together.

Dialogue is the best panacea in the case of civil unrests and similar socioeconomic security challenges. For example, contending ethnic, religious and other interest groups normally hold very strong opposing positions, which make it difficult for them to accommodate each other's interests and needs. In these cases, people need to come together in order to find a common ground for dialogue. Therefore, there is need for Government to create an enabling environment for ethnic and religious groups to consent to come together to find the common ground for dialogue that can bring enduring peace between them.



### **(b) In The Events Of Serious War-Like Crises**

In the events of very serious crises that result into war-like situations like those of the Boko Haram insurgency, the Niger Delta Militancy and Banditry, even if the combat is won by the military, the peace might be elusive. This is because those criminals who are embedded in the communities and those who would escape from the battlefields into the towns and villages could continue to constitute security threats and if care is not taken this could lead to the resurgence of their criminal activities. Dialogue is perhaps the best way out in these instances.

However, absolute caution should be taken in dialoguing with criminals of the banditry, insurgency, terrorism and militancy descriptions. The military should fight those who are armed and in combat at their enclaves, but the repentant ones who embrace peace should be welcome for dialogue. It should be born in mind that military operations are best and most practicable against identified targets, but criminals who are embedded in the communities could not be militarily fought for fear of collateral damages; and therefore dialogue with such persons might be the best option.

The essence of war is to gain peace without which the desired result for going to the war in the first place cannot be achieved. History has shown that in our contemporary World, peace can best be achieved only through dialogue.

For example, despite the might of the United States of America, she could not win the peace through war in Vietnam despite almost 20 years of war, from November 1955 to April 1975. The peace was won only after dialogue that led to the withdrawal of American troops from that country.

Equally, the mighty Russians could not win the war in Afghanistan that lasted for about nine years, from December 24<sup>th</sup> 1979 to February 15<sup>th</sup> 1989. Peace was won only after dialogue. The Iran/Iraq war that lasted for eight years, from September 1980 to August 1988 did not produce a winner/vanquished, but peace was won only after several sittings at the negotiation tables. The Afghan and Iraqi “wars against terror” waged by an alliance of the World’s most powerful Nations have not yielded the desired peace even after over a decade of the use of all types of sophisticated tactics and weaponry. Dialogue saved the situation. Over 28 years of war between North and South Sudan only resulted into a negotiated peace and independence for South Sudan after dialogue.

The Nigerian civil war that lasted from 6<sup>th</sup> July 1967 to 15<sup>th</sup> January 1970 was won with the surrender of the rebels. But the peace was only achieved with the no-victor and no-vanquished stance of the Federal Military Government; and the ultimate pardon granted to the Leader of the rebellion by the Second Republic Civilian Government. The Niger Delta militancy achieved peace only after dialogue between the militants and the Federal Government, which led to the granting of amnesty and lucrative empowerment programmes to the repentant militants.

The point being made here is that, no peace can be won on the battlefield in the contemporary World! The battles could be won in the event of war, but the peace can only be won after dialogue that leads to reconciliation.

### **Option Three: Community Involvement**

Community involvement in any government project or activity is of paramount importance. This involvement is even most

important in the areas of conflict resolution and security management. “Community Policing” is the modern term describing community involvement in security and conflict management. Community Policing has become most imperative in Nigeria today because the Governments at all levels seem to have lost control of the increasing security challenges confronting the Nation. Therefore, all hands must be put on deck for an effective Community Policing implementation.

Community Policing is a philosophy that focuses on managing crime and social disorder through the delivery of security services that include intelligence gathering, law enforcement, prevention of crime, problem solving and conflict resolution through positive community engagement and proactive partnership.

Community Policing Programme entails building of ties and synergy; and working closely between Security Agencies and members of the communities they serve. In this programme, Governments at all levels, the Police Force, State Security Service, other Security Agencies, Traditional Rulers, Religious Leaders, Community Elders, Voluntary Organisations, Private Sector, Media Organisations and the Citizenry shall all partner to provide effective security management. Ultimately, the programme shall lead to peace and security, which shall provide an enabling environment for progress, prosperity and development.

Several countries have embraced the Community Policing system. They include, United States of America (1962); China (1949); Japan (1994); Israel (1995); South Africa (1996); Italy (2000); France (2002); Germany (2002); Malaysia (2008); India (2012); Uganda (2013)

With the importance of Community Policing in his mind, President Muhammadu Buhari tasked Participants of the Senior Executive Course 40 (2018) of the National Institute for Policy and Strategic Studies (NIPSS), Kuru, Jos, to undertake a Study with the theme “Strengthening the Internal Security Framework and Community Policing in Nigeria: Models, Policy Options and Strategies”.

At the end of the Study, the Participants submitted a detailed report to Mr. President for consideration. Subsequently, the Presidency constituted a Committee in May 2019 to study the Report and advise government on the implementation of its recommendations. The Committee submitted its Report to Mr President in July 2019. With Mr President’s subsequent approval, a Community Policing Programme took off all over Nigeria in 2020. The guiding document being: “The Nigeria Police Force Community Policing Handbook of June 2020”.

## **Chapter Six**

### **SOME RECOMMENDATIONS ON MEASURES TO PREVENT THE OCCURRENCE OF CRIMINALITIES IN NIGERIA**

#### **ADDRESSING SOCIO-ECONOMIC FACTORS**

As an emphasis on the provisions for military and police actions against bandits, terrorists and other criminals to be effective, and for the prevention of future occurrence, the socio-economic factors that breed, oil and derive the machinery of criminalities must be addressed. Let it be emphasised that, as long as there is gross distortion and gross imbalance in the lives of the “haves” and the “have-nots”, peace and security can never be attained. Some of the socio-economic factors that should be addressed include (but are not restricted to) the following:-

1. Putting in place socio-economic measures that shall reduce to the barest minimum the incidence of mass poverty that glaringly shows the high disparity between the social and economic classes, where very few are extremely rich and they glaringly show this off, while the vast majority are living in abject poverty.
2. Curbing mass illiteracy in all its ramifications that pervades the people, especially in the Northern States. The rich and the ruling class must bear in mind that there can never be peace between them and the ordinary citizens because their own children are securely admitted into very functional private local and foreign schools, colleges and universities; while those of the ordinary citizens are out of school or in dilapidated and non-functioning public schools. The illiteracy of the children of the ordinary citizens is one of the prime movers of their joining criminal gangs. All efforts must be geared towards the provision

of basic and qualitative education to all school-age children irrespective of the wealth or the status of their parents.

3. The old adage, “an idle mind is the Devil’s workshop” is glaringly manifested in Nigeria. Youth unemployment, where able bodied youths, especially secondary and tertiary institutions’ graduates, roam the streets in search of employment for years, is a prime mover to such youths joining criminal gangs. To attain peace with such youths, employment opportunities must be provided to them so as to ensure that they are gainfully self, private or publicly employed.

4. The alarming rate of drugs consumption and addiction must be curtailed. Drugs are the prime spurs to criminalities as they make criminals so crazy as not to care about peoples’ lives. Indeed, drugs are the mothers of criminalities. The curtailment of smuggling, sales and consumption of illicit drugs must be made a priority project.

5. The provision of affordable basic healthcare facilities to all shall go along way into curtailing insecurity. Many people are prone to stealing, robbery and even banditry so as to secure funds to treat a loved one. There is also the bitter feeling when one’s loved one is seriously sick and there is no means of affording basic treatment; but an affluent elite neighbour spends millions to fly out for just a medical check-up! In such a case, is that poor neighbour not being told to be an informant for bandits; or even to be a bandit himself?

6. Bribery and corruption, which has become endemic in all facets of the public and private sectors of Nigeria, could conclusively be classified as one of the major factors breeding insecurity in the country. These twin diseases mark the dividing

line between the very few corrupt and wealthy elites and the massive poor people of Nigeria. As long as these two monsters are not contained, there shall always be the grudges between the haves and have-nots thereby creating continuous insecurity.

7. Religion, ethnicity, language and culture should once more be made the traditional symbols of cohesion, understanding and respect for one another in Nigeria. They should not be turned into war arsenals particularly by politicians and religious bigots who capitalise on them for their selfish reasons. Therefore, leaders and the elites who fan the ambers of the misuse of religion and ethnicity should do whatever it takes to ensure that religion and ethnicity are understood and used as unifying rather than dividing forces. Otherwise, these two important aspects of life shall be turned into forces for dangerous insecurities.

8. The Nigerian Criminal Justice System should be grossly overhauled so as to stop its being bastardised to the extent that criminals carry out crimes and other violent acts with impunity because of the absence of the implementation of deterrent measures to punish perpetrators. When crimes are not punished, it is an open invitation for more crimes to be committed.

9. In these times of political campaigns, negative politicking by politicians and political parties must be stopped. Arming political thugs with drugs and weapons must be curtailed if peace shall reign. It has been amply demonstrated that Niger Delta militancy, Boko Haram insurgency and North-West banditry all arose from groups of political thugs who were abandoned after their sponsors got elected into political offices.

10. Great improvement must be made in the conditions of service, the welfare, the professional training, the infrastructure, the arms,



the ammunition and the other requisite equipment for the security personnel (particularly the Police and the Army).

11. Governance challenges must be addressed, especially where people in government are not elected or appointed on merit, or where government officials are not encouraged to perform well due to unnecessary opposition and/or sabotage.

### **SHARED RESPONSIBILITIES TOWARDS THE EFFECTIVE PREVENTION OF CRIMINALITIES IN NIGERIA**

Careful studies of the security issues analysed by various Government Committees, Panels and Commissions of Enquiries and those in all relevant available literature (published and unpublished), show that, insecurity manifests itself in varied forms and therefore its curtailment entails multifaceted approaches. Several of the Committees, Panels and Commissions of Enquiries recommend in their Reports that, the Federal, States and Local Governments should join hands with the Traditional and the Religious Institutions, the Private Sector and the NGOs; and the Citizenry in order to curtail the menace of insecurity in the Nigeria. To this end, the following (extracted from several Committees' Reports) are recommended to the various tiers as their individual and shared responsibilities towards managing current insecurity and preventing future occurrence:-

#### **The Government Should:-**

1. Consider that security is a basic right that government must ensure the provision of, whereby citizens and their properties are well protected; and that government must always be transparent and accountable to the citizens and must take into account their needs and concerns.

2. Encourage dialogue as a means of peacefully resolving crisis and promoting understanding amongst all segments of the society in accordance with the principles of tolerance, respect and freedom of movement and expression.
3. Develop community policing and resilience as a means of ensuring enduring peace and security. Here, movement and settlement of people should be given special attention.
4. Improve the conditions of service, professionalism, infrastructure and equipment of the security services through robust budgetary provisions to all security services. In a similar vein, persons to be recruited into security services should be properly screened.
5. Set up a body to study numerous reports of Committees on security related matters with a view to immediately implementing salient and important recommendations.
6. Arrest and prosecute all persons who were identified to have committed crimes or to have aided, abetted and/or been linked with crimes and/or criminal groups.
7. Develop a comprehensive programme of demobilisation and mop-up of arms and ammunitions throughout the country.
8. Secure Nigeria's land and maritime borders, to control the free movement of criminals and arms and ammunitions.
9. Do whatever it takes to enthrone a system that will ensure free, fair and credible elections and an enduring democracy.
10. Intensify action to resolve all pending ethno-religious and communal conflicts especially those bordering on land matters, access to public opportunities and amenities, freedom of religion and self actualisation.

11. Institutionalise a healthy balance in fiscal allocation of resources between all tiers of government through routine reviews of and amendments of the legal and constitutional basis of resource allocation.
12. Fight corruption, money laundering and all similar vices with all the legal arsenals at the disposal of government thereby ensuring transparency in governance.
13. Ensure the enhancement of conditions of service of public officers and the prompt payment of salaries and wages in addition to addressing infrastructural and working tools decay.
14. Address the *Almajiri* system with a view to eliminating the current practice where children are let loose on the streets begging for alms to sustain themselves instead of being gainfully engaged in studies and learning useful trades.
15. Re-introduce compulsory Islamic and Christian religious knowledge at least to senior secondary school level all over the country.
16. Wage war against illiteracy in all its ramifications and encourage the setting up of inter-religious bodies that will educate religious adherents on the virtues of understanding, tolerance and peaceful coexistence that are panacea for development and prosperity.
17. Enforce the fundamental human rights of all Nigerians to peacefully reside anywhere in the country thereby abolishing the “settler” and “indigene” dichotomy.
18. Set-up/reactivate grazing reserves and map-out clear livestock routes all over the country and protect same from farmer

encroachment. In addition, nomads should be sensitised to stop the destruction of farm crops. Nomadic Education Programme should also be enhanced.

19. The influx of nomads from neighbouring countries should be controlled under agreed terms with Nigeria's neighbours. In a similar vein, human and drugs trafficking and trans-boarder crimes should be jointly addressed with Nigeria's neighbours.
20. Restore family values and encourage parental responsibility through enlightenment on religious, civic and cultural virtues.

**The Traditional and Religious Institutions Should:-**

1. Be legally empowered and encouraged to continue to perform their roles of peace making and security enhancement.
2. Be empowered to ensure justice, equity and fair play.
3. Be fully mobilised in campaign against violence.
4. Be empowered to aggressively embark on and sustain enlightenment campaigns to re-orient the youth in particular and the public in general on the need for peace as pre-requisite for development and prosperity.
5. Be assigned more roles, with appropriate legal backing, in conflict management at the grassroots levels.
6. Be insulated from partisan politics through the development and institutionalisation of unambiguous laws, rules and procedures for the roles, appointment and deposition of Traditional Rulers.

**Private Sector and Non Government Organisations Should:-**

1. Provide small, medium and large scale industries and businesses so as to contain unemployment.

2. Provide facilities and assistance for skills acquisition so as to encourage youth self employment
3. Invest in affordable educational institutions and in affordable health facilities with a view to complementing those established by government.
4. Form Foundations and NGOs so as to partake in mobilising the citizenry towards self-help and peaceful co-existence.
5. Be proactive in making people to understand and respect each-others religious and cultural beliefs without prejudice to each-others freedom of speech and religion.
6. Be the vanguards for the protection of both the citizens and the government against unjust acts and actions from or on both sides.
7. Liaise between the Federal, States and Local Governments and the Traditional Institutions on one hand and the citizenry on the other hand with a view to cementing understanding, justice from the authorities to the citizens and obedience from the citizens to the authorities.
8. Mobilise the people towards self-help, community development and assistance to victims of natural and man-made calamities and disasters.

**The Citizenry Should:-**

1. Imbibe the culture of tolerance and discipline and shun vices in all their forms and ramifications.
2. Inculcate moral values and discipline in children and encourage parents to stop abdicating on their parental responsibilities.

3. Respect constituted authorities at traditional, local government, state and federal levels.
4. Serve as discreet informants and report all security breaches to the relevant authorities.
5. Avoid participating in political, communal, religious and all other conflicts.
6. Encourage good governance by not partaking in or encouraging bribery and corruption.
7. Ensure the election of competent persons into political offices through free and fair elections by refusing to sell their votes or participating in political thuggery.

## **Chapter Seven**

### **THE TIME FOR POSITIVE ACTION IS NOW!!!**

Nigeria is certainly under a SECURITY EMERGENCY whether this is officially declared by the Government or not. The biggest threats to Nigeria's corporate existence today are insecurities of monumental dimensions. They include religious, ethnic, political and communal crises. These crises have been heightened by the Boko Haram insurgency farmers/herders conflict and livestock rustling that has transformed into banditry. Some other challenges facing the Nation include assassinations, kidnappings, oil bunkering, corruption, disregard for law and order, disregard for human lives and properties, armed robbery, electoral malpractices and a host of other ills. These security and allied challenges are making Nigeria to be utterly broken, gravely ill and speedily losing her status as an entity that is united in diversity and as the largest economy in Africa.

The last few years in Nigeria have witnessed an alarming spate of conflicts, insurgency, militancy, banditry and all forms of security challenges and human rights violations. As a result of various crises in Nigeria, over 40,000 killings were reported between 2011 and 2015 alone (Premium Times quoting US Council on Foreign Relations, Nigeria Security Tracker, May 2011 to September 2015). Boko Haram insurgency has resulted into over 100,000 deaths and over 2.5 million people displaced (Borno State Governor at a Lecture in Abuja on 13<sup>th</sup> February 2017). The North-East Recovery and Peace Building Assessment (RPBA) Team stated that public and private properties worth over \$9 billion (2.8 trillion Naira) were destroyed in the North-East between 2011 and 2015 (News Agency of Nigeria quoting

Senior Special Assistant to the President on Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs), Dr Mariam Masha, on 31<sup>st</sup> March, 2016).

Several Local Governments fell to insurgents where they declared the areas as their “Caliphate”. Banditry has now been classified by the Government as “insurgency” in the North-West and the North-Central States. As the highpoint of banditry in Nigeria, the Centre for Democracy Development (CDD) found that at least 100 bandits’ groups are operating in the North-West Nigeria, consisting of about 30,000 militants (April 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2022). These happenings are a national catastrophe that has retarded the socio-economic development of the Nation thereby making poverty to be on the increase and life to become unbearable for the vast majority of Nigerians.

Conflicts are inevitable in a pluralistic Nation like Nigeria that has diverse ethnic, religious and interest groups; but the metamorphosis of conflicts into banditries and insurgencies and other serious security challenges in the country are squarely the results of the poor management of such conflicts at their early stages of development.

The tripartite options of military and police action; dialogue and amnesty and community involvement in the management of insurgencies, conflicts and other security challenges in Nigeria are recommended. No one-leg of the tripartite options is sufficient enough to manage the insurgencies and conflicts; therefore an appropriate combination is recommended. There is certainly the need for consistent military action in insurgencies and police action in civil strife. But, as in all other conflicts and security challenges, appropriate dialogue (and in some cases, amnesty) should be employed in order to achieve a final settlement. Military and Police actions may win the battle and



quell the strife respectively, but it is only dialogue that ultimately wins the peace. Nigeria needs peace for her progress and development, if she is to take her rightful place as the much professed “Giant of Africa”.

However, it should be emphasised that, efforts to end terrorism, banditry and other criminalities in Nigeria will only succeed when Leaders exhibit justice, fairness, trustworthiness and provide enabling atmospheres for citizens to obtain the basic needs of life. For example, it is not enough just to kill bandits or to jail them, as long as the socio-economic factors that led them into banditry are not addressed. Youths shall always be attracted to criminal activities as long as there is massive unemployment, hunger, illiteracy and all sorts of imbalances in the socio-economic spheres of life. Therefore, all measures to contain criminalities must be built on the premise of justice and fairness where all citizens are provided with the protection of their lives and properties; and with the basic welfare for meaningful living.

Generally, Leaders are blamed for a Country’s or a Community’s problems; this may be so, but Leaders are a mirror image of the society as they are members of the same society! Good Leaders emerge from a good society and bad Leaders emerge from a bad society. Therefore, each member of a bad society has to change his or her bad habits and attitudes for the society as a whole to change from a bad one to a good one. However, it has been an established fact that Leaders lead their people either to the good or to the bad aspects of life. It is therefore of paramount importance to always be having good leadership.

Nigeria is a Nation habited predominantly by Muslims and Christians who profess to be either “Born again Christians” or “Shari’ah compliant Muslims”. Indeed, Nigerian Christians and

Muslims make up 100% of the Nigerian population and a 100% of the Nigerian Leadership. Christianity and Islam have such closeness and similarities that are not found between any of the other largest Religions of the World. Islam and Christianity have very similar Laws, Rules and Regulations on spiritual, social, economic, administrative and moral affairs and the provisions on how to conduct these affairs peacefully and harmoniously. Therefore it is incumbent upon Nigerians to live by and to practice the spiritual and the temporal dictates of the two Great Religions that they freely profess to belong to.

Have Nigerians ever bothered to ask why, for decades, things continue to go from bad to worse in a Country that is daily in prayers? Are Nigerian Leaders not reputed to be in the forefront in sending “prayer warriors” to Mecca and to Jerusalem for prayers and still Allah/God refused to make things better for the Nation? Nigeria has more Churches and more Mosques; and more “prayer warriors” than any other Country in the World. Prayers are so important in Nigeria that all public and private functions have Muslim and Christian (or a combination of both) “opening” and “closing” prayers in their programme of activities. But the more Nigerians pray, the more the calamities befall the Nation!

It is therefore incumbent upon the two tiers of the Nigerian population, i.e. (1) the Leadership and (2) the Followership, to grossly engage in repentance, in prayers and in working very hard with a view to Forbidding Evil, Enjoining what is Right and Upholding Justice! These are the prerequisites for Allah/God to listen to the prayers of Nigerians and to help the Nation to achieve the much desired peace, security and development. The time for positive action is now!!!

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