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Full Length Research Paper

Analysis of contemporary insecurity in Katsina State, Nigeria

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Many countries around the globe presently are facing insecurity and as such insecurity can be considered as global in nature as few countries are not facing insecurity. In Nigeria, it was observed that insecurity has increased since the return to democratic governance in 1999. The objectives of the study are to identify and highlight the factors responsible for insecurity in Katsina State, highlight the efforts of the Government in tackling the security and identify the limitations of such efforts. The methodology adopted in data collection is through focus group discussion held at the affected local government areas sampled for the study. This was complemented by direct observational techniques and the use of secondary sources of data. The main results have shown that several factors are responsible for creating the present insecurity in the State. The Governments at both the Federal and State levels have made several efforts to tackle the insecurity in order to bring back peace and security in the State. But these efforts have not fully succeeded due to certain limitations. There is, therefore, the need for active and decisive strategies to tackle the insecurity facing the State.

Keywords: Analysis, contemporary, insecurity, Katsina State

INTRODUCTION

Security is the state or condition of being free from danger or threat in the daily activities of human beings (Imam, 2014).Security represents a situation when an individual, group or community can move freely to carry out their daily activities without fear of danger, injury to the body or destruction of properties. Ensuring the security of lives and properties is the primary responsibility of the Government. It is because of this that Governments have establish several security forces to ensure and maintain security within a country and even to respond to external aggressions and threats. Insecurity is lack of security or a situation of uncertainty when a person, group or community is at the stage of been subject to or exposed to danger at a given location. Insecurity can also be defined as a situation when someone is not adequately guarded, protected or defended by the authorities that are suppose to provide security (Webster, 2019).Insecurity in which ever country it is experienced, constitutes serious threats to lives and properties, hinders business activities and discourage domestic and foreign investors, all of which retard a country's socio-economic development (Ewetan, 2014).

Many countries around the globe are facing one form of insecurity or the other and as such insecurity is global in nature with few countries not facing insecurity. According to Divsallar, (2015), the global community is under is under increasing insecurity around the world. These threats ranges from emerging new terrorist groups to renewed Russia-US and China-US power struggles in Europe, South East Asia, Middle east turbulences and

also failing States in Africa.

There are rising insecurity in many developing countries especially those in the continent of Africa. This is manifested in civil wars (Central African Republic, Libya and South Sudan), attack by terrorist groups (Cameroun, Kenya and Somalia), political upheavals (Guinea Bissau and Sudan),militants attacks (DR Congo and Egypt).The insecurity is beyond the capability of some nations to the extent that foreign troops are invited to come to assist in tackling the insecurity. Examples include the presence of US troops in Niger Republic and French troops in Mali. In order to form a common front against the rising insecurity, countries have been organizing a conference of the Committee of Intelligence and Security Services in Africa (CISSA) whose 16th edition was hosted at Abuja, Nigeria in July 2019.

In Nigeria, it was observed that the level of insecurity has increased since the return to democratic governance in May,1999. These insecurities are caused by communal clashes, ethnic/tribal conflicts, religious riots/conflicts, militancy and ritual killings, cultism and ethnic militia attacks and the farmers-herdsmen conflicts (Akinola, 2016). These further increased with the arrival of the Boko Haram insurgency in the North east from 2009 to date. The level of insecurity further increased with the changing of the farmer-herdsmen clashes into banditry and cattle rustling between 2010-2015.In some states of the North, this form of insecurity further changed to not only banditry, cattle rustling but to also include kidnapping of people for ransom.

Katsina State is one of the States in the North West that is presently affected by banditry, cattle rustling and kidnapping which started from July 2018 to date. This affects mainly the eight frontline Local Government Areas (LGAs) namely Jibia, Batsari, Safana, Danmusa, Kankara, Faskari, Dandume and Sabua (See Figure 1).The situation become so bad that in January 2019,the Governor of Katsina State lamented that ‘‘Katsina State is under serious siege by bandits and kidnappers, even me as a Governor am not safe’’ (Aminu,2019).It is based on this background that the paper is aimed at examining the factors responsible for the level of insecurity with a view to offering recommendation that can be adopted to curtail the level of insecurity in the State.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Description of study area

Katsina State is located in Northern Nigeria lying approximately between latitudes 11^0 30’ N and 13° 15’ N and longitudes 6^0 52’ E and 9° 20’ E covering an aerial extent of 23,850 km^2 (Alo *et al.*, 1998).The State is bounded by Niger Republic to the north, by Jigawa and Kano States to the east, by Kaduna State to the south and by Zamfara State to the west. The two ancient kingdoms of Katsina and Daura metamorphosed into present day Katsina State that was carved out of the former Kaduna State on 23rd September, 1987 (Alo *et al.*, 1998). Katsina State presently constitutes one of the thirty six (36) states that made up the Federal Republic of Nigeria and the State itself is divided into thirty four LGAs which are shown on (Figure 1). Based on the 2006 national population census, the State has a population of 5,801,584 persons with the 2016 population projection figure of 7,831,319 persons (NBS, 2017).The State is mainly populated by members of Hausa and Fulani ethnic groups who are largely Muslims base on religion. The major occupations of the people are rain-fed farming during the rainy season and irrigation farming during the dry seasons along the rivers and dams in the State. Cattle rearing are also practiced on the grassland areas by the Fulani and the native Hausa people of the State. Trading activities are also a major occupation that involved travelling for buying and selling at the weekly markets in towns and villages of the State.

In terms of physical setting, the State is composed of undulating plains that are part of the High Plains of Hausa land which generally rise from 360 m to in the north east around Daura to 600 m around Funtua in the south west. Isolated hills and rock formation including inselbergs can be found in some parts of the State. The drainage consists of rivers and streams that are mainly seasonal in nature and can be found in different parts of the State. The major rivers include river Tagwai, Koza, Sabke, Gada, Karaduwa. Bunsuru, Gagare, Galma, Turami etc some of which are dammed for irrigation purposes. The climate can generally be described as tropical continental climate which varies considerably based on the months and seasons of the year. The period of high temperatures of about 38°C coincides with the dry season before the beginning of the rains that falls mainly from May to September of the year. The vegetation consist of northern Guinea savannah in the south and Sudan Savannah in the northern parts of the state.A long stretch of forest vegetation exist along the western boundary with Zamfara State which serve as the hideout and operating base for bandits and other criminals. In terms of security, the State Governor is the chief security officer of the State. The Police are in charge of security of lives and properties in the State with the State capital hosting the Nigerian Police Force headquarters with each LGA having at least a Divisional Police Office consisting of 45-50 men.

Police Outposts are established in some areas where the divisional office is not enough to provide adequate security e.g.in Jibia LGA. The other military and paramilitary forces that are also in charge of security include the Nigerian Army, Security and Civil Defense Corps, State Security Service, Nigerian Customs and Immigration Services. A map of Katsina State showing the frontline LGAs was sourced from National Aeronautics and Space Administration spot image (2019)

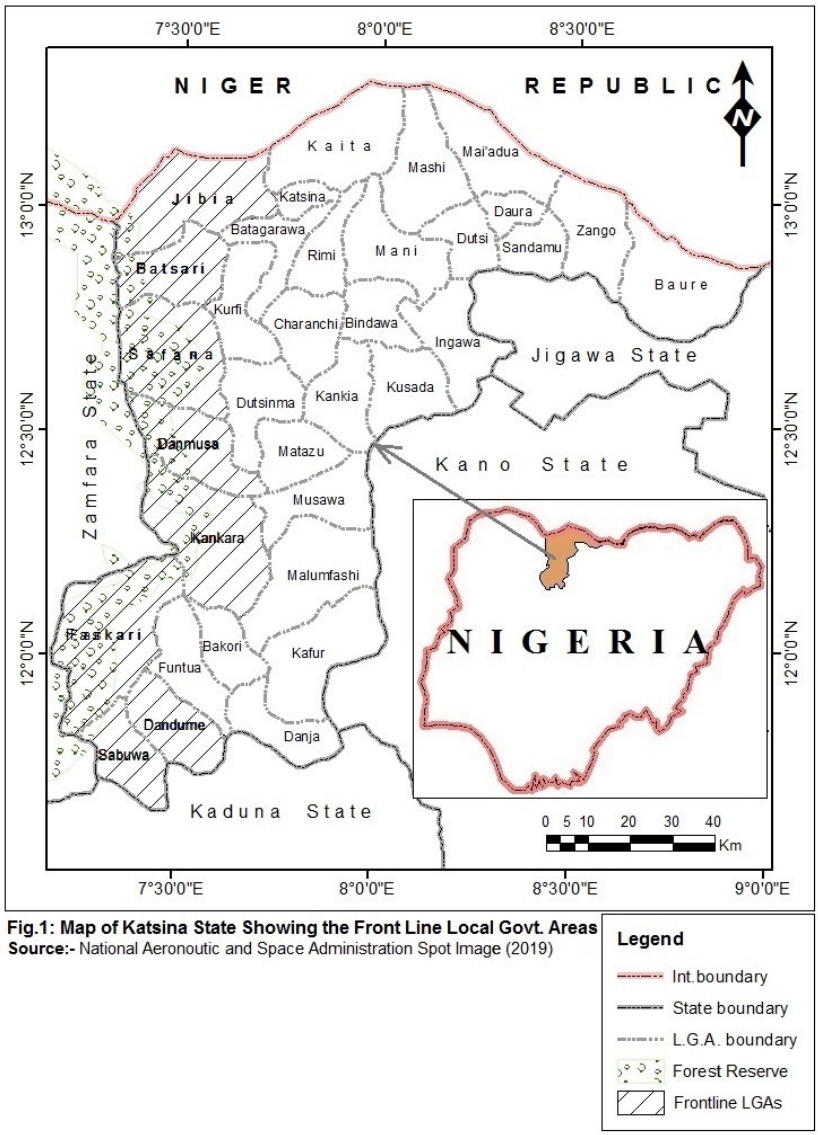

Fig.1: Map of Katsina State Showing the Front Line Local Govt. Areas
Source:- National Aeronoutic and Space Administration Spot Image (2019)

which was drawn at the Cartography unit of the Department of Geography Umaru Musa Yar'adua University Katsina is showing the study area (Figure 1). Out of the eight LGAs that were seriously affected by security problems, four LGAs were sampled for the study which from the Niger Republic boundary are Jibia, Batsari, Safana and Kankara (Figure 1).These LGAs all shares boundary with Zamfara State to the west, that has become the hub of banditry in Nigeria and have large expanse of forests and forest reserves that serve as hide outs and operating base for bandits that create the insecurity. Among the frontline LGAs, the four sampled are based on certain considerations relevant to the study. Jibia LGA was chosen because it has an international boundary with Niger republic and was the location of the security operation that sparked the revenge attacks by the Fulani people. Batsari LGA was sampled as most of the settlements are not far from the Rugu forest and as such suffered more bandits' attacks than any other LGA in the State. Safana LGA was sampled as it is the LGA with the largest area of forest vegetation where the bandits use as their hideouts and operating base. Kankara LGA was the venue of the Amnesty Program/Peace deal agreed by the State Government and the bandits in January 2016.It was in this LGA that the bandits handed over their weapons to denounce banditry and embrace peace.

Methods of data collection

Focus Group Discussion (FGD) was used to collect data for the study as it involves use of people that have knowledge about insecurity in the four LGAs sample for the study with the Author acting as the facilitator. The Author is assisted by four Assistants who are natives of each of the LGAs. The persons that formed the focus

groups are indigenes and residents of the LGAs who are experiencing the insecurity and they were reached during field visits to the headquarters of the LGAs held within the months of March to May, 2019. A FGD guide was used for the discussions which consist of questions on what factors are responsible for the present insecurity, what are the efforts of the Government in tackling the insecurity, what are the limitations of the efforts and suggestions to tackle the insecurity. The Focus groups consist of ten persons each that were formed in each of the four LGAs which means that twenty(20) persons were forming two groups were used in each LGA. The limiting of the groups to two in each of the four LGAs is due to the nature of the topic of discussion as some people are scared to discuss security issues for fear of informants exposing them or taking negative actions against them. The data collected from the FGD were complemented by data from secondary sources such as environmental reports, reports of roundtable interactive discussions. Conference papers, journal articles, book of proceedings and internet sourced material obtained through desk researches, the data collected were analyzed through descriptive statistics.

Factors responsible for insecurity in Katsina State

Based on discussions with the focus groups, the level of security in Katsina State is high. This is in view of the incessant attacks by bandits on the frontline LGAs, the risk of kidnapping even in the State capital and LGAs not bordering the Rugu forest plus other criminal activities and protests that threatens the security of the State. The confession of the Governor that the State is under siege by kidnappers and bandits goes to show the level at which the security of lives and properties have deteriorated in the State. It is based on this that the paper highlights the factors responsible for insecurity in the State. The factors responsible for insecurity are highlighted below:

Collapse of the amnesty program and peace deal

In May 2015, with the coming to power of the governments of All Progressive Congress (APC) at both the Federal and State levels, concerted efforts were made to end banditry and cattle rustling that was inherited from the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) governments. In line with this the Federal Government launched the Nigerian Army Operation Sharan daji (sweeping the Forest) that carried out ground offensives against bases/hideouts of the bandits. This leads to a reduction of banditry and cattle rustling in the State. In January 2016, the State Government organized an amnesty program/peace deal at Kankara, Kankara LGA where the bandits under the leadership of Buharin daji and other leaders led their members to lay down and handed over their weapons to embrace peace. However, by July 2018 the banditry and cattle rustling re-surfaced again with even a new kind of criminal activity that involve abducting people and holding them captive till large sums of money are paid to secure their release. According to the Governor of the State, the Amnesty Program/Peace deal collapsed due to the death of the leaders that organized the peace deal. And there was a spillover of bandit's activities from the neighboring States of Zamfara and Kaduna States that shared common forests with Katsina State as once the bandits were under fire in one State they move over to another State.

Desire to acquire wealth

Some people in the State have an insatiable desire to acquire wealth at all cost even if it means committing heinous crimes. The Fulani bandits in the State fall into this category as they steal the cattle of other people in a bid to acquire wealth or to be seen to be wealthy. Based on the Fulani tradition, a person is considered wealthy and influential when he owns large herds of cattle.In the last few decades, some of the Fulani people have lost cattle through conflicts and court or police cases between themselves and other people over land, grazing routes and even women so they have the desire to own cattle be wealthy once again (IRIN, 2013). According to Okoli and Okpaleke, (2014) cattle rustling that occurs in some LGAs of Katsina State is motivated by quest for capital acquisition.

High levels of poverty

There is a high level of poverty in the State which is responsible for the insecurity situation. A study by Kabiru and Arshad, (2018) indicated the prevalence of abject poverty in the rural areas of Katsina state. It is this abject poverty that made some people to work as informants or logistic suppliers to the bandits operating from the Rugu forest. According to Zakariya'u (2019) the rate of kidnapping is alarming in the north including Katsina State because of high rate of poverty. The more the poverty, the more the rate of crime will increase in both rural areas and urban centers. From the years 2010 to date the rustling of cattle particularly in the eight frontline LGAs has deepened the vicious cycle of poverty in rural areas of Katsina State (Abdulrashid et al., 2018). Presently there are fears that the levels of poverty will increase as most farmers in the frontline LGAs and elsewhere are kept away from their farmlands due to bandit attacks.

High levels of illiteracy

The level of illiteracy is high in the state as many children and youths do not go to school or have not been able to

continue their studies due to poverty. Data on literacy index published by National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) revealed that Katsina State is among the States where majority of the people can neither read nor write (Amzat, 2017). It is mostly the illiterate youths that are lured to work for the bandits and even the bandits themselves lack the basic education that will enable them to distinguish between what is right and wrong. Illiteracy among the youths also does not allow them to weight the risk of engaging in criminal activities that threatens the peace and security of the State.

High rates of unemployment

There is high rate of unemployment in Katsina State due to lack of large number of industries to employ the teeming youths and others. The Katsina State government remains the largest employer in the State and even the government has failed to adequately replace staffers that have retired or died. One of the industries that employ large number of workers was the Katsina Steel Rolling Company (Dana Steel PLC) which has been privatized leading to the sacking of many workers of the company. A study by Ladan and Ladan, (2011) has shown that from the 1980s to date a number of industries in Katsina, Dutsinma, Kankara and Funtua have stopped functioning as a result of some problems. The rates of unemployment may further increase as farming activities are presently threatened by banditry and kidnapping.

High rates of drug abuse

There is high rate of drug abuse in the North West geo-political zone where Katsina state is located. Many youths in the State engaged in the abuse of drugs which affect their health and push them to commit crimes which bring insecurity. According to a national survey Katsina State ranked second after Kano State in terms of drug abuse nationwide with 2,173 cases of arrest by National Drug Law Enforcement Agency (NDLEA) (Gambo 2017 in Mu'azu, 2018). Even the bandits that engage in banditry and kidnapping take drugs, in fact one of victims kidnapped in May 2019, in Kurfi LGA revealed that he was able to escape when the bandits became intoxicated after taking drugs. Also one person was arrested at Chabas-chabas in JIbia LGA with drugs in sacks that are meant to be supplied to the bandits based in Gurbin Baure Forest.

Porous borders

Katsina State has an international boundary to the north, bordered by Niger Republic with six LGAs namely Baure, Zango, Mai'adua, Mashi, Kaita and Jibia sharing the boundary. This land border like other borders in the country is porous which makes it easy for criminal elements, arms and ammunition including drugs to be smuggled into the country. The residents of Yar-Santa village in Kankara LGA and those of Gobirawa in Safana LGA revealed that the bandits in their LGAs invited other bandits from Niger Republic that moved through the borders to join other bandits to carry out the attacks in April 2019. Also Yahaya *et al.,* (2018) observed that the widespread availability of small and light weapons in Kano State has its genesis from imported weapons that mostly passed from various porous borders that located in the neighbouring States of Katsina and Jigawa. Furthermore, drugs worth N595.8 million that were smuggled through the borders of Katsina State were seized by the Nigerian Customs Service and handed over to NDLEA for destruction (Danjuma, 2013).

Limited security presence

There is limited presence of security personnel in Katsina State like other States in the federation. The security personnel such as the police and security and civil defense corps are not in adequate supply in the LGAs in order to combat the numerous criminal activities carried out by criminals and other miscreants, Umar and Shittu, (2017) observed that while the country's population has increased progressively over the years, police manpower has not improved to match it, to at least meet up the expected global standard for effective policing. This glaring shortage made it practically impossible for the police force to effectively control and curbs the ever rising wave and rate of crimes and insecurity (Olly, 2014 in Umar and Shittu, 2017). In all the eight frontline LGAs, the numbers of policemen are not more than 30-50 in a divisional police office which is quite inadequate to confront hundreds of bandits that lived in the forests. In fact is some isolated settlements near the forests such as Fafara and Shimfida in Jibia LGA, the bandits have constituted themselves as the law. The judge and settle dispute between the remaining residents as most of them have fled to safety. The limited security presence in these isolated areas have created an ungoverned spaces were the bandits have taken over.

Presence of forest areas

Katsina State has a long stretch of forest vegetation that runs from Jibia to Batsari to Safana to Danmusa to Kankara, to Faskari to Dandume to Sabua where the forest extends to Birnin Gwari forest in Birnin Gwari LGA of Kaduna State. This long stretch of forest has since the year 2010 become the hideout and operating bases

for bandits from where they come to the villages and along roads to launch attacks. Even in Katsina State, the LGAs that have no forest areas or are not sharing boundary with the eight frontline LGAs are not affected by the present wave of insecurity. Okoli and Ochim, (2016) have argued that Nigeria's forestlands have been poorly managed and secured, which makes them vulnerable to criminal habitation and activities. These forest areas especially the Rugu forest covering Batsari, Safana and Danmusa LGAs have become security threats to the LGA. Security forces have not been able to effectively flush out the bandits from the forests. This is in spite of various security operations such as *Sharan Daji* (Sweeping the forest), *Harbin Kunama* (Scorpion sting), *Darar Mikiya* (Eagle landing),*Hadarin Daji* (Forest clouds) and Puff Adder that were launched and presently executed to tackle banditry, kidnapping and other forms of criminality.

Grievances over security operations

There is grievance over one of the security operations that were listed above which has become one of the factors responsible for the insecurity in the State. This security operation named *Dirar Mikiya* (Eagle landing) that was carried out by the Nigerian Air force that involved dropping bomb in the forest hideouts of the bandits at Zurmi forest of Zamfara state. Some of the bandits ran across the state boundary from the Zurmi forest to Gurbin Baure to escape the aerial bombardments. They mixed up with other Fulani to come to the Gurbin Baure weekly market. It was reported that the Navy came to kill any Fulani at the market whether he is a bandit or not. After these killings the remnants of the bandits plus other aggrieved Fulani regrouped to carry out revenge attacks on the settlement of Jibia LGA and along roads those travelers pass through. These bandits even informed some of their kidnapped victims that they are ready to negotiate to stop the attacks if the Emir of Katsina will intervene in the matter (Ladan, 2019).

Efforts of the government towards addressing the insecurity in the state

According to the focus groups the governments at both the Federal and State levels have made efforts towards tackling the present insecurity facing the LGAs. The Federal Government through its various security agencies that involved military and paramilitary agencies has made various efforts to end the banditry and kidnapping plus other criminal activities that brought insecurity in the State. These efforts are:

(i) The Federal Government has launched series of security operations under different code names aimed at tackling the menace to end the insecurity in the State and other States in the North West geo-political zone. The five security operations are counter and pre-emptive being undertaken by the Nigerian Police, the Army and the Air force to deal with banditry and kidnapping .These security operations include Operations *Sharan Daji,Hadrin Daji,Dirar Mikiya,Harbin Kunama* and the recently launched Puff Adder (Newdawn,2019).

(ii) Military and Paramilitary forces have been committed to the security operations that involved both ground and aerial offensives against the bandits in their forest hide outs or when they attack village settlements. For example the forces responded when the bandits attack Batsarin Dan Alhaji and Bia-Ka-Kwana villages on 13th July 2019 and Wagini, Shekewa,Chambala and Yar Larba villages on 31st July 2019.They also responded offensively at Kankara LGA against the bandits after the 20th July 2019 attack on Zango village in Kankara LGA.

(iii) The Police were able to nab or arrest various kidnapping syndicates that operated across the State and beyond. In Katsina LGA, the youths involved in the kidnapping of the Mother-in-law of the State Governor were arrested. In Kankara LGA,the bandits that kidnapped the Kano based Islamic Cleric were arrested by the Army and those involved in the kidnapping of District Head of Daura, the Presidents home town were also arrested by security operatives.

(iv) The State Government has being supporting the various security operations financially and with logistics to be able to carry out their duties effectively. The Governor has taken punitive actions against Village Heads or Divisional Police Officers (DPO) that were alleged to be conniving with the bandits. This is in addition to promulgating laws that stipulates death penalty for those involved in kidnapping and cattle rustling in the State. Also promulgated are laws against the sale of fuel in jerry cans to cut the sale of fuel to the bandits and riding motorcycles around forest areas in the eight affected LGAs.

(v) The Inspector General of Police has on Wednesday 31st July 2019 led a team senior police officers to a meeting with Northern Governors in Katsina. The meeting is aimed at coordinating the activities of the Nigerian Police Force with a view to finding a lasting solution to the insecurity facing the North-Western parts of the country. The meeting was also believed to have discuss effective ways of counter attacking the bandits in view of the deadly attacks on the Police Officers that led an offensive against the bandits attacks on four villages in Batsari LGA on Tuesday, 30th July 2019.

Limitations of the efforts of the government to end the insecurity

The focus groups have identified certain limitations of the efforts of the government towards tackling the present insecurity in Katsina State. These limitations are:

(i) The forces deployed to deal with the bandits were not enough in terms of numbers in view of the large number of bandits that are coming to attack the villages. For example one of the focus groups at Jibia reported that eight (8) Police men and an Army Drive went to confront over fifty (50) bandits at Chabas-chabas village in Jibia LGA.
(ii) The Police Force are not equipped with modern weapons to enable them to respond fire to fire against the bandits who carry and uses modern weaponry. This therefore incapacitates the Force against carrying out any meaningful operation against the bandits in the affected LGAs.
(iii) Security forces stationed in some LGAs do not respond promptly to distress calls from the local people and even at the time they responded they usually arrived late when the bandits have fled into their forest hideouts. This attitude of the Forces led to a violent protest against the forces in Batsari town with the angry mob attempting to set the Batsari Divisional Police Office on fire on 14th May 2019.
(v) There were allegations of corruption against the security forces that some of them do not want to fully commit themselves to end the banditry in view of the financial allowances they are collecting from the Government which will stop with the end of the banditry.
(vi) There is no co-ordination between the various security agencies such as the Police, Army and Air force that are fighting against the bandits. The result is that at one time only one security agency is fighting the bandits instead of calling for support or reinforcement from the other agency which will make the fight effective.

CONCLUSION

Katsina State has been facing insecurity from the years 2010 to 2015 which has affected the socio-economic development of the affected LGAs and the State in general. The insecurity presently is banditry cattle rustling and kidnapping that is occurring mainly in the eight frontline LGAs of the state. The Governments that came to power in May 2015 at both the Federal and State level adopted measures that brought peace and security in the State with the Amnesty Program/Peace Deal with the bandits. However, the insecurity re-surfaced again with a more dangerous pattern that involved kidnapping of people for ransom and ruthless attacks on rural communities that forces most of them to flee for safety to their local government headquarters and even to the State capital. The persistence of the insecurity evident by the continued killing of innocent citizens has sparked protests in some LGAs which has further increased the level of insecurity in the State. This paper argued that the persistence of the attacks, the rate of kidnappings plus the new wave of protests has raised the level of insecurity in the State to high level. There is therefore the urgent need to adopt proactive strategies to tackle the level of insecurity in the State that were highlighted in this paper.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The following measures are recommended towards curtailing the high level of insecurity in Katsina State.

(i) The State Government should continue to work toward eradicating the high levels of poverty in the State. New programs that will make direct impact on the lives of the rural poor should be introduced to help reduce poverty in the State. If there is the need the State Government should seek assistance from the Federal Government and international organizations such as Oxfam, UNICEF, UNESCO in order to reduce the high level of poverty in the State.
(ii) The State Government should continue to work to reduce the high levels of illiteracy by reducing the number of children that are out of school. Youths hat have dropped out of school be encourage to continue to pursue their studies in different tertiary institutions. Furthermore, the State Government should strive to provide basic learning facilities in primary and secondary schools such as desks and chairs, instructional materials and repairs of school facilities to facilitate effective teaching and learning in the schools.
(iii) The State Government should strive to provide employment opportunities for graduates from the institutions of higher learning. This can be achieved by reducing the cost of governance and the cost of awarding contracts which can be channeled to employ the youths to adequately replace staffers in the State civil service. Private individuals should be encouraged to set up small and medium scale industries to provide jobs for the teaming youths in the State.
(iv) The NDLEA should continue to work towards reducing the high level of drug abuse in the State. The recent plan by the agency to employ 5,000 personnel is a welcomed development as it will provide the required manpower to effectively cover the 34 LGAs in the State. Enlightenment campaigns on the dangers of drug abuse to human health and wellbeing should be vigorously pursued in secondary schools and on the media to effectively reach the public.
(v) The Federal Government should effectively secure the land borders in the country. This can be achieved by employing more personnel in the Nigerian Customs and Immigration Services to effectively provide the required manpower to secure the land borders. The border communities in the LGA should be effectively mobilized to provide the required information and intelligence to track down the movement of bandits, drugs and weapons.

(vi) The Federal Government should provide adequate security personnel to effectively secure communities particularly in the rural areas where most of the banditry take place. This can be achieved through employing large number of security personnel such as the Police and Civil Defense Corps which should then be posted to the rural areas of the state to provide effective security against crime and criminality in the areas that require their services.

(vii) The Federal Government should ensure that the various security operations are effective so that they can flush the bandits out of their forest hideouts and operating bases. The security operations should be carried out in such a way that innocent people were not attacked so as not to breed resentment and grievances among the local population.

(viii) The Federal Government should ensure that security forces fighting the bandits are equipped with the most modern weapons to effectively counter the bandit's attacks. They should also be directed to respond promptly to any bandit's attacks with enough fire power and the cases of corruption allegations should be investigated and any officer found to be guilty should face court martial and decisively punished.

(ix) The general public should support the Police and other security agents by providing credible information that would lead to the continued apprehension of persons that are supporting the activities of the bandits in the State. The recent plan by the Inspector General of Police and the Northern Governors to replace the activities of vigilante groups with community policing strategy is indeed a welcomed development but it should be made effective to assist the Police.

Author's declaration

I declared that this study is an original research that was carried out by me by and I agree to publish it in the journal.

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