BRIDGING THE DIVIDE IN MOST AFRICAN SOVEREIGNGTIES: ISSUES IN PEACE AND SECURITY IN NIGERIA, 2015-2023.

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ABSTRACT

The unity, peace and security of Nigeria as a multi ethnic nation with divergent culture, tradition, tribes, religions, and ideologies have been a function of several nexus which serves as life cord to the sustenance and preservation of the entity. These nexus are so pivotal and inevitable to the point that any attempted disconnect will not only lead to the disintegration of the country but also a state of fragility characterized by many issues such as violent conflict, crisis, war, religious conflict, insecurity, inequality and injustice among others. In view of these, a conscious effort to the stabilization of the entity where the liberty and opportunities to strive, survive and develop will be unhindered should be made a deliberate action plan. This action plan are metamorphosed into building bridges of conducive atmosphere, where opportunities and incentives acts as catalyst to the ensuring of mutual coexistence, harmony, tranquility, fairness and active participation in schemes of affairs. Paradoxically, the absence of the aforementioned fuels the ambits of violence, hatred, persecution, conflict, unpatriotism, divisions, agitations and the creation of scenes unfriendly for human survival and continuous existence and interactions. The study relying on cause and effect-Causality Theory which seeks to present or interpret human relations in

terms of an integrated lopsided division or distribution of income or means of survival as an agent of human violence, suffering, conflict and insecurity seeks to x-ray some fundamental issues underlying peace and security in Nigeria.

Keywords: Peace, Insecurity, Inequality, Bridge, Crises.

Introduction
In human relation, the discourse on development, freedom and inclusiveness has remained one that can never be exhausted in isolation of vital components which obviously aids and ensure an enduring legacy in the state. Development and overall wellbeing which has assumed dimensional issues in Nigeria and as such an illusion to some degree could be traced to a number of factors.

One of such factors serving as an impediment is the absence of peace. Nigeria for ages has longed for a formidable platform that will ensure and foster peace among her citizenry. This struggle for an enduring system that will guarantee freedom, love, unity, development, true nationhood, aspirations and common goal has assumed an endless phenomena in Nigeria. Talking peace, Mutiullah (2013) noted that understanding the true meaning of peace has remained a challenging question, eluding efforts to arrive at an unequivocal answer. This is true because the concept of peace as seen in Nigeria represent many dynamics, thereby bringing about disagreement by many as what really constitute peace among scholars.

To many, peace stands for the absence of war and a state of zero clash or battles as the case maybe. The definition of peace as the absence of war, clash, fear, conflict, anxiety, suffering and violence comparatively is incomplete and subjective. In a relative sense, this definition has witnessed lots of confusion by scholars. This is because structurally the absence of war in a state cannot be adjudged to be peaceful. There are several elements that make a

state quite peaceful other than mere war. War represents physical confrontation in battle ground, the acts of shooting, killing and destruction of livelihood in and among entities. There are clans who have never fought war, yet the entity remains in perpetual fear, instability and panic. Mass revolt, agitations, revolutions, segregations are ingredients of unpeaceful nations. Accordingly, Karl Marx placed the greatest emphasis on class conflict between the proletariat and the bourgeoisie as the forceps that is supposed to give birth to a just social order, Chuka (2015). In accordance with Marxists, the issue of peace and security cannot be treated without thorough investigations to the high level of marginalization underlying conflict in the society. Marginalization and denial of basic needs of life can trigger an atmosphere unconducive for human habitation. Under this, conflicts and insecurity are situated in a condition where certain people or class of people feel cheated, denied fair treatment and attention duly deserved, thereby resorting to a number of options. To achieve these, many groups in Nigeria and individuals as well as ethnic groups opted to Kwame Nkrumah's advice, that they should seek the political kingdom, and all would then be added to them.This expressed a central maxim of which the truth appeared self-evident: once sovereignty was seized by individuals or groups no matter under what conditions, the road to freedom and development would be theirs to follow, Davidson (1992). The quest for a political kingdom is sort *via* various mechanisms. In the pursuit of spheres of power that will in turn guarantee some sort of liberty, greater good for the greatest number, lots of resistance and obstructions are met and this is where clashes and conflicts are birthed. Political power or kingdom serves as key to the entrance of a building which houses other rooms. Today in Nigeria, peace and security remain dilemma as many dissatisfied groups are seriously asking and seeking for such political entity where opportunities will be unhindered amongst the citizenry. The energy given to the resistance of such by the dominant, powerful blocs and privileged class through machineries of government has pointedly

fueled more division and ill feeling in the state.Currently, Nigeria is faced with lots of issues breeding war and atmospheres unhealthy for free-flow of human co-existence. The struggle for peace and security in Nigeria has never been this phenomenal traced from the pre-colonial to the colonial and postcolonial Nigeria. Since the year 2009, with the rise of Boko Haram as a terrorist group with international linkage to Al Quida terrorist network, Nigeria has witnessed series of bombing, killing, destructions of livelihood, infrastructural demolitions and blood bath across major states (Ekenze 2019). More still, in the face of growing insecurity caused by fundamental neglect, and failure to address the core needs of the ordinary citizens: the poor, uneducated, poorly fed youths, and the jobless youths. These have resorted to self-help by arming themselves to actualize that which the government has failed to guarantee for them. Dimensionally, heavily armed bandits, robbers and kidnappers have taken over the high ways thereby presenting gory tales of high way horror and death as alleged armed herdsmen and robbers abduct, rob and murder travelers in the north (Ezinwa and Ezedinachi 2019).

In other regions of the country, unknown gunmen have caused havoc and terrorized the free flow of activities especially in the South Eastern part of the country, thereby inflicting fear among the people. Economic activities have crumbled and lives made more unbearable. In the North East especially in Borno State, with the frequent bombing and clashes between Boko Haram and security agencies, normalcy have weighed down seriously on commercial and business activities in the city as many business activities in the city have reportedly been crippled, while many people fled the state, many shop owners especially Southerners have closed their shops and other engagements and left the troubled city for their dear lives (Ojiego, 2019).

It should be noted that the above conditions which brought several divides in the country was a result of years or decades of

negligence, mal administration ,corruption, anti-people oriented policies, selfishness, political gang ups, marginalization, subjugations, injustice and historical factors among others. These are cogs in the wheel of peace and security in Nigeria

The Divide of Socio-economic Structure

Poverty is one crucial element in understanding peace and security in Nigeria. It is the genesis and conclusion of the discourse on security and peace in Nigeria. This is so because the saying-a hungry man is an angry man can never be displaced. The questions are, what is poverty? Who is poor? Who measures poverty and how is poverty related to peace and security in Nigeria? Relying on the explanations of Fredrich Engels and Karl Marx' opinion on societal conflict, noted that "the history of all hitherto existing society (1820-1895) are masked in human struggle social justice and economic betterment, also in their communist manifesto, "the history of class struggles", argued further that capitalism has given rise to two antagonistic classes: a ruling class (bourgeoisie) that owns the means of production and a subordinate class (proletariat) that sells its labor but receives little compensation (Kegley and Sharon 2011). Put clearly, the issue of peace and insecurity in Nigeria as it stands today is a revolt or a demonstration of years of neglect, denial, subjugation, disenfranchisement, robbery, dominance, corruption, segregation and an uneven distribution of income, consequently a widened gap between the rich (few) and poor (majority) (Perkin and Palmer 2007).

> *"A global human society based on*
> *poverty for many and prosperity for a few,*
> *characterized by island of wealthsurrounded*
> *by a sea of poverty is unsustainable". Thabo Mbeki.*

This divide also represents a popular way of describing the inequalities that exist between the rich and the poor. Life for most people in the country is quite unbearable. The disparities are

profound and in many places appear to be growing (Sharon 1999) and widening the division in power and wealth characterizing the poor and the rich which poses both moral and security problems in the country. Just as the Greek Philosopher-Plato advised, and counseled "*there should exist neither extreme poverty nor excessive wealth, for both are production of great evil*". In Nigeria this is purely the case now as both (poverty and wealth) have reached extremes. The poor in Nigeria found themselves marginalized, pinned and relegated from the main stream of national life, thereby consequentially bringing out conflict and clashes virtually at every region and in various forms.

What then is poverty? Poverty is one of fundamental concept that has attracted diversified definition and interpretation (Anas, 2020). It is the inability of the citizens to obtain the needed basic necessities of life. These basic needs sterns from quality food, house or shelter and clothing. The absence of these necessities breeds dissatisfaction and creates a condition unhealthy for coexistence. The difficulties in securing quality health care which translates to high mortality rate, high prices, lack of access to quality education which facilitates literacy, the challenge of gaining access to electricity, good transportation or road network, security and other social amenities purely indicates a state of impoverishment.

Poverty in Nigeria has maintained a steady chair in the discourse of affairs for decades. Statistically, 40% of Nigerians live in extreme poverty, and according to the WorldBank Report, basic income threshold has it at $3.20 per day. Most Nigerians live below the poverty line of less than $3.20 daily. In fact the statistics released from the National Bureau of Statistics suggests that the number of poor Nigerians exceeds the total population of South Africa, Namibia, Botswana, Lesotho, Mauritius and Eswanti combined (NBS, 2020).

The constant rise in the prices of food items further plunged Nigerians into extreme poverty as the inflation rate kept rising to 18% by the year 2021. Rising food prices exacerbate poverty because it reduces the real purchasing power of households, and shift expenditures away from essential items such as health, education and housing.

Embarrassingly, Nigeria's poverty profile is very gloomy and insulting as Nigeria houses huge human and natural resources. According to NBC in 2020, 40% or 83 million Nigerians live in poverty. From these, it is clear that Nigeria's abundant wealth is saturated among the privileged few. And this is partly or greatly responsible to the security situation or challenges that bewilders the country presently.

The fact that Nigeria is faced such humongous poverty rate shows the level political insensitivity and lack of structured policies for national development. Policies for food stability through agricultural revitalization pioneered by the youthful continues to prove the obvious fact that hunger and starvation will remain endemic in the country thereby constituting further social crises (Ekenze, 2020).The new agricultural policies of the federal government tagged National Agricultural technology and innovation policy (NATIP) which targets to modernized the sector in line with global best practices (Joke, 2022). The six-year national agricultural policy strategy program (2022-2-27), if properly implemented, is aimed at sustainable development of national technological and innovative capacity to fast- tract import substitution with particular emphasis on the reduction of rice, dairy and fish importation. Among other things, the program aimed to digitalize agriculture and to promote value chains and improve investment in agriculture and reduce unemployment.

High cost of food in the market is so annoying and as such represents a classical case in understanding issues in poverty in

Nigeria. The inability of the average Nigerians to purchase food stuff further narrates the deepening gap in living standard. Food prices contributed about 60% of Nigerians inflation rate of 22.2% April, 2023. Rising food prices exacerbate poverty because it reduces the real purchasing power of household, and shifts expenditures away from essential items such as health, education and housing. More so, average Nigerian household spends 56% of income on food, the highest in the world. Comparatively, countries like the USA, UK, Canada and Australia spend 6.4%, 8.2%, 9.1% and 9.8% respectively on food. (Izuaka, 2023)

Accordingly, food inflation rate quickened to 24.61 percent in April 2023 from 24.46 percent in March. Inflation inNigeria has remained high in African' largest economy, prompting the apex bank to hike interest rate to a record level. Nigeria's high expenditure on food implies that a slight increase in food prices would push more people into multidimensional poverty (NBS, 2023) in addition, in the inflation report released by the NBS, food and non–alcoholic beverages (11.51 percent), housing water, electricity, gas and other fuel (3.72 percent), transport (1.45 percent), clothing and footwear (1.70 percent), furnishing and household equipment and maintenance (0.88 percent), health (0.67 percent), miscellaneous goods and services (0.37 percent), alcoholic beverages, tobacco, and kola (0.24 percent), and communication (0.15 percent). (NBS, 2023). The gloomy picture noted above shows further danger. The widening gap in spending or purchasing power between the poor and the rich further suggest the trend of peace and security in Nigeria. This is so as the theoretical framework suggest, the causality factor to the incidence of insecurity in Nigeria is quite explainable.

Finally, this gloomy picture of the state of affairs in Nigeria is systematically responsible to the questions of peace and insecurity in Nigeria which call for urgency in action.

The Divide of Unemployment in Nigeria

Unemployment and underemployment are crucial factors that must be tracked in Nigeria. Nigeria as a country houses over 200million people (NBC, 2019) and among this teeming population are vibrant, active and youthful proportion of unemployed and underemployed population.Nigeria unemployment rate rose to 33%, second highest on global list (Oluraunbi 2021). The National Bureau of Statistics published on its website in the year 2020, stating that one in three Nigerians able and willing to work had no jobs, this represents 23.3 million people, the highest in at least 13years. The Corona virus pandemic fueled the scenario by pumping the figure to 27.1% recorded in the second quarter of 2020, amidst Nigeria's lingering economic crises (Adegboyega 2021).The information obtained from the National Bureau of Statistics further stated that economically active or working population (15-64 years of age) increased from 117million in the second quarter to 122million Q4 2020, a 4.3 percent increase. Of this number, that within the age bracket of 25-34 was highest at 28.8% of the labor force.

The need to present the above statistics is obvious to clearly point out by figures the gloomy picture of some of the trouble with Nigeria as it relates to issues of peace and security. Talking peace and security in isolation without putting into consideration the ugly decimal of unemployment is effort in futility. People must strive to survive and when the incentive to do so is not there, they resort to options be it unlawful or not. Certain groups have taken advantage of this to recruit youths for unlawful ventures. (Ezinwa Vincent & Ezechinalu 2019) the ENDSARS protest of 2020 and other protests in Nigeria are only but a clear signal that all is not well with the teeming unemployed youths. The unavailability of job for school leavers and the attendant hardship in the country, propels crises which is metamorphosed through banditry, Kidnapping, Cybercrimes, armed robbery, rape, pipeline vandalism and so on (The Sun Newspaper 23rd Oct 2023).

The call for urgent redress of the alarming and exploding unemployment rate in Nigeria is needful and overdue as this is the onion in security and peace discourse. The development of Nigeria lies in the arms of these untapped human resources, who then become vulnerable to criminal elements. The agitations in various quarters are only but an expression of bitterness, frustration and lack among the less privileged majority. The lack of enabling environment created by the government for its citizenry to strive, and achieve potentials remains a cog in the wheel of Nigeria's developmental stride. Nigeria today, has seen her teeming professions leave the shores of the country in search of jobs overseas thereby contributing meaningfully to GDP-Gross domestic product of those countries. The quest to maintain peace and challenge the insecurity in Nigeria does not depend in buildup of it armories or arsenal. The huge amount spent to acquiring new sophisticated weapons of war and to counter crimes, kidnapping, banditry and insurgency instead of addressing these fundamental issues could be counter-productive. When the people are hungry, revolt is indispensable and consequential. The various developmental plans by the government of lifting millions out of poverty and unemployment have remained a political statement without tangible result.

Clearly put, peace and security in Nigeria is a challenge of failed system, a system that failed to put into proper perspective the fundamental basis of poverty eradication in the country (Anas 2020).

"We must address the issue of good governance. Poor governance is the foundation of our situation, and we need to reverse the trend, such that government is able to provide for the welfare and security of the citizens" (Fade Adeogun-Sun Newspaper Oct 23, 2021).

This is pure brain drain. The old pattern has been the subtle and forceful filtration and subjugation of the subordinate youths or Nigerians by the powerful or economically advantaged western nations (western imperialism) which started from the era of slave trade, to export of raw materials, and capital to colonization. (Barkindo B et al:1986).

Postcolonial Nigeria saw the implementation of colonial economic policies which was aimed at impoverishing and deepening western dependency and exploitation. Recently, the reverse is the case, as Nigeria's youths voluntarily seek greener pasture oversees in search of jobs and means of livelihood. This employment adventure has taken teeming youth to routes unhealthy for human life. The pattern of traveling overseas through the Meditareanian Sea, Atlantic Ocean and through the deserts has led many youths to their early grave (death). Many are seen and camped as refugees at various migration camps in Ethiopia, Italy, and Spain among others. This is what the UNHCR (United Nations High Commission for Refugees) termed or classified as "Economic Migration or Refugees". This unhealthy voyage and the travel-abroad-syndrome has rendered many Nigeria's youths useless, redundant and many are becoming unpatriotic to the "Nigerian Project"

Current efforts to repatriate these Nigerians that took to prostitution and other social crimes oversee as a result of unemployment in Nigeria has caused international embarrassment, shame and disgrace.

Unemployment in Nigeria represents another fundamental that all the tiers of government need to up their game by instituting job creation and economic empowerment programs. Statistically, Imo state is reported to house the highest number of unemployed youths with 56.6% (percent), followed by Adamawa state, Cross Rivers with 54.9% and 53.7% respectively (NBS 2019). In tackling

this, Nigeria needs more industrial production, foreign and domestic investment, commercial agriculture and vocational training, more so eradicating or minimizing corruption will change the narrative for good.

Bridging Educational Divide

Educational system in Nigeria is in comatose and nauseating as a result of years of neglect, insincerity and corruption. The obvious impact of these is staring at the face of the nation as the marginalized section of the population has taken advantage of their state in crime and criminal ventures. The widening margin in educational system between the "have" and the "have not" is alarming. The best schools are reserved for the children of the rich, while the poor are schooled in a dilapidated environment with poor infrastructure and inadequate teaching aids and staff.

Major schools ranging from the basic to secondary and tertiary institutions are all in a pitiable state, especially the public schools, most of them are so worn out that they are not inhabitable and unconducive for proper learning. The buildings looking threatened and suffocating, points to a system with less focus on improving the life of its citizenry. More so, the unhealthy environment characterizes the Nigeria educational system especially in public schools. Comparatively, the best of school are reserved for the privileged individuals in the society thereby creating a gap. This gap is systematically responsible to the many menace seen in modern Nigeria. The need to tackle the high level of illiteracy in Nigeria is fundamental as "the children we fail to train today, will come back tomorrow to taut and hunt us". No nation can develop above the level of its educational level. This is so because education brings knowledge which is power. Power is transformed into development, empowerment, wellbeing and overall peace and security. In the absence of this, school drop-out constitutes societalnuisances, thereby terrorizing the peace and security of the nation. The Boko Haram menace presents a clear example of a

failed educational system. When education is jettisoned, ignorance is welcomed with its attendant misbehaviors. Bridging the educational divide in Nigeria remains a panacea to peace and security in the Nigeria as this has been proven true over the years (Anene, Igboabuchi 2010). Recently, the social media was engulfed with list of prominent Nigerian politicians and wealthy individual whose children schooled abroad. The list is provoking when compared to the cost of fixing education in Nigeria and the cost of studying abroad. Today those privileged individuals that studied abroad are the very target of illiterate kidnappers, bandits and taunts.

Talking peace and security in country should be an inclusive discussion. A discussion that puts into consideration all critical elements in nation building and integration as an antidote to inequalities, segregations and associated divisions or class. Educational budget in Nigeria remains the poorest among so many African and Western nations and these translates to the high illiteracy level in the country. This is worsened by corruption among political elites who loot and squander public treasury for personal or group interest. Plainly put, education is the key to unlocking peace and security and should be sought with all truisms and with pragmatic efforts towards achieving the same (Ofoefuna et al 2013).

The backwardness in Education in Nigeria plunges the nation into a dark image in the committee of nations;

> "*Educate children of the poor, so that they can get out*
> *of poverty.*
> *Poverty does not breed confidence.*
> *Only confident people can bring changes.*
> *Poor uneducated people can also bring change,*
> *but it will be hijacked by the educated and wealthy….*
> *Give young Nigerians good education.Teach them the*

value of hard work and sacrifice, and discourage
them from crimes which are destroying your image as
a good people".

(Excepts taken from a 2007 interview with Mandela conducted by Dr. Hakeen Baba-Ahmed).

For Nigeria to maintain its age long claim of being the giant of Africa, the issue of poverty and education backwardness must be addressed. Nigeria's continued quest for the permanent seat in the Security Council of the United Nations (UN), one of the issues that serves as an impediment is poor education, insecurity and poverty. Good educational policy, functioning and functional approach remains the recipe for a clamorous national image which will in turn translate to development, peace and security.

The Divide of Religious and Tribal Intolerance
Nigeria is a heterogeneous entity with diverse and multiple cultures, traditions and moralities. This diversity has been exploited negatively to the disadvantage of the country. The gap or diversion created by the canker called tribalism with its concomitant religious sentiments and intolerance is responsible to the scary security situation in Nigeria. To build an egalitarian state, religious and tribal tolerance, must be enshrined into the national life as a general principle. The concept of tribe describes a group of people of the same customs, language, and religion and so on, living in a particular are and often led or attached to these affirmatives. These tribes that make up the country as a whole have shown prominent affiliation to its religion, tribe, clan, and geographical enclave more that the general house or nation (Ekenze, 2021)

The recognition that one's loyalty lies in his or her tribe or clan ensures or endears such a person to his origin, thereby submitting obedience and loyalty to the same more than to the center. In view

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of the above, this plague of religious divide and intolerant has manifested through various way. As witnessed, issues aware no longer based on pure national concern, rather religious influences virtually at all facet of our national life. The lack of political will to neutralize this by pursuing an inclusive policies over the years stands as the epicenter of the issues in peace and security in Nigeria. The use of religion by political class to disunite the country in order to score political goals overtly is responsible to the rising security concerns in the country. In recent years Nigeria has seen high level religious bigotry and intolerance thereby leading to the feeling disenchantment, seclusion and insecure.

The brutal murder of Miss Deborah Samuel in Sokoto State Polytechnic, Sokoto, by a group of fanatical Islamic youths and students, and other religious attacks stood as monuments in the understanding of the level of religious polarization in Nigeria. Another classical case of tribalism in Nigeria as a tool and ember of violent conflict is the case of ethnic profiling during electioneering period. Ethnic profiling by some greedy personalities in the country aims to instigate, mobilize, dehumanize, de-market and ultimately to arose a feeling of sentiment, hatred, disunity and violence among the gullible, poor, uninformed populace. To pursue enduring peace and security, the cord of tribal sentiment and religious bias must be killed (Nwabugbughuogu, 2009). To achieve this, every thought out plan, policy formation and implementation must be to generate equal opportunities for every Nigerian, equality under the law; extermination of ethnic hegemony and dethronement of mediocrity wherever it exist (Chinweizu, 2013).

Nigeria has remained a haven for tribal clashes and ethno-religious unrest over the years. This is responsible for the many communal clashes in Benue state, Plateau State, Taraba State, Ebonyi State, Enugu State, Nasarawa State, Lagos State, and Kaduna State as the case maybe with the attempted effort to

dominate tribally and religiously among clans further act as combustion to insecurity thereby creating an environment of chaos, conflict and warfare. For instance, no fewer than 22 persons were killed in Kaduna, Kastina State and Taraba communities by suspected bandits and herdsmen. Eight natives were also killed by suspected herdsmen, who invaded two villages of Kibori and Atagjah, in Atyap chiefdom in Zangon Kataf local government area of Kaduna state on November 10 2021 (The Vanguard Nov. 11 2021)

> "*At Atagjah village, the suspected Fulani militias on Tuesday night killed three persons, while three others sustained injuries and are currently receiving treatment in a hospital… the attacks in Atyap chiefdom has become routine affairs by the suspected Fulani militias. Almost all the villages in Atyap Chiefdom have been attacked while lives and properties of unimaginable magnitude were destroyed".*

More painfully is the fact that the attacks on the villages by the suspected Fulani militias is now a regular thing and the natives are left to carry their cross with little or no security operatives to protect them from the attackers that are determined to wipe them out of their ancestral land.

This narrative is true to most villages and states and among the minority tribes of Taraba State, Katsina State among others. Fighting insecurity and pursuing peace as a matter of fact is crucial to the sustainability of the entity called Nigeria, to this end the nation's religious diversity and its benefits remains untapped. Clans with similar multiculturalism have developed a system to harnessing all the positives that comes with it. By this, the citizens view or see themselves first as Nigerians before remembering their tribe or ethnic leaning. In pursuance of this, a political frame geared toward achieving the above must be prioritized and

institutionalized, and the target must be an inclusion of religious, tribal or ethnic and political institutions especially in a multiethnic state like Nigeria. This can be productive if the political will from the political class can commensurate to the task without compromise or sentiments. Nigeria is currently at mess security wise just because important security issues or the fundamentals as listed previously in this study were handled with carelessness, sentiments, and with unseriousness. If national issues such as security and peace can be given prime attention by critically addressing some fundamental challenges, the ugly scenario that compound the nation today would have been nipped in the bud long ago. (Ajeli Festus 2020).

The nature or attitude of handling crucial national issues coupled with tribal and religious sympathy remains a statement problem in the discourse of Nigeria's problems and exigencies. The act of giving serious national issue a "political", tribal and religious coloration which in the short and long run posed alarming danger has become an acronym of Nigeria. Comparatively the cost of building peace can never be same with the cost of managing peace. Millions and billions of naira is being spent in the cost of fighting insurgency, terrorism, agitations, secessions, crises and conflict resolution which has yielded little result (Ifedi, 2020).

Tribalism and religious intolerance breed its offspring through a number of ways which are notable in segregation, marginalization, denial of opportunities, lack or even spread of development and enthronement of mediocrity more than meritocracy and fairness. The obvious impacts of the divide of tribal and religious intolerance, is seen in national life as national issues are given tribal and religious interpretations instead of being nationalistic, patriotic, fair and inclusive. The menace of armed Fulani herdsmen on rampage has generated over 2million internally displaced persons (IDPs) in Nigeria. In Benue and Kaduna for example, the various armed Fulani herders – farmers clashes have resulted to

many lives and properties beingwasted and destroyed which has prompted the people to self-help or defense and further agitations (Ajeli, 2019)

Tribalism an ethnicity are sine quo none to social welfare and the sustainability of the cord of unity which if preserved, translates to economic development. It is a measure of development, because development transcends social structures, societal compatibility and culturalism. These ingredient of peace and stability in Nigeria lies in the will to eschew religious hatred which has produced a psychological and sociological warfare; these warfare, are partly responsible for the ethnic cleansing witnessed in Southern Kaduna and some part of Benue state. Thus, the need to ensure true brotherhood across religious frontiers will systematically build bridges of love, harmony and unity.

Conclusion
The current state of insecurity in Nigeria and its attendant effect across board has been shown, bringing about fears, panic, death and infrastructural demolition. In an effort to tackle headlong this abnormality, critical elements has been discussed and given prime attention. These elements are the basis and rudimental to the issues of peace and security in Nigeria. For instance, the result of high level of illiteracy is systematically responsible to the insecurity menace in North Eastern Nigeria, followed by the rampaging hunger and starvation, when aggregated, amounts to a whole lot of factors impeding peace and harmony in Nigeria.

More so the weaponization of religion and tribe for selfish purposes which is an aberration to the attainment of peace and development has been demonstrated with empirical or classic cases in some parts of Nigeria. The study has demonstrated that causative effect of peace and security lies in the widening gap of social, economic and political injustice and imbalance. Militarization of religions with its reckless brutality also gaican

never be a solution to the turmoil and fragile entity called Nigeria; rather, it is a breed of hostilities. This hostility brings a state of unpredictability and instability thereby disrupting business and economic activities of the populace. With this, structural security is the way out. Human capital development should be prioritized to enhance social order.

Recommendations

Peace and security In Nigeria are *sine qua non* to development and survival in Nigeria and as such should be pursued, sought consciously, fundamentally and pragmatically as anything short of this will amount as efforts in futility.

In a democratic setting like Nigeria, negotiation and dialogue are major instrument in nation building and national integration. This instrument should be utilized as a veritable weapon of peace building. It has been established that the issues with peace and security in Nigeria is classically an exhibition of a failed system. A systematic collapse of the functional and operational policy framework that will address poverty and misery over the years, bridge the educational gap and drastically reduce unemployment by gainfully engaging the teeming youths.

With the above, the following are recommended:-
- Peace and security should be made a national mandate, pursued and enshrined in all policy formation and implementation.
- Peace and security studies should be given urgent attention.
- The militarization of religion like the South Eastern Nigeria and the declaration of many military operations like the Piton Dawn, and the Operation Golden Dawn among others should be jettisoned. Military operations can never bring long lasting peace; peace is a product of internal stability and wellbeing. So, the region as a case study should be demilitarized immediately.

- Nigeria as a multi ethnic and religious entity should learn to imbibe the spirit of brotherhood and oneness and this should be championed by the government and political leaders.
- There should be an evident balanced policy system formulation and implementation across the entire region (tribes and religion). The issue of sentiments and insincerity from the government further gives impetus to distrust, agitations, protests and apathy. All regions must be treated fairly without segregation and malice.
- The ENDSARS protest nationwide of the year 2020 was a clear demonstration of bitterness, suffering, dissatisfaction, brutality, de-humanization and frustration among the youth and Nigerians generally with the failed system of governance. Among the demands of the ENDSARS protestersare better lives for all Nigerians through economic empowerment, respect to fundamental human rights, employment and a better system. These should be implemented without ego.
- Negotiation and dialogues are critical elements of democracy. The beauty of democracy as a system is the opportunity and room for dialogue and negotiation. This should be tapped, it is better to "Jaw-Jaw than to War-War". Dissatisfied regions and persons should not be prosecuted but brought for negotiation and dialogue. This will erase tensions, deescalate clashes and ensure peace.
- Certain groups like the armed bandits and criminal herdsmen should be proscribed as terrorist organizations. These will help in addressing the very many farmers-herders conflict, banditry and kidnapping operations in the country.
- Finally, the call for restructuring and a holistic evaluation of the entity called Nigeria should be made a national emergency. The colonial manuscripts and hangovers that are affecting the entity called Nigeria should be re-evaluated in the spirit of peace and harmony.

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