

## NEGATIVE IMPACT OF TERRORISM ON NATION'S ECONOMY (A REVIEW OF THE BOKO HARAM CONFLICT IN NIGERIA)

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### **Abstract**

This research work examines the impact of Terrorism on Nigeria economy which centres around exhibiting the challenges posed by the socio-economic and political vices in the society (Boko Haram). This study on terrorism and Nigeria economy, assessment of the situation of things currently in Nigeria especially in Borno State and the entire Northern part of the economy. The method of data collection used in this research is secondary sources and primary body and magazines. Questionnaire and interview are the primary source of getting answer. The research find out during this research is that Boko Haram has led to the flight of safety and security for most Nigeria residing in the North indeed, there is an upsurge in the frequency of crime committed as Boko Haram had created wide spread insecurity across Nigeria comes to conclusion that the Government as a matter of priority must do everything possible to put an end to Boko Haram terrorism and also reduce Youth unemployment to the barest minimum to forestall further easy recruitment into Boko Haram and only the military approach is capable of putting an end to it.

**Keywords:** Impact, Terrorism, Economy, Conflict, Boko-haram

It is a known fact that Nigeria since her return to civil rule in 1999, has been battling with series of violent agitations from various geo-political zones in the country. These organizations which have taken terrorist dimensions especially in the Northern Nigeria and have contributed to national security threats and integration, the Boko-Haram attacks have resulted in the killings of thousands of people and wanton destruction of property in the area. The socio economic conditions of the North Eastern states especially the villages and villagers have been badly affected. Lives have been lost, property destroyed, banks and business looted, police stations and numerous infrastructure destroyed. Livelihoods have been disrupted, families shattered, education halted, farms deserted, investments scared and chased away, and agriculture the main stay of the rural dwellers has been distorted in the Northern Nigeria the list is endless and underscores the dire security situation facing the country Agbaje (2002), (Abimbola et al 2011).

What we thought was a joke, has today become a monster sending many innocent men and women into unpremeditated graves. This has created palpable fear and sense of insecurity in the polity security of lives and property plays a major role in the development of any country as investors in any economy would want to be assured of the safety of their investments. Investors who facilitate industrial growth and empowerment generation try as much as possible to avoid any unfavorable business environment (Adebayo 2014).

Many have castigated Boko-Haram for making life unbearable for the North by turning the area into a base for carrying out terrible and horrendous activities, which is crippling their economy, despite all the assistance from other developed countries, the Boko-Haram is more than just another terrorist attack. It was a big crack in the wall of our national integrity and a breakdown of the weak cohesion that had largely kept the North, South, and East together.

Terrorism according to Lodge (1988:5), is an illegitimate means of attempting to effect political change by the indiscriminate use of violence. Also Madunagu (2001:51) maintains that terrorism is “the use of violence to achieve political objectives”. The bottom line of the above definitions is that terrorism

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is an aspect of political violence since September 11, 2001, multiple attacks on the twin towers of the World Trade Centre and Pentagon in the United States of America, terrorism had become a household discussion in the world. Boko-Haram according to Dr. Anslem Dilichukwu Omenma in one of his presentations at Caritas University political science seminar day is traceable to the militia group called ECOMOG which enjoyed the patronage of the top politicians in other parts of the northern Nigeria, began to patronize the group through budgeting allocations. The Boko-Haram group has affected Nigeria's economy badly most especially in the northern part.

Recently, global peace and security have come under severe stress on account of terrorist activities also national peace and security have come under stress too because of terrorist groups (Boko-Haram) in Nigeria, especially by ultra left wing Islamic groups who are decisiois of creating a society of their own vision and dream.

It is through different to pinpoint the extent origin of the Boko-Haram sect. Prof. Wole Soyinka while speaking on the 100 anniversary of Kings College Lagos emphasized that Boko-Haram has always existed before the country as a sect.

Historically, the Boko-Haram sect was purportedly founded in the 60s by Mohammed Yusuf the late leader of the Boko-Haram sect but it's activities came to limelight in 2002 in the City of Maiduguri as a notorious Nigerian militant Islamic group that seeks imposition of Sharia law in the states of Nigeria.

According to a seminar presentation in Caritas University by Dr. D.A Omenma, the Boko-Haram insurgents started as a militia group called ECOMOG, which have being sponsored by prominent politicians in the north-eastern states of Borno and Yobe during the build up to the 2003 general elections. Later, other politician in other parts of the Northern Nigeria began to sponsor the group, they provided them with huge sums of money, provision of training grounds on the many mountains scattered in the Northern region as well as protection against arrests by the federal governments. The sect's spokesman Abu Qeda in one of his confessions in 2012 stated that the Boko-Haram sect started as a fundamentalist group officially called Ahhus Sunna lid Dawatis Jihad but now popularly known as Boko-Haram. Since the inception of the activities of this group, Nigeria security has been treated and it has also affected the economy.

In Nigeria Boko-Haram snowballed into national menace after the 2011 general elections; the northern governors who had relationship with the sect began to withdraw their parentages and eventually abandoned them to their fate.

### **Statement of the Problem**

The high level of terrorism and violence in Nigeria by the fundamentalist group (Boko-Haram) has heightened fears among the populace and the international community and has eaten deep into our economy and as a matter of fact, the hostility has gone beyond religious and political coloration.

Several meeting, summit, conferences etc have been held in a bid to curb the menace in the country but all to no avail. Also apart from the fact that meeting have been held, the federal governments have spent millions of naira in making sure that security is brought back to the country but that has never really worked. Can we say that the Boko-Haram menace could be understood from the argument that Islam which gives hope to the poor Muslims is being threatened out of extinction by Christianity and the Muslim youth who derive hope of a brighter future from the teaching of Islam and fighting to defend the survival of the hopeless Muslims, the president has told all security agencies to be at the promotion of effective security in the country.

### **Methodology**

The paper explores primary and secondary sources of materials in simple random which involves the main issues of Negative impact of unresolved conflict on a nation's economy: and data from textbooks journals, Newspaper, magazines, internet and libraries were used.

### **Significance of the Study**

## *Negative Impact of Terrorism on Nation's Economy (A Review of the Boko Haram Conflict in Nigeria)*

The significance of this study is that it will act as a guide to the government in their quest to quell the problem of terrorism (Boko-Haram) as it affects the economy of the country. Also judging from the fact that terrorism is currently a prevailing cankerworm and it's very spontaneous and topical, this study will help to proffer solutions. More so, this work, theoretically will be useful to writers, scholars, journalist etc order to add to their existing knowledge of what they already know about terrorism and Nigeria's economy, particularly the Boko-Haram activities.

### **Literature Review**

This review is precisely concerned with pre existing views and perception of various scholars and academicians as regards their contributions to the subject matter.

### **Terrorism and Nigeria's Economy**

When we talk about terrorism, just like other concepts in political science that do not have one definition, it has various definitions most scholars and analysts tend to subscribe to the opinion that terrorism is a political expression and not a criminal act.

According to Lodge (1988:5) as already cited "terrorism is an illegitimate means of attempting to effect political change by the indiscriminate use of violences". What Lodge is trying to explain is that terrorism is a means of attempting to effect political change but it is illegitimate, it involves the use of violence. According to lodge, every act of terrorism is intended to effect a change in the political system.

According to Cook (1989) terrorism is an attempt to achieve a political end by creating a climate of fear through bombings, assassination, kidnappings, and seizure of air craft's, that is to say those who involve in terrorist activities use bombings, assassinations, kidnappings and seizure of air craft's mechanisms or strategies in order to create fear because when people are afraid, they tend to surrender to those who inflict them with the fear and terror.

Laequeur (1997) posited that terrorism is "the substrate application of violence or threatened violence intended to sow panic in a society to weaken or even overthrow the incumbent and to bring about political change" in other words, one can say that terrorism and revolution are synonymously the same because both are intended to bring about political change at the tail end.

Madunagu (2001:51) maintains that terrorism is the use of violence to achieve political objectives "the bottom line of the above definition is that terrorism is an aspect of political violence but it is an extra normal kind of political violence. This is because in a bid to immobilize the forces of the incumbent, the insurgents waste innocent lives and feature terrorism is that government, states and their symbols including innocent people are attacked in order to undermine confidence in a state's ability to protect its citizens. Narrowing it down to Nigeria, there is no history of terrorism in the form of coordinated attacks to spread fears and undermine the government of the country until recently, most studies have revealed many driving forces of terrorism, for the purpose of this research they are narrowed to three;

- ✓ **Fundamentalism**
- ✓ **Nationalism**
- ✓ **Secessionism**

According to the fundamentalist view, they centered that terrorism is a product of religious fanaticism and an expression of faith and intolerance to spread of another religious faith. In other words the proponents of this line of argument regard terrorism as a tactics employed by some groups to contain the spread of other religious faiths and impose theirs on others through violence or intimidation in line with this argument, the only panacea to the menace if terrorism is the abolition of secular principle and the enthronement and acceptance of one religion in the world. Tony Blair, a major proponent of the fundamentalist view and onetime prime minister of Britain did not hesitate to attribute the September 11, 2001 attacks on New York and Washington to Al-Qeda Islamic fundamentalist group led by Osama Bin Laden in his reaction to the incident, asserted unequivocally that;

Fanatics who are utterly indifferent to the sanctity of human life perpetrated the acts" (the Guardian, 2001:3) of course, it did not take long before Algeda claimed responsibility for that horrendous act. The current education and values are evil" is what is signifies. Moreover, the utterances of the sects'

spokeman, Abu Qada also led credence to the fundamentalist argument. Abu Qada asserted that; the reason for our insurgency (Boko-Haram) is because we the Muslim communities in the North of Nigeria where Boko-Haram operates, see ourselves as increasingly threatened by the strident Christianity that dominate the North (the Guardian, 2001:5). The sects now wants sharia established across the length and breadth of the country as the only condition for ceasing its bomb and gun attacks (the Nation, 2012:12)

According to the nationalist view, terrorism is the exclusive preserve of the champions of ethnic emancipation viewed from this prism, terrorism exists in a multi ethnic society where there are prevalent cases of marginalization and oppression, according to this view the propelling force of terrorism is the existence of exploitation and oppression of a group which invariably creates injustices and inequality.

In the words of Mbah (2001:63) terrorism inexorably only becomes a weapon of the underprivileged the victims of the prevailing relations of power in the international system, acting in self defense or struggling to shake off the yoke of oppression. The implication of this line of argument is that terrorism is a revolutionary tactics and nothing else.

Merkel, 1986:41, more so, failure to give quality attention to the review of the meaning and concepts of the Nigeria's economy as propounded by scholars will render this review incomprehensive. This is because by so doing by reviewing the concept of Nigeria's economy, we will be able to establish a relationship between the two issues (terrorism and Nigeria's economy). Economy is regarded as the wealth and resources of a country or religion especially in terms of the population and consumption of goods and services.

Over the years, since the inception of the menace of Boko-Haram the economy if Nigeria especially in the North has been destroyed. According to the Borno State commissioner for Information, Mr. Inuwa Bwala, it will take the state 20years to recover from the current predicament it has found itself. According to the commissioner it is only natural that when you have such a situation as we have now, it will affect the economic features especially where people go out to do business under the atmosphere of fear. So there is no doubt that the crisis has taken its toll on the economy it will take us a very long time, not less than 20years to recover and get to the position where they were before the crisis started (this day 2012:3).

### **Funding of the Boko-Haram Islamic Sect.**

It has been practically different to ascertain the source of the funds that the Boko-Haram uses in running its creation. But just like every Islamic extremist, the Boko-Haram attracts international Islamic sympathizers. These similar cells which believe in the sects around the world. However considering the sophistication that has been adopted by the group, it is rumored that some influential citizens from all works of life notably the political and economic bourgeoisie sponsor the activities of this group, through behind the scene based on this, it is also possible that some politicians may likely hide under the canopy of the Boko Haram to pursue their various political ends. If this is the case, then such politicians are supposed to provide not only funds but also logistic assistance. Let's recall that in 2005 when the late leader of the group was first arrested, it appeared on the national daily (punch Newspaper 01 June, 2005, sun newspaper 10 June 2005) that his release was facilitated by a notable political gladiator in the corridors of the people democratic party (PDP) considering the technicality and fragile nature of the democracy in Nigeria and the crisis engulfed by the Boko-Haram sect, the name of the so-called political big shot was never mentioned neither did it surface anywhere in public discussion. The much that was heard about it is that the politician hails from the north central and also contested in the presidential election.

Although, similar trace which contradicts the political class and the funding of the Boko Haram is understood from the fact that late leader Yusuf Mohammed was a regular visitor to Abuja, the security outfits to be precise this was before the group stated it's violent activity.

Boko Haram is being funded and sponsored by top politicians in the north-eastern states of Borno and Yobe during the buildup of the 2003 general elections. Later other top politicians in other parts of the northern Nigeria began to patronize the group through budgetary allocations and mentally disbursement

### *Negative Impact of Terrorism on Nation's Economy (A Review of the Boko Haram Conflict in Nigeria)*

of huge sums of money, provision of training grounds on the many mountains scattered in the Northern parts or region as well as a protection against arrests by the federal government.

#### **Membership of the Boko Haram Sect**

In discussing the membership of Boko Haram sect, emphasis should be laid on the belief of Islam as a religion. Boko Haram is basically Islamic terrorism reserved for Nigerians alone. This is also considering the strategic location of the Boko Haram Islamic sect based in Kanama village in Yobe State, which is the border of Nigeria and Niger republic. Considering the porous nature of Nigerians border, the bulk of the sects member include terrorists who are drawn from other neighboring Islamic States such as Chad, Niger republic and Cameroon.

The membership and environment of members of the Boko Haram sect is the same thing as other terrorist operations in ship the world. On this account, instruction, recruitment and membership is synonymous to this issue. For instance, social networks such as facebook and twitter have social pages for friends and followers. The Boko Haram sect has seven (7) facebook accounts with different members. (The Nation June 6 2011).

In the beginning of 21<sup>st</sup> century, a worldwide network of hundred terrorist coach emerged that inspire, train, educate and recruit young members to engage in Jihad against the West and its disciples (Mohammed 2009:20). Basically, the membership of the Boko Haram Islamic sect constitutes mostly individuals who have migrated from the neighbouring countries.

What these recruits tend to have in common besides their urbanity, their cosmopolitan backgrounds, their education, their facility with languages and their computer skills in displacement. They are many individuals from Niger, Chad, Benin, Camerron and other neighboring states who reside in the country without being noticed as aliens.

Membership of Boko Haram sect is mainly drawn from university and secondary school dropouts. The widespread of the membership and its militant instruct have been responsible for its spontaneous strikes across the northern regions. In Maiduguri the capital city of Borno, where their headquarters is cited, the gun battles have been terrific and fierce. The age bracket of these members fall between the ages of 16-30years. While the leaders and instructors are older ranging from 30-60years. One of the predominant features about the members of the Boko Haram sect is that they wear long beard and beads, and the red and black scarf.

#### **Ideology of Boko Haram**

The Boko Haram Islamic sect is just like any other terrorist sleeper cell operating around the world based on ideology, the similar attribute that these groups such as Al-Qaeda share can be described as anti-western just as the al-Qaeda attacks on America are not motivated by a religiously inspired hatred of America culture or religion but by the belief that its foreign policy has oppressed, killed or otherwise harmed Muslims in the middle east condensed in the phrase. They hate us for what we do, not who we are (Abony, 2006:27).

This can also be deduced in determining the ideology stands of the Boko Haram Islamic sect in Nigeria. The group ideology is based on its radical oppositions to the group education. Based in Maiduguri capital, of Borno State, the followers include former university lecturers and students in other northern states including Kano, Yobe, Sokoto, Bauchi, so well as illiterate, jobless youths. The ideologies of the group mentioned as anti-western can be better understood by its quest for the declaration of Sharia law in then 12 northern states in the country.

Boko Haram means "Western education is sinful" and all other westernized way of life is condemned by the group. It is geared towards establishing a state denied if any western orientation, this sum up the ideology of the group.

#### **Theoretical Framework**

The group theory will stand as a theoretical framework of this study; there are many theoretical frameworks phenomena for the study analysis and explanation of different political phenomena. These

frameworks however vary depending on the subject under study, for the analysis however vary depending on the subject under study, for the analysis of such phenomenon like terrorism (Boko Haram), the group theory is more appropriate and relevant. Also the theory of deprivation which also can lead to victims is another theoretical framework that can be used to analyze the study.

Drawing from our subject matter, these groups are being motivated by the activities of the other groups for instance; the Niger Delta militant group motivated and gingered up Boko Haram sect. presently, the Boko Haram sect with its own group interest is then likely that it has turned one of the most terrifying and strongest terrorist group in Nigeria among other groups. But the group is seen by everybody in and outside the country as a group with special and one sided interest and they fight other groups as well as stand out in relation to no other.

Since group regulate group struggles, they invariably determine peace and stability, terrorism in Nigeria is therefore seen as the result of interplay of demand and objectives of various groups e.g. Boko Haram sect, and then Niger Delta militant group in the study of group activities in Nigeria, certain variables can be utilized, such variables are the group access to the conflict and status of the group, leadership, funds and resources. In this analysis the group approach will be applied in the conflicts and instability is of groups, the organization of Boko Haram sect is based on interplay of groups. There must be leadership for dissemination of information.

### **Conclusion**

Having said all these, we can now draw out possible conclusion that the application of the aforementioned approach will only serve as a means to control the crisis and not necessary put a stop to it and right now, only the military approach is capable of tackling and controlling it.

Arguments have been made pertaining these various approaches with more reference to dialogue. The actions of the boko haram sect over the years have clearly illustrated that they do not want peace talks, even if the government were to grant amnesty to the group, who will represent them. This question is very necessary because the members of this are yet to be know, they have rather preferred to remain anonymous.

Finally, it is now or obvious truth that the Boko haram sect only seeks to gain recognition by influencing governmental decisions, actions, policies and programmes. They also seek to over throw the government in power in order to directly control available resources endowed in the Nigeria state. The big question now becomes “what then is the way out”?

It is in a bid to answer this form of rhetoric question that we therefore make the following recommendations which if carefully adopted, will go a long way to stop or reduce the activities of the Boko haram sect to its bearest minimum.

### **Recommendations**

The Boko haram crisis has turned out to become a thorn in the flesh of the Nigeria government. Over the years, it has become a cog in the wheels of the operational existence of the political, economic, educational, social and total structure of the economy. In order to curb this unending crisis, we therefore advocate for the following measures to be adopted.

1. The idea of amnesty should not be encouraged:

Firstly, the government should understand that the boko haram insurgency is not the same as the Niger delta uprising. This two cases are different things and therefore do not require the same solution. The idea of amnesty might have worked on solving the problem of Niger delta, but on the boko haram sect, the idea of amnesty should not be encouraged, because if boko haram is granted amnesty, then it means the government has just succeeded in creating another problem by solving another one.

2. Military expedition should be launched at these northern states especially Maiduguri:

### *Negative Impact of Terrorism on Nation's Economy (A Review of the Boko Haram Conflict in Nigeria)*

According to John F. Kennedy "those who make peaceful revolution impossible will make violent revolution inevitable" what this means is that those who have refused to allow for revolution to occur peacefully will have no choice but allow revolution to occur violently.

If the Boko Haram has decided not to stop bombing and killing innocent lives thereby threatening the security and economy of the country, military expedition should be launched in Maiduguri.

3. Government should improve or rather upgrade its intelligence gadgets and surveillance equipments: We strongly recommend in this study that the government should provide funds, instead for amnesty but to upgrade and switch in its intelligence gathering gadgets

4. Backing down of Boko Haram funding:

Again to overcome the menace of Boko Haram in the country, the government should do whatever it takes to find out how this movement is funded. If the governments are able to do this, the government will have gone extra mile in solving the Boko Haram crisis in Nigeria long time ago because the sect does not maintain the level of sophistication it does without funds.

5. Creation of ministry of religion by the federal government:

We also recommend that the government should create the ministry of religion where religious issues would always be sorted out. The ministry will comprise of both Muslims and Christians alike. And above all representatives should hold the trust given to them by people in good faith by governing well and providing the people with good things of life.

6. An overhaul of the security agencies:

We also recommend in this study, considering the way the Boko Haram operates, that it is possible that the security operations in Nigeria especially the people has compromised. As a result, we also recommend the complete overhaul and redeployment of officers. This is because if the police is compromised, it is not possible to checkmate the activities of the Boko Haram sect when the security operations are also members of the same group they want to get rid of.

7. Collaboration with security agencies:

There is no gain in saying the fact that security personnel alone can hardly uproot the terrorist menace in parts of the world and Nigeria in particular. Essentially the security agencies need the co-operation of all citizens to solve the present security challenges through giving of prompt and reliable information, exposing the identity of the perpetrators of crimes in their communities and funding or provision of logistics.

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