

Full Length Research

INSECURITY IN NIGERIA: THE ROLE OF PRIVATE MILITARY COMPANIES (PMCS) AND SMALL ARMS

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This paper examines the issues of insecurity and small arms proliferation in Nigeria. It reviews the theoretical perspectives on security in order to unravel the cause of insecurity and the consequent arms proliferation in Nigeria. It argues that poverty, couched as the non-fulfillment of basic human needs, underlines the raging conflicts in the country and has been aggravated by breakdown of state institutions which ought to mediate the process of individual and collective self-actualization. The paper also takes a swipe at the external environments especially the role of Private Military Companies (PMSCs). The issue of violent crimes and illegal weapons are social problems confronting the country must be addressed and viable solutions must be proffered because if the informed input that can be made by those called upon to do so are taken seriously Nigeria will be better for it. The paper concludes by suggesting that the government must reduce the level of unemployment in Nigeria, as political instability is encouraged by the high level of unemployment. Many graduates possess the necessary skills and qualifications to contribute to economic growth but are unemployed. Strengthening prosecution and legal actions to ensure perpetrators of offences such as terrorism, insurgency, banditry, or kidnapping are swiftly apprehended, prosecuted, and held to account under the law.

Keyword: Arms proliferation; Small arms; Private military companies

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Introduction

The biggest challenge faced by Nigeria is insecurity. Violent crimes, illegal weapons and other problems confronting human society are social in nature; they were not imposed on humans by some transcendent creature. This is why existing approaches explaining crimes have always resorted to individual traits and attitude, material and non material conditions of society as well as its social organization (Adebanjoko, 2021). What has made the difference in many societies is the manner with which problems have been handled. Nigeria has long been regarded as one of Africa's economic powerhouse due to its abundant resources and diversified populace. As a developing nation, Nigeria grapples with several security challenges that directly impact its economy, ranging from insurgency to conflicts between farmers and herders to organized crime looting and abduction for ransom. These security threats not only undermine national stability and the rule of law but also have adverse effects on the economy, affecting price, output, employment, trade balance, poverty, inequality, defense expenditure, government budget patterns, social-political environment, and several others (Adewoyin, 2019). What we are experiencing now is the infiltration of terrorists from the Sahel and Nigeria is becoming a fertile ground to hide terrorism and their terrorist tendencies because of all that we have, how rich, by vegetation and by climate, we have a very broad landmass that is very rich and inviting for terrorists from other nations.

Again, that the same insecurity that we are talking about, how does it grow? Because banditry, kidnapping for ransom,

and armed attacks have become a lucrative, expanding industry. Successive governments have tried and failed. The situation worsens by the day, and citizens remain the principal victims. Now people live in fear, and even movement feels like a gamble.

How long will this continue? As long as ransom paid, crime will thrive. Until the calculus changes, the killings and abductions will not stop. The continuous circulation of small arms has created an environment where violence can easily erupt and persist over extended periods.

Given the severity of the security challenges facing Nigeria, understanding the role of private military companies (PMCS) and small arms in promoting insecurity has become increasingly important. Therefore this study seeks to examine the level to which the proliferation and misuse of small arms contribute to insecurity in Nigeria, identify the factors responsible for their widespread availability, and explore possible measures for controlling their circulation.

Historical Background and Causes of Insecurity in Nigeria

Nigeria was created by the colonial masters and like most post-colonial states, they are designed to fulfill the accumulated goal of the erstwhile colonial power. Under colonialism the coercive apparatuses of the state were used to enforce colonial order on the colonial subjects such as tax collection, forced labour and pacification of peoples who resented and resisted the colonial system. The Iva Valley massacre and the suppression of the Aba women in the first half of the last century are just a few examples. The colonial state repressed and alienated the colonial people and the consequence was resistance which was waged by the same weapons employed by the repressive colonial state.

The post-colonial state was mainly carried on the repressive tradition of the colonial state instead of reinventing it to create citizens in place of subjects. As the late Claude Ake rightly observed, "When the elites succeeded the colonial regime, they chose to inherit the colonial system rather than transform it in accordance with the democratic aspiration of the nationalist movement. Invariably, the elites fell out with their followers and became repressive." The history of Nigerian state is one of repressive activities. Examples are the suppression of the Isaac Boro-led resistance in the Niger Delta, The Tiv riots, the genocide against Igbos, so called civil war, the Bakolori massacre, Ali Must-Go Crisis, ABU Massacre, Anti-SAP killings, annulment of June 12 Presidential elections; the wasting operations in Ogoniland including the hanging of Ken-Saro-Wiwa and his group; the Odi, Zaki-Ibiam, and Sheikh Ibrahim El-Zakzaky massacres in December, 2015. This is complemented by policy imposition such as incessant increase in prices of fuel and forceful closure of institutions of higher learning. In its overarching repressiveness, the state has also inflicted on itself state militarism, i.e., violent overthrow of government through coup d'état.

In its repressive mission, the Nigerian state created structures in civil institutions for the realization of its repressive objectives. It would be recalled that in the eighties, vigilantes were created in higher institutions of learning to deal with radical activities of progressive students movement which were thought to be anti-state such as the National Association of Nigerian Students (NANS). Similarly, while state operatives were enrolled as perpetual student to monitor students and carry arms with impunity. The domino effect of this development is the violent cult wars, which have ravaged our university campuses.

The use of tribunals which are inherently extra-legal also furthers state repressive activities in that cases before they are somewhat geared to produce tribunal justice, prejudiced and vindictive. No case illustrates this better than that of Ken Saro-Wiwa and his compatriots. The judiciary is consciously undermined and the logical consequence is the resort to self-help by people in the absence of fear hearing.

Indeed, there is a general collapse of social institutions such as the Police and the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) which has virtually left the citizens with no choice but to defend themselves. The police have also not lived up to its statutory function of defending and protecting the people. It is not surprising therefore that many citizens in Lagos for instance would prefer to ask the OPC to stand sentry over their communities rather than call the police. The INEC has also not proved its worth in terms of organizing a credible election. The votes are largely subverted and the people are no longer trustful of using the electoral process to change a bad leadership. It is said that one of the reasons why the political elite behave with so much insensitivity and impunity on demands by the citizenry is because they hardly depend on the votes of the people to cling to power. Thus, the net effect of state violence in the words of Ake is "alienation, resentment, inefficiency and corruption."

Currently, insecurity in the country is regionalized and is at an alarming rate. The North is riddled with insurgency, and the East and South are battling with kidnappers and ritual killings in the West (Obasiagbon & Akintoye, 2019).

Boko haram is a terrorist group in Nigeria that was set up in 2002 in Maiduguri, Borno State. Since 2009, the group had committed widespread human right abuses in North Eastern part of the country. They have claimed responsibility for several killings, bombings and kidnapping in the country (Eselebor, 2015). Since 2011, the group has been responsible for 375,000 deaths, 2.5 million displacement and 244,000 refugees (Adeyeye, 2021). Kidnapping became rampant in Nigeria in the 2003s. Nigeria has one of the world's highest rates of kidnapping for ransom cases. Between June 2011

and March, 2020, Nigerians have paid an estimated \$18.34 million as ransom to kidnappers (Adeyeye, 2021). It was initially a means by the Niger Delta Militants to protest the exploit and degradation of their community (Obasiagbon & Akintoye, 2019). However, currently, it occurs all over the country and is targeted at the wealthy, school children and sometimes the poor.

Ethno-religious conflicts began in Nigeria as far back as the 1980s. There was the Maitatsine riot in 1980 when Muhammad Marwa attempted to force his religion on other religious groups in the country. Mohammad Marwa was a migrant from Cameroon and declared himself a Prophet. The conflict became so serious that the Military intervened and there was a loss of at least 5000 lives and lots of properties destroyed.

Insecurity

Understanding insecurity is also a central to this paper. Insecurity refers to the condition in which individuals. Communities or nations face threat to their lives, property, freedom, or well-being. It may arise from crime, terrorism, armed conflict, poverty, unemployment, political instability, environmental disaster, or social inequality. Several theories have been developed to explain the causes and nature of insecurity. These theories help policy makers, researchers, and governments understand why insecurity occurs and how it can be addressed.

Relative Deprivation Theory

First, the “relative deprivation” theory focuses on the importance of people’s expectations and reality. It is based on the ideas of Emile Durkeim, a French Sociologist, who argues that social change, or conflict, is the result of a breakdown in social cohesion. Social cohesion is built upon a shared consciousness and a common history and experience (Osisanwo, 2025). The cohesion in society tends to be broken down when there are rapid social changes, such as changes in governments and political policies. A reason for the breakdown is that social consciousness changes slower than the society does. People become unable to relate themselves to their society with a rapid change to the needs of the whole society.

Ted Robert Gurr develops this theory and helps to explains that insecurity occurs when people perceive a gap between what they expect and what they actually receive. Individuals or groups who feel deprived compared to others may experience resentment and anger, which can result in protests, violence, or armed conflict. The theory emphasizes that perceptions of injustice are major drivers of insecurity.

Human Needs Theory

John Burton and Abraham Maslow argue further for root causes of relative deprivation and insecurity. They develop the “human needs theory,” which argues that a root-cause of insecurity is a lack of satisfying human needs that are universal. Various human needs theorists, including Burton, Paul Site and Azar, identify identity, security, development, and meaning of live, as human needs, although meanings of these needs are different to each cultural context (Burton, 1990).

Burton distinguishes three significant social and political elements: interests, values, and needs. Distinguishing the three elements help to identify needs, which are deeply rooted causes of insecurity? Interests are defined as ‘the occupational, social, political, and economic aspirations of the individual and of identity group or individuals within a social system (Burton, 1990). Interests can be common within a group, but not within a society as a whole nation. Interests tend to be material and tangible, and characteristics of interests are competitive.

Values are characteristics of particular social communities. Ideas, habits, customs, and beliefs can exemplify values. Unlike interests, value is non-negotiable; however, values can be changed ‘after a generation or two of social economic integration and shared education (Chigudu, 2024). Preserving values often lead to defensive and aggressive behaviours. As a result, a war is fought to preserve cultural values. However, leaderships appear to defend the values and to use them for their political purposes. Nevertheless, values themselves cannot be the main causes of insecurity.

As mentioned above, human needs theory argues that the needs are universal inherent motivations. Needs are also primordial, genetic and non-negotiable. If the needs are satisfied with the norms of society, ‘they lead to behavior that is outside the legal norms of the society. ’28 Even though different scholars argue for different needs, there are five main core needs: biological needs (needs for survival), needs for identity, need for development, and needs for security, and needs for meaning, as argued above. Sites argues that needs also are caused by emotional aspects (Sites, 2018). Four primary emotions that head the needs are fear, anger, depression, and satisfaction. The feeling of fear calls the needs

for security in not only the physical, but also the psychological terms. The feeling of anger causes the needs for meaning of life. The feeling of depression is related to the needs for self-esteem. Human needs theorists argue that having a social or ethnic conflict means the existence of a lack of needs in a group. They believe that as long as not satisfying the needs, the insecurity would not be solved fully.

There are some criticisms about the human needs theory. As briefly mentioned above, the theory fails to see the cultural relativity in the needs. It also has a difficulty with prioritizing the needs and does not explain how to satisfy or meet the lacking needs. Nevertheless, the human needs theory greatly contributes to explaining root-causes of insecurity and of relative deprivation.

Social disorganization theory argues that insecurity is more common in communities where social institutions such as families, schools, and religions organizations are weak. High levels of poverty, unemployment, residential instability, and poor community cohesion reduce the ability of communities to control crime and antisocial behavior. Strengthening community institutions can therefore reduce insecurity.

Structural violence theory proposed by Johan Galtung explains that insecurity is often rooted in social, political, and economic structures that deny people equal opportunities and access to resources. Poverty, discrimination, corruption, and inequality are forms of structural violence that create conditions for conflict and instability. Reducing these structural inequalities will promote long-term security.

However, as violence increases and as a conflict continues, many efforts, such as external intervention through coercive forces and economic sanctions as well as external humanitarian efforts, such as mediation, are made to end the insecurity. Successful efforts lead to decrease in violence, and the level begins to be de-escalated. Then, a series of peace talks begin, and a peace process escalates. During the process, adversaries start to seek an end of the violent attack by reaching an agreement.

Although Johan Galtung approach to the resolution of insecurity is more or less interest-based, he provides a broad picture capturing the development of insecurity. This contributes to understanding the timing of intervention methods such as mediation and negotiation. As Johan Galtung has intended, his theory of insecurity has been helpful to understand not only international or intra-national security ((Okoye, Gbekumo, & Chikezie, 2025).

Evolution of Private Military Companies PMCs

According to the World Bank report on conflicts in Africa, rebel movements and militia groups tend to sprout around areas steeped in rich mineral resources like diamonds, copper, oil and so on. These mineral resources are often battered for arms and other hardware necessary for sustaining the conflict. It is therefore understandable why the rise of rebel movements around the Mano River axis rich in diamonds, the Congo region, rich in copper and the oil rich Niger Delta which has bred the Ijaw militia. Even the aftermath of the Casamance crisis in relatively stable Senegal and the Tuaregs revolt in Niger and Chad has also influenced the crisis cross of arms in the West Africa. (Ike, Jidong, Ike & Ayobi, 2024)

In the case of Nigeria, sources of arms could be seen as both locally and externally inspired. The elite of the warring communities are deeply involved either in direct procurement of arms or underwriting the bills of their local militia. This is more so for communities with preponderance of retired servicemen.

The gradual involvement of private military companies either for individual and corporate guard duty has also raised the arms level.

The largely porous South Western and North Eastern borders of Nigeria which have also been fingered for the upswing in smuggling and banditry is perceived as the regular routes for the entry of a large cache of arms. The rise of the Taliban group in Yobe, who were mowed by a combined team of mobile policemen and soldiers, was ensured by the free flow of arms from the North Eastern border.

There have also been several reports of attacks on travelers by gendarmes who are said to have come from across the borders. The arrest of Ahmed Tidjani, the king pin of the gang allegedly involved in massive car jacking by combined team of Nigerian and Beninise security officials was a significant exploit but more still needs to be done to curtail the level of banditry at the South Western and North Eastern border.

The rise in ethnic based militia groups like the OPC, Egbesu, Movement for the Sovereign State of Biafra (MASSOB), Bakassi, Arewa People's Congress (APC) have also intensified the arms race. The mushrooming of these groups flows from the deep ethnic cleavages in a country still grappling with raging crises over its unresolved national question.

Some unscrupulous members of the armed forces and the police have also been indicted for their role in arms trade in the West African region. Former President Olusegun Obasanjo had openly accused the Nigerian police of trading in arms with criminals. Two Liberian soldiers, Sgt. Quewa and Corporal Bania were detained for their involvement in the mysterious disappearance of a box of grenades. The accused are said to pilfer the arms from some undisclosed location and ferry them across the border in Liberia to be sold to fellow citizens wanting to cash in on the disarmament process in the country where arms was exchanged for \$75. (Okoye, Gbekumo & Chikezie, (2025).

The PMCs have also grown to provide security to rich individuals and corporate clients and international organizations. Unable to rely on the effectiveness of the Nigerian security forces, the multinational oil companies have also contracted PMCs in their anxiety to curtail popular agitation against the degradation of the environment in oil rich Niger Delta. (Ike, Jidong, Ike & Ayobi, 2024).

Rise of Small Arms in Nigeria

With the rise in small arms in West Africa, a large chunk of the particularly from the war torn areas, are sipping through the porous borders.

Local Dimension

- **Activities of ethnic based militia groups**

The activities of ethnic based militia like OPC, APC, Egbesu, MASSOB, IPOB, Niger Delta Volunteer Force have also increased the demands for arms as these groups arm themselves in preparation for any confrontation. Most conflicts in Nigeria have been linked to ethnicity and religion (Akuetteh, 2005). Ethno-religious conflict is defined as a situation in which the relationship between members of the ethnic or religious group and another of such group in a multi ethnic and multi religious society is characterized by lack of cordiality, mutual suspicion, fear and tendency towards violent confrontations (Otite, 2001). Nigeria has been bedeviled with these conflicts since independence and they occur in all areas of the country. This can also be attributed to inability of the government to equitably distribute resources of the country (Etim & Nwagboso, 2019).

- **Armed Robbery/Smuggling**

Since the end of the Nigerian Civil War, the country has recorded a growing number of armed robbery cases. It is possible that guns from the troubled areas found its way into many cities like Lagos, Maiduguri, Borno etc.

- **Oil Bunkering**

The rise in the oil bunkering business as people of the oil bearing areas become more desperate in their desire to acquire a slice of the oil wealth oozing from their backyards. The restiveness in Niger Delta where the people are angry against disposition of their environment by oil companies has also witnessed the resort to arms. The presence of undercover mercenaries from the oil companies' parent countries has not helped matters

- **Emergence of Vigilante Groups**

Many communities have employed the services of local vigilante to watch over their affairs. They are usually supplied with sophisticated weapons.

- **Porous borders**

The border is the first line of defense against insecurity (Osisanwo, 2025). Nigerian borders are characterized by the unmitigated flow of migrants between Nigeria and other neighboring countries. Even though the porosity of Nigerian borders dates back as far as the colonial era, it has also been observed that successive governments have failed to properly manage them (Chigudu, 2024). The borders are not adequately guarded and hence promote the free entry and exit of criminals and arms and weapons. Edeko, (2021) reported that Nigeria hosts over 90% of about 80 million illegal weapons in West Africa. Nigeria is the only country where people troop in and out without adequate checkmating (Onuoha, 2012)

- **Unemployment and Poverty**

The idle mind is the devil's workshop. Most of the perpetrators of crime in the country are youths who were recruited because they could not find honest means of survival. In Nigeria, unemployment is projected to rise as high as 32.5% in 2025 with the youths mainly affected since they occupy a huge chunk of the population (United Nation, 2020). According to National Bureau of Statistics (NBS, 2025), 34.2 per cent of youth population between 15 and 24 years of age are

unemployed. Between 2015 and 2020, Nigeria averaged an unemployment rate of 13.55 per cent. In the last quarter of 2020, unemployment rate was 33.3% from a 27.1%, in the second quarter. According to International Fund for Agricultural Development 2007, Poverty is a threat to human existence and reduces a man to a perpetual state of infancy. Between 2023 and 2026, an average of 9.1% of Nigerians experienced hunger which is an increase from 6.4% which was experienced between 2018 and 2020 (Verrella, 2021).

- **Support of Local Elite**

In most cases, the elite of these areas either arrange for the purchase of these arms directly or provide the funds.

- **Weak security systems**

This is as a result of inadequate equipment supply to the security forces. Also, often times, security personnel assigned to deal with a situation lack the necessary skill and expertise to handle it. Nigeria has a police to citizen ration of 1:400 which is far better than the United Nations standard which is 1:450 (Obasiagbon & Akinoye). Unfortunately, the level of insecurity in the country does not justify this number.

International Dimension

Rise in Armed Rebellion

- The rise in rebel activities in many countries in the West African sub-region in the last 20 years, seem to have encouraged a free flow of arms across the borders. With money garnered from the sale of diamonds and other valuable minerals, the rebel movements have been able to easily procure their arms supplies. The frenzy to prosecute the wars has also resulted in the hiring of mercenaries by both the rebel movement and the government.

- **Smuggling/Banditry**

The upswing in smuggling and banditry particularly in the south western and North Eastern borders have seen the entry of a large cache of arms. The rise of the Taliban group in Yobe, the rise of the Boko Haram in Borno and the rise of Banditry in Northern region who were recently repressed by combine policemen and the Army, was ensured by the free flow of arms from the north eastern borders. There have also been several reports of attacks on schools and travelers by Boko Haram and Banditry operating across the borders. The capture of the king pin involved in kidnapping, cow rustling recently by the military was a significant exploit but more still needs to be done.

Consequences of Insecurity

- Internal displacement of people from their homes: Arm conflicts have displaced millions of Nigerian from their homes. Internally displaced persons often live in overcrowded camps with limited access to food, healthcare, education, and sanitation facilities. This creates humanitarian challenges for government and aid organization.
- Loss of lives and properties: Armed conflicts often result in the loss of lives and destruction of properties, roads, bridges, schools, hospital, market, power facilities, and communication infrastructure. The destruction of these facilities hampers economics activities and increase the cost of reconstruction
- Poor economic growth: Insecurity negatively affects economic activities by disrupting production, trade, and investment. According to the World Bank (2022), countries experiencing persistent insecurity often record slower economic growth because businesses operate under uncertain conditions. Economic resources that could be used for development are diverted to security operations.
- Separation between families: Insecurity weakness social relationships and community cohesion. Trust among community members declines as fear, suspicion, and hostility increase. Families may be separated due to displacement, while traditional social structures become weakened.
- Educational disruption: Insecurity affects the educational sector through attacks on schools, abduction of students, and closure of educational institutions. Students in conflict-prone areas often experience interruptions in their academic activities, leading to poor educational outcomes and increased school dropout rates.

What can be done to check this problem and secure Nigeria?

This is a multi-dimensional question. In the first instance, what Nigeria is experiencing now is the infiltration of terrorists from the Sahel and Nigeria is becoming a fertile ground to hide terrorism and their terrorist tendencies because of all that Nigeria has, how rich, by vegetation and by climate, Nigeria have a very broad landmass that is very rich and inviting for terrorists from other nations. The first thing the government need to do is how to secure Nigeria, the Military's responsibility is to defend the territorial integrity of Nigeria against the terrorists. To defend that territorial integrity, it has to be from outwards inwards. So if Nigerian understands that constitutional responsibility, government should be able to prepare the military to defend the country from outwards. Nigeria territory should be defended from outside, inwards because there are many countries around her borders. If we take the western border alone from Lagos State up to Sokoto State, it is porosity that is causing problem. So, securing Nigeria from outside is the primary factor, and then they can know how to deal with the security inside.

In addition, the solution is not rocket science: where there is a will, there is a way. Government should lead truthfully and decisively. End ransom payments, equip and empower local security structures and remove politics from security. People should rise, organize, share intelligence report with security agencies, anticipate sabotage and protect one another. Government should also refuse to normalize ransom in order to stop or curb abduction.

The Way Forward to End Resort to Arms

Foresight and strategy prevent calamity. Likewise, security is important for the progress of every nation. Insecurity is not a challenge face by Nigeria alone. However, what distinguishes insecurity in a developing and a developed country is how threats are managed (Omede, & Omede, 2015).

- **State reforms restructuring of the Nigerian State:** Restructuring of the Nigerian state to restore true federalism and the mode of resource allocation that goes with it, i.e, derivation. The hesitation on derivation in colonial and post-colonial periods has been that some state will be super-rich. Increase in technological development and natural minerals appraisal across Nigeria show that potential for self-development by federating units are boundless.
- **Re-engineering of Governance:** Government at the different layers must resolve to deliver on the dividends of democracy. Structures of government must be attuned to dispense well-being and not repressiveness (Oluwatosin, Daisi, & Oluwatusin, 2020). To reinstate our earlier view, the overriding rationale for the modern state is its capacity to dispense well-being to its people, and not its repressive profile.
- **Restoring Confidence in Social Institutions:** Social institutions like the Judiciary, Police, INEC and many others must be reformed to act as credible arbiters in a society in which the rights of the people is virtually receding. By ensuring real separation of power and avoiding executive meddlesomeness in the judiciary and other independent national institutions (Obialor, & Ugochukwu, 2019)
- **Intolerance of corruption:** corruption is the complete opposite of progress as it leads to political instability, social unrest and a crime infested environment (Ndubuisi-Okolo, & Anigbuogu, 2019). Government bodies that fight crime should be autonomous and adequately equipped with skills and manpower.
- **Employment Generation and Poverty Eradication Programmes:** The country must embark on programmes that will generate employment and take away the youth from the streets. Governments at various levels must embark on programmes that will eradicate (not alleviate) poverty from our towns and cities.
- **Solidification of security personnel:** Temple 2013 believes that law enforcement agents are not appropriately remunerated in terms of welfare packages, salaries (Obansigbon & Akintoye, 2019). There should be provision of adequate skills, appropriate arms and weapons, and remuneration for the security forces. The forces need to be equipped with the modern methods intelligence gathering and the proven modern ways of dealing with a security situation.
- **Resolution of the National/Citizenship Crises**

There is a need to resolve the national and ranging citizenship crises in order to give every Nigerian some feeling of belonging wherever they may live in the country. What we have currently are citizens of Nigeria in relations with other countries but what is desirable is citizens in Nigeria who are not alienated by cultural differences where they may find themselves

- **Economic reforms Philosophy of economic management**

The philosophy of national interest and not that of multinational corporations must underpin Nigerian economy. It must seek to generate internal growth and diversify the economy. Our consumption pattern must reflect our diverse national culture but not outwardly oriented. Therefore, it must halt the privatizations of commanding heights of the national economy. Merit and performance could be the guiding ethos of managing state institutions. All this must be based a new mode of accumulation that rewards hard work, that ensures accountability and that forbids primitive mode of accumulation and ensures a conducive and predictable economic environment.

- **State policing:** it has been reported that there may be need to decentralize the police force in order to boost their operative capacities.

- **Moral, values and religious education:** Education is a precursor to any form of development. It is believed that “any form of education that is devoid of right or correct values, right morals and sound religion is said to produce educated sinners that are suitably recruited as political thugs, miscreants in garages, and public squares, ethnic militias, armed robbers, human traffickers to mention a few”. Individual morality is very important. Leaders emerge from the society. When each individual contributes their part to being a better person then the society can breed responsible citizens. It is from this breed that leaders emerge.

Conclusion

Achieving a mark in this drive to douse tension in the polity and reduce the craze for arms is also a function of the will of the political elite. Comprehensive efforts are needed to restore peace, encourage investment, and revive economic activities that will alleviate the widespread poverty and food insecurity exacerbated by the current state of insecurity. The real solution lies in our resolve. Community by community must organize – within the law. Let residents’ associations, CDAs, and traditional institutions coordinate intelligence, vigilance, and lawful self-defense. Nigerian must deny criminals the freedom to operate because “people will keep running.” Bandits are pursuing citizen because they retreat. When people stand firm, the dynamics will change. Managing insecurity is a shared responsibility. If we ignore it, the crisis will deepen, and we will all bear the cost.

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