



MAXIMISING THE UTILISATION OF THE MILITARY FOR EFFICIENT SECURITY DELIVERY IN THE MIDST OF COMPLEXITIES AS AN AGENT FOR TRANSFORMATION.

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Abstract

This paper attempts on various ways by which the military of some developed countries respond to situations at different times of their needs; especially as it relates to the security of their domain to foster development. The result of which have in no small measure brought succour, relative peace, and hope of existence. Hence, fostering harmony, unity and smooth running of their various governments. The sociological approach is adopted in view of the traditional focal point generated by this paper, to portray the military as it should be in an ideal situation. Identifying the major roles and the herculean task of the military in the developing countries of which Nigeria is a major point of reference, effort was geared towards; among others the stemming of crises posed by religion, ethnicity, the ones generated by the activities of insurgents, separatists, insurrectionists, just to mention but few. How it has translated substantially to the present level of the overall development of our endeared nation – Nigeria. With due regards to the tasks before the military, it was recommended among others that the military should be efficiently funded, and should make its presence known more in the suburbs, villages and sparsely habited forest areas as this areas are used as breeding grounds for criminals who are later sent to the populace to wreck havoc. In conclusion, the paper envisages that the solution this paper will proffer, will serve as a transformation agenda, to enhance a reduction in the state of insurgency in Nigeria and the world at large.

Keywords: *Agent, Military, Security, Transformation, and Insurgency.*

INTRODUCTION

The role of the military in the smooth operation of any social structure can never be underestimated. The military comprises group or groups of people that are given the constitutional power to defend a town, village, or a country from forces of enemies or external aggressions most especially in warring situations to foster peace and development (Constitution of the Federal

Republic of Nigeria, 1999). In Nigeria, the military consist of three divisions namely the army that operates mostly on land, the navy that operates on the waters and the airforce that operates from the air.

It is worthy of note that, in most places across the globe especially in Africa nations are experiencing developmental stagnation and regression especially areas where the military have had a reason to stay put in power for governance for too long. This is however not unconnected to the fact that, they are into an enterprise in which they are not trained to function. In the aspects of real income, health prospect, nourishment, infrastructure, - there existed a breakdown as a result of the legacies laid down by the colonial masters, poor planning, corruption of trusted leaders, poor labour discipline and a lot more.

Similarly, there is no doubt the fact that for a long time now, Nigeria has been confronting plenty of security difficulties (Oladimeji, 2017). While this is not peculiar to Nigeria alone but some other countries of the world especially in Africa, there is the need to make reference to how governments of some of this nations through the military outfits surmount problems and challenges posed by insecurity and most importantly, how our country Nigeria has been able to witness the relative peace, despite the challenges posed by the diversities in ethnicity, religion, and the obvious diabolical agents of tragic death and collateral damages emanating at different quarters in the country.

In what may look like a justification for the incursion of the military in governance, from the words of Mmaduaduabuchi, (2017), in which he stressed that, there is no country in the world where the military does not intervene in politics. If politics is understood as authoritative allocation of values, then all participants in the political process intervene in politics at one point or another.

It is therefore worthy of note the fact that the military can always be reckoned with at all times as a relevant and formidable organisational outfit in the society at displaying the capability to ensure stability to access the world of politics, business, diplomacy and civil society and to ensure stability when required. Endowed with high level of professionalism and responsibility, it can soar by assisting a popular government cut down the excesses of civilian citizens in order to foster all round development in the state. It is note worthy that these factors are not irrelevant to the development of a nation and if not checked, could pose serious impediment to the societal development.

It is based on the afore mentioned that this paper already started with the introduction, and will as a priory attempt the definition of some basic concepts, the development of a theoretical approach for the study, the paper will highlight the roles of the military in some developed and developing nations in order to identify briefly their role at fostering development. This paper will attempt an overview of the military intervention in Nigeria, the nexus between the military and the security in Nigeria since 1960, the challenges of the military in Nigeria in order to arrive at a conclusion and recommendations for a formidable and enviable military that could reduce the rate of insurgencies in Nigeria and the world at large.

DEFINITION OF SOME CONCEPTS

1. The military can also be referred to the armed forces; that is the arm of government that deals with fighting wars and protecting a nation from external and internal threats (McGurk; et al.,2016). Military from this context, especially when condition arose to do so, can be a coercive form of social organisation that has his rules in a regimented order which was designed to compel obedience in the social structure for the restoration and stabilisation of law and order. No matter the direction of our argument, the military is primarily saddled with responsibility of defending the territorial integrity of the state to ward off aggression from other independent states.
2. Security: Security as used in the paper functions both in the objective and the subjective sense. “Security, in an objective sense, measures the absence of threats to acquired values, in a subjective sense, the absence of fear that such values will be attacked” (Wolfers, 1962, p. 149).
3. Development: This is the process of improving the quality of all human lives with this three important aspects such as the increase in the availability and improvements in the distribution of food, shelter, education, health, protection and so on; improvements in the level of living including income, jobs, education and expansion in the range of economic and social choices (Tahmina, (n.d).

THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

The frame work that will be adopted for resting the structure upon which the proper explanation of issues bothering the military and security development, the structural functionalist theory. The structural functionalist

theory is a perspective in sociology, developed by Robert, and Herbert, in which the society, is seen as a complex systemic structure in which its parts are viewed as independent wholes performing distinct work to promote cohesiveness such that individual member attitudes projecting solidarity and stability is produced and maintained.

This theory is relevant, bearing in mind that the society is a complex system with a lot of distinct and differential parts with varying interests in areas such as in the case of political, religious, ethnicity that ordinarily should work together to achieve a harmonious inter relationship between its constituent parts relationship. So also the military is seen as a distinct structure with certain level of role to be performed to ensuring a state of equilibrium hence any attempt to veer out of its constitutional duties may be detrimental to the constituent parts.

A BRIEF VIEW OF MILITARY INTERVENTION FROM SOME DEVELOPED COUNTRIES IN CRISES SITUATIONS IN SOME DEVELOPING COUNTRIES.

Africa have for decades had her share of conflicts and warring situations both internally and externally which have led to deaths, starving as a result of famine, especially in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), the Sierra Leone crises the war in Ethiopia/ Eritrea just to mention but some. Although, (Kenneth, 1968) explained that, there were cases of military coups from 1963 to 1968 across the African region in an effort to increase the involvement of the African military men in political affairs partly due to the perceived ineptitude of the political class or the share quest for power and for leadership at all cost even with the use of force such as the military led coups military led secessions to gain power and to ensure a change of government. Most times, actions as these may be catastrophic and push the nation into a state of turmoil and topsy-turvy.

It may be funny to note here that, the result of the above mentioned is an invitation, leading to the influx of aid agents and donor agencies to mitigate the situation. The situation in which there would have been difficulty without the selfless efforts of the military and other related agencies through peace support missions and post conflict activities.

The civil war in the Democratic Republic of Congo coupled with the conflicts with its neighbours especially Rwanda has generated a lot of concern. Humanitarian situations in the Congo has remained the most

catastrophic ever, as estimation of casualties stands at about four million since the start of the war in 1998 leaving about one thousand people still at risk of malnutrition, disease infection, and death (David, 2005). It is no gain says the fact that this said war is requesting for more fighters leading to the forceful recruitment of child soldiers. This said war is also breeding extreme poverty among the citizens, violence of varying degree and dimensions such as the violence against women and girls. Civil unrest is on the increase and ethnic conflicts paralysing the systems and tearing both the society and government apart.

The military, operating under the summon of the United Nations through the United Nations peace keeping effort called the MONUC (United Nations Organisation Mission in the Democratic Republic of Congo), being the largest military operations of its kind with its troop strength up to sixteen thousand, seven hundred soldiers with an annual budget of over one billion dollars, was called upon to the rescue of the democratic structures of the Congo and help resolve the tension and manage the tension between the Congo with a size as large as that of the Western Europe, with border spanning across nine countries in the centre of the continent, is of importance to be the fulcrum upon which the African destinies is anchored. It is the belief that if all is well with Congo then, hope of relief will be sure for the entire Africa. Now, even thou situation in the Congo is still literarily bad, eighteen years ago the region used to be a war zone, foreign army occupied close to half of her territory different government are at each other's tooth competing for legitimacy, the travelling between regions was most of the time impossible. Back in the past, there existed negative growth, but to the amazement of all, there is an economic growth of about seven percent, even though the pace of progress is slow, if all hand are on deck, then there will always be progress.

Rwanda had her own unpleasant experiences in the form of genocides, mistakenly believed to be based on ethnicity between the Hutu and the Tutsi, but basically the rivalry was as a result of the institution of the domination of the Tutsi representing about 14% of the entire citizen in Rwanda as the ruling class over the majority Hutu. History has it that, as much as an estimated 800,000 of the Tutsi population in Rwanda were killed in the genocide (BBC News, 2007, May 17).

Although there was no much pleasant remarkable experience with the brutality of the extremist Hutu soldiers symbolised by extreme brutality and

vengeance against their foe, but for the roles played by some big nations of which the United States (US) is dominant emphasised the high level achievements of the military in the development of the military of a nation. The US involvement in the Rwanda's military training was a huge success. With the training of her force in the special tactics and psychological operations including battle dressed uniform like combat, military management, disaster relief, soldier team development, land mine removal, military and civilian justice and lots more (Lynne, 1997).

In spite of the tremendous role of the military in efforts at fostering unity and peace in a erstwhile troubled and turbulent situations, there was witnessed especially latter in the 1960's a shift in the traditional roles of which the military was noted. It was observed as described by Ali, and Donald, (1967), that the military increasingly get involved in political enterprise. Lots of coups and mutinies were staged and very many of them successful, all in an effort to gain power which was not due to the military as it is against their traditional roles for a legitimate and acceptable national leadership material by Africa's masses and intellectuals.

OVERVIEW OF MILITARY INTERVENTION IN NIGERIA

Historical records has it that, the country Nigeria was given its name by Flora, the wife of Lord Lugard, the colonial administrator of the British in the 8th of January, 1897. The name was used as a title in an article which she wrote to describe the large expanse of land around the River Niger of which she called Niger-area (Meek, 1960). At the moment, Nigeria has a population of over 150 million people, this figure made the country the most populous nation in the Sub-Saharan Africa also with a population density of 145 inhabitants per km² (Nigerian National Population Commission: Abuja, Nigeria 2001).

A very bloody coup led by Major Ezeogwu in January 1966, ushered in the governance of the country (Osoba 1996). Although not seen as a total failure since it set the goal of the military as a corrective form of governance that is geared towards the fight against ineptness, misrule, and corruption of the preceding five years of civil rule (Olusoji, Olusanmi, and Nelarine, 2012). Nigeria have afterwards experienced more military rule than civilian rule before May 1999. Pointing out the fact that, from January 1966 to October 1979, and December 1983 to May 1999 the military has ruled the country for about three decades. It was also funny to note that, the amalgamation of the Northern and Southern Protectorate was done by Governor-General Lord Lugard who was a British soldier.

In all, there was an abysmal performance of the military in governance. In the submission of Ajayi, 2013, it was revealed that the low level of national integration achieved under military dispensations was as a result of coercion and strict authoritarian guidance and control. Nationalistic affectations and parochial dispositions were more prevalent under the military. The end result was that they left the nation worse than they met it.

They left a legacy of a highly militarized social polity that elevated violence, corruption, intolerance and selfish pursuits to lofty heights. And the situation has been worsening progressively since their departure from power in 1999.

THE NEXUS BETWEEN MILITARY, DEVELOPMENT, AND SECURITY IN NIGERIA

The military involvement in development stem from the need to actualise a stable and enduring pathway towards the actualisation of an enviable State. Just for the need to forestall destruction of common facilities and the need to protect the momentary level of development, there was the need for the military to take over the machineries of government in Nigeria in 1966 in order to check the drift towards anarchy and disintegration staring the nation in the face at this period. Hence, the deliberate and conscious effort to forge a common and mutual agreement towards national building and national integration. It is of usefulness to point to the fact that national building refers to a deliberate and conscious attempt to forge a common and mutually agreeable identification with a nation by multi ethnic and desperate communities Ajayi, (2013). National integration on the other hand, has been defined by Paden and Soja, 1970, cited in Ajayi, 2013, p. 138-142 as “a reduction in ethnic identity and stratification and the establishment of large unity based upon association ties”.

Asides the various tumultuous instances put under control by the military, there arose the various activities of ethnic militia organisations like Oodua Peoples Congress (OPC), Arewa People’s Congress (APC), Bakasi Boys, Egbesu Boys, Movement for the Emancipation of the Niger Delta (MEND) and later the terrorist activities of the Boko Haram Movement, Killer herdsmen menace and some others.

There is little the military could do in order to ensure the betterment of the socio-economic life of the citizens. It should be understood that, socio economic improvement is most of the times the yardstick for measuring the performances of any government. Suffix it to say however that individual

successive military government at one time or the other had engaged in programmes with its objectives aimed at improving the lot of the masses through the need to boost agriculture, alleviate poverty and reform the economy but those projects were mostly an avenue for siphoning the wealth of the nation into the hands of few individuals in the corridor of power.

Some of the programmes developed so far started with the need for the creation of the 12 States, 19 States, 21 States, 30 States and 36 States. Also the execution of second and third national development plan, back to land scheme, family support programme, local government reforms just to mention but few. There was the preponderance of economic decline, as seen in the high level of poverty among the majority, growing unemployment, high inflation rates, coupled with corruption among public servants and slow rate of infrastructural development.

In view of the fundamental role of the military, and the herculean task of the military regarding her responsibility as a pivot towards the sustainability of the nation, even when the Nigerian democracy was still nascent, the military cannot be a preferred option as it is often seen to be lacking in the ability for effective coordination and efficient administration of the nation. Hence an aberration of governance and a negation of political development.

THE CHALLENGES OF THE MILITARY IN NIGERIA.

From the foregoing, we cannot but envisage that the military will have challenges. Every system no matter how robust is bound to be confronted with challenges, although the magnitude of the challenge may differ at one point in time but the enormosity will determine the level of efficiency and effectiveness of the system. The military being an ideal institution of a state, was if stressed up, may hamper its smooth function to successfully establish conditions to carry out its constitutional role as a unique structure saddled with the profession of protecting citizens and the entire nation and for successfully prosecuting wars both within and without (Davidonis, 1944).

Although Nigeria provides for the military sector a large chunk of its entire budget allocation, being a developing state is bedevilled with the huge responsibility of providing enough funds for other sectors of the economy, like in the area of health, education, just to mention but few and other basic infrastructure calling for attention.

In a caption from the cable news print captioned ‘The Nigerian Army and its Challenges’, by Philip, (2016) it was extensively emphasised the painting

bad of the military in the face of the citizens especially when the military engage in some activities within the country aimed at ensuring the maintenance of internal security, such roles are said not to be their responsibility, hence creating a sense of resentment and discouragement to the morale of the personnel. According to Philip, a human right activist, it was stressed the fact that ‘soldiers are being daily persecuted in public eye by a bunch of cabal, which has vowed never to see anything good in the Nigerian army (NA). The NA most often are faulted, and publicised in the media to be alleged to engage in professional misconducts, human right abuse nepotism and so on.

It is common at times to sense some element of ethnic colouration in the operation of the military. Those perceived to be personal enemies were dealt with mercilessly while the other group was spared even though it is a potential danger to the state. Such individuals are given cover and shielded and seen to be above the law. The involvement of the military also in partisan politics makes them to be unpopular and unaccepted in the area which they are sent to serve.

The over ambitious nature of some elements in the military, who want to gain power by all means through coup or mutiny also pose a serious threat to the smooth functioning of the military as it is diversionary and makes the system to slack its focus on its constitutional responsibility and roles. The involvement of the military also in partisan politics makes them to be unpopular and unaccepted in the area which they are sent to serve hence making it difficult to engage in a smooth mission.

CONCLUSION

From the foregoing, the military is seen to be a distinctly, uniquely, and vital organ of the entire social structure, with a peculiar role that is second to none. It consists of the army which is meant to operate most times in operations that pertain to the land; the Navy is specially for that of the waters while the air force as the name connotes belong majorly to air operations.

The military has for a long time - right from the period of the independence of Nigeria to date have been in the fore front at ensuring the solidarity, oneness, unity and stability of the nation Nigeria. Although there might have been the case of the incessant military incursion into governance cum the administration of the country even since 1960, through coup of sorts which have led to the wanton destruction of lives, properties and dignity of man

and which clearly have translated into gross underdevelopment of the nation with attendant corruption, nepotism, ethnic chauvinism and so on.

It was gathered that, activities of some agent of turmoil under the guise of the insurrectionists or terrorists such as the dreaded Boko Haram predominating in the North East, the secessionist like the Independent People of Biafra (IPOB), the acts of vandalism and resource based conflict in the oil rich South part of Nigeria, and the recent killer Herds Men menace in some villages especially in Benue and Taraba States and others were put to check and this was not unconnected with an appreciable level of intelligence gathering among concerned individuals. Various nefarious activities of the people of the underworld, some of the armed robbery syndicates, ritualists, cultists, kidnapper kingpins, vandals, just to mention but few, were also rendered useless. It is worthy of note the fact that the present democracy was strengthened by the military, until it was regarded as nascent and now seen as old enough to be envied of which most of us are now benefitting from directly or indirectly.

However despite the herculean task of the military, and in the view of the fundamental importance of the military structure, as a formidable and institutional structure, she is restricted in its performances of some of its roles and responsibilities which are related to proper funding, over zealousness of its officials and political will to make it do its bidding objectively among others.

RECOMMENDATIONS

In the view of the points raised in this paper about the Nigeria military concerning his strengths and weaknesses therefore, the following recommendations are made:

1. That there should be a proper and efficient funding of the military;
2. That there should be proper accountability and regular audit of the expenditures of the military to discourage corruption tendencies among its officials;
3. That there should be an improvement in intelligence gathering so that internal crises are nipped in the bud without delay;
4. That there should be a robust interface between the civilian and the military authorities for proper and timely information on impending turmoil and so that the citizens will be aware of the enormous activities of the military;
5. That the military should be fairly and objectively reported by the media;

6. That the military should be ready to act fast in time of distress, and should not take sides with any warring faction on the guise of ethnicity or sectionalism;
7. That there should be a total overhaul of the entire military structure, such that those at the management of affairs will be committed to the dictates of their calling;
8. That the military should play a supportive and enhancement role in governance, and not to ever think of taking over or hijacking a legitimate government; and
9. That the military should be indeed professionalised in their activities.

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