

Solution to kidnapping/banditry in North

🕒 February 5, 2020 👤 Editorial IV 📁 Opinion 💬 0

Nigeria has surfed through numerous hurdles as far as security is concerned. They include Niger Delta militancy, the Boko Haram misadventure, herders/farmers conflicts and most recently, banditry and intractable kidnappings for ransom in the Northern part of the country. Nigerians nurture a feeling of absolute disappointment and insecurity towards the constitutionally mandated body saddled with the responsibility of their security and welfare – government. The ineptitude of the government towards the current ravaging security challenges is indeed worrisome.

According to the United Nations, about 1400 lives were lost to banditry and kidnappings in the first quarter of 2019. About 685 kidnappings occurred in the same period costing families hundreds of millions of Naira hence rendering many of them financially impotent in this current harsh economic condition. This is coming at a time when the country is recovering from the agony of almost 27 thousand deaths, more than 2 million displaced persons and a financial implication of more than N5 trillion in just four years (2016-2019) caused by the Boko Haram insurgency.

Northern Nigeria is now the new hub for banditry and kidnappings. The roads which are the most used method of transportation have become utterly unsafe. In roads like that of Niger, Kaduna, Abuja, Birnin Gwari, Zamfara and lots more, stories of kidnap incidences and armed banditry have become daily routine. By critically assessing the trajectory and history of insecurity in Northern Nigeria and even Nigeria at large, one will realise that the root causes hover around some factors which if not confronted heads on would continue to fuel these seemingly unquenchable crises.

First, it is only in my country that insecurity and many other sensitive issues of national concern are seen to be sole faults and responsibilities of the government and the governing political party. The opposition parties choose to remain dormant and selectively mute to such issues, all one could hear from them are statements of condemnation and blames. They only seem to be active during elections and in times of election appeals. The ruling party also never looks upon opposition parties as collaborative agents, the “let’s come and work together for our country” mantra is never given any serious consideration or genuine commitment.

And we can never deny the fact that most of these security challenges are politically motivated either directly or indirectly. We have bandits today partly because some

HAUSA NEWSPAPER



Blueprint Manhaja
FOR YOUR READING DELIGHT
Website: manhaja.blueprint.ng/
Blueprint Newspapers Limited, Publishers of Blueprint Daily and Blueprint Weekend is happy to announce to our esteemed clients and readers that we are introducing a Vernacular newspaper - BLUEPRINT MANHAJA.



...As technology evolves
Get latest **news** on your devices via
Blueprint ePaper
SUBSCRIBE
epaper.blueprint.ng
At N40 per day

TRENDING



42 people killed in Kaduna communities' attack, reprisal



Ex-CBN governor reveals what will happen to Nigerian economy



Northern governors, monarchs meet over VAT, open grazing ban



Catholic priest makes u-turn, converts to Islam



Disgrace me in public if I fail as governor, Soludo tells electorate in Anambra



Nigeria @ 61: Torn National flags 'litter' NASS



NPower batch C employment: All you need to

politicians would contract, illegally sponsor and equip criminal minded people for the purpose of causing mayhem in cases where some political interests of theirs are not protected and if it so happens that these interests become protected, these criminals will be left on their own with destructive arms at their disposal. What does one expect they will do with those arms?

Hence, there is need for government to convene a grand security summit targeting Northern elite, traditional rulers, politicians, political parties, regional advocacy groups, security experts of Northern Nigeria to come to the table and rigorously discuss security in-depth and come forth with a realistic and consensus-based strategy of tackling this decimating menace. The government should open her doors to inter-party collaboration with the aim of curbing this menace.

Second, there is need for a holistic review of the nation's security framework. The centralised system of defense and policing has proven to be ineffective in a country like Nigeria. Community policing strategies should be adopted so that policing of a particular region would be the responsibility of the indigenous people of that region who have the knowledge of the region's peculiar challenges, local inhabitants, culture, and geography and can proffer peculiar solutions that would be commensurate with the region's insecurity dynamics. There should not be need for any police officer to be posted to anywhere other than his state of origin for effective citizen-focused security.

Third, Nigeria is by international standard one of the most under secured countries in the world. 200 million people are policed by 371,800 policemen. While some believe Nigeria is under policed, others believe it is even over policed but still under secured as the UN standard police to citizen ratio is 1:450. What we don't put into consideration is the fact that a large chunk of the police force manpower are attached to the regime and "the people that matter" leaving a relatively low portion to safeguard the general citizenry.

Therefore, there is need for a review of the policing system. Technology and forensic sciences should be adopted in Nigeria's policing system. The police force should leverage on several citizen database systems in the country like the BVN, national identity cards, voter cards, etc for information and employ CCTV operations and adopt forensics like fingerprint matching, facial recognition, hair and other DNA analysis so as to enhance speedy criminal recognition. Fourth, just like the police, the military is also seriously challenged with issues of understaffing, lack of security intelligence, poor morale, lack of state of the art military gadgets and infrastructure, corruption and exhausted leadership.

Fifth, international politics unarguably plays a vital role in Nigeria's internal security challenges. The firearms proliferation in the country is largely attributed to lack of commitment of neighbouring countries (especially Francophones) to the fight against insurgency in Nigeria. France which is their mother nation has roughly over 4500 troops in the West African region but has never taken a bold step in helping Nigeria fight most of its security challenges, especially armed banditry whose main actors are allegedly of Tuareg and other Francophone origins. Hence, there is need for Nigeria to actively engage France and all neighbouring francophone countries in discussions around insecurity in Nigeria. The role they need to play should be clearly defined and any hidden interest should be vividly tabled and diplomatically trashed. The Multinational Joint Task Force should be properly leveraged for regional defense.

Sixth, most of the security challenges in Nigeria are rooted around lack of political will, bad governance, unstable economy, illiteracy, corruption, large economic gap and

know about monthly stipend of beneficiaries after verification



Gombe: Gale of defections hits APC



NPower batch C employment: Here are all physical verification documents, requirements



Npower batch C employment: What you need to know about payment

JOIN US, LIKE OUR PAGE



Blueprint Newspapers
228,388 likes

Like Page

RECENT UPDATES

COAS calls for collaboration to secure national assets

October 4, 2021

Fresh recruitment: NNPC breaks silence

October 4, 2021

VAT: Plateau, Adamawa, Kaduna join forces with FIRS, battle Lagos, Rivers

October 4, 2021

Video of Magashi carrying AK-47 fake-Aide

October 4, 2021

DEPOWA's Project Zero Hunger 'll boost troops' morale -Group

October 4, 2021

FAAN MD risks arrest over unremitted N1.5bn – Senate

October 4, 2021

Adire to become global fabric before 2023 – Ibigbami

October 4, 2021

Lawmaker distributes 8, 000 bags of grains to displaced persons in Niger

October 4, 2021

ineffective post insurgency peace building strategies. The government needs to be proactive in setting effective poverty alleviation strategies and economic policies that would ensure citizen-based development. For crimes to be properly controlled, our educational sector needs a thorough overhaul to create an educational system that must guarantee jobs at the end through curriculums that would ensure graduates being job providers rather than job seekers.

Finally, Nigeria must leverage the powers and influence of traditional rulers in the country as they are most often highly respected and are lucrative sources of genuine information. There is need for a review in the laws guiding traditional leadership institutions in such a way that they beget more recognition, statutory responsibility and rewards. They would unarguably be productive resources towards curbing the insecurity menace in Nigeria.

Ringim is a political analyst, an activist and an advocate for sustainable development. He writes from Zaria and can be reached through Haleemabdul1999@gmail.com

Share this:

Share 274



Telegram



WhatsApp



More

Related

Insecurity: Northern govts take stand on livestock plans, kidnapping, banditry, others

Northern state governors on Thursday adopted National Livestock Transformation Plan (NLTP) as panacea to farmers-herders clashes, kidnapping

September 13, 2019
In "Security"



To wipe out banditry, kidnapping, locals should be carried along – Col. Hambolu

September 26, 2021
In "News"



On PMB's resolve to address insecurity

March 15, 2021
In "Opinion"

You searched: **security challenges**



SECURITY CHALLENGES

« PREVIOUS

ActionAid tasks IG on violation of citizens rights

NEXT »

Pastor Andimi's faith should inspire all Nigerians

BE THE FIRST TO COMMENT

Leave a Reply

You must be logged in to post a comment.

Nigeria at 61: Gurku monarch urges love, unity across tribes

October 4, 2021

COVID-19: Nigeria fails WHO target, vaccinates 1.8%

October 4, 2021

Taraba: Commodore Kefas was patriotic, hardworking – Ishaku

October 4, 2021

Youth group condemns lingering distractions at FCC, sues for peace

October 4, 2021

Kaduna: Indigeneship, citizenship dichotomy a cancer set to destroy Nigeria – Commission

October 4, 2021

South South caucus backs Modu Sheriff for APC chair

October 4, 2021

NGOs conduct free medical care for the elderly

October 4, 2021

NPFL: Rangers round off open screening with double win

October 4, 2021

FCT monarchs hail NBA chair on community development

October 4, 2021

Ligue 1: Messi suffers first loss as PSG go down 2-0 at Rennes

October 4, 2021

Watford sack manager after poor spell

October 4, 2021

Ogun demolishes distressed school building after student's death

October 4, 2021

In Borno, Zulum orders 100 cars, 500 keke NAPEP for 2,200 operators

October 4, 2021

Buhari's conditions to twitter 'll impede course of justice – SERAP

October 4, 2021

Nigeria needs urgent restructuring – Akeredolu

October 4, 2021

Horror in Anambra as gunmen kill two, burn DSS, FRSC offices, Igbokwe's

house

October 4, 2021

First Bank Fintech 5.0: Unveiling benefits, challenges and prospects of Open Banking

October 3, 2021

Breaking: Whitemoney beats Liquorose, others, wins BBNaija season 6 show, pockets N90m prize

October 3, 2021

Kwara firemen recover woman's dead body from Ilorin well

October 3, 2021

Minimum wage: Kwara gov, organised labour strike new deal

October 3, 2021

COLUMN



What you won't hear in Nigeria...

October 3, 2021
0

Heckling urchins in Diaspora

October 3, 2021
0

El-Rufai: The perception and the reality

October 3, 2021
0

Generals on a diplomatic mission

September 30, 2021
0

LETTERS



Re: Crisis festers at FCC

October 3, 2021
0

Of 'I doesn't like to dance'

October 3, 2021
0

Nigeria@61: Revolving around a circle

September 30, 2021
0

Reps probe sharp practices in FCT public health institutions

September 30, 2021
0

EDITORIAL



Caring for the heart

September 28, 2021
0

The Arms Control Bill

September 28, 2021
0

Agenda for NNPC Limited

September 27, 2021
0

Nigeria and the World Tourism Day

September 26, 2021
0

ABOUT US

Blueprint Newspaper is a Nigerian daily print newspaper founded and published in Abuja, Nigeria. While <https://blueprint.ng> is the online version

Chairman/CEO: Mohammed Idris, FNIPR

Chief Operating Officer: Salisu Umar

Chairman, Editorial Board: Zainab Suleiman Okino

GM-Finance/Accounts: Ajibola Oyetubo

Head Administration & Human Resources: Nuhu Sani

GM-Southern Operations: Vera Chidi-Maha

Managing Editor: Clement Oluwole

Editor (Daily): Abdulrahman A. Abdulrauf

Deputy GM-Business and Strategy
Durojaiye Hassan

General Editor: Chamba Simeh

Editor(Weekend): Adoyi M. Aba

Online Editor: Ikenna Okonkwo

Tel: 08034513786, 08101737507 or 08033221705