

CHALLENGES OF INTERNAL SECURITY IN NIGERIA ON MACROECONOMIC PERFORMANCES IN COVID-19 ERA

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ABSTRACT

Security generally is fundamental to human life and development but the current situation of feeling unsafe calls for concern both globally and at national and individual levels. The decay in our internal security has affected macroeconomic performances following the ravages by covid-19 pandemic. This paper seeks to illuminate on the consequences of covid-19 on internal security as it affect macroeconomic performances in Nigeria. The pandemic has restricted movement and circularization of goods and services leading to poor performance of macroeconomics generally as it did other sectors of human life. Abundant literature on security, macroeconomics and covid-19 exist however, to the author's knowledge none have looked at the challenge of covid-19 as a form of internal security threat that challenge the performance of macroeconomics. The paper employed qualitative approach in the conduct of the research. Principally data was sourced from both print and electronic media. The research submitted that health security as aspect of internal security has been endangered by covid-19 pandemic and that brought about the collapse of many businesses. Public policy makers, macroeconomics scholars and health economists are major target audience of this paper. It is expected that the paper will add to the pool of existing literature on the internal security and macroeconomics.

KEYWORDS: Internal security, health security, Covid-19, macroeconomic performance

1. INTRODUCTION

The concept of security is a diverse one as it encompasses wide area of human and environmental needs. The desire for safety and protection from any form of danger be it physical, economic, social, medical, natural or military is a must achieve for every society. Thus, internal security which is referred to as home land security in United States of America and National Security in Nigeria is therefore the act of keeping peace within the confines of a sovereign state by maintaining the national laws and order and defending it against both external and internal threats (Wikipedia, Internal Security. 2021). Security threats in this perspective covers a wide range of issues despite that most writers give violent and to some extent in recent times cyber crime more emphasis. Internal Security threats that have been bedeviling Nigeria much earlier are; armed robbery, ritual killing, theft, advanced free fraud (419) and human and drug trafficking (Nwagboso, 2018). In more recent times the dimension have increased to such crimes as; farmers/herdsmen crisis, unemployment, cattle rustling, hunger, raping and kidnapping but very serious threats also threaten life via health challenge and these include; HIV/AIDS, cholera, malaria and typhoid fever, Tuberculosis and flu (which includes bird flu and other species) the most devastating being the Corona virus popularly known as Covid-19.

Security challenge of whatever dimension is counterproductive as it affects both micro and macroeconomic activities and their performances. Health challenge in general, covid-19 in particular poises both physiological and psychological implications with serious threat to macroeconomic performances. Covid-19 hampers socio-economic activities due to lockdown and other restrictions that consequently lead to health questions and death. Poor

health care in Nigeria is truly one of the reasons for the stumpy life expectancy of only 47 years (Aldis, 2008). The prevalence of human immunodeficiency virus (HIV/AIDS) is very eminent with a death toll of about 220,000 in 2005, Polio, tuberculosis; malaria and cholera had their own ravages on the population vice-versa macroeconomic performances (Country Profile, 2008).

Macroeconomic performance is understood as the aggregate covering of a whole economy encompassing; employment, national income and output, consumption, investment, general price and wage levels. Jhingan (2007) submitted it is the collective economics which examines the interrelationships between various collections; their determinations and causes of fluctuations. The Covid-19 era has tremendously affected the economy adversely in many dimensions that have endangered internal security particularly in the areas of food, health and other economic activities. This article investigates the challenges posed by Covid-19 on the internal security of Nigeria's macro-economic performances. The Covid-19 era was actually one of horrendous experience as far as production and distribution of goods and services is concerned. Irrespective of the gamut of literature on internal security and covid-19 as well as macroeconomics none have paid attention to the challenges of macroeconomic performances by covid-19 on the internal security of Nigeria. Using the qualitative approach the author employed historical method of research to collect secondary data from both electronic and print materials. Personal observation by the researcher of the behavior of businesses during the heat of the pandemic equally provides further information (Creswell, 2002; Cassell and Symon, 2004).

The research is a contribution to literature on macroeconomic performances, national security and covid-19 pandemic. It will be found useful by policy makers, scholars and the general public interested in macroeconomic performances in contemporary Nigeria. The paper opens with an introduction in which the general premise of the essay was discussed followed by conceptual clarification of major concepts of the article. The third section deals with review of relevant literature while the fourth is concerned with the challenges posed by internal security problems on the performances of microeconomics during the covid-19 pandemic era. Finally, the paper concludes with a summary of its findings and some recommendations for policy makers and researchers.

2. LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1 Conceptual framework

The word security simply implies safety from either harm or danger. The concept of security is that most discussed in recent times among all classes of people (Baldwin, 1997). Security is the concern of all as everyone has a need for being safe. However, the concept is perceived differently by people. To many people security is only about military and the use of force and other instruments of coercion (Buzan, 1997, Ibrahim, Tanghan, Ahmed and Osakwe, 2017). In some quarters it is seen as state capabilities to defend its territorial integrity from threats, actual and imagined as well as acts of aggression from potential enemies (Okwori, 1995). Morgenthau (1960) maintained that it is the integrity of the national security and its institutions. These explain the fact that no nation will wish to be forcefully brought under the caprice of another therefore the need to secure itself from any form of aggression.

Some of the general weaknesses of these definitions and conceptualizations about security are that they fall short of important aspects such as the failure to include development and the exclusion of socio-economic, psychological, physical, image, legal, technological and spiritual (Aliyu, 2017). Security to Kofi Anan (former United Nation Secretary General) means far more than the absence of conflict. It is a known fact that lasting peace requires wider vision and encompass areas such as education, health, democracy, and human rights, protection against both environmental challenges and spread of deadly weapons. We know that it is not possible to secure against starvation. These pillars of what we now understand as the people-centered concept of human security are interrelated and mutually reinforcing. Internal security by extension is part of national security architecture which is an interactive and integrative system consisting of the individual as the irreducible basic unit, who is connected both to the state and the international political system by way of civil society... the state is the strongest entity for the enhancement

of national security issues, but is increasingly being challenged by civil society which demands a larger role... (Buzan, 1991). National (internal) security goes beyond military capability as earlier observed; there is the need to be secure from poverty and deprivation and disease as well as ignorance.

Health security a concept that sound how new as far as the subject of security is concern is a hotly debated issue among security experts, medical practitioners, scholars and policy makers as well. Some of the parameters to which the concept covers are not very acceptable with the deployment of the term 'security,' others are rather concerned about the constituents of the concept which have neglected issues like; maternal mortality, malaria and some few others. The concern have been on such diseases that have global infection capability such as H5NI influenza, HIV/AIDS, SARS and more recent the Covid-19 (Rushton, 2011). The 2007 annual World Health Report (WHR), titled *A Safer Future: Global Public Health Security in the 21st Century* defined global public health security "as ... the activities required minimizing vulnerability to acute public health events that endanger the collective health of populations living across geographic regions and across international boundaries". Covid-19 belongs to the family of these Viruses, the latest being severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS-CoV-2) popularly referred to as corona virus disease 2019. It is characterized by mild flu-like symptoms. However serious cases present heavy pneumonia which may speedily degenerate into acute respiratory anguish and possible death (Brouwer, 2020, Velavan, 2020).

There is a big connection between security (physical, psychological, health) and macroeconomic performances. Macro-economics is concerned about economic affairs at large as it deals with the overall dimensions of economic life by looking at the totality of the size, shape and the functioning of economic behaviors. Thus, haven said these it is pertinent to relate security be it internal or international to economic performances hence it can only take place under peaceful and secured environment (Alfakoro, 2021). Macroeconomic performance is therefore an assessment of how a country has tried to achieve key objectives of government policy. Advancement in actual standard of living for the population is usually the central aim of governmental policy (Rily, 2010). Generally the scope of macroeconomics performances or assessment include: Jobs, prices, trade, public service and the environment. Macroeconomics is concerned with the understanding of aggregate phenomena such as economic growth, business cycles, unemployment, inflation, and international trade among others as these are aspects for the development and evaluation of economic policy.

2.2 Theoretical background

Existing scholarly works on security have given the concept different philosophical and theoretical dimensions. Security has been perceived as one of the basic human needs according to Abraham Maslow hierarchy of needs. Furthermore, theories that in some way activate threat to security such as the Functionalism Theory; Social Conflict Theory, and the Relative Deprivation theory among others have also been propounded (Arase, 2018). Each of these theories explains why security challenge is apt for instance functionalism theory maintained that failure of a part of the system to effectively function will precipitate conflict and consequent collapse of security (Jones, 2003; Val-Ogu, 2017; Epro, 2019).

The social conflict theory as propounded by Karl Marx maintained that inequality in the society as a result of imbalance in the distribution of resources will lead to discontent among the citizenry and that can be responsible for breakdown of law and order. The theory emphasizes the place of economy as the major base of all structures of the society and as such dysfunction in it becomes an obvious corollary for conflict and in security (Coser, 1975; Dahrendorf, 1958; Fink, 1968).

Psychologists and other social scientists in the field of human behavior (Walker, & Pettigrew, 1984; Walker, & Mann, 1987) have propounded that deprivation of some necessities of life can trigger conflict and attendant insecurity in the society. Accordingly this theory implies that the pace of unemployment, poverty, anxiety, physical insecurity and physiological threats such as diseases like the covid-19 put together have in many ways heightened the wave of internal security in the country. Theorizing security has been taken to another dimension referred to as securitization theory (Eroukhmanoff, 2018, 2018; Tifny, 2020). It maintains that national (internal) security

guideline is not naturally prearranged but carefully designed by politicians and policy makers. The theory has it that political issues are taken as extreme and need urgent attention because of its dangerous and menacing threats. Security issues are not simply 'out there' but rather must be articulated as problems by securitizing actors. In essence, Securitization theory is a challenge to the traditional approaches to security and asserts that issues are not essentially threatening in themselves; rather, it is by referring to them as 'security' issues that they become security problems (Eroukhmanoff, 2018).

An important aspect of security with both internal and global significance is the health security which is an aspect of human security. The UNDP in (1994) report describes human security in terms of security of individuals as well as nation-states, and as a platform for sustainable development. (also see, for example, Nef 1999; Reed and Tehranian 1999; Thomas 1999; Axworthy 2001), the Report identified seven categories of threats to human security: economic, food scarcity, health, environment, personal, community and political. The document ignited the course of linking health concerns to human security, a process which many writers have taken forward (Chen et al. 2003). Prelude to the WHO 1946 constitution identified '... happiness, harmonious relations and security as desire of all peoples'. The document maintained that 'the health of all peoples is critical to the attainment of peace and security' (WHO 2005a). In any case, academics are yet to find any elaborate difference between health and security and health security rather the terms are in many occasions used interchangeably. Epidemic alert and response' was linked to health security concept as part of a global strategy for prevention of movement of communicable diseases across national borders by the World Health Assembly's Resolution 54.14 'Global health security WHO 2001. Further progress was made in 2007 when in a World Health Report t global public health security was seen as; ... the activities required ... to minimize vulnerability to acute public health events that endangers the collective health of populations living across geographic regions and international boundaries' (WHO, 2007).

The understanding of human security therefore includes protection of vulnerable people against hunger, disease and repression; poverty reduction; and 'empowerment' of people. Other writers, however, emphasize threats to populations as a whole, such as emerging pandemic-prone communicable diseases such as SARS and avian influenza. Many recent publications emphasize bio-terrorism (Greenberg 2002; Gursky 2004; Aginam 2005) and indeed, in some national legislation, the concept of health security and protection from bio-terrorism seem almost interchangeable (United States House of Representatives 2002).

3. METHODOLOGY

The research is designed based qualitative approach hence the non use of numbers for its procedures and analysis (Creswell, 2012; Anol, 2012; Creswell, 2014; Newman & Ridenour, 1998). Basically the research employed the use of historical method of conducting its investigation. Data material was collected from both print and electronic media and subjected to critical desk review of the literature. Sources and content of data were exposed to vigorous internal veracity and porosity to ascertain internal consistency and their validity (Gun & Faire, 2012; Franklin, 2013). B.G Nworgu (1991) and Marwick (1991) maintained that this process of cross examination of sources is important for conduct of a historical research activity. The research used the Nigerian economic and social environment as population space of study within the covid-19 infestation period. The study looks into the general macroeconomic performance of the nation's economy and came to conclusions based on the analysis of data at the disposal of the researcher.

4. FINDINGS

4.1 *The nature of insecurity in Nigeria before and during the Covid-19 era*

The nature of insecurity in Nigeria before and during the Covid-19 era has been very worrisome and has occupied scholars, policy makers and the entire society. Substantial literature exists on the subject each with its own variant of perspective and perception. Scholars have equally done much on the areas of insecurity and national question, development, peace and sustainability and other aspects of human endeavors Security challenges in Nigeria in this article are divided first into military and non-military in nature. Military aspect of security settles for violent attacks

on lives and properties. This includes activities of such terror groups like; the Boko Haram, Movement for the Emancipation of Niger Delta (MEND), Indigenous People of Biafra (IPOB), Odua Peoples' Congress (OPC), and Yoruba Nation Fighters. The activities of these violent groups have over the past three decades claimed over 100,000 lives (NST, 2021) and millions reduced to internally displaced persons (I D P) in their own land. The ravages by Boko Haram in the extreme north and southern part of Nigeria are only better imagined than witnessed. To date law and order in those parts of the country are not strictly Nigerian but that of the terror groups as they determine peace and tranquility of the areas.

Another security quagmire that faces the nation is that of kidnapping for ransom. Beginning first in the Niger Delta area, it gradually spread to other parts of the country with states like Katsina, Niger, Zamfara, Kaduna, Kebbi and Sokoto in the lead. School children, villagers' old and young, clergymen and even security personnel are not safe. Outrageous sums are demanded and at times lives are still lost despite payment is made. Kidnapping which is some quarters seen as caused by unemployment have become an enterprise which the major working tool is the A. K. 47 gun. Both governments and individuals have paid hundreds of millions of naira as ransom to kidnappers to safe lives of poor and rich innocent Nigerians and foreigners. Closely related to kidnapping are cattle rustling which is the taking away of someone else's cattle forcefully at times with death consequence for the owner. The situation have created insecurity among cattle owners and also raised repercussive effect by forcing the victims to go into similar violent activities that erode security in the society in addition to worsening of the prices of beef and other livestock meat. Farmers/herders conflict is another internal security challenge that has bedeviled Nigeria certainly over a very longtime; however its recent dimension has become very worrisome. Farmers are being killed and entire villages are set ablaze and farm products taken away with the extra burn down, what a calamity.

A very worrisome internal security issue that is growing in an alarmingly dangerous pace is the cases of rape and infant defilement. Recently on a Voice of America (VOA) Hausa service on 15/10/2021 and FM 91.3 campus radio Minna on the same date it was reported that a sixty one year old man defiled a six year old girl. Another radio (Kano) reports that a 58year old man besmirched four of his children with the oldest being only eight year old. The girl who was just eight year old have got cervical pelvis destroyed and can no longer control urine and excreta. Cataloging the numerous cases of rape and debasement in contemporary Nigeria will only produce an endless list. The rampant cases of rape have made for the legislation of tougher punishment for the perpetrators yet the crime still continues.

Internal security is also being challenged with the increased pace of spiritual and extra judicial killings. People disappear nowadays in Nigeria as if it's a dream. It is not any longer strange to mention that someone is missing and never to be seen alive again that is if the corpse is even discovered at all. Several cases of human slaughter homes are with both the police and courts with little or nothing being mentioned about it rather culprits in many cases roaming about the streets freely. The second phase of internal security which I tagged non violent or non military but also lethal as well are cyber crime, hunger, poverty, unemployment and disease. All these factors are closely related. Those engaged in cyber crime are most likely to be people that are not gainfully employed. The crime became more prevalent during the covid-19 pandemic lockdown which stopped many people from going out in search for legitimate means of livelihood thus the law of relative deprivation can be seen as functional in such situation. Therefore hunger, unemployment, and poverty have very close relationship in terms of reaction to violent and non violent crime due to deprivation factor as agent.

5. DISCUSSION

5.1 Challenges of Internal Security on Macroeconomic Performances in Covid-19 Era

Since macroeconomics deals with the overall performance of the economy, the concern here is to see how it has been undermined by internal security challenges in the covid-19 era Nigerian society. History of macroeconomic dynamics of Nigeria in the current era of harsh economic and security realities can better be understood when reference is first made to some historical epochs in the country. During the colonial era agriculture and to some

extent mining were the mainstay of the economy and the GDP as at 1960 average 1.7 (Akinwummi, 2017). The attainment of independence brought certain amount of increase in the macroeconomic performance (Bade, 1983) but the civil war of 1967-1970 which is clearly an internal security issue affected socio-economic activities in the country. Nafziger (1972) and O' Brian (1973) Observed that growth in real G D P. declined from 6.1 percent per annum between 1958 to 1968, to 2.6% and 1965 to 1966, to -4.8% in 1967 and -0.2% in 1968 but increased to 13% in 1969 and 9.6% the following year. The poor and dwindling performance was as a result of the crisis that bedeviled the nation which also affected the production of oil that was just beginning to gain ground. Unemployment was said to have scored high during the crisis just as the general price index of consumer goods and services increased by 2%.

The various sudden changes in government following coup' de tats have in many ways affected macroeconomic behaviors mostly in negative ways. At the level of the citizens the periods are usually that of grieve, fear, anxiety and mutual suspicion of the final outcome. During such periods production and other economic activities are affected as movements are restricted bringing about relative decline in macroeconomic performances because of the state internal security quagmire. Other situations that have bearing with internal security which either directly or otherwise have affected macroeconomic performances include political upheaval such as the annulment of June, 12 1993 which brought about mass exodus of people from their places of economic activities to that origin in fear of anticipated trouble and that gave a decline in the GDP of -43.37% (Macro Trends, 2021). The activities of insurgents, separatists and other terror groups in different parts of Nigeria have significantly constituted setback for economic activities. Foreign investors have before the year 2015 declared the country a 'no go area' because of the activities of violent armed groups in the Niger Delta area. Oil workers especially the expatriates and other classes of businessmen are kidnapped for heavy sum ransom. In the Northeastern states of Nigeria activities of the Boko Haram also had created such a negative impact on macroeconomic performances hence the challenges of internal security that at particular time excised part of the country and declared its authority over the area. Between 2001 and 2019 the intensity of internal security challenges in Nigeria was beyond common imagination and waves of violent crime became part of daily life that the security apparatus seems to have been over stretched.

The covid-19 pandemic was a turning point in the history of mankind in general and Nigeria in particular. The pandemic was not mere health challenge like previous ones such as smallpox, measles, and tuberculosis, HIV/AIDS, SARS and Ebola. Previous pandemics were deadly in their own fashion. Tuberculosis remained a major killer disease in the world claiming 23% of global population that is 1.5 million every year (CDC, 2021). Since the start of HIV/AIDS pandemic it has claimed recorded lives of 36.3 million people with 680,000 deaths in 2020 alone (UNAIDS, 2021). Dawaki, et'al. 2016 reported that malaria disease is responsible for 207, 000 deaths annually in Nigeria. All these diseases are threats to internal security as they claim lives and reduce productive capacity of the nation. The archetype novel covid-19 pandemic is not only a killer but lockdown people and institute social distancing. Roads are deserted with military impunity, cancelation of flights and public gatherings became the order of the day including official and religious activities. Global economy, Nigeria not an exception is gradually grinding to a halt. Factories are closing down due to lack of production and distribution of goods and services and their workers are being laid off because they cannot be sustained by the employers. The oil dependent nation is facing collapse as demand for the product internationally and locally has drastically reduced. International price of fuel dropped to an 18year old record low at less than 22 dollars per barrel and likely to go lower. The cash crunch has made People's purchasing power difficult hence general economic downturn.

Furthermore many essential commodities like water (air) and food items became unnecessarily scarce and consequently expensive as movement is restricted and supplies become limited. A loaf of bread that is for the common man, formerly sold between 300-350 naira moved to N400-450. A basket of tomatoes that was sold for N500-600 before the corona virus epidemic now cost between 1,700 and 1,800 Naira. Similarly, there is about 100% increase in the price of meat per kilo. A major impact of the epidemic is that it posed grievous risk to the small scale sector as it affects 96% of businesses and 84% employees thus leading to low turnover and consequent staff layoff.

This is because the lockdown has severely impacted on production, distribution and even consumption of goods and services particularly against the small scale that rely on daily earnings for survival. Even some state and local governments started having difficulties in paying workers salaries because of lower federation allocation.

Covid-19 has equally hit hard on Nigerian's annual budget for the year 2020 as crude oil prices has fallen below the \$57 projection per barrel hence the nation was forced to reduce its benchmark to \$30, a gap of 27 Naira which constitute a deficit to the annual financial plan. Stock markets are also in crisis as results of the global pandemic which have brought about daily fall in the world's economy. World leading economies, like the United States have gone into recession due to the global economic capsized as a result of the pandemic hence the search for survival instead of investment funds. On the whole, Nigeria's gross domestic productivity is at the receiving end as it was already in crisis and the nation was facing high external debt burden even before the corona virus epidemic. In sum, the 2nd quarter of 2019 had GDP of 14.01%, the GDP for 2020 2nd quarter recorded all out low rate at 2.80% as the pandemic was at its peak and almost every economic activity was brought to a standstill. The gradual recovery from the pandemic shows an appreciation in the macroeconomic performances as the GDP for the 2nd quarter 2021 indicates improvement to 14.99% which is a very interesting development for the nation's economy (NBS, 2021).

6. CONCLUSION

This article concludes that internal security in Nigeria suffered setback most especially under the covid-19 pandemic. Because of the lockdown order in the country people became idle and prone to criminal activities such as petty thefts, kidnapping, rape and other forms of violent crimes. Health security was also an issue as people lost their lives to the corona virus disease as well as other forms of infections. Economic activities suffered at both individual and collective levels thus bringing failure in the performances of the economy. The year 2020 will certainly mark a watershed in the economic history of Nigeria as it recorded unprecedented harshness resulting from difficult economic realities of the era. Everything everywhere was closed down a situation to be simply described as warlike. Like Nigeria fought its way out of the civil war and other crisis in the past, it is suggested that with government seriousness and commitment the economy will improve within a short period.

Few recommendations are hereby presented for policy makers and the general public. Downturn in the economy is not a strange development. Usually they are associated with difficult times. The various palliative measures instituted must be pursued with sincerity of purpose regardless of sentiment of either political or ethic affiliations. The current support by the central bank through NISRAL bank should be encouraged and extended to real investors based on physical evidence. Internal security is a heavy burden on the federal, state and local governments in the country in the areas of violent crimes but disease, hunger and unemployment are also as deadly as the violent threats. Covid-19 came and arrested everyone in to our houses overnight, movements were curtailed even hospitals in Minna at a time was left with only critical emergency services including covid patients thus making life very difficult. The recommendation here is that more need to be done about our health care provision. More hands need to be trained in all sectors of health services provision in addition to increased budgetary allocation. Our universities must this case be seriously supported in the areas of research for the purpose of our needs. Finally, citizens need to appreciate and look more inward to locally made products so as to re-energize the economy. With the gradual recovery of the economy, if local manufactures are encouraged and patronized macroeconomic performances will improve tremendously.

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