

The Implication of Boko Haram Insurgency in Rural Development in Nigeria

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Abstract: *The Boko Haram insurgency has brought about the many-sided threat to Nigeria since 2009. Different government have taken several methods to curb the menace with no much result to show for it. This study examines the Boko Haram insurgency and the challenges it posed to rural development in Nigeria. Furthermore, the insecurity with its several multifaceted indicators such as kidnapping, bombing, a hostage taken, killings, and the destruction of properties among others has become a deadly monster that the Nigerian security agents seem unable to address. The research shows that the activities of the insurgency are harmful to the general wellbeing of the citizens with the consequential effects seen in the population displacement, living condition, death, destruction of properties, infrastructures, and the slowdown in business activities or their relocation or complete closing down of such businesses and schools. The study concluded that there must be a collaboration and synergy among the government and various security departments, the security personnel should be properly motivated, government should check the heavy flow of light and small arms and ammunition into the country, the citizens should cooperate with the security agencies by providing them with speedy and useful information, the government at all levels should strive to eradicate corruption and ensure good governance.*

Index Terms: *Boko Haram, Insurgency, Insecurity, Terrorism, Rural development.*

I. INTRODUCTION

The constitutional assignment and responsibilities of every sincere, responsible and responsive government at the national, state and local level are to secure the lives and properties of not only its citizens but all those that live in that country (Abiodun, 2017). Insurgency or terrorist activities have been the challenge of so many governments; it is one of the world social problems and challenges for decades now. Radicalism, the state by Fussey and Coaffee (2012) became main political issues for the last decades. According to Hoffman (1998), terrorism is a intentional formation and misuse of fear through brutality or the threat of brutality in the shadowing of political change. Hornby (2005) considered it as the use of ferocious to achieve objectives or to compel a government to act.

In the context of this paper terrorism is the deliberate and

conscious move of utilizing violent methods by an individual or group under or political or religious plan to cause immense terror, injuries or deaths to the innocent people so compelling the government to perform. Terrorism is an illegal action that violet the fundamental human right and it is highly anti developmental in nature because it affects the political, social, economic, cultural and religious development of any country. Development or transformation are expected to take place in a safe and secured environment (Eneanya, 2014). Rural development, as an integral part of national development, has suffered from the menace of terrorism. Terrorism has frustrated the developmental efforts, plans, strategies and programs of many nations it has negatively affected the rural sectors of some countries such as their economy, education, social and religious life. Hutchful (2002) asserted that key to the existence of any country or culture is its stability, which is predicated on national security. Insecurity leaves in its wake tales of woe which the country and its citizens have had to contend with over the years, every society across the globe has its peculiar problems and challenges. Nigeria is not an exception, as a developing country it faces its own share of political, social, economic and cultural problems which has in no small measure affected the well-being of the populace (Adebayo, 2013).

The appearance of Boko Haram has started a terrorist dimension that was unfamiliar in the criminal history of Nigeria. Continuous bomb blasts have been executed by the cult including taking hostage of innocent citizens, several people have been killed and properties destroyed, a lot of families displaced, and the farmers cannot carry out their farming activities because of the fear of been attack by the sect, while several other people are prevented from going about their daily activities freely because of the deadly attacks of this insurgency.

The actual name of Boko Haram in the past was Jama'atu Ahlis Sunna Lidda'awati Wal-Jihad, which means the congregation of the people of a tradition for proselytism and jihad (Shuaibu, Salleh, & Shehu, 2015). The word Boko Haram refers to Western Education is prohibited. ame into existence the start of 2000 using usinga little Sunni Islamic organization or group that was supporting a severe clarification and execution of Islamic laws in Nigeria. , In the beginning, the supervisor of the sect was not calling for violence. The followers or members usually engage in little clashes with security agents from time to time during their formative years (Shuaibu et al.,

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2015). Boko Haram activities changed from local peace territorial army into a fierce group when the government of Nigeria challenged and attacked the sect members in some Northern part of the country. This resulted in a couple of days violent clashes among the sects members and the national security forces. Its chief leader of the sect by name Muhammed Yusuf was eventually killed in Maiduguri the capital of Borno state alongside with more than 700 other people (Ezepue, 2017). After the clash in 2009, the group activities were slow, but they later re-emerged in 2010 with different strategies that involved suicide bombing, kidnapping, attacking on mosques, Islamic clerics, churches, and markets in the country.

The activities and purposes of Boko Haram sect in Nigeria has some similarities with other terrorist group outside Nigeria, and prominent among such terrorist group is the Al Shabaab in Somalia. The actual origin of Al Shabaab is an issue that has generated serious disagreement among scholars, while some scholars perceive it from the point of Ethiopia's intrusion of Somalia in 2006 which arranged the grounds for a radical response. The invasion and occupation of Somalia by Ethiopia gave room for radical nationalist Islamic, anti-American and anti- Ethiopian ideas and feelings and when Ethiopian armed forces left in 2009, the group changed its aim and objectives to continue to be relevant in Somalia by concentrating on an ideological assignment (Osman, 2017:258). Hence, Al Shabaab has professed the formation of an Islamic Caliphate in Somalia which is the facilitator to assist in spreading their ideology among other African countries like Kenya and Ethiopia with the further desire of expanding radical Islamic ideology to other parts of Africa (Mwangi, 2012).

This sect group has since become a serious security threat to countries like Kenya, Ethiopia, and other countries of Africa and it is supposed to have a link with the Boko Haram sect in Nigeria which also have similar goals of trying to spread their radical Islamic ideology in Nigeria and has also developed a severe threat to not just the Nigerian national security but also a security threat to other part of Africa such as Chad, Cameroon, and Niger republic among others.

II. BOKO HARM AND TERRORISM.

The process of using violence to bring about fear which is aimed at targeting third parties through the elements of wonder and undermining of self-security is the method adopted by different old and present-day actors (Large, 2005). Terrorism is a concept which is utilized to define violence and different harmful acts. Terrorism can be referred to as violence and the risk associated with brutality (Laqueur, 2005, cited in Eke, 2013). The term terrorism is derived from the Latin word "terrere" which refers to "scare". Terrorism is a specific criminal act to gain recognition nationally and internationally (Ugwu, & Eme, 2019). From the forgoing, the Boko Haram sect in Nigeria is considered a terrorist group because the first suicide bombing led by the group in Nigeria was the bombing of the United Nation's (UN) office and the Police headquarters all located in the capital of Nigeria, Abuja,

where several lives were lost and huge properties destroyed (Shuaibu et al., 2015).

Atere & Aloa (2012) refers to terrorism as the actions which are aiming at damaging some persons to build fear in them. Terrorism is the type of violence where the citizens are targeted for compelling a supposed enemy to submit by bringing about fear and demoralizing them (Schmid, & Johnson, 2005). Going by the above assertion it is obvious that on the 14th April 2014 when the sect the Boko Haram group attacked and kidnapped almost 250 girls from a government school in Borno state in April 2014 as well as the kidnapping of about 120 more girls from government school in Yobe state of Nigeria in February 2018 is a terrorist act because it was meant to compel the Nigerian government to accede to their demands, but the victims were innocent people.

In November 2013; the State Security Department labelled Boko Haram as Foreign Terrorist Organization (F.T.O) and subsequently on 22nd May 2014, the United Nations Committee on Al Qaeda banned and sanctioned the group as terrorist group, and the UN describes the sect as a colleagues of Al Qaeda (Ezepue, 2017).

The United State Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) defines the concept of terrorism as violent actions or acts risky to the life of human beings, and it is meant at intimidating or coercing the civilian people to influence government policy, this is implemented through mass destruction of properties, kidnapping, killings, or assassinations. Raji (2013) opine that political terrorism is the thoughtful application of threats of violence against noncombatant civilians, aimed at bringing fear to the people beyond the immediate victims. He stated further that culprits of terrorism mostly attack important targets in a horrifying manner; the psychological effect of such an attack can be more than the physical harm. He, therefore, established terrorism is a combination of play and terror, it is a planned strategy which threatens with an imminent danger that is somehow pervasive, inevitable and in some cases unavoidable.

However, the concept of terrorism is said to be the idea of the United State of America because it is believe that any person or group of persons that do not believe in their ideology is generally seen or term as a terrorist, where as the same American invasion of Iraq in 2003 where the government of Saddam Hussain was toppled is also seen as a terrorist act because that action was against international practice since Iraq been an independent country is not supposed to be invaded by America. Same can also be said of the invasion of Libya in Africa in 2012 by same America again where the removed President Mamman Gadaffi from power if such actions where to be carried out by another country the United States of America would have classified that country or such persons as a terrorist. Collaborating this view is a re-known Islamic leader, Ibrahim El- Zakzaky who viewed Boko Haram as an attempt to discredit the Islamic religion by the west. He suggested that the Boko



Haram is a formation of the United States of America so as to subject Islam to ridicule. e stated further that is nothing, then a trick introduced to mislead most people to believe that a radical Islamic group is in existence for killing people and destroying properties with the objective of establishing an Islamic state in Nigeria (Lucky, 2015).

III. FACTORS RESPONSIBLE FOR BOKO HARAM INSURGENCY IN NIGERIA

The serious reason for the impoverishment of the common people of Nigeria has been bad governance, therefore, making it easier for the establishment of criminal groups who are looking for the means of their living income. Unemployment among Nigerian youths is a critical reason for Boko Haram insurgency in Nigeria. Karl Max prophesied long time ago that there would come a time where machines shall be used to perform the job of men and when the people are no longer getting the jobs, they will resort to revolution (Onimhawo, Izibili, & Igboin 2006:122). That is the situation presently going on in Nigeria now. Idowu (2008:9) clarifies that because the government has failed to provide the basic infrastructures that are required by the people, a new crisis has arisen by political opportunists who have taken advantage of the condition of the poor people to address non-response of the government to lawful desires of the people. The bad situation has given rise to series of frustrated associations or people who have become vulnerable to crimes and are willing to be used as tools for destruction especially in the hands of the politicians to attack their political opponents.

It is important to know that good number of youths in Nigeria are between the ages of 20- 40 years old still depend on their parents for their daily livelihood and if not for such a good number of them would have taken arms to rebel against the state. It is important for one to imagine the things that will happen to a full-grown man that will wake up in the morning and does not have food to eat nor money to spend. This type of person can be influenced easily to carry arms against the government or state whom he has perceived as those that have short changed his living standard and mortgaged his future. The founder of the Boko Haram group, late Mohammed Yusuf made it clear that the government is responsible for the suffering and poverty among the people of Nigeria (Olumuyiwa, & Titus 2018:216). This is one of the reasons why the group has rebelled against the government or the Nigerian state because it is not happy with decades of bad governance which has left the masses in abject poverty. The Boko Haram sect contends that the Nigerian leaders are assisted by western education to subject the citizens to poor living condition through embezzling the funds that are meant for the public into their account or pockets by the help of the "pen". Consequently, due to the high level of poverty, innocent people are provoked to go into crimes like robbery, kidnapping, among others. They argued that the same leaders that were assisted through western education to siphon public funds which were to be used for projects that will influence definitely in the lives of the masses, arrest, detained, and sent the poor people to jail

while they were compelled to go into crime so that they can earn a living (Danjibo, 2010: 2).

Supporting this argument, Olusegun Obasanjo who was Nigerian former President between 1999- 2007 stated that the country was sitting on a gunpowder, he maintain that if the government fail to do something about it fast by providing employment for the teaming youths who happens to be the most populated at the same time the leaders of tomorrow, then Nigeria should be ready to face huge violence which will lead to the failure of law enforcement (The Nation Newspaper, 2015:26). In Nigeria, bad leadership and governance have impoverished the country to the level where the rich keep getting richer, and the poor keep getting poorer. Danjibo and Oladeji (2007:15) opines that the poor people watch their politicians flying overseas, sending their children to expensive schools abroad, shopping in Dubai while they remain helpless at home.

The widening gap between the elites and the masses or between the leaders and the led, also the gap between the developmental projects or programs in communities that has government representatives and those communities without government representatives have ended up creating a vacuum thereby making it possible violent terrorist to take over such a vacuum to achieve their goals. The renowned Greek philosopher by name Aristotle once said that "Poverty is the mother of all revolutions and where there is hunger, and the poor significantly exceeds in numbers, trouble will set in, and the state soon comes to an end" (Olumuyiwa, & Titus 2018:216). Consequently, the poverty level in Nigeria, most especially the northern par, makes it easier for Boko Haram to thrive. However, as important as this reason is bad governance is not limited to Nigeria because it also affects some other countries who are not plunged into this terrorist activities, undoubtedly, some reasons outside bad governance are accountable for the menace of Boko Haram in Nigeria.

One more aspect that is responsible for the growth of Boko Haram insurgency is the fact that the government seems to have a hand in why the terrorist cannot be wiped away, this is because some key government officials have been accusing of having a hand in the sponsorship of the sect group in the country. The governor of Borno state between 2003 – 2011 Alhaji Ali Modu Sherriff is said to be one of the key sponsors of the Boko Haram terror group in the country, the then governor selected Alhaji Foi as commissioner of religious affairs while Mohammed Yusuf was appointed into the Borno state Sharia Board as a member, the appointment of these two key persons who were members of the sect into high positions in the state indicates the association among the Boko Haram terrorist and the politicians in the country (Olabanji, 2015). The politicians employ and used some of them for political gains against their political opponents, they made arms available to them and provided them with all that the sect requires to unleash terror on their political opponents, it is also believed that the huge security votes that come to the states which the governors do not give

account of it and most of which end up in their private account are another reason why such government officials do not want the insurgency to end. Senator Ali Ndume from Borno state is also accused of been a key sponsor of the Boko Haram terrorist group, and he has been charged to court for that.

Supporting the view that the government has a hand in sponsoring Boko Haram in Nigeria, the former National Security Adviser late Patrick Aziza once said that the Boko Haram insurgency could not end because the government is responsible for the sponsorship of the sect in the country (Lucky, 2015). This can be corroborated by the way and manner the then government diverted several billions of dollars for the purchase of weapons to fight the terrorist into their private account and for which Ibrahim Dasuki the National Security Adviser at that time is still standing trial in the court of law. These among several reasons are said to be the reasons why the Boko Haram terrorist is striving in Nigeria because several government officials are benefiting from their activities in the country.

In the same vain, international influence is a serious factor motivating the Boko Haram predicaments in Nigeria. There are rising fears of outside or international influence, which are invading and shaping religious establishments in the Sub-Saharan Africa, particularly in Nigeria (Danjibo, 2010:5). The Muslims in Nigeria and their Christian contemporaries have relationships with the West and the Middle East, while the Muslims are connected to the Arab countries, the Christians tilt in the direction of the Euro-American philosophy. A United State House of Representative report from their subcommittee delivered in 2011 November which was titled Boko Haram: Issued a caution asserting that Boko Haram was a threat to the U, S, western targets, and Nigeria. It alleged that the sects do have other terror links and went further to warn its citizens in Nigeria to be careful in a terrorist country such as Nigeria (Olumuyiwa, & Titus, 2018). International terror like the terrorism in Yemen, Afghanistan and Somalia does have a serious influence on the terrorist crises in Nigeria, more understandingly, it has real links with not just the al-Qaeda, but likewise a good number of the of other violent sect organizations in Africa too, the aids and training received by the Boko Haram sects has made them a very dangerous threat to Nigeria (Olumuyiwa, & Titus, 2018).

IV. THE EFFORTS OF THE NIGERIAN GOVERNMENT TOWARDS ENDING THE BOKO HARAM CRISIS.

Several struggles have been done by the past and present Nigerian government towards bringing the Boko Haram insurgency to an end. The Nigerian government, through its parliament in 2013, enacted and passed the anti-terrorism law which was proposed to help greater counterterrorism organization and coordination to bring the Boko Haram insurgency to an end. The Nigerian government has adopted both dialogue and the use of force to bring the crisis to an end. The Borno state government in 2010 through their then governor Alhaji Ali Modu Sheriff purportedly paid the Boko

Haram sect the total sum of N100 million naira (USD 620,000) to calm the sect annoyance after 's death of Mohammed Yusuf by the Nigerian security forces (Agbibo, 2013). The present governor of the state Alhaji Shettima Kasim also invited the sect for discussion between the state and the sect so that lasting solution to the crisis could be discussed for the good of the country.

In 2013 also the then President of Nigeria by the name Dr Goodluck Jonathan established an amnesty committee comprising of 26 members on dialogue and peaceful solution of the Boko Haram crisis in Nigeria, the committee was chaired by the Alhaji Kabiru Tanimu, Minister of Special Duties. The committee was given the mandate to persuade the Boko Haram sect to give up their arms and receive state forgiveness as well as to be integrated into the society again. But unfortunately, all these peaceful and political solutions adopted by the government did not yield any fruit because the sect members refused the offers of the government due to lack of trust in the government.

Since the Boko Haram insurgency was not willing to dialogue with the Nigerian government, the Nigerian state decided to opt for the use of force to bring the crisis to an end. Hence, the government of Nigeria decided to create a Joint Task Force (JTF), which was named Operation Restore Order. Thus, the President immediately ordered the deployment of about 8,000 soldiers to go and tackle the sect in a direct military offensive, and the deployment of the soldiers was seen as the largest in the history since the Nigerian Civil War ended in 1970 (Agbibo, 2013). The attack or the use of force on the group has some little success by temporarily dipping the sect influence or attacks, but on the over all, it has not achieved the desired objective of bringing the insurgency activities to an end in the country.

The Nigeria people, particularly the those at the northern part of the country, have decided to establish an informant network as well as the vigilante groups to supply the security forces with useful information that will assist in tracking down the Boko Haram terrorist. The vigilante group also assist and support the conventional Nigerian security forces in attacking the insurgency since it is generally believed that they have a better knowledge of their environment than the Nigerian security forces (Blanchard, 2014).

On the international stage, the Nigerian government have decided to collaborate with its neighbouring countries so that they can all put their heads together in combating the insurgency since most a times the terrorist-ran to these countries easily to hide when they re been attacked. On the 10th May 2014, the Nigerian government through the Nigerian Defense Ministry declared that two military divisions would be positioned in the border areas of Chad, Cameroon and the Niger Republic and coordinate alongside their regional security forces to track down the Boko Haram terrorist (Blanchard, 2014).

The present Nigerian government led by President Muhamadu Buhari upon assumption of office in 2015 declared that about 27 local governments areas of the



country were taken over and are been controlled by the Boko Haram sect, Then, he ordered a serious military offensive on the sect after declaring a state of emergency on the Boko Haram territories and as at December 2018 he equally declared that all the 27 local government that was initially controlled by the sect had been taken over by the Nigerian government, and the sect is no longer in control of any local government again. The Nigerian government has been able to the safe return of about 150 of the 250 girls which were taken a hostage in 2014.it was succeeded to recover of all the school girls kidnapped in 2018 except one Leah Sharibu who is still in captivity with the sect. Despite all these efforts put in by the Nigerian government, there is still much that is required to bring the Boko Haram menace to an end.

V. BOKO HARAM INSURGENCY AND ITS IMPLICATIONS ON RURAL DEVELOPMENT

The threats posed by Boko Haram has not only to undermine the existence of Nigeria as a political territory, but it has also undermined the development of the rural areas of the country (Sulaiman, 2018). The phenomenon of terrorism is presently becoming a global concern; almost all countries of the world today are not exonerated completely from its effect. War, violence and some different kinds of transnational political violence are today more dangerous and threatening than it has been in the years back, as the destruction of valuable properties and killing of human beings have been on the rise, and it has greatly undermined developmental activities in so many areas (Sulaiman, 2018). The negative impact of Boko Haram in Nigeria has reverberated throughout the country and has become a major source of poverty in the country most especially the rural areas as it has affected their ability even to go out and work to earn their daily means of livelihood (Awortu, 2015). The effects of the present uncertainty in Nigeria caused by Boko Haram were the security agencies can no longer secure lives and properties have reduced the capacity of the individuals to economically develop and likewise the country effort to give foreign investors are restricted because of the palpable insecurity. Foreign investors are not willing to participate in an insecure situation, they will rather relocate their businesses to places where they are sure that their investment will be secured (Ali, Musa & Fada, 2016).

It will be right to say that security precedes economic development be it in rural areas or cities. Terrorism gives rise to insecurity, which in turn affect fabrication and consumption patterns, which makes the market less attractive both locally and internationally. Tighter security makes trade difficult and cumbersome and equally makes it more expensive because of delays in transaction processing and deliveries of the goods and services. Terrorism also destroys, or damage traded goods infrastructures such as roads, bridges, electricity, among others, which are required for trade and development (Enders & Sandler, 2006).

The Nigerian Agricultural sector, which employs over 80% of the rural people, is not left behind. Many agriculture lands and products have been damaged by the Boko Haram, and this has affected the economy of the rural people. The

output in Agriculture has fallen greatly, most farmers do not go to their farms anymore for fear that they may be killed by the Boko Haram members, while some have fled to another part of the country or neighbouring countries for the sake of their lives and it will take a long time to recover from this challenge. During this period of terrorism, large areas of land in the northern part of Nigeria were under cultivated or were under cultivated (Henry, 2017). Many farmers had to run away from their homes living their farm lands uncultivated because of the fear of Boko Haram, Borno and Yobe state which are part of the areas mostly attack by the insurgent have the largest farm lands in Nigeria dominated by different types of farmers and they produce Agricultural produce such as Cowpea, Sorghum, Rice, Millet, Yams, Tomatoes, onions, livestock and fish, but the fear of Boko Haram terrorist has disallowed the farmers from carrying out their occupation and the few who did have lost such farm produce to the insurgent who often burn such crops and killing the farmers at the same time (Babagana et al, 2018:20275). These states are very close to Cameroon and Chad, where, occupational farming activities were thriving, but the activities have now become history because of the terrorist attacks. The sect activities have certainly affected cash and food crops production in Nigeria.

The actions of Boko Haram have negatively impacted on the Nigerian trade flows and volumes, most especially at the rural areas. It has destroyed the traded goods and infrastructures needed for the trade. It has also destroyed the commercial sector of Nigeria, and particularly the northern part of the country. Small and medium scale businesses, road side stores, and shops, local markets of northern Nigeria have been shut down completely, and all these negatively affect the trade flow and volume in the country and consequently affecting the rural economy and development in Nigeria (Amao, 2017).

The negative impact of Boko Haram activities on farmers can be seen in the grain market in Borno state from 2009 to 2015 which is used as an example to measure the insurgents impedes the trade flow and volume in Nigeria. Mohammed and Ahmed (2015) captured the trend of grain transaction or business before and during Boko Haram days. The Baga and Gamboru grain markets in Borno state usually collect huge grains which include millet, maize, sorghum and beans seeds from all the northern states and even some other part of Nigeria. The volume and flow of grains were negatively affected by the Boko Haram activities in Nigeria. Table 1 illustrates the grain volume and flow.

Table 1: Grains flow at Gambaru Market to Neighboring Countries, from 2008 to 2014 in Metric Tons.

Items	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Maize	33,00	35,00	31,00	28,00	24,00	20,00	15,00
e	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Millet	5,400	7,000	8,000	6,500	5,000	3,000	3,500



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Beans	88,600	82,400	80,000	71,000	65,000	42,000	21,000
Sorghum	27,100	30,000	25,000	18,000	20,000	15,000	6,000
Total	154,700	154,900	144,400	123,500	114,000	80,500	45,500

Source: Mohammed & Ahmed (2015).

The table above shows that in 2008, an estimated 154,700 tons of grains, which includes maize, beans, millets and sorghum flow in and out of the market to other sub markets in the hinter land. The quantity increases slightly to 154 900 in 2009. But there was a dramatic decline when the Boko Haram insurgence activities started between 2010 to 2014; this was usually because a huge quantity of these grains usually come through insurgence communities.

Table 2: Grains flow at Baga Market to Neighboring Countries from 2008 to 2014 in metric tons.

Items	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Maize	38,400	38,600	30,200	24,500	16,700	15,900	13,000
Millet	18,900	22,000	16,500	14,000	12,600	7,000	3,700
Beans	58,300	52,900	43,000	45,000	33,000	30,000	16,000
Sorghum	25,200	21,000	19,000	22,000	16,000	14,000	14,200
Total	140,800	134,500	108,700	105,500	78,000	66,000	46,000

Source: Mohammed & Ahmed (2015).

The Baga grain market that is also known for business transactions in different grains products was seriously affected by the actions of Boko Haram insurgency. The market is a gate way to some other part of Nigeria for grains products like millet, maize, beans, and sorghum. The grain flow in and out of the Baga market, as illustrated by Mohammed and Ahmed (2015) is presented in table 5 above. The table shows that in 2008, grain flow in and out of Baga grain market was 140,800 tons. It went down to 134,500 tons in 2009. However, from 2010 to 2014, a serious decline was witnessed, and that was when the activities of the insurgency started. The two tables above indicated that grain flow was significantly affected by the Boko Haram activities or attacks and consequently it has affected the commercial activities of the local people and subsequently, the economy of the rural people who are mostly farmers is impacted negatively and by extension, it has affected the development of the rural communities.

The rural infrastructures in Nigeria which is to assist the rural economy to develop has been destroyed because a substantial number of national and international contractors throughout the country particularly the northern region of Nigeria who was involved in the construction of bridges, roads, dams, electrification and rail ways tracks have either relocated or abandoned their sites. This has affected the economy of the country, most especially the rural areas as it has subsequently risen the number of unemployed youths

who would have been employed.

In the educational sector, the activities of the sect have led to a situation where the majority of the children are out of schools especially those in the Primary and secondary schools in the rural areas, this is because most of those schools have been destroyed by the sects or they are scared of being kidnapped by the terrorist. The rural people are the ones who are mostly affected, and this will certainly affect the development of the areas because education is a key factor that is required for any society to develop. Another argument is that the resources that the government used in rehabilitating most of the schools destroyed, and the purchase of ammunition as well as taking care of the security personnel could have been directed to the provision of water, healthcare services, schools, roads, improved Agricultural inputs and other essential services for the rural people in the country (Eme et al, 2015:107).

VI. CONCLUSION

There is widespread dissatisfaction among the citizens of Nigeria because of economic deprivation, corruption, social inequality, poverty, bad governance and unemployment at all levels of government by the political leaders. The socioeconomic denial has generated a wide gap between the have and the have not or the rich and the poor which has led to frustration and leading to the hostility on agencies of government, government officials, and the innocent citizens of the country. The most important thing required for the restoration of normal activities in Nigeria, particularly the northern part that is mostly influenced by the Boko Haram insurgency is the return of peace in the area. More so that the primary responsibility of the government is to ensure the safety of lives and properties of its citizens and that of the foreigners living in the country. Hence, the government should ensure a security collaboration and the sharing of intelligence as a key way of arresting the breakdown of law and order in the country. The security personnel should be provided with modern arms and training to enable them to flush out the terrorist out of the country. There should also be a synergy between the Nigerian government with their security personnel with that of the neighbouring countries to effectively deal with the issue of transnational terrorism. Measures should be adopted to cripple the terrorist source of funding, and where ever they receive their training and operational materials.

The heavy flow of light and small arms and ammunition into the country must be properly checked by all the securities agencies involved because these arms often end up in the wrong hands. And the idea of private militias that are established financed and used by the politicians and individuals who later abandon them after they have been trained to handle arms should be discouraged and eliminated by the government.

The citizens, on their part, should collaborate with the security organizations by providing them with speedy, useful and relevant information about any likely



breakdown of law and order. This will assist in the elimination of the terrorist as some of them live within the society or communities among other innocent citizens.

The government officials at all levels must strive to eradicate corruption and ensure the good governance to bring about the desired development that the citizens have been yearning for where their needs and aspirations are met, and the gap between the rich and the poor is reduced significantly. And finally, the government should introduce a good civic education program that will stop the politicization of religion, teach the citizens to respect the rights of each other, this would encourage the people to tolerate one another, and by extension, it will bring about the unity of the country.

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