AN INTERROGATION OF THE SECURITY, PEACE AND DEVELOPMENT IN SOME SELECTED RURAL COMMUNITIES OF OYO STATE

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ABSTRACT
In the past, rural communities in Nigeria were safe havens for residents, travellers and tourists. In the last one decade, the story has changed to the extent that people dread living, travelling or visiting most rural communities in Nigeria because of fear of being robbed, kidnapped, molested or killed. In the light of the above, this study examined the particularity of security, peace and development in some rural communities of Oyo State. The purpose was to unearth the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats in rural communities' security and peace as templates for development with a view to suggesting ways of involving grassroots development architecture for better output. A set of questionnaire and interviews were used as instruments to collect primary data. Respondents to questionnaire consisted of 250 randomly selected sample population in five local government areas of Oyo State; fifty representing each of the five local government areas. Also, 25 officials of Local Government Administration were interviewed. These were complemented with secondary data. Findings revealed that drivers of insecurity and conflict inherent in rural communities that retard development include poverty, ungoverned space and neglect among others. Also, rural communities and forested areas provide dens for criminals. Security and peace institutions are generally weak, ill-equipped, underfunded and understaffed. Also, failure to annex grassroots security and peace architecture accounts for some of the problems. Therefore, grassroots institutions including local governments are not well positioned to face the challenges of insecurity, conflict and underdevelopment in the 21st Century. It is, therefore, recommended that mainstreaming grassroots institutions is a key to the achievement of enhanced development. Reactivation of hunters' guilds, forest guards and age-group associations will provide security back-up for countering criminality. It is high time National Assembly approved state police.

Keywords: Local government, institutions, peace-building, conflict, insecurity

Introduction

Most of Nigeria's rural communities are no longer safe for residents, investors, industrialists and tourists who are needed to build human capacity and strong institutions that will make the attainment of development a reality. Reports of insecurity inundate the daily newspapers, radio and television. Today, the major corridors of insecurity and theatres of conflicts are the grassroots especially rural communities in highly forested areas (Albert, 2017). This situation is worrisome because peace and security are germane to any development and they must be seen and felt at the grassroots in a manner that "down-top paradigm" mantra of inclusive governance is achieved and people key into and own institutions that enhance peace and justice. Unfortunately, peace has become elusive in many parts of Nigeria due to internal crises, conflicts and multi-faceted insecurity indicators.

Herbert and Husaini (2018) contended that the modern Nigerian history has witnessed turbulent, contentious and often violent politics. In the light of these challenges, development has been in comatose. Investors run away, companies are forced to fold up, human capital development halted, exploitation of raw materials at the lowest ebb and infrastructures destroyed. Development at the rural communities is to say the list comatose. According to Igwe (2021), insecurity, conflict and under-development pervade all the nooks and crannies of Nigeria. Like in ripples, all these three variables interplay to put Nigeria in its present sordid state of fear and uncertainty. Of course, the nexus between security, peace and development has been well documented in literature (Albert, 2017). It is obvious that development tapers off where conflict pervades and this has been witnessed in the northeast and northwest of Nigeria that have been hotbeds of insurgency and banditry.

Scholars like Akinyele (2004), Oyebode (2014a) and Herbert and Husaini (2018), have blamed lack of peace and security as well as consequential under-development in Nigeria to absence of dynamic leadership. Nigeria is said to be embroidered with archaic and fixated political actors who have remained in government as power brokers, legislators or executives

since the Second Republic (Akinyele, 2004). This has been made possible through the institution of money-politics and godfatherism. Young and visionary politicians are suppressed unless they are ready to part with huge sums of money or pay obeisance to parochial mentorship (Oyebode, 2014a). This situation has restricted access of vibrant, new-breed and young politicians who can address the plethora of development challenges to public office.

Despite having vast oil and other natural resources, there are abysmal social and economic development indicators as a result of the increase in political violence, community conflicts, insurgency and armed conflicts by non-state actors. These tensions are rampant across the country. To Yagboyaju and Akinola (2019), the Nigerian state stood in-between exhibiting attributes of state collapse and state failure. Corroborating this assertion is government incapability to proffer workable solutions to the plethora of socio-economic problems that have dwarfed development.

In recent times, banditry, armed robbery and kidnapping are major features of Oyo State rural communities. Hardly did a fortnight pass in Oyo state without reports of kidnap, banditry, killing, robbery, gang violence among other forms of crimes and criminalities in Ibarapa, Oke-Ogun, Ibadan and Ogbomoso rural settlements (Nigerian Tribune, 2021). The major corridors of insecurity are the forest areas that span kilometres between cities and along border area with Benin Republic (Albert, 2017). Bye and large, in recent times, Oyo State rural communities have attracted attention as places to dread as unsafe.

Oyebode (2014a), Albert (2017), and Yagboyaju and Akinola (2019) in their studies engaged in blame-game and tended to out-rightly condemn the scenario without examining the inherent apparatus at the grassroots, useful for tackling the menace and proposing workable solutions. Departing from blame-game, this study examined the state of grassroots security and peace as important tools for development in rural communities in Oyo State, Nigeria through the lens of a survey with a view of proffering solutions to identified obstacles. The purpose was to unearth the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats at the grassroots

for development and peace promotion with a view to suggesting ways of involving grassroots development architecture. The research questions answered in this study include: What are the drivers of insecurity and conflict at the rural communities of Oyo State? What is the perception of people on security and peace architecture in rural communities of Oyo State? How do people assess indices of development in rural communities of Oyo State? What are the factors that hinder development at the rural communities of Oyo State? In which ways can there be improved security, peace and development in Oyo State rural communities?

Literature Review

Conceptual clarifications made in this section with empirical studies relating to them are rural communities, ungoverned space, security, peace and development, and local government in Nigeria. Rural communities are non-urban centres. They are replete with small settlements called villages and hut. They are largely agrarian and consist of forests and farmlands. Forested land is often referred to as rural communities (Appiah, Bugri, Forkuo, and Appiah, 2016). Forested land which is technically called rural areas or rural communities have attracted interest in recent studies because of their importance in impacting the quality of life and well-being of people living in both urban and non-urban centres (Kotte et al., 2019). Rural areas consist of trees and other woody vegetation that perform life supporting functions on earth because of their richness in diverse flora and fauna. They also provide a variety of natural resources to cosmopolitan population. In view of their distance from the seat of government, most rural communities are assumed to fall within the area technically referred to as ungoverned space because of the absence of socio-economic infrastructure and policing architecture (Albert, 2017). This assumption may, however, not be universally applicable especially in developed countries where peace architecture and strong institutions have been entrenched.

Office of the Foreign and Commonwealth (2015) regarded ungoverned space as a territory, physical or non-physical, wherein control and effective state sovereignty is absent. It further stated that they are places where state institutions and rule of law perform

insignificant or no function. The notoriety of criminals in many rural communities paints a clear picture of a neglected or 'ungoverned' area (Igwe, 2021). It is also a well-known fact that most criminals run into hiding in rural communities where it is difficult for security agents to capture them.

There is an ongoing debate on the need to redefine the concept of security in view of the emergence of recalcitrant armed non-state actors and Covid-19 pandemic that jostled many states. According to Fusiek (2020), the development of a more holistic security concept and the dismantlement of the pre-existing strictly state-centric and military approaches has become imperative. Thus, the concept of security has gone beyond the scope of geopolitical visions of security, which emphasises lack of threat in a physical environment and regime to embrace the availability of and unfettered access to everyday needs of individuals and communities (Newman, 2021).

Peace has attracted many definitions and description in scholarship because of its importance to man and society. However, it has not been possible to agree on a universally accepted definition. Peace has been defined as a state of consensus, harmony and mutual understanding (Hakvoort, 2010).

Unfortunately, since 1976 scholars and social commentators have alleged that local government administration in Nigeria has merely become an appendage and protégée of state governments (Abdulhamid and Chima, 2015). Efforts to guarantee their autonomy as veritable planks for development and peace-building have been undermined and thwarted through political manoeuvring and unnecessary political interference by the state governments (Doho, Ahmed and Umar 2018). Under President Buhari administration, the presidency has made efforts to guarantee financial autonomy of local government through proclamation of Order 10, unfortunately, Supreme Court of Nigeria declared the order as unconstitutional, illegal, null and void for being inconsistent with the provision of the 1999 Constitution on the powers of states over local governments (ThisDay, 2022).

Theoretical Background

This study is anchored on community-led development theory and Bryden's theory on the exploitation of social and cultural capital. The community-led development theory is aimed at improving proactive community participation and quality of life along with social wellbeing of local community (Wahid et.al., 2017). Wahid et.al. (2017) submitted in their study that building capacity at local level provides ingredient for sustainable development, local stakeholders, participation and community ownership or control of situation and project.

In the same light, Bryden's theory on the exploitation of social and cultural capital relates economic development to the availability of labour and capital. The capacity of local actors and strong internal and external networks are said to be relevant for achieving comparative economic development (Terluin, 2003). In the light of this theory, Terluin canvassed mixed exogenous/endogenous development approach to grassroots economic development. Correspondingly, the social capital literature suggests that building networks and the social relationships will engender collective action to mitigate challenges that may pose threat to existential needs either during peace or crisis moment (McCarthy, 2014)

In achieving comparative economic development, societies should be organised in a way that inclusiveness of all in economic activities is guaranteed (Herbst, 2000). Because institutions do not function on their own without human beings, it is important that development must be people-focused and people-driven. Thus, interventions need to address drivers of vulnerability and equip people to overcome challenges in agrarian livelihoods (McCarthy, 2014). The level of attainment of SDG 16 (peace, justice and strong institutions) is not the same across states. It has varied due to comparative development of each state and how well they have been able to arrange and galvanise material and human resources to form a well calibrated system.

These two theories if taken together point to the need to engage local human resources in building reliable vanguard to tackle challenges of nature, vagaries of the environment and human induced problem. They are, thus, apposite in explaining peoples' perception and

engagement with issues of security, peace and development; the tripod on which good living conditions rely on. These theories are thus used to explain the gap noticed in government provisions and interventions of rural people in Oyo State to ensure and protect their existential needs.

Methodology

This is a descriptive survey that utilises sample population. The study area are some selected local communities in Oyo State. Oyo State is one of the thirty-six states in Nigeria. The population of Oyo State was estimated to be 7,840,864 in 2016 (Worldometre, 2016). The study population consisted of the residents of rural communities of Oyo State who are estimated to be about 48.04 % (World Bank, 2021). The 33 local government areas of Oyo State are divided into six administrative zones by government for convenience. The five local government areas in Ibadan zone which include Ibadan North, Ibadan North East, Ibadan Northwest, Ibadan Southeast and Ibadan Southwest have no rural areas. The other 28 local government areas in the remaining five zones have some varying degrees of rural settlements. The study, thus, focused on five of the 28 local government areas with rural inhabitants. However, five local government areas each representing five of the zones with rural areas were purposively selected for the study. They are Ibarapa North, Oyo West, Ogo-Oluwa, Irepo and Lagelu Local Government Areas.

Two different data gathering instruments were adopted; one set of printed Five-Point Likert Scale Questionnaire was used to elicit information from 250 rural dwellers while in-depth interviews were used to elicit responses from 25 officials of the five local government areas selected for this study. Fifty respondents to questionnaire represent each Local Government area. The 25 officials of Local Government Administration who were interviewed consist of 5 Heads of Local Government Administration and 20 Community Development Officials. These data sources were complemented with secondary data from books and journals.

Survey responses to questionnaire items were quantitatively analysed and summarised on a single frequency distribution using mean displayed in tables. Interview responses were discussed qualitatively in relation to the appropriate research questions. Themes were used to capture each of the research questions.

Findings and Discussion of Findings

Drivers of Insecurity and Conflict at the Rural Communities of Oyo State

Table 1: Five-Point Likert Scale Distributions of the Respondents' Assessment of Drivers of Insecurity and Conflict and in Rural Communities of Oyo State.

Respondents' Assessment Drivers of Insecurity, and Conflict	Sample Size	Variable Structure	Max	Min	Mean	Decision rule
Forest areas harbour criminals	250	Positive	5	1	4.36	Favourable
Mono-economy of rural community drives insecurity and conflict	250	Positive	5	1	4.12	Favourable
Economic injustice has led to endemic poverty	250	Positive	5	1	3.43	Favourable
Borderless borders with Benin Republic is a problem	250	Positive	5	1	2.16	Unfavourable
Infiltration of Arms and Ammunition along Border Areas Heightens conflict	250	Positive	5	1	3.89	Favourable
Heterogeneous population breeds suspicion	250	Positive	5	1	3.74	Favourable
Disputed elections and corrupt leadership at the local council drive instability	250	Positive	5	1	4.51	Favourable
Struggles over increasingly scarce land and water resources often cause conflicts	250	Positive	5	1	3.97	Favourable
Presence of militia/vigilante groups exacerbates insecurity	250	Positive	5	1	2.89	Unfavourable

*A positively structured variable + above 3.0 mean = Favourable, and vice versa

Higher number of respondents believed that forest areas harbour criminals with 4.36 mean score. This finding confirms Albert (2017) and Olaniyan's (2018) earlier findings that forests have become den of criminals. Nigerian Tribune (2021) identified some dark spots of kidnapping to include forests in Oke-Ogun and Ibarapa areas of Oyo State. It was reported in the newspaper that forests along the highways have become notorious bases for criminals who regularly mount roadblocks to attack travellers and also rob people living in the areas that border the forests. Some interviewees recounted their experiences or those of their relations who have fallen victims of crimes. Some reported crimes and conflicts by interviewees that undermine development in rural communities of Oyo State include kidnapping of redeemed church pastors for ransom along Lagos/Ibadan Road, armed robbery incidences along Ibadan/Ilorin Road, Pastor arrested with fresh human head in a sack at Fiditi in Oyo State. Human trafficking, smuggling, farmers-herders' conflicts, communal conflicts and boundary dispute between Kishi and Igboho were also mentioned by interviewees as major inhibiting factors to peace and security.

Economic injustice has led to endemic poverty attracted 3.43 mean score. Interviewees observed that there is general lack of development in rural areas of Oyo State. Successive governments only made promises during electioneering but failed to honour the social contract to rural communities. The interviewees expressed anger over the deplorable conditions of rural access roads the leads to loss of harvested agricultural produce. Distributional injustice and exclusive elitism result in inequality, poverty and lack of access to basic services which continue to drive grievances across the country and continue to hold back development for the majority especially in the rural communities.

Borderless borders along the Oke-Ogun and Ibarapa corridors with Benin Republic as a problem had 2.16 mean score. This means respondents do not see the borderless border as a problem. Probably this is because trans-border trade especially along borderless borders with Benin Republic sustains the inhabitants of this area (OECD, 2018). In the same light, interviewees do not see the borderless borders as the cause of insecurity. They enjoy the free

movement of people especially their kinsmen who reside and are natives of both countries. This amounts to act of irredentism as often seen where kinsmen are divided through artificial borders created by European colonialists. In contrast to this finding, previous studies revealed the role of fluid identities in trans-border crimes in Nigeria against the backdrop of ECOWAS protocol on free movement of people as a major concern (Yagboyaju and Akinola, 2019). The presence of homogenous Yoruba tribe split into different countries along Nigerian borders with Benin Republic makes it difficult to restrict movement of different nationals who assume different identities as situations warrant. Dual citizenship along the border areas constitutes security threats which include armed robbery, insurgency, armed conflicts, and terrorism, smuggling as well as human trafficking (Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, 2018).

Proliferation of arms and ammunition had 3.89 mean score. This reveals that prevalence of arms and ammunition adds to problem of insecurity and conflict. Interviewees also noted that people have unfettered access to procure and use them during conflict and in the commission of crimes. There is a general problem of illicit arms flow in Nigeria which has accentuated crimes and insecurity in the last one decade (Foyouet et.al., 2018).

Heterogeneous population breeds suspicion obtained 3.74 mean score. This confirms that insecurity and conflict also stem from the heterogeneous population. Overlapping ethnic, religious, regional, and sub-ethnic (communal) identities mark the fault-lines along which political claims and violent conflicts erupt. Findings from interviewees revealed that insecurity and conflict challenges are multi-faceted in Oyo State rural areas. In recent times, the herders-farmers' conflicts and sundry crimes are being imputed on Nigerians of different nationalities and non-Nigerians who freely move along the land border corridor with Benin Republic.

Disputed elections and corrupt leadership at the local council drive instability had 4.51 mean score. This means that political drivers of conflict and underdevelopment also include disputed elections at the local council. Interviewees mentioned exploitation by politicians who use chauvinistic and prebendal appeals to cause animosity.

Struggle over increasingly scarce land and water resources often causes conflicts scored 3.97 mean. Environmental drivers of insecurity, conflict and underdevelopment include struggle over increasingly scarce land and water resources. Climate change has exacerbated extreme weather in some parts of W/A, and has negatively impacted on food security and livelihoods.

Presence of militia/vigilante groups exacerbates insecurity had a low mean score of 2.89. Thus, the highly complex landscape of insecurity and conflict is not related to the presence of militia groups according to respondents. Interviewees even praised them as the saving grace against criminals. This finding, however, negates Felbab-Brown's (2021) assertion that while a wide range of anti-crime militias and vigilante groups operate in the rural areas and contribute positively.

Security and Peace Architectures of Rural Communities in Oyo State

Table 2: Five-Point Likert Scale Distributions of the Respondents' Assessment of State of Security and Peace Architecture in Rural Communities of Oyo State.

State of Security and Peace Architecture Ratings	Sample Size	Variable Structure	Max	Min	Mean	Decision rule
Local Government Security Council is not effective	250	Negative	5	1	4.87	Unfavourable
Policing agencies/formations are not adequate	250	Positive	5	1	3.82	Unfavourable
There is lack of inter-agency collaboration	250	Positive	5	1	3.73	Favourable
Traditional security institutions are not supported by local government administrations	250	Positive	5	1	3.35	Unfavourable
Funding and equipment for security agencies are not adequate	250	Positive	5	1	3.74	Unfavourable

*A positively structured variable + above 3.0 mean = Favourable, and vice versa

*A negatively structured variable + above 3.0 mean = Unfavourable, and vice versa

Local Government Security Council is not effective had a mean score of 4.87. This means that respondents believed that it does not contribute meaningfully to maintenance of law and order. Heads of Local Government Administration said that Local Government Security Council is headed by the chairman and consists of heads of other security agencies including Police, Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps, State Security Service, Immigration Service and Custom Service. However, they could not account for serious measures put in place by the council to ensure adequate policing of rural areas. They are most of the time reactive in their activities which include setting up of panel of enquiries, issuing statements of assurance and drafting police and army after some dastardly crimes have been unleashed on the people.

Policing agencies/formations are not adequate, had 3.82 mean score. This implied that respondents believe there is shortage of policing agencies in the area. Interviewees said that offices are mostly located at the local government headquarters. Areas far from these headquarters do not feel their presence or have access to invite them for emergencies.

There is lack of inter-agency collaboration scored 3.73 mean. The interpretation of this mean is that majority of the respondents believed that lack of inter-agency collaboration accounts for insufficient surveillance to have information to nib criminality in the bud. Interviewees mentioned specific occasions whereby police and civil defence personnel quarrelled over who should handle certain criminal cases.

Traditional security institutions are not supported by local government administrations had 3.35 mean score. Untapped traditional local community security groups are age grade association, hunters' guild, vigilante and cult. In reaction to previous findings, Momodu (2018) opined that the entrance of these non-state security group (NSSG) into the counter-terrorism operations and successes recorded through them indicated a governance deficit and the security vacuum which these groups filled. Experience in the fight against insurgency has shown that vigilante can be a veritable tool for tackling criminality. International Crisis Group (2017) affirmed that operating under the unofficial but revealing

name of Civilian Joint Task Force (CJTF) vigilantes were essential in flushing Boko Haram out of the city of Maiduguri

Funding and equipment for security agencies are not adequate low had 3.74 mean score. This implies that respondents see obvious gap between police needs and what is on ground. Heads of Local Governments recalled different occasions that they had to come to the financial aid of police to repair and fuel their vehicles, renovate their offices and provide other logistics. This excruciating working conditions make the police to be immobile and incapable of responding to emergencies.

Indices of Development in Rural Communities of Oyo State

Table 3: Five-Point Likert Scale Distributions of the Respondents' Assessment of Indices of Development in Rural Communities of Oyo State.

Indices of Development	Sample Size	Variable Structure	Max	Min	Mean	Decision rule
There are enough infrastructures like plastered road, electricity, schools, hospitals and pipe-borne water	250	Negative	5	1	1.94	Unfavourable
There are few industries and commercial activities are low	250	Positive	5	1	4.27	Favourable
Employment is low	250	Negative	5	1	3.77	Favourable
School drop-out and out of school children are low	**250**	Positive	5	1	4.13	Favourable

*A positively structured variable + above 3.0 mean = Favourable, and vice versa

*A negatively structured variable + above 3.0 mean = Unfavourable, and vice versa

There are enough infrastructures like plastered road, electricity, schools, hospitals and pipe-borne water scored 1.94 mean. This implies that there is inadequate infrastructure which is a

pointer to underdevelopment. Areas that lack development indices may not attract investors because the cost of doing business will be prohibitive. Thus, there is a great nexus between presence of infrastructure and development. Development is also measured by the presence of modern facilities.

There are few industries and commercial activities obtained 4.27 mean score. It can be inferred from this finding that absence of industries is an indication of development in those areas. Interviewees named a number of failed industrial complexes in rural communities of Oyo State. Agro-allied industries are even cited in big cities despite the fact that the raw materials needed are available in rural areas. The implication of this is lack of employment opportunities which will boost per capital income of rural dwellers and concomitant ripple effect on further national development.

Employment is low scored 3.77 mean. This implies that unemployment is very high in rural areas. This has led to rural-urban migration. The jobless youths do not contribute to economic fortune of rural communities. These jobless youths take to crimes as a means of survival and are available recruits for conflict entrepreneurs.

School drop-out and out of school children are low had 4.13 mean scores. This means that a great number of rural children either dropped out of school or did not attend school for formal education. Most of these out-of-school children or drop outs are pliable to recruitment by criminals of all sort and non-state actors.

Factors that Hinder Development at the Rural Communities of Oyo State

Table 4: Five-Point Likert Scale Distributions of the Respondents' Assessment of Factors that Hinder Development in Rural Communities of Oyo State.

Indices of Development	Sample Size	Variable Structure	Max	Min	Mean	Decision rule
Unstable local government leadership and policy somersault retard development	250	Positive	5	1	4.13	Favourable
Poor and decay infrastructural facilities hamper development efforts	250	Positive	5	1	4.21	Favourable
Conflicts and harassment by thugs scare investors	250	Positive	5	1	4.20	
Low female gender inclusiveness in economic activities slows down development	250	Positive	5	1	3.41	Favourable

*A positively structured variable + above 3.0 mean = Favourable, and vice versa

Unstable local government leadership and policy somersault retard development had 4.13 mean score. This finding shows that development challenges include unstable local government leadership and policy somersault. For example, for six years, between 2012- 2018, Oyo state did not have elected chairmen and councillors. The Executive Governor handpicked Caretaker Chairmen who could not take decisions without recourse to His Excellency. The same scenario played out between May 2019 and April 2021 when the local governments were administered by caretaker committees.

Poor and decay infrastructural facilities hamper development efforts obtained 4.21 mean score. Interviewees related this inadequacy of infrastructure to dwindling economic and social wellbeing of residents of rural communities. Bad roads restrict access, investment opportunities.

Conflicts and harassment by thugs scare investors scored 4.20 mean. Peaceful environment is necessary for any meaningful development efforts. Where there is breakdown of law and order, hoodlums take to banditry, extortion, harassment and exploitation of strangers and workers. This aligns with Oyebode's (2014c) finding on the activities of non-state actors and militia groups in the Niger Delta area of Nigeria.

Low female gender inclusiveness in economic activities slows down development scored 3.41 mean. Interviewees noted that rural women rely more on their husbands or merely support their husbands in selling farm produce. Thus, women lack economic independence and initiative to add value to development. This finding implied that economic inclusiveness is low. Of course, there cannot be inclusive development and peace as envisioned in the 16 Goal of SDGs if about 48% of the population is excluded or marginalised.

Conclusion

Insecurity and conflict have impeded development in rural areas of Oyo State. Most rural communities in the Oyo State of Nigeria do not have effective security architecture; traditional vigilante arrangement has been abandoned, police officers are not adequate and rural dwellers are lackadaisical. It is also revealed that employment of forest guards, who normally compliment the efforts of the police in rural communities, is no longer given priority by state and local governments as the retiring ones are not replaced thus making intelligence gathering unattainable. Thus, rural communities and forest reserves provide dens for criminals to plan, strike and keep their victims. Along the border areas of Oyo State, there is glaring irredentism and corruption among the citizens and security personnel who rather than hold their allegiance to the state are engrossed in primordial and prebendal sentimentalism.

Ungoverned space breeds criminals because there is a wide gap between the required security personnel and those provided along in local communities. Although there are security institutions in Oyo State, there is general lack of synergy in the both traditional and modern policing architectures. The security bodies are generally ill-equipped, underfunded and not well staffed. The vehicles to move are moribund. The local government chairmen are not

effective in providing solutions to security and development challenges because the state governor remotely controls local government affairs. Although, traditional local institutions are not well positioned to face the challenges of conflict and insecurity in the 21ˢᵗ Century but are useful if they are mainstreamed into modern policing architecture.

The panacea to insecurity and underdevelopment in local communities includes surveillance through intelligence gathering and participatory policing. It is, therefore, recommended that rural surveillance through community policing, forest guards and vigilante will provide needed intelligence to tackle the menace of insecurity and conflict. To achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by 2030 in Nigeria, devolution of powers to states and local governments on policing has become necessary in order to strengthen rural communities' security, peace and development. It is high time National Assembly approved state police.

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