



Boko Haram Insurgency in Northern States and Challenges of National Security for Sustainable Development in Nigeria

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Abstract. Terrorism and insecurity have remained issues of serious concern in Nigeria, several lives and properties have suffered wanton destruction and despicable hardship on the entire citizenry, as being perpetrated by a terrorist group Boko Haram, which has recently attracted the global and international attention. Consequently, Boko haram insurgency has made a considerable percentage of Nigerians to be sent to their early graves and national security has virtually become a mirage, and thereby impedes sustainable development in Nigeria despite all security measures being put in place by those in authority. Boko Haram dreaded group has been ravaging Northern Nigeria for years now. The group keep on changing their strategies of operations and targets starting from Maiduguri, Yobe, Bauchi, Abuja, Suleja, and other parts of the North. The paper adopted historical and descriptive research approaches to discuss the issues raised and put them in appropriate perspectives. Therefore, the study was anchored on Cohen and Felson's Routine Activity theory to undertake an exploration of historical background of Boko Haram, conceptualizing of sustainable development, national development, and impacts of Boko haram sects' unscrupulous activities on sustainable development in Nigeria. The work recommended the engagement of dialogue, amnesty, improvement of the wellbeing of the people and total overhauling of the security architecture as possible remedies in promoting sustainable development and security in the Northern states in particular and Nigeria at large.

Keywords: Boko Haram, Northern States, Challenges, National Security, Sustainable Development, Nigeria.

1. Introduction

The term "Boko Haram" comes from the Hausa word "*boko*" meaning Western education and the etymology of that word was coined from the English word for Book and the Arabic word *HARAM* figuratively meaning "*sin*" which experts say is a name assigned by the state. The sect calls itself *JAMA'ATUL ALHUL SUNNAH LIDDA 'WATI WAL JIHAD*, or "people committed to the propagation of the prophet's teaching and jihad". Some analysts say the movement is an outgrowth of the Maitatsine riots of the 1980s and the religious/ethnic tensions that followed in the late 1990s. Many Nigerians believes Muhammed Yusuf (a radical Islamist cleric leaders of Boko Haram) rejected all things western, but Lubeck (2019) argues that Yusuf, who embraced technology believed Western education should be "mediated through Islamic scholarship", such as rejecting the theory of evolution and Western-style banking. Before 2009, the group did not aim to violently overthrow the government. Yusuf criticized northern Muslims for participating in what he saw as an illegitimate, non-Islamic state and preached a doctrine of withdrawal. But violence between Christians and Muslims and harsh government treatment, including pervasive police brutality, encouraged the group's radicalization. Yusuf gained supporters by speaking out against police and political corruption. Boko Haram followers, also called Yusuffiya, consist largely of hundreds of impoverished northern Islamic students and clerics as well as university students and professionals, many of whom are unemployed. Some followers may also be members of Nigeria's elite.

In July 2009, Boko Haram members refused to follow a motor-bike helmet law, leading to heavy-handed

police tactics that set off an armed uprising in the Northern states of Bauchi and spread into states of Borno, Yobe, and Kano. The incident was suppressed by the Army and left more than seven hundred dead. It also led to the televised execution of Yusuf, as well as the deaths of his father-in-law and other sect members, which human rights advocates consider to be extra-judicial killings. In the aftermath of the 2009 unrest, Islamist insurrection under a splintered leadership emerged and suicide bombings and assassinations started from Maiduguri to Abuja. The sect staged an ambitious prison-break in Bauchi, freeing more than seven hundred inmates in 2010 due to religio-political conflict (Esther Ayandokun, 2014). Religion has become a universal phenomenon. Human being irrespective of their race, colour, social, status or academic attainment and so on, could not escape the influence of Religion. According to Bolaji Idowu (1973) "Religion is an inescapable involvement of every member of human race". Religion is invisible and complex. The practice of Religion varies from one culture to the other and the best definition to a Religious man, who is a member of Boko Haram sect for example, is his own definition.

Nigeria, as an Africa nation particularly in the northern states, has witnessed myriads of classes that have resulted in the destruction of valuable properties and numerous deaths. Out of the three major religions Islam and Christianity have recorded the most untold clashes and destruction of lives and properties simply because of their inability to accept and tolerate each other. The hardship that people have had as a result of all these happenings is too much to bear for an average Nigerian.

It is no wonder that Boko- Haram insurgency is a major factor for the low values on life now prevalent in our society. Specifically in the North-central region, the situation is degenerating into anarchy if the dangerous trends of Boko- haram insurgency is not arrested. Action that are normally associated with war situations are perpetrated daily in the Northern states of Nigeria and the end does not seem to be sight as it continuously recording an adverse effect on sustainable development in Nigeria at large. It is on this premise that the study is anchored on Cohen and Felson's Routine Activity theory to undertake an exploration of historical background of Boko-haram, conceptual clarifications, and impacts of Boko- haram insurrection on sustainable development in Northern states. The work further recommends possible remedies in promoting sustainable development.

2. Analysis of Concepts

2.1 Sustainable Development

The ideas of sustainability came to public attention after a 1972 report, "limits to Growth" issued by the international Thinks Tank Club of United nation. In 1980, the World conservation Strategy developed by the international union for conservation of nature, in collaboration with the UN. Environment programme and World Foundation, worked to make sustainability a benchmark of international action. Then the term "Sustainable development" achieved international public prominence through the 1987 report of the World Commission on Environment and Development (WCED, 1987) often called the "Brundtland Report" after the name of its chair, former Norwegian Prime minister Gro Harlem Brundtland. It presented the famous definition. "Sustainable development is the development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs" (WCED). For many organizations agencies such as UN and Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), that formula or something close to it remains a working definition.

Although the Brundtland (1987) definition have been criticized for binding sustainability too close to development and for focusing on human needs. But the Report has helped initiate an international public debate on inclusive and ambiguously concept, precisely it brings society to future dependency into moral relation with its religious and political systems. To this end, World Council of Church (WCC) in 1975 reiterated that sustainability might well contradict existing development process as well as reshaped economic and political priorities.

Sustainability is then a question about maintaining a decent survival, enhancement and peaceful co-existing in a nation, Nigeria inclusive. Besides this, sustainability emphasizes is the quality of life of the people now with an eye to the future. According to Ibeanu (2022), sustainable development aim at improving the conditions in which human beings live. This means that human beings are at the heart of development and the measure of sustainable development therefore, implies conditional development of the living conditions of human in a particular community (Nigeria) from one generation to another. Correlation of science, technology and social relations (the tripod) is indispensable for sustainable development. To neglect one sector is to neglect creating enabling climate for sustainable development. Security belongs to social relations segment. As such,

national security should have something to contribute to any given nations for sustainable development.

2.2 National Security

National Security entails all activities involved in protecting a country against attack and danger. It involves the defense of a country. Therefore, national Security as used in this paper is the situation whereby the lives and property of all citizens in Nigeria are protected from any kind of harm, danger and loss irrespective of ethnicity, political affiliation and social status. Basically, national security embodies the sovereignty of the state, the inviolability of its national boundaries and the right to individual and collective self- defense against internal and external threats. But the state is secured only when the aggregate of people organized under it have a consciousness of belong to a common sovereign political freedom, human rights, economic opportunities, and when the state itself is able to ensure independence in its development and foreign policy (Nweke, 2021).

National Security in the new concept, on the other hand, believes that security of today has moved beyond military variables to embrace and encompass social, economic, cultural, political, environmental, and even technological variables. From this background Obasanjo (1999) argues that the presentation of Nigerians at home and abroad and elimination of terrorism corruption, pursuit of development, progress, growth, and the improvement of the welfare and quality of life of every citizen of Nigeria constitutes our national security. In a nutshell Obasanjo (1999), summarizes our national security as: The aggregation of security interests of individuals, private entities, human association and ethnic groups that made up Nigeria as a nation.

3. Theoretical Framework

The term Routine Activity Theory was coined by Cohen and Felson, (1979). According to Cohen and Felson (1979), Routine activity theory considers the pre-requisite conditions for a crime or deviant act to occur, there must be the same time and in the same place a perpetrator, a victim and an object or property. Schaefer (2014), contends that criminal victimisation is increased when motivated offender and suitable target converge. At the heart of this theory is the idea that, in the absence of effective controls, offenders will prey upon attractive targets. For instance, for property crimes like stealing, armed robbery, smuggling, the target is a thing or an object. For personal crimes such as kidnapping, Boko haram insurgency, murder, rape, the target is a person.

With regard to people who are influential (handlers) in the lives of potential offenders, in case of Boko haram insurgency there might be parents (especially those who are fanatical Muslims), close relatives, peers, siblings Boko haram sect's leaders, and Muslim clerics. Many fanatical Muslims (particularly parents of those potential offenders) were attracted to such a place where their children could be trained to speak Arabic (the prophets own language) free of charge without knowing the ulterior motive behind the Arabic school established in 2002 by Mohammed Yusuf, a radical Islamic cleric in Maiduguri, Borno State, in Northern eastern Nigeria. The Centre (unknowingly for the parents was anti socio-political groups and out rightly against western education. In view of this, the inception of deviant acts via Boko haram sect is likely to be determined by the degree, level, and nature of socialisation processes as pertaining to individual members of Boko haram. This is consequently upon the theoretical postulation of Edwin (1970), that the most effective way to become involved in either crime or deviant acts within an environment (community) is to be influenced by people that one is sentimentally attached to friends (peer pressure), family and comrade.

Moreover, the routine activity theory also contends that crime will take place where handlers are either absent, weak or corrupt. Targets or victims' guardians always to protect targets from theft and damage and potential victims from attack and assault. For instance, formal guardians in Nigeria include Nigeria Army, Navy, Airforce, the police, security guards, and others whose job is to protect people and property especially from Boko haram insurgency. On the other hand, informal guardians include neighbours, friends, parents, relatives, Emirs, and community leaders (Sariki). A target with an effective guardian is less likely to be attacked by potential offenders (Boko haram sect) than a target without guardian. If the guardians are absent, weak, present but powerless or corrupt crime is possible. Guardians who are in charge of protecting lives and property from crime in Nigeria, particularly at the Northern States may receive bribe from potential offenders or may have been influenced by the highly potential people in the North and thereby perpetrate the possibility of crime or deviant acts from Boko haram. A Yoruba adage says: *Ole lo mo ese ole to lori apata (it is thief that knows how to follow the footmark of a thief on a mountain).*

Above all, the spatial ordering of crime opportunities and the routine of offenders and victims create many of the crimes or deviant acts. Therefore, adding or subtracting various elements, such as targets handlers, victims, guardians and motivated offenders in this

model will alter the chances of crime or deviant acts in the Northern states of Nigeria.

Operational Dimensions of Boko Haram Sect and Havocs Wrecked since Inception

The Boko Haram sect has become a threat to Nigerians peaceful co-existence and her scourge has remained a puzzle to many Nigerians and the outside world. In this segment of the research, the writers presented scores of such unscrupulous activities of Boko Haram sect in the recent past as follows:

i. Kayode Idowu (2014) reported “7 persons were on Tuesday killed by the infamous Boko Haram sect during the funeral ceremony of twenty (20) killed a day earlier by the same sect in Sabon Gri, Damboa Local Government Area of Borno state. The group also laid siege and killed nine (9) persons in Huyim Village in Askira – Uba Local Government Area of the State.

ii. James Bwala (2018) also reported the case of suspected Boko Haram terrorist who invaded Guruba Village of Biu Local Government Area killing the district head and two others. * Apart from bomb explosion, attacks on people and communities, many others are maimed for life, thus rendered them useless or limiting their usefulness in sustaining the socio-economic life of the Northern state in Nigeria.

iii. Boko Haram sect suicide bomber who detonated an impoverished explosion device at the popular Maiduguri market while no fewer than seventeen persons were killed, sixty-nine persons were reportedly injured in the attack. Nwachukwu (2023) noted that “Hundreds, if not thousands, of our fellow citizen and many more have been maimed for life.

iv. Boko Haram destroys 900 schools in Borno - Shettima The Punch, July 18, 2014.

v. A daily bomb attack has hit the northeastern Nigerian city of Maiduguri, the nexus of an intensifying struggle against the Islamist insurgency Boko Haram

vii. Several suspected Boko haram collaborates have been arrested for involvement in the kidnapping of almost 300 school girls in Nigeria.

vii. A car bomb in a market place in Maiduguri the northeast Nigerian city that is the birth place of Boko Haram extremism, killed at least 56 people on Tuesday. The leader of a civilian group that recovered the bodies said (July 2, 2021).

viii. Nigeria is suffering greater carriage at the hands of Islamist group Boko Harm than it did during a secessionist civil war, this has ironically made the country’s beak-up less likely Nigerian Nobel Literature Laureate, Wole Soyinka said frequent attacks in Nigeria, claimed by Boko Haram have left people afraid. Even the country’s president, at a time, said the attacks have restricted his movement.

ix. Intelligence agency says it had been warning shopping complexes for two weeks that extremists planned an attack in the capital before an explosion killed at least 22 people this week.

x. The United States reduced its surveillance flights to help find more than 200 Chibok school girls kidnapped by Boko Haram after building a body of intelligence.

xi. The Federal Government refuted report carried by some media on the abduction of 60 women in Damboa Kano.

xii. At least 16 soldiers have been killed after suspected to be members of Boko Haram sect attacked a military post in Borno State.

xiii. President Goodluck Jonathan (2014), said Nigeria had entered one of the darkest phases of its history, visiting the scene of a bomb blast in Abuja that killed 21 people.

xiv. At least 18 people were killed when gunmen stormed a village in Kaduna.

xv. President Bola Ahmed Tinubu has pledged never to give or pay ransom to Boko haram kidnapers in the Northern states but says he is ever ready to fight the sect or whichever terrorist group in Nigeria

Related with the holding of captives is the issue of psychological trauma in terms of sexual harassment and abuse. The killing of people by this notorious group (Boko - haram) call for serious and sober reflections on the part of the well – meaning Nigerians, for it has an adverse effect on the sustainability of the Northern region in all sectors of life, be it economics, political, religion, and socio- cultural institutions.

4. Impacts of Boko Haram Insurgence on Sustainable Development in Northern States

It is an understatement to say that Boko-haram insurgency has severely impeded sustainable development in Northern States, this section of the work substantiates this assertion with the following impacts.

4.1 Wastage of resources

Boko haram insurgency no doubt resulted into gross wastage of resources. School buildings, vehicles and churches are among properties that have been destroyed by Boko Haram. Most of the properties may never be rebuilt in which case the damage caused would be permanent. Besides property, Worth millions of naira have been spent by both the Northern state governors and Federal Government of Nigeria in purchasing weapon (ammunitions) to launch attack and possible to curtail the unscrupulous activities of Boko Haram sect. Such huge amount of money should

have been spent on meaningful project, investment and resuscitation of the Northern states economy (Oyetunji, 2024). Allied with the destruction of properties is also the destruction of farmland through bombing and arson with the concomitant wastage of months of labour and the agricultural products in the farmlands. Similarly, shops are looted and millions of naira items are destroyed and wasted (Hassan, 2024).

4.2 Crumbling of Commercial and Business Activities

In most states in the North, the devastating socio-economic effects of the sect's serial killings and bombings, especially in Borno, Yobe, Niger, Kaduna, Kano, Kogi, Bauchi, and recently Sokoto has destroyed economic and commercial activities with many people relocating to other places. In Maiduguri, Borno State, where the sect originated, the frequent bombings and clashes between Boko Haram and security agents have weighed down seriously on commercial and business activities in the city as many businesses have reportedly crumbled while many people have fled the state. The Maiduguri Monday market which was the biggest market in the region is reported to have been seriously affected as hundreds of shop owners, especially Southerners are said to have closed their businesses and left the troubled city.

4.3 Private and Public Sectors Relocating and Folding up in Kano and Kaduna

The attack on Kano has been devastating because the city has always been the commercial centre of western Sudan for the past 500 years. The city had been the economic bade of the North even before neighbouring countries like Niger Republic, Chad and Northern Cameroun before the evolution of the Nigerian nation (Hassan, 2024). But today, Investors who have been doing business in the city for ages are said to be relocating their businesses due to the unending security challenges in the city. Kano, which is reputed to be the hub of business and commercial activities in the entire 19 Northern States and beyond, is gradually losing steam.

Worst hit, is the hospitality business in the city. Many hoteliers are counting their losses as a result of lack of patronage. Many people who come into town for any engagement prefer to go to stay in Abuja rather than stay the night in Kano. Kaduna, the former capital of the defunct Northern Region has not fared better as business activities in the city continued to nose dive as a result of the increasing level of insecurity in the state. As a result of the prevailing level of insecurity, many businesses, especially, beer parlour operators, night

clubs and other places of relaxation are gradually folding up as their owners count their losses. Worst hit are those located in the Northern part of the city, such as the elitist NAF club, owned by the Nigeria Airforce, along Rabbah Road, which used to be a beehive of activities.

4.4 Islamic Sect and Religious Extremists

There is fear in the Region on the devastating impact of the Boko haram insurgency. Religious extremists will destroy the Northern region if the nefarious activities of the Islamic sect are not curtailed. The Northern region needs peace and stability more than any other region in the country, particularly because the region is clearly lagging behind in-terms of infrastructure, education and other sustainable development indices. The Northern economy is on the verge of collapse. Yahaya (2013), avers that sadly the governors of the Northern region appear to be helpless in containing the situation as the Islamic sect such as Boko haram continuous with its bombardment. For how long will this continue? If the Region comes out of this, it will surely take some decades for it to recover from the impact of this menace.

4.5 Boko Haram Insurgency and Christians in Northern Nigeria

The devastating impacts of Boko Haram on Christian in Maiduguri and other Northern state cannot be over emphasised. The wound caused by the deadly sects in the minds of these Nigerians will take the grace of God to heal and even after that they cannot just forget the incidents. Few of the impacts on Christians residing in Maiduguri and other Northern Metropolitan city are as follows:

- i. Christians in the Northern states mostly have fled. Some churches are either burnt down or closed as most pastors have left the town. The few that are operating are heavily guarded by security operatives.
- ii. Quarter guards are mounted where the remaining few churches are and anyone passing to the church especially on Sunday must be thoroughly searched. Car boots and bonnets must be searched.
- iii. Most churches have bomb detector device to complement the efforts of the security operatives. To avoid losing a whole family to a bomb blast, devoted Christians who cannot be distracted from serving their god don't go to the same church.
- iv. Wisdom is profit able in all things is the slogan we hear every Sunday. Nobody is trusted again because the suicide bomber that killed many in Kaduna disguised as a woman. It is rather funny to know that even the Mosques are not even safe on Fridays.

Retardation of Educational System

The educational system in Maiduguri has been retarded. Many Christian students have relocated to other schools. Those that find it difficult to leave Tertiary institutions like the University of Maiduguri remain within the university community. They don't come out at all for whatever reasons. Anytime the school is going on vacations, the fellowship of Christian students (FCS) is saddled with the responsibility of making arrangement for Christian commuter buses for Christian students to avoid falling into wrong hands.

5. National Security challenges on peaceful co-existence and Sustainable development

Security challenges in Nigeria, according to Ayuba, (2023) came to an increase since the inception of democracy, 1999 till date. Nigeria has the largest population in Africa, with its oil wealth, is blessed with human and natural resources aimed at lifting the country into the rank of developed countries but has been faced with incessant security challenges which grossly affect her sustainable development (Ayuba, 2023). In spite of the existence of security units the State Security Service (SSS), The Police Force (PF) The Nigeria Army (NA) the Defence Intelligence Agency (DIA) among others. Nigeria today is still faced with diverse security challenges ranging from the Niger Delta militants to the alarming awareness of the Boko Haram sect, the upsurge in kidnapping, and other criminal activities. Igboin (2017), also remarked that despite the large annual budget on security intelligence Nigerian could not maintain adequate security which is necessary to boast her sustainable development and peaceful co-existence among her citizens. For instance, Nigeria's budgets on security have consistently topped the list for the past five years or so, yet there seems to be no visible amelioration of insecurity. Hertskovits, (2020) also argued that global promotion of fear and focusing on insecurity and violent activities as an excuse for "security". Spending and the focus on "Boko Haram" have also become avenues to enrich crony security consultants' private security companies, weapons manufacturers and suppliers, and propagandists to mention but a few.

Doyin (2023) further remarked in "Tribune Newspaper" that security issues which used to be one of the least of social problem faced by the country seem to have crept into the forefront of its social problems in recent times, with the security sector eating deep from both the state and local budgets which could have been adopted for sustainable development of socio – economic growth in Nigeria. One could not but wonder when the results of these expenses would be visible and total security restored

to the nation. He continued and said that there is yet no sense of a national outlook to how society could address many of the challenges facing it. Most times, when Nigerians comment on matter of a national security, they tend to do so from a less nationalistic stand point.

Apart from incessant killings of innocent souls by the Boko Haram, extra – judicial killings are also rampant in the country. The Attorney – General of the Federation, Mohammed Adoke submitted on December 10, 2012 that 7,195 cases of extra – judicial killing were recorded in Nigeria in the last four years. In Potiskum, Yobe state, three South Korean doctors attached to Potiskum General Hospital were attacked by armed men and killed. In the same vein, nine female polio vaccine health workers were murdered in kano state. In Anambra state, about sixty bodies were reportedly sighted floating on Ezu River in Amensea, with twenty – three bodies recovered so far by police authorities (Don Okerede, 2014). Recently in Abuja which is the Federal Capital territory, it was reported that sixteen policemen were killed by the bandits. The concern of this paper is to articulate and demonstrate how government in promoting national security, justice, unity and peaceful co-existence in Northern Nigeria can encourage sustainable development for national growth in Nigeria at large. On this note, it is expedient to explore some recommendations as a way forward.

6. Recommendations and Way Forward

No substantial commercial activity for sustainable development can be undertaken in the Northern States when security cannot be guaranteed, this section of the work will look at the way out of this menace in the following ways:

Dialogue

Dialogue can be a way out of violence. Dialogue has vital role to play in responding to the challenges of national security. If Nigeria government can have meaningful and respectful dialogue with Boko Haram sect it will enriches us by their insights, challenges government by their questions, and deepens our knowledge of the truth. True dialogue presupposes attitude of humility, openness and equality of persons without sacrificing one's identity and thereby pave way for mutual co-existence.

Self-Preservation and Defence

The acts of terrorism being perpetrated by the sect should not be seen as Christian problem but as Nigeria's problem.

The Northern Christian Elders forum decried the discrimination against Christians in the North, especially in their inability to worship freely, politics and access to opportunities. Self-perseveration and self-defense should be employed in tackling this menace of Boko Haram on Christianity. This became necessary owing to the lack of prompt response by the government to quell this violence. Hence, it is advisable for Christians to look for way to defend themselves and their property such as possessing bomb dictator around church premises, security guard, controlling the flow of movement in the church and other security mechanism should be put in place. However, self-defense should not be confused with taking vengeance which is the exclusive domain of God.

Broad-Based Strategy

Boko Haram seeks to humiliate and undermine the government and to exploit religious differences in order to create chaos and to make Nigeria ungovernable. Boko Haram has grown stronger and increasingly more sophisticated over the past ten years, and eliminating the Boko haram problem will require a broad-based strategy that employs the establishment of a comprehensive that involve the stakeholders, state governors, Emir, Elders Pastors, plan rather than the imposition of more mere law.

Addressing the Social and Economic Problems

Although, Boko Haram is reviled throughout Nigeria, and offers no practical solutions to northern problems, a growing minority of certain northern ethnic groups regard them favourably. Boko Haram capitalises on popular frustration with leaders, poor government service delivery, and the dismal living conditions, of many northerners. While more sophisticated and targeted security efforts are necessary to contain Boko Haram's acts of violence and to capture and prosecute its leaders, the government must also win over the population by addressing the social and economic problems that have created the environment in which Boko Haram can thrive particularly, in Northern States.

Improvement on Tactics and Avoidance of Excessive Violence

The government must improve its tactics, avoid excessive violence and human rights abuse, make better use of its police and intelligence services,

deemphasize the role of the military, and use its courts to prosecute those who are found to be responsible for Boko Haram's kidnapping and terrorist attacks. It is the duty of the Government to protect and defend her citizens. Imposition of the state emergency in the state of Borno, Yobe and Adamawa is a good move towards the right direction in tackling the menace of Boko Haram though it would be better to also impose the state of emergency on the rest of the remaining states in the Region.

Nigeria Government to partner with Foreign Security Agencies

The president of the republic of Nigeria should take more decisive steps to stop the Boko Haram sect from further operations. The Nigerian Government may partner with foreign security agencies such as FBI, CIA and our joint security team in Nigeria to unravel the sources of bombs and explosives being used by these faceless terrorists. The source of their financial support and backing by foreign agents should also be investigated. More importantly, religious scholars should rise up to develop and teach sound theological concepts that will facilitate peaceful co-existence among diverse religious groups. The result of all these may help the country to truncate the activities of the Boko Haram.

7. Conclusion

This paper has made an attempt to establish the fact that Boko Haram phenomenon, in all its treads, has captured the imagination of the entire nation, filling newspaper pages and airwaves with fear and misinformation that reaffirms everyone's core understanding of their deeply dysfunctional state. Nigeria is broken and headed toward the brink. It is hard to think of a buoyant commercial activity, tourist adventures, investment, and lucrative business negotiation for sustainable development in the Northern region of Nigeria in the face of national insecurity. The writers are optimistic that if the security agencies, government, Emirs, community elders, religious leaders, youth forum, parents, through collaborative efforts, should perform their long – time cherished duties and responsibility, in check-mating the Boko Haram insurgency, Northern states once again experiencing peace and conducive environment for sustainable development in all facets of life will be ensured.

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