

## SECURITY AND SUSTAINABLE BUSINESS ENVIRONMENT IN NIGERIA

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### **Abstract**

One of the greatest challenges in the history of civilization has been the maintenance of law and order as well as the protection of lives and property. The first and a half decade of the Twenty-first century has more than ever before experienced pervasive insecurity. In Nigeria, the security sector underwent through reforms and has been receiving a lion-share of our national budgetary allocations. In spite of these efforts, incidences of armed robbery, kidnapping, militancy, oil-bunkering, ethno-religious crises and acts of terrorism among others are still ripe in Nigeria. Equally worrisome is the increasing close-up of businesses in Nigeria and the relocation of others to neighbouring countries. The objectives of this study are to examine the significance of the relationship among personal safety, national security and sustainable business environment in Nigeria. The research design was content analyses of secondary data from Mo Ibrahim Foundation. These were presented in a table and analysed using averages and percentages as well as the Pearson Correlation Coefficient to test the hypotheses. The study indicated very poor scores in personal security and sustainable business environment but good scores in national security ratings. The study however revealed that Nigeria's good scores in maintaining national security could not be translated to the security of the citizens and enabling a sustainable business environment in Nigeria for the period 2000-2015. The study concludes that there was no significant relationship between national security and personal safety, national security and sustainable business environment, and between personal safety and sustainable business environment in Nigeria. The study recommended for more people-centred approach to society rather than focus on only state-centric approach for a sustainable business in Nigeria.

**Keywords;** Personal safety, national security, sustainable business environment, social contract theory.

## 1.0 Introduction

One of the greatest challenges in the history of civilization has been maintenance of law and order as well as the protection of lives and property. The first and half decade of the Twenty first century has more than ever before experienced pervasive breach of security globally. The quest for security has necessitated the establishment of global, continental and regional bodies such as the United Nations Organization in 1945, the *Organization of African Unity now African Union in 1963 and the Economic Community of West African States in 1975*.

The maintenance of security has been the primary function of the states as explained by the Hobbesian perspective on the state (Ewetan & Urhie, 2014, Mazrui & Mazrui, 1997). As part of the Fundamental Objectives and Directive Principles of State Policy, section 14 (2b) of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria 1999 provides that; "the security and welfare of the people shall be the primary purpose of government". Pursuant to this the security sector in Nigeria underwent series of reforms (Feyeye, 2004; National Planning Commission, 2004 & Zebadi, 2007). In recent times, commencing from 2011, the sector has also been receiving the lion-share of our national budgetary allocations (Achumba, Ighomereho & Akpor-Robaro, 2013, Ewetan & Urhie, 2014, & Otto & Ukpere, 2012).

In spite of these efforts Adebakin & Raimi (2012); Achumba, Ighomereho & Akpor-Robaro, (2013); Akpo & Hassan, (2015); Amnesty International, 2013; Nwangwu & Ononogbu, 2014; Omadjohwoefe, (2013); Onifade, David & Moses, (2013); Okpaga, Chigioke & Innocent, (2012); & Shehu, (2012) express worry over the state of national and personal security in Nigeria. These range from armed robbery, kidnapping, militancy and oil bunkering, violent Fulani cattle rearer's and farmer's clashes, ethno-religious crises, violent land/boundary clashes and terrorism. Equally worrisome has been the sustainability of the business environment in Nigeria as some businesses close up increasingly while Michelin Dunlop among others flee to neighbouring countries.

Insecurity has also adversely affected Direct Foreign Investment with a decline of 78.1% as at 2010, it also increases the cost of doing business, limits sources of fund to businesses and endangers human resources (Achumba, Ighomereho & Akpor-Robaro, 2013) when the political, economic and social objectives of the Nigerian states as provided in sections 15, 16 and 17 of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria 1999 are committed to creating enabling environment for socio-economic and political activities.

The research questions worth asking are: is there any significant relationship between; national security and personal safety; national security and sustainable business environment; and between personal safety and sustainable business environment in Nigeria? The objectives of this study are to examine the significance of the relationship between; national security and personal safety; national security and sustainable business environment; and the significance of the relationship between personal safety and sustainable business environment in Nigeria for the period 2000-2015. The hypotheses postulated for the study states that; there is no significant relationship between; national security and personal safety; national security and sustainable business environment; and personal safety and sustainable business environment in Nigeria.

Extensive studies have been undertaken on the effect of security on sustainable economic, business and social economic developments in Nigeria. These include the studies of Achumba, Ighomereho and Akpor-Robaro (2013), Adebaskin and Raimi (2012), Adebami (2013), Akpo and Hassan (2015), Ewetan and Urhie (2014), Nwangwu and Ononogbu (2014), Omodjohwoefe (2013), and Otto and Ukprere (2012) among others. Achumba et al, (2013) squared on security challenges and implications for business activities in Nigeria. The study though, extensive was merely descriptive as it failed to establish any empirical relationship between security challenges, business activities and sustainable development in Nigeria. Adebami's (2013) attempt at examining the effect of insecurity on human existence and economic development establishes that insecurity has led to destruction of infrastructure, business property, led to business relocation and closure. However, the study was also merely narrative.

Akpo and Hassan (2015) empirically examine the effect of national security on sustainable development. It concentrated on the popular concept of national security to the detriment of the often neglected personal safety. In addition, the study was to monomeric equated as it prescribed national security with security expenditure rather than the incidences of insecurity. The study also had a myopic view of sustainable development which it reduced to mere Gross Domestic Product just as Otto and Ukperere (2012) did in their "national security and development in Nigeria". Studies by Ewetan and Urhie (2014), Nwangwu and Ononogbu (2014) and Omodjohwoefe (2013) were mere descriptive and not empirical. This study attempts to cover the gap in knowledge by viewing security not only from the dominant and traditionally state-centric perspective, but to also focus on personal security. In addition, it attempts to empirically ascertain the significance of the relationship that exist among national security, personal safety and sustainable business environment in Nigeria using adequate, current and user friendly data.

The timeframe for the study is 2000-2015. This period has been a time of return to sustainable democratic regime in Nigeria following years of successive military dictatorships. Both security and creation of a sustainable business environment is expected more of a democratic rather than military regime. The study also has a national rather than state or regional coverage for better utility. Contextually, the study covers both national security and personal safety as the two are mutually exclusive. The components of a sustainable business environment comprise of the extent of competition, nature of investment climate and availability of rural financial services. Others are the extent of bureaucracy, streamlining of customs procedures and the soundness of banks.

## **2.0 Literature Review and Theoretical Framework**

### **2.1 Security**

Mazrui and Mazrui (1997) as well as Nnoli (1996) while emphasizing the centrality of security to the survival of the state and safety of the people describe the fundamental concept as ambiguous, elastic in meaning and therefore, difficult to define with precision. Earlier attempts at defining security were state-centric. However, following the collapse

or near collapse of states in Africa, attempts are now focused on breaking away from the traditional state-centric definition of security towards human security (Achumba, Ighomereho, & Akpor-Robaro, 2013; Adegbami, 2013; Ewetan, & Urhie, 2014; Fatai, 2012; Fayeye, 2007; Nnoli, 1996; Thomas, & Aghedo, 2014; & Zebadi, 2007).

Achumba, Ighomereho, & Akpor-Robaro, (2013) describe security as the stability and continuity of livelihood, predictability of daily life, protection from crime and freedom from psychological harm. From these dimensions, the scholars summarise security to be protection against all forms of harm whether physical, economic or psychological. This definition adds that security is not only the mere absence of insecurity, it also include the ability and capacity to rise to potential threats to security. To Fayeye (2007), security encompasses the personal and communal state of being secured from a wide range of critical and pervasive threats. Zebadi (2007) adds that security is not limited to the preparedness of the defence and security forces while sub-summing the safety of the citizens. Essentially, security represents the presence of peace, safety, and happiness and the protection of human and physical resources (Otto & Ukpere, 2012).

The definitions of security as advanced by Achumba, Ighomereho and Akpor-Robaro (2013), Fayeye (2007), and Otto and Ukpere (2012) are people-centred and seems unconcerned with national (state) security. However, Zebadi (2007) assertion comprises both the state and citizen security. Succinctly put by Nnoli (2006), security is a cherished value comprising of the safety of individuals, groups and nation states which can be in objective or subjective terms. Objectively, security means safety from threats, anxiety and danger. Subjectively, security indicates the absence of fear that threat, anxiety or danger will occur.

Operationally, the Mo Ibrahim Foundation (2014 & 2015) identifies two major dimensions of security. These are personal safety and national security with six indicators each. The six indicators of personal safety according to the respectable Afro-centric non-governmental organization are; safety of the person, reliability of police services, the extent of prevalence of violent and social unrest, and the prevalence of violent crimes. Others include the extent of political violence and human trafficking. Thus, the lower the incidence of these indicators, the higher the level of personal security in that state and vice-versa. National security on the other hand is indicated by the extent of; government involvement in armed conflicts like in the North-East and the Niger Delta regions of Nigeria, domestic armed conflicts and violence against civilians-perpetrated by rebel groups, political and identity militia. Others include; cross-border tensions, the incidence of internally displaced persons and political refugees. The conceptualization of security into two broader perspectives and clearer indicators is adopted for this study.

## **2.2 Sustainable Business Environment**

Business environment refers to the internal and external factors that influence business activities. These factors have the potency of either impeding or facilitating business operations in a country. These consist of such factors as; maintenance of law and order, security of lives and property, provision of basic infrastructure, competition, technology and socio-cultural factors (Eruemegbe, 2015, Muiyiwa, 2013 & Olorenwaju,

2012). The International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (2010) doing business report in Nigeria identifies security, procurement processes, macro-economic stability, incidence of corruption, nature of investment climate and strength of institutions as determinants of the sustainability or otherwise of a business environment. Others are in the opinion of the bank, the quality of infrastructure, extent of market regulations and strength of the financial institutions in a country. These factors are in many respects similar to those identified by Eruemegbe, 2015; Muyiwa; 2013, and Olarenwaju, 2012.

The Mo Ibrahim Foundation (2016) identifies six indicators of a sustainable business environment. These are; conduciveness of the investment climate, extent of competition and the extent of red-tape in business operations. Others include the cumbersomeness of customs procedures, soundness of the banks and employment creation. The investment climate connotes the degree of economic freedom based on constraints on the flow of investment capital while competition entails the extent of business regulatory environment, the level of market-based competition, and the quality of the competitive bidding processes. Bureaucracy and red-tape means the extent of official delay and complexity in obtaining the appropriate authorization to engage in business activities while customs procedures refer to the level of efficiency of customs procedures relating to the entry and exit of merchandise. The soundness of banks range from the requirement for recapitalization to being generally healthy with sound balance sheets. While employment creation is determined by the extent to which the public is satisfied with how government is handling job creation (Mo Ibrahim Foundation, 2016, 2015, 2014 and 2013). As comprehensive as these indicators may seem to be, security is not mentioned as part of sustainable business environment but a pre-condition for a sustainable business environment.

### 2.3 Review of Empirical Studies

Achumba, Ighomereho and Akpor-Robaro (2013) on their study "security challenges and the implication for business activities and sustainable development examines the effect of insecurity on business investment and operations both potential and real such as production, marketing, finance and human resource. The study establishes that security affects business activities and operations in Nigeria even though, the methodology was merely descriptive rather than empirical. Otto and Ukpere (2012) attempts to empirically examine the effect of national security on development in Nigeria, the causal variable was represented proxied by security expenditure rather than the actual incidence of insecurity. The dependent variable was also narrowed down to economic growth to represent the more encompassing concept of development.

Adegbami's (2012) attempt at ex-ricing the effect of insecurity on human existence and economic development in Nigeria was also merely descriptive rather than empirical and therefore, suffers from methodological weaknesses. Same is the study of Ewetan and Urhie (2014) but whose study was broader in scope but less focused in nature as it sought to examine the effect of insecurity on socio-economic development in Nigeria rather than on sustainable business environment. Thus these previous studies (Achumba et al, 2013, Adegbami, 2012, & Ewetan et al, 2014) were mostly descriptive rather than

empirical. In addition, all these studies neither attempted to distinctly examine the significance of the relationship between personal safety and sustainable business environment nor the relationship between national security and personal safety in Nigeria which this study seeks to examine.

#### **2.4 Theoretical Framework**

The theoretical framework to guide this study is the theory of social contract. It was postulated by Hobbes, Rosseau and Rawls as cited in (Hooffinan & Graham, 2009 & Laski, 2004). The theory posits that the state is in contract with the citizens. Under the contractual terms and on the demand-side, the state is under obligation to majorly maintain law and order, protect lives and property and create an enabling and sustainable environment for businesses to thrive among others. On the supply side, the citizens on their part hold certain duties to the state. These duties of the citizens are obedience to the constitution, respect for its ideals and institutions among others. This relationship between the Nigerian state and the citizens is encapsulated as; Fundamental Objectives and Directive Principles of State Policy and explicitly provided in Chapter II, sections 13-24 of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria 1999.

In relation to this study, the Nigerian state is under obligation to through the security apparatus and the armed forces guarantee the personal safety of the citizens and as well ensure internal security against insurrection and deter foreign aggression. The government is also required to create a sustainable business environment in Nigeria by ensuring a conducive investment climate, promoting competition, removing delays and complexities in granting business authorizations and as well as rationalization of customs procedures. Others include sanitizing and strengthening financial institutions and creating job opportunities. The major weakness of this theory is that it assumes that the managers of the affairs of the state are benevolent and selfless while the citizens are well informed of the obligation of the state, their rights, privileges and duties. More often than not this is not obtainable in a prismatic society like Nigeria. Despite its weakness, the theory is capable of explaining the contractual relationship the Nigerian state and its citizens in ensuring personal safety, national security and creating a sustainable business environment.

#### **3.0 Methodology**

The research design for this study is correlation study, using secondary data obtained from the Mo Ibrahim Index of African Governance (IIAG) 2000-2015 as published by Mo Ibrahim Foundation. The foundation is an afro-centric, non-governmental organization committed to making data freely available to researchers on the quality of governance in the continent. It is also committed to promoting and rewarding good governance in Africa. The choice of this source can be justified on the ground of been very robust, up to date, relevant and user-friendly.

The IIAG scores and ranks countries in Africa on the quality of governance using four categories, fourteen sub-categories and hundred indicators. (Mo Ibrahim Foundation, 2016). The four main categories of the IIAG are; safety and rule of law;

participation and human rights; sustainable economic opportunity; and human development. While personal safety and national security are sub-categories of the safety and rule of law category, sustainable business environment is one of the sub-categories of the sustainable economic environment category. The data on these three variables will be presented in tables and analysed using percentages and averages as well as the Pearson Correlation Coefficient to test the three hypotheses at 5% level of significance.

#### 4.0 Discussion and Summary of Findings

The three variables in this study are; personal safety, national security and sustainable business environment. The data on these variables as obtained from the Mo Ibrahim Foundation for the period 2000-2015 is as presented in Table 1.

**Table 1: The level of personal safety, national security and sustainable business environment in Nigeria; 2000-2015**

Year	Personal Safety (%)	National Security (%)	Sustainable Business Environment (%)
2000	21.6	79.7	35.0
2001	19.1	79.7	35.0
2002	18.5	79.7	35.0
2003	19.6	79.7	35.0
2004	10.7	65.9	30.6
2005	16.4	79.3	31.0
2006	19.3	78.4	31.2
2007	20.7	77.5	34.8
2008	19.7	71.5	34.6
2009	25.7	63.9	38.2
2010	26.2	79.7	33.7
2011	28.3	67.1	33.1
2012	17.4	62.8	35.2
2013	17.5	58.5	35.0
2014	20.2	63.8	36.0
2015	33.5	50.8	35.0

Source: Adapted from Mo Ibrahim Index of African Governance, 2012-2016 Editions

#### 4.1 Level of Personal Safety in Nigeria

The indicators of personal safety in this study consist of the; safety of the person against harm, reliability of police services, extent of prevalence of violent social unrest and crimes. Others include the extent of political violence and human trafficking. Nigeria's ratings in ensuring the safety of the citizens for the period 2000-2015 have been generally poor. It ranges from the lowest of 10.7% in 2004 to the highest of 33.5% in 2015. The scores were particularly very poor from 2001-2008. Temporary slight improvements were recorded between 2009 to 2011 when the country scored 25.7%, 26.2%, and 28.3% in 2009, 2010 and 2011 respectively. These increases were neither maintained nor improved upon as the scores fell to 17.4%, 17.5% and 20.2% in 2012, 2013 and 2014

respectively only to rise to 33.5% in 2015. Nigeria's average score in personal safety of the citizen for the period 2000-2015 was only 20.9% which can be described as very poor.

#### 4.2 Level of National Security in Nigeria

The level of national security in Nigeria for the period 2000-2015 seems to be better than that of personal safety of the citizens. These range from the highest of 79.7% in 2000-2003 and 2010 to the lowest of 50.8% in 2015. Ironically Nigeria's scores in national security contrasts with the country's scores on personal safety for each of the corresponding years. Nigeria's average score in national security for the period 2000-2015 was as high as 71.13% compared to a dismal score of 20.9% for personal safety of the citizens.

#### 4.3 Level of Sustainability of Business Environment

Generally, Nigeria's scores in creating a sustainable business environment for the period 2000-2015 has not been impressive. These range from the highest of only 38.2% in 2009 to the lowest of 30.6% in 2004 corresponding with year of lowest score of 10.7% in personal safety. Nigeria's total average score in creating and sustaining a conducive business environment was only 34.28%. This score can be rated poor.

#### 4.4 Test of Hypotheses

##### 4.4.1 Test of Hypothesis 1

Hypotheses ( $H_0$ ) states that: there is no significant relationship between national security and personal safety in Nigeria. This hypothesis was tested using the data in Table 1. The outcome of the test is presented in Table 2.

Table 2: Correlation Test of  $H_0$

		Personal Safety	National Security
Personal Safety	Pearson Correlation	1	-.329
	Sig. (2-tailed)		.213
	N	16	16
National Security	Pearson Correlation	-.329	1
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.213	
	N	16	16

The Pearson Correlation value was  $-.329$  indicating a negatively weak relationship between personal safety and national security in Nigeria for the period 2000-2015. This indicates that the relationship between the two variables though, ironically negative is not significant. Thus, the  $H_0$  is accepted. This implies that, the high level of national

security in Nigeria could not be translated in to the safety of individual citizens of the country

**4.4.2 Test of Hypothesis (H<sub>0</sub><sub>2</sub>)**

Hypothesis H<sub>0</sub><sub>2</sub> states that; there is no significant relationship between national security and sustainable business environment in Nigeria. Using the data on the variables in Table 1, the product of the test is as presented in Table 3.

**Table 3: Correlation Test of H<sub>0</sub><sub>2</sub>**

		Sustainable Business Environment	National Security
Sustainable Business Environment	Pearson Correlation	1	-.444
	Sig. (2-tailed)		.085
	N	16	16
National Security	Pearson Correlation	-.444	1
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.085	
	N	16	16

The result of the correlation test was -.444. This indicates a negatively weak relationship between the level of national security and the level of sustainability of the business environment in Nigeria for the period 2000-2015. The H<sub>0</sub><sub>2</sub> which states that there is no significant relationship between national security and sustainable business environment in Nigeria is therefore accepted.

**4.4.3 Test of Hypothesis 3 (H<sub>0</sub><sub>3</sub>)**

The third hypothesis (H<sub>0</sub><sub>3</sub>) states that; there is no significant relationship between personal safety and sustainable business environment in Nigeria. The hypothesis was tested using the data in Table 1 and the outcome is as presented in table 4.

**Table 4: Correlation Test of Hypothesis H<sub>0</sub><sub>3</sub>**

		Personal Safety	Sustainable Business Environment
Personal Safety	Pearson Correlation	1	.043
	Sig. (2-tailed)		.876
	N	16	16
Sustainable Business Environment	Pearson Correlation	.043	1
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.876	
	N	16	16

The result of the tested of  $H_0_3$  shows a Pearson Correlation value of .043. This indicates a very weak positive relationship between personal safety and sustainable business environment in Nigeria. Thus, the  $H_0_2$  is accepted.

### 5.0 Conclusions and Recommendations

The data presented in table 1 indicates that the level of personal safety was very low (average of 20.9%). Nigeria's scores in maintaining national security were however very high (average of 71.13%). However, the hypothesis tested indicates a negatively weak relationship between personal safety and national security in Nigeria.

Nigeria also fared poorly in creating a sustainable business environment with an average of only 34.28%. This means that Nigeria's impressive scores in national security could neither guarantee the personal safety of the citizens nor create a sustainable business environment in Nigeria for the period 2000-2015. This is a state-centric approach often espoused in the literature but contrary to the tenets of the social contract theory and the Fundamental Objectives and Directive Principles of State Policy as contained in chapter of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria 1999. The second hypothesis also revealed a negatively weak relationship -.444 between the level of national security and sustainable business environment in Nigeria. The study also concludes that there exist a very weak positive relationship between personal safety and sustainable business environment in Nigeria.

In view of the findings of the study, it is recommended that governments in Nigeria should be equally concerned with the personal safety of the citizens as much as it is concerned with national security since the two are mutually exclusive. Only people-centred national security can create a sustainable business environment as the findings of Achumba et al (2012) indicates. Further research is recommended on the effect of infrastructure on business operations in Nigeria.

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