



## INSECURITY CHALLENGES AND ITS IMPLICATION ON ECONOMIC GROWTH OF KOGI EAST SENATORIAL DISTRICT IN KOGI STATE. NIGERIA

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### Abstract

*The paper examined insecurity challenges in Nigeria and its implication on economic growth in Kogi state specifically in the east senatorial district of Kogi state. Descriptive survey design was adopted for the study, this method was used to make the researcher obtain information relevant to the research and to describe situation as they exist. Three research questions were raised to guide the study. The population of the study consists of all citizens in Kogi east senatorial district while 200 male and female respondents were purposefully sampled for the study. A structured questionnaire of 4 scale likert type was used for data collection. The questionnaire was administered and completed questionnaires were collated and inferential statistics of mean scores, standard deviation were used to analyse research questions. The result of the study reveals that imposition of unpopular policies, corruption, unemployment, poverty among others are the causes of insecurity challenges in Kogi east senatorial district of State Economic activities is just weak that no meaningful investors come in with their capital due to the unguided and unsafe environment. The study recommends that Kogi State need to develop visionary leadership that is detribalized such that it has in leadership positions only people who are able to inculcate in their people or followers, the idea of common citizenship as the transcendent factor among all Nigerians, no matter the tribe, gender, religion, economic and social status.*

**Keywords:** Security, Economic growth, Challenges, Insecurity, Government

### Introduction

Nigeria in recent times has witnessed an unprecedented level of insecurity. This has made national security threat to be a major issue for the government and has prompted huge allocation of the national budget to security. Ibidapo-Obe (2018) opined that, in order to ameliorate the incidence of crime, the Federal Government has embarked on criminalization of terrorism by passing the Anti-Terrorism Act in 2011, installation of Computer-based Closed Circuit Television cameras (CCTV) in some parts of the country, enhancement of surveillance as well as investigation of criminal related offences, heightening of physical security measures around the country aimed at deterring or disrupting potential attacks. In the same vein, Azazi (2011) shed more light that strengthening of security agencies through the provision of security facilities and the development and broadcast of security tips in mass

media despite these efforts, the level of insecurity in the country is still high.

In addition, Nigeria has consistently ranked low in the Global Peace Index signifying a worsened state of insecurity in the country. Hence, Adagba, et al (2011), Uhunmwuango and Aluforo (2012) are of the view that the efforts of government have not yielded enough positive result. With the lingering security challenges and the inability of the security apparatus of the government to guarantee safety and security in the country, the question that borders everyone in Kogi State today is that "Can there be security?" Is security of lives and properties achievable? Apparently, the security situation in Kogi State appears or at least have remained insurmountable and many people have argued that government at all levels has not done enough by not confronting the situation head on and dealing with it decisively, others have argued that the situation has a political



undertone or inclination calculated to serve the interest of certain political goals, who have been dissatisfied and disgruntled about the political manifestations in the country. Consequently, the purpose of this research is to provide a synthesis of existing knowledge on insecurity by integrating diverse explorations and to propose a strategy for security management.

It is generally argued however that security is not the absence of threats or security issues, but the ability to rise to the challenges posed by these threats with expediency and expertise. Insecurity on the other hand, is the antithesis of security. However, because of the very many ways in which insecurity affects human life and existence, the concept of insecurity has usually been ascribed different interpretations in association with the various ways which it affects individuals.

Some of the common descriptive of insecurity include: want of safety; danger; hazard; uncertainty; want of confidence; doubtful; inadequately guarded or protected; lacking stability; troubled; lack of protection; and unsafe; to mention a few. All of these have been used by different people to define the concept of insecurity. These different descriptive, however, run into a common reference to a state of vulnerability to harm and loss of life, property or livelihood. Beland & Eser (2022), defined insecurity as “the state of fear or anxiety stemming from a concrete or alleged lack of protection.” It refers to lack or inadequate freedom from danger. This definition reflects physical insecurity which is the most visible form of insecurity, and it feeds into many other forms of insecurity such as economic security and social security.

A major point about insecurity implied in these definitions is that those affected by insecurity are not only uncertain or unaware of what would happen but they are also not able to stop it or protect themselves when it happens. Edeko, S. E, (2011), opined that, it is in this view that we would describe insecurity as “not knowing, a lack of control, and inability to take defensive action against forces that portend harm or danger to an individual or group, or what make them vulnerable is the situation that we do not know and we cannot face or anticipate. It is also something we may know would happen but we are not able to face it.

A plethora of studies has shown that insecurity resulting from terrorists' activities negatively affects the economic growth of many countries. For instance, Blomberg, Hess and Weerapana (2021), showed that terrorists' activities rate is quite higher in the high income countries during periods of recession. Using panel regression analysis, these authors found that terrorism had a negative impact on economic growth. They concluded that the impact is less significant in

advanced economies than developing countries. Similar results were obtained by Sandler and Enders (2018), when they compared the impact of terrorism on developed and developing countries reason being that developed countries had vast economies and any terrorist activity may result in reallocating resources among various sectors of the economy, which is not the case with the developing countries.

Gaibullov and Sandler (2017) analyzed the impact of terrorism on per capita growth in Asia for the period 1970- 2004. Their study found that terrorism hindered economic growth significantly. The impact seems to be stronger in developing countries when compared to developed ones because of the developed countries' resilience to terrorism due to their robust economies. Internal conflicts were found to be twice more effective in reducing growth than international conflicts. Shabir, Naeem and Ihtsham (2015) used the Solow growth model to investigate the impact of terrorism on Pakistan's economic growth. They used secondary data from 1981 to 2012 and employed the co-integration technique. Their result suggested that terrorism had negatively affected the economic growth in Pakistan. Similarly Fatima, Latif, Chughtai, Nazik and Aslam (2014) investigated the impact of terrorism activities on the economic growth of Pakistan and India using multiple regression analysis. They concluded that India's economic growth was not affected by terrorists' activities contrary to the case of Pakistan Choi (2015) evaluated the controversial issue of whether economic growth exerts a dampening effect on terrorism. A cross-national, time-series data analysis of 127 countries for the period 1970–2007 shows that countries with high levels of industrial growth rate are less disposed to domestic and international terrorist events, but are more likely to experience suicide attacks. Tahar, Arafet, Hadhek (2018) studied the effect of terrorism on economic growth and the transmission mechanism of its effect. They applied simultaneous equation models to panel data for a sample of eleven countries (six developing and five developed) over the period 2008–2015. Their findings revealed a positive effect of terrorism on economic growth for both developed and developing countries for the whole sample and a negative effect of economic growth on terrorism for the case of the total sample and the case of developing countries. Furthermore, the effect of unemployment on terrorism for all the country samples is negative. Gupta, Clements, Bhattacharya, & Sunday, (2021) submitted that, armed conflict and terrorism lead to a higher share of defence spending in total government expenditure, which has a negative effect on the growth of low-and middle-income countries. A handful of studies have analyzed the effect of



insecurity on economic activities in Nigeria, particularly on the targeted areas of terrorists' activities. For instance, Dauda (2014) assessed the effect of Boko Haram crisis on economic activities in Yobe state. He employed descriptive statistics on monthly data from 2009 to 2014. He discovered that insecurity negatively affected the socio-economic activities within the state. In a related study Ojobi(2014) examined the implications of the operations of the Boko Haram insurgency in the North East of Nigeria using descriptive statistics on secondary data from 2003 to 2009. His findings indicated that the atrocities of Boko Haram had severe implications on the economy and social lives of the people in that State. In another related study, Okarah (2014) centred his study on the causes and effect of insecurity in Nigeria. He employed a chronological historical antecedent of insecurity in Nigeria and also delved into the purview of the history structure, mission and vision of the Nigerian police force. He identified inequality and poverty as root causes of insecurity in Nigeria which is difficult for the Nigerian police force to curtail Few studies have examined the nexus between insecurity and economic growth in Nigeria. For instance, Angaharandlorpev & Adegoke (2020), found a negative relationship between capital market performance, economic growth and insecurity using multiple regression analysis. Using historically analysis from a sociological view point Omadjohwoefe, cordelia & Onyinyechi (2023), concluded that the atmosphere of insecurity impedes the attainment of sustainable development in Nigeria. A similar study by Olusegun (2016) shows that security and other related variables do not only contribute positively to economic growth in Nigeria. In the same vein, Ifeoma, Ndubuisi- Okolo and Anagbogu (2023) reached the same conclusion emphasizing that security challenges retards the socio-economic development of a country. Shuaibu and Lawong (2016) using a dynamic modeling approach concluded that the impact of insecurity is relatively higher on the external sector and fiscal variables compared with domestic policy Contrarily, Ikpe and Nteegah (2019) employed a macro-econometric modeling of social insecurity, foreign direct investment and economic growth association in Nigeria and discovered that social insecurity stimulates the inflow of foreign technology, rather than inhibits it. Likewise Njoku and Nwachukwu & Nasiru (2023), using the Analysis of Variance (ANOVA) method found out that the Boko Haram terrorist group only poses threat to Nigeria's economy which can be tackled by the military.

### **Objective of the Study**

The purpose of the study is to examine security challenges in Nigeria and the implication on economic growth in Kogi State. The specific objectives of the study are to :

- (1) examine the causes of insecurity in Kogi east senatorial district of Kogi State
- (2) examine the challenges of insecurity in Kogi east senatorial zone of Kogi State
- (3) examine the implication of insecurity on Nigeria Economic growth.

### **Research Questions**

The following research questions were raised for the study:

- (1) What are the causes of insecurity in Kogi east senatorial zone in Kogi State?
- (2) What are the challenges of insecurity in Kogi east senatorial zone of Kogi State?
- (3) What is the implication of insecurity on economic growth in kogi east senatorial zone?

### **Methodology**

Descriptive survey design is adopted for the study. This method is used to make the researcher obtain information relevant to the research and to describe the situation as they exist. 200 male and female respondents were purposefully selected for the study using Purposive sampling, the questionnaire method of data collection was involved for the research work, the instruments were administered by means of personal administration on face to face contact with the respondents. The researcher equally waited and retrieve them back to ensure adequate monitoring. This is also to ensure that the opinion of the respondents is not in any way influenced by a third party. A 15-item researcher developed questionnaire covering the security challenges in Nigeria and the implication on economic growth; a study of Kogi east Senatorial District. (SCNIEGKS), The items were answered with a 4-likert response format. The Questionnaire were collated, coded and analyzed using descriptive and inferential statistics using the mean scores, standard deviation to answer the research questions.

### **Results**

**Research Question 1:** What are the causes of security challenges on economic growth in Kogi State?

**Table 1: Responses on the causes of security challenges on economic growth in Kogi State**

S/No	SA	SA	A	D	SD	MEAN	S.D
1	Imposition of unpopular policies, changes in policies and programme is one of the insecurity problem.	100	52	34	14	3.19	.96
2.	Corruption is one of the causes of insecurity.	50%	26%	17%	7%	3.06	.92
3.	Unemployment causes insecurity.	75	77	33	15	3.46	.79
4.	Insecurity result to Poverty	37.5%	38.5%	16.5%	7.5%	3.08	.97
5.	Suicide Bombing is as a result of insecurity.	120	60	11	9	3.19	.96
		60%	30%	5.5%	4.5%		
		89	52	45	14		
		44.5%	26%	22.5%	7%		
		100	52	34	14		
		50%	26%	17%	7%		

### Sources: Field Survey, 2022

The table 1 above shows responses on the causes of security challenges on economic growth in Kogi State. Item 1 reveals the mean and standard deviation of 3.19 which is above the critical mean of 2.5 is therefore accepted which implies that majority of the respondents strongly agreed that imposition of unpopular policies is one of the causes of security challenges on economic growth. Item 2 reveals the mean and standard deviation of 3.06 which is above the critical mean of 2.5 is therefore accepted which implies that majority of the respondents strongly agreed that corruption is one of the causes of security challenges on economic growth. Item 3 reveals the mean and standard deviation of 3.46 which is above the critical mean of 2.5 is therefore accepted, which implies that unemployment is one of the causes of security challenges on economic growth. Item 4 reveals the mean and standard deviation of 3.08 which is above the critical mean of 2.5 which implies that poverty is one of the causes of security challenges on economic growth. Item 5 reveals the mean and standard deviation of 3.19 which is above the critical mean of 2.5 is therefore accepted which implies that majority of the respondents strongly agreed that terrorism/suicide bombing is one of the causes of security challenges on economic growth. Item 6 reveals the mean and standard deviation of 3.06 which is above the critical mean of 2.5 is therefore accepted which implies that majority of the respondents strongly agreed that defective intelligence gathering and coordination on the part of security agencies as well as under funding and under equipment is one of the causes of security challenges on economic growth. Item 7 reveals the mean and standard deviation of 3.46 which is above the critical mean of 2.5 is therefore accepted, which implies that external influence is one of the causes of security challenges on economic growth. Item 8 reveals the mean and standard deviation of 3.08 which is above the critical mean of 2.5, which implies that inequality and uneven development is one of the causes of security challenges on economic growth. With the cluster mean of 3.20 which is also above the critical mean of 2.5 is therefore accepted which implies that imposition of unpopular policies, corruption, unemployment, poverty among others are the causes

of security challenges on economic growth in Kogi State.

### Research Question 2: What are the challenges of insecurity in Kogi State?

**Table 2: Responses on the challenges of insecurity in Kogi State**

S/No	SA	SA	A	D	SD	MEAN	S.D
6	Lack of institutional capacity resulting in government failure	112	42	22	24	3.21	.66
7	Pervasive material inequalities and unfairness	56%	21%	11%	12%	3.39	.66
8	Ethno-religious conflicts	92	98	5	5	3.17	.71
9	Conflict of Perceptions between the public and government	46%	49%	2.5%	2.5%	3.04	.90
10	Weak Security system	64	110	21	5	3.39	.66
		32%	55%	10.5%	2.5%		
		65	98	17	20		
		32.5%	49%	8.5%	10%		
		92	98	5	5		
		46%	49%	2.5%	2.5%		
	Cluster Mean					3.20	.73

### Source: Field Survey, 2022

Table 2 above shows the responses on the challenges of insecurity in Kogi State. Item 9 reveals the mean and standard deviation of 3.21 which is above the critical mean of 2.5 is therefore accepted which implies that majority of the respondents strongly agreed that lack of institutional capacity resulting in government failure is one of the effect of security challenges on social growth. Item 10 reveals the mean and standard deviation of 3.39 which is above the critical mean of 2.5 is therefore accepted which implies that pervasive material inequalities and unfairness as a result of the challenges of insecurity in Kogi State. Item 11 reveals the mean and standard deviation of 3.17 which is above the critical mean of 2.5 is therefore accepted which implies the ethno-religious conflicts as a result of the effect of security challenges on social growth. Item 12 reveals the mean and standard deviation of 3.04 which is above the critical mean of 2.5 is therefore accepted which implies that conflict of perceptions between the public and government in Kogi State. Item 13 reveals the mean and standard deviation of 3.39 which is above the critical mean of 2.5 is therefore accepted which implies that weak security system in Kogi State. With the cluster mean of 3.20 which is also above the critical mean of 2.5 is therefore accepted, which implies that lack of institutional capacity resulting in government failure, pervasive material inequalities and unfairness, ethno-religious conflicts, conflict of perceptions between the public and government and weak security system are the challenges of insecurity in Kogi State.

### Research Question 3: What is the Implication of Insecurity on Economy in Kogi State?



**Table 3: Responses on the Implication of Insecurity on Economy in Kogi State.**

S/No	SA	A	D	SD	MEAN	S.D
11	Discourages potential business investment	113 56.5%	32 16%	35 17.5%	20 10%	3.19 1.1
12	Destroy existing business enterprises	185 92.5%	4 2%	7 3.5%	4 2%	3.85 .60
13	Increase security spending by economic success	64 32%	110 55%	21 10.5%	5 2.5%	3.17 .71
14	Reduces human resources	89 44.5%	98 49%	8 4%	5 2.5%	3.36 .68
15	Cluster Mean				3.39	.75

Sources Field Survey, 2021

From the Table 3 above, it shows the responses on the implication of insecurity on Nigeria economic in Kogi State. Item 18 above reveals the mean and standard deviation of 3.19 which is above the critical mean of 2.5 is therefore accepted. Which implies that discourages potential business investment. Item 19 also reveals the mean and standard deviation of 3.85 which is greater than critical mean 2.5 is therefore accepted, which implies that destroy existing business enterprises. Item 20 reveals the mean and standard deviation of 3.17 which is also greater than the critical mean of 2.5 is therefore accepted which implies that increases security spending by economic success in Kogi State. Item 21 reveals the mean and standard deviation of 3.36 which is above the critical mean of 2.5 is therefore accepted, which implies that it reduces human resources in Kogi State. Which the cluster mean of 3.39 which is above the critical mean of 2.5 is accepted which implies that discourages potential business, destroy existing business enterprise, increase security spending by economic success and also reduce human resources among others are the implication of insecurity on Nigeria economic in Kogi State.

### Discussion of Findings

The result shows that with the cluster mean of 2.5 above therefore the causes of insecurity challenges are imposition of popular policies, corruption, unemployment poverty etc. This is in line with Andrew and Kennedy (2013) who pointed out that it is necessary to distinguish between different causes as each may require different remedy. Besides, it is to provide a holistic view to the suggestion or recommendations of solutions. More often, however, policy makers are disinclined to isolate and clarify particular causes. They prefer blanket references, with the consideration that the causes of insecurity are interwoven and contributory to one another. The cluster mean of 3.39 which is above the critical mean of 2.5 is accepted which implies that Porous Borders One major immediate factor which has enhanced insecurity, Social Irresponsibility of Companies Corporate social responsibility is a set of actions that increase externalized costs and/or promotes distributional conflicts, unemployment/poverty among others are the immediate and proximate

factors of insecurity on economic growth. According to Adedeji and Eziyi (2010), Kogi State is one of the countries in the world with very high rural/urban drift. Most urban areas in Kogi State have grown beyond their environmental carrying capacities and existing infrastructures and this has resulted to increased poor quality of the living conditions in urban areas in Kogi State. As a result of high level of unemployment and poverty among Nigerians, especially the youths, they are adversely attracted to violent crime. Companies engage in corporate social responsibility in order offset corporate social responsibility. The rise of terror groups in some parts of the country is directly related to the neglect of social responsibility by companies to the community where they are operating.

Also, with the cluster mean of 3.39 which is above the critical mean of 2.25 is accepted which implies that discourages potential business, destroy existing business enterprise, increases security spending by economic success and also reduce human resources among others are the implications of insecurity on Nigeria economic in Kogi State. Adeola (2006) reported a study by World Bank on investment climate in nine Africa countries in which it was found that 29% of business operators in Africa and 36% in Kogi State perceived insecurity as a major constraint on investment. Insecurity everywhere is a risk factor which business owners and managers dread and wish to avoid by relocating their business elsewhere. From general observation, most economic agency operating in Kogi State maintain security personnel as well as security infrastructure in order to ensure the security of their properties and the lives of their staff and customers. This is in line with Hazen and Horner (2007).

### Conclusion

Security just like other elements in development enhances and optimizes economic growth but insecurity hinders these activities and so it constitutes a threat to economic success. There is a strong skepticism that if the level of insecurity in our country is not scaled down, our vision to be among the best 20 countries of the world may be aborted.

### Recommendations

Bsed on the findings of the study, the following recommendations were made:

#### 1. Addressing Root Causes of Insecurity

- Good Governance: Foster a culture of good governance, transparency, and accountability to address the root causes of insecurity<sup>1</sup>.
- Socio-Economic Development: Accelerate socio-economic development in Kogi East

Senatorial District by creating jobs, providing education, and improving healthcare.

## 2. Enhancing Security Measures

- Intelligence Gathering: Strengthen intelligence gathering and surveillance to enable law enforcement agencies to predict and prevent crimes.
- Modernizing Security Agencies: Equip security agencies with modern technology, training, and logistics to enhance their operational capabilities.

## 3. Promoting Economic Growth

- Investment in Infrastructure: Invest in critical infrastructure such as roads, bridges, and electricity to support economic growth.
- Supporting Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises (SMEs): Provide support to SMEs, including access to finance, training, and markets, to stimulate economic growth.

## 4. Community Engagement and Participation

- Community-Based Initiatives: Encourage community-based initiatives that promote peace, security, and economic development.
- Stakeholder Engagement: Foster collaboration among stakeholders, including government, civil society, and the private sector, to address insecurity and promote economic growth.

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