

Role of Security Agencies in the Management of Situational Crisis in Nigeria

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Abstract

The central premise of the study is to determine the role of security agencies in the management of situational crisis in Nigeria. The study made use of secondary data, also adopted attribution theory as theoretical framework. The study therefore recommends that Government must provide enough funds logistics training of personnel to meet up with situational crisis in the Nigeria State.

Keywords: *Role, Security, Agency, Situational Crisis.*

Background to the Study

The Nigerian state is facing an increasing rate of situational crisis that threatens the life of citizens virtually in the six geo-political zones in Nigeria. It is also on history that, there are over whelming antidote of cases of riots, civil disorders strikes, religion unrest, militancy industrial espionage, oil spillage, kidnapping, rituals killings, money laundry, insurgencies, Terrorism are quite worrisome in Nigeria. The situational crisis problem in Nigeria is incomparable to that of United Kingdom, United states of America while citizenry felt well secured because the security Agencies are up and doing in taken bold steps or proactive measure in the management of situational crisis. It is also obvious, Abdulsalam (2005) argued that some situational, crisis confronting the Nigeria state are: Political, Election, rigging, socio-economic agitation, ethnic militia, boundaries disputes, cultism, organized cyber café crimes, money laundry and many others.

Basically, situational crisis constitute a threat to peace, security and development of the country which results to threat to human security. Also Onouha (2007) asserts that threat to human security was subsumed in seven key dimensions; of security such as food, Economics, health, environmental, personal, community and practical participation in the life of the

community can be realized. The study tries to examine the role of security agencies in State guarding the lives and properties of the Nigerian citizens in the managerial management of situational crisis. The study suggests possible mechanism in curbing situational crisis.

Conceptual Framework of Situational Crisis

There are plethora definitions of situational crisis. Comb (2007) asserts that situational crisis as temporary state of upset, disequilibrium, accompanied by confusion and disorganization. The organization may be very integral to reducing problem solving abilities to a point but traditional management strategies may not be effective situational crisis occurs periodically during the life span of individual, families, groups, communities and Nations and have different levels of impact. It is in the same vein that security agencies are in the alert in curbing the devastating effects of such religious crisis that can affect the entire life of citizens in a state.

Types of Situational Crisis

Situational crisis is a response to a traumatic event that is usually sudden and unavailable. It is usually follows the loss of an established support or have of maintaining self image usually lead to a situational crisis in a state.

Levbinger (1999) identified eight (8) categories of situational crisis these are:

i. National Situational Crisis:

These are environment phenomenon such as earthquake, volcanic eruptions, tornados, hurricane, floods, tsunamis storms, drought that threaten life property and the environment.

ii. Technological situational crisis:

There are situational crisis that are caused by the application of science and Technology. Some technological crisis occurs when human errors causes disruption (Human breakdown) comb (1999) asserted that people assign blames for a technological disaster, because technology is subject to human manipulation where do not hold any body responsible such includes, soft ware failures, industrial accidents and oil spills.

iii. Confrontation situational crisis

Confrontation situational crisis when discontented individuals, groups fight government to win acceptance of their demands and expectations. These forms are exhibited through boycotts sit-to-vale, ultimatum and blockage or disobeying a particular policy through protest.

iv. Situational crisis of malevolence

This is a situation where opponents or misconducts employs some criminal extreme tactics for the purpose of expressing hospitality towards seeking gains. Such acts to secure are demonstrated through product tampering, kidnapping, malicious ramous, terrorism and espionage.

v. Situational crisis of organizational Misdeeds

This is crisis that occurs when an organization takes decision knowing fully to harm the management or putting the stake holders at risk. Lerbugir (1999) specified three different types of crisis of organizational misdeeds these includes; skewed

management values, situational crisis of deception; and situational crisis of management misconduct.

vi. Workplace violence

Situational crisis occurs when an employee count violence against other employee on organization grounds.

vii. Rumours

False information against an organization or its product creates situational crisis or hunting the organization reputation. Maras and Goodman (1999); pitroofs (1993) Comb (1999) Meyers (1993) and Mc Cartricy and Zeemnowkz (1991) agrees that ramous, economic allaidis Health and Diseases, Aircraft accident, negative positive forms the major types of situational crisis.

Role of Security Agencies

The National Security Act. Cap No. 74 of the laws explain the role of security agencies. National Security Agencies has to do with ensuring and maintaining the survival of the state and more specifically, containing or deterring threats to statehood.

The Nigeria's National Security Architecture is enshrined in the provisions of 1999 Constitution of Federal Republic of Nigeria. All security Agencies in the country: military law enforcement and intelligence device their mandates from both section (214) for the police, and 217 for military and other security agencies like the Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps (NSCDC) Federal Road Safety Corps (FRSC) Nigeria Custom Service among others. Ade (2014) posits role of security agencies as enshrines in the Act of parliament. Some of the functional aspects of security agencies are:

- (a) Maintenance of peace and tranquility
- (b) Maintains a 24 hours surveillance over infrastructures, sites and projects of the Federal, state and local government to curtail anti-democratic forces from weakening havoc on government property.
- (c) Prevention and mitigation, search and regular relief and construction.
- (d) Elections and inauguration
- (e) Putting a check on private securities
- (f) Defend the Nation for aggression

Situational Crisis Management Stages

There are scholarly position and theoretical analysis on stages of situational crisis Smith (1990) offered three stages; consisting of a pre-crisis periods, crisis and post crisis state. Also Smith (1990); Richard (1994) also offered three steps of state of situational crisis similarly to the one proposed by other scholars. This person and Mitroof (1993) developed five stages frame work and more comprehensive approach to understudying the stages of situational crisis these are:

a. Signal detection stage

This is a situational crisis stage that begins with warnings, signals detection.

b. Precaution and prevention stage.

This involves information situational crisis interms and terms for attacking that crisis that may occur. However, the goal is to prevent as many crisis as possible.

- c. **Recovery stage**
This is attempt made to return actions to the normal as feasible as possible.
- d. **Learning stage**
This stage involves activities of reflection when lesson is learned from the situational crisis.
The emphasis is not searching for scapegoats and dispensary the blame but other parties; a response often encourage in a litigious society, instead, maximum attempt is focused on improving current operational problems and preventing future occurrence.
- e. **Landscape survey framework**
This stage sees situational crisis as a function of the organization culture. The external landscape and industry vulnerabilities at the forefront that stimulate situational crisis.

Positive Mechanism on Situational Crisis Management

There are basically some notable approaches in situational crisis management; Abolurin (2008) posits there approaches they are; preventive Diplomacy by assigning responsibilities to security agents on the watch; use of force approach; where culprit are arrested, and Human security approach; that require disaster management or quick intervention and rapid response in the area of crime prevention. Wali (2008) identifies eight strategies approach in the management of situational crisis.

- i. Early warning approach; a situation were situational crisis is averted
- ii. Crisis resolution approach; this is necessary to remove the major causes of situational crisis.
- iii. Peace building approach: it is an approach to prevent contend and resumption of hostilities the mechanism was limited by Boutrous Ghalie the United Nation Secretary general.
- iv. Peace Making approach; This entails creating enabling environment for the peace be realized.
- v. Transformation approach requires local actors or stake holders are involved in bringing about peace in crisis situations. Eg Academics, Religious bodies, elder state men.
- vi. Peace Education approach: it is an approach that entails inculcating peaceful approach in people, without the use of force.
- vii. Peace keeping approach; This is a form of cease fire mutually reached by warming factors to stop war or use to dissuade potentials actors not to involve in violent.

Problem of Degrading Situational Crisis

Basically, the Nigeria state has been confronted with myriad of security challenges Ajao (2011) posits the armed militia, groups, hostage taking, bombings, political or religious violence protests are some of the factors threatening stability of the social order.

There are a number of factors that marred situational crisis management Abiodun (2011) posit the following attributed factors:

- a. Lack of sufficient arms to fight culprits
- b. Collaboration between security agents and criminals or aggrieved groups that make the management of situational crisis difficult.
- c. Lack of operational agreement such as vehicles motor cycles bicycle, combat boots camp beds mosquitoes nets sophisticated Hand set.
- d. Lack of corporation by the members of the public in exposing crime.
- e. Most security agents expose whistle bladders as well convert their status as immediate suspects.
- f. Demands of financial supports by some security agents before crime preventions.
- g. Others threats Opadiran (2009) include, challenges of democracy, ethnic and communal clashes, corruption, economic crimes, extremism, Boko Haram, kidnapping, religious violence small arm proliferation etc.

Finally, most Nigeria are ignorant of their civil responsibility as well, more security agencies lack intellectual capacity in research alternative disputes strategies in Management situational crisis, that further compound the problem.

Table: Incidences of Situational Crisis in Nigeria

Date	Nature /Location of Electoral Violence	State
2001	Abel Chukwu, Speaker of the Enugu State House of Assembly, had bullets pumped into his car.	Enugu
2001	Felix Ikebudu was murdered and drowned in the river with an engine block in Anambra.	Anambra
2001	On December 21, the Federal Minister of Justice and Attorney General, Chief Bola Ige was brutally murdered in his bedroom at Ibadan.	Oyo
2003	A convoy of ANPP gubernatorial candidate, Alh. Adamu, was attacked by political thugs.	Adamawa
2003	Dr. Marshall Harry, the National Vice- Chairman (South-South) of the ANPP was brutally killed in his house in Abuja.	Abuja
2003	6 persons killed by youths alleged to be supporters of an ANPP senatorial candidate, Hon. Heinekein Lokpobiri, Bayelsa West.	Bayelsa
2003	Suspected thugs attacked Ebonyi Council Transition Chairman of Ikwo South Council, Mr. Alloy Agba.	Ebonyi
2003	3 persons were shot dead and journalists manhandled by suspected party thugs.	Edo

2003	Rally of PDP disrupted, one vehicle was burnt by suspected opposition thugs, while many people were injured in the attack.	Jigawa
2003	Clashes between ANPP supporters at Jato -Aka village, Kwande Local Government.	Benue
2003	Kwara Chapter of AD decried continued defacement of the posters and billboards of its governorship candidate, Alh. Lai Mohammed.	Kwara
2003	2 persons died when suspected party thugs attacked Governor Lawals' convoy, others sustained injuries.	Kwara
2003	ANPP chieftain in Kwara State, Mr. Issa Zaria, was murdered by suspected party thugs.	Kwara
2003	Unidentified gunmen opened fire on a crowd celebrating Dr. Bukola Saraki's victory as the next Governor of Kwara State. 3 persons killed and several injured.	Kwara
2003	The Commission for Women Affairs, Mrs. Memuna Kataia and two others were feared dead in a political Clash during the House of Assembly elections.	Nasarawa
2003	PDP senatorial candidate, Alh. Ibikunle Amosum narrowly escaped being killed in an attack by six suspected assassins.	Ogun
2003	Oyo State Governor, Lam Adesina, attacked	Oyo
2003	Attack on PDP campaign train at Okehi LGA Headquarter.	Kogi
2003	PDP and AD clashed in Ute, Ose LGA	Ondo
2004	Mr. Luke Shigaba: Until his death on 3 March in the hands of assassins. He was the Chairman of Bassa Local Government.	Kogi
2006	On 22 July, Funsho Williams, a favoured candidate at the PDP primary election in Lagos State was assassinated in his house.	Lagos
2007	A fresh explosion rocked Asaba on Wednesday night.	Delta
2007	Bomb scare at Delta's PDP's office and one person Person was arrested.	Delta

2007	Violence took the centre -stage in the governorship and House of Assembly primaries of the AC.	Ekiti
2007	Gangs of armed youths broke up polling stations, snatched ballot boxes and tore opposition votes in Kaba. They filed the ballots with their own thumbprints and voted for the PDP, witness said. Election regulators in the State told staff to erase the name of Prince Abubakar Audu, the ANPP candidate for the gubernatorial Election. His picture and name were printed on the ballot papers, but scratched out with black markers or biros.	Kogi
2007	A bloody clash of Agaka/Baaboko/Idi-Ape area of Ilorin led to one dead and a Police officer seriously injured	Kwara
2007	Three male adults were injured in Oro, Irepodum LG, when Suspected supporters of two rival politicians clashed. Although no life was lost, both camps have alleged the attack as unwarranted calling on the Police to start a prompt investigation of the crisis, which was described as the first of its kind in the area in the on-going transition.	Kwara
2007	At least 30 persons were hospitalized for sustaining various degrees of injuries after a bloody clash between the supporters of the PDP and the ANPP in Galadima Village in Lapai LGA.	Niger
2008	On June 22, a group of political party thugs loyal to the PDP attacked the Action Congress supporters at Obangede in Okehi LGA. During the ensuing fracas, properties such as louvers and electronics valued at about N500,000 were destroyed.	Kogi
2008	On 22 April, there was a pandemonium at Okene -Eba and Idozumi, in Okene LGA when PDP thugs terrorized residents of the area by shooting sporadically into the air. In order to subdue the attack from the thugs, Mobile Policemen were drafted to the area. In the ensuing confusion, six persons, all civilians, were killed.	Kogi
2010	On 26 July, a gubernatorial aspirant. Dipo Dina was assassinated.	Ogun
2010	PDP thugs loyal to Gabriel Dauda, Council Chairman Ogori-Magongo LGA and a group suspected to be antagonist to the Chairman clashed. During the incident, Deji Orifunmishe was critically injured and his entire Household destroyed. These include vehicles and other Valuables worth millions of Naira.	Kogi

2011	Police lost two men, 3 AK 47 rifles in the face-off at Okengwe, Obehira and Agewa in Adavi and Okene LGAs	Kogi
Nov. 2013	A supporters of Opeyemi Bamidele, the Labour Party, LP, candidate, was shot and killed after clashes between Mr. Bamidele's supporters and people believed to be APC Members at Emure Ekiti.	Ekiti
April 2014	Ado Ekiti, the State capital was thrown into confusion As gunshots rent the air at the popular Adebayo area of The city. The attack allegedly occurred around 6pm when Governor Fayemi and his supporters were returning to Ado-Ekiti from a campaign rally in Ekiti East local Government area of the state.	Ekiti
May, 2014	Unidentified numbers of people have been injured in Kura, Shanono and Bebeji Local Government Areas of Kano State as political thugs attempted to snatch ballot boxes during local government election in Kano.	Kano
June, 2014	On Sunday, June 8, one person was killed in violence That erupted in Ekiti State in the run up to t he gubernatorial election.	Ekiti

Sources: Marco, D, (2007). A Compendium on Newspaper Extracts on the 2003 and 2007 Elections. Abuja: IDASA. Daily Trust (2010) and Nigerian Tribune (2010), Nigeria Watch (2014).

Theoretical Framework

The theoretical framework adopted for this research work is the attribution theory by Comb (2007) in analyzing situational crisis management. Attribution theory postulated by Comb explain how individuals interpret events and relates such to their thinking and behavior. Attribution theory assumed that people try to deterrence why people do what they do similarly Heider (1958) posits two attribution namely internal and external attributions. In the internal attribution emphasizes how a person behave because of a particular instinct. While in external attribution speaks volume on somebody behavior and response base on a situation ones found himself.

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