Social Media and Insecurity Issues in Nigeria: A Post COVID-19 Discourse

[1]Ojobah Christian, [2]Frank Ifeanyichukwu Amiriheobu, [3]Agim, Christy Chinwe & [4]George Owunari

[1]*Department of Educational Foundation, School of Education,*

[2]*Department of Theatre Arts Education, School of Arts and Social Sciences,*

[4]*Department of Music Education, School of Arts and Social Sciences*

Federal College of Education (Technical) P.M.B 11 Omoku, Onelga, Rivers State, Nigeria

[3]*Department of Mass Communication, School of Humanities and Social Studies,*

Federal Polytechnic, Nekede, Imo State, Nigeria.

A b s t r a c t

Post COVID-19 pandemic epoch is witnessed with heinous and ghastly insecurity issues that have maliciously affected Nigerian economic cum political strata, thus, threatens the unity of the state in the 21st century. Amongst the issues includes: the #EndSARS agitation by some acrimonious and rancorous youths, who seek a reform in the Nigerian epileptic political system that is inundated with venality, brutality, gluttony, prejudice, tribalism and divide and rule system. Second, is the grisly destruction of lives and properties by unknown gunmen in some state capitals; coupled with the herdsmen/farmers clangs in some Nigerian states over land ownership, Boko Haram unremitting adoption of school students in the North-east, the activisms for self-determination by the Indigenous People of Biafra in the South-east and the Oduduwa Republic agitation in the South-west. These insecurity issues have maliciously increased the concern of poverty, suffering, pain, sickness and death of the people and underdevelopment to the Nigerian state. These developments and violence are often times visually netted by some social media platforms while some were not due to insufficient social equipment's. It is to this that the study therefore aims at pinpointing the role of Social Media in the documentation and dissemination of insecurity issues in Nigeria in the post COVID-19 pandemic. To achieve this aim, Content and Analytical Methodology and Narrative theory are employed as guide. Amongst the major recommendations, the study insist that the social media houses should be empowered and protected as that would increase confidence in the discharge of duty.

Keywords: *Social Media, Insecurity issues, COVID-19 Pandemic, Analytical, Discourse*

Corresponding Author: Ojobah Christian

Background to the Study

The issue of insecurity and wanton destruction of lives and properties are major menaces that have positioned as the greatest enemies of the Nigerian state in the 20st century. These cankerworms, contradicts and disavows the ideologies that National security is a premise for national economic growth and development of nations. The speed with which evil is growing in Nigeria and the merciless ways that lives of acquitted ones are being wasted are worrisome. People are burdened on a daily basis with psychological and emotional trauma resulting from gory sights of lifeless and mutilated bodies of loved family members, close associates and colleagues littered on the streets, public squares and everywhere (Jacob & Andrew, 2016).

Nwanegbo and Odigbo (2013) in Jacob and Andrew (2016) noted that "security is the pillar upon which every meaningful development could be achieved and sustained". Painstakingly, Nigeria as a nation state according to Jacob and Andrew has witnessed unprecedented series of agitations in the forms of kidnapping and abduction, armed robberies, bombing, and carnages of all forms and magnitude in the past decade and a half. Synonymously, Adejumo (2011) in Jacob and Andrew (2016) insisted that "in fairness, insecurity is not a problem that is unique to Nigeria. It has geographical spread across the globe. The United States, United Kingdom and many countries face the challenges of insecurity within their borders on a daily basis". The difference between these nations and Nigeria according to Adejumo (2013) in Jacob and Andrew (2016) is how they manage the threats which rather makes it complex and frightening.

The activities of the Islamic sect (Boko Haram) had led to loss of lives and properties in the country especially in the Northern part of Nigeria. Some of these activities include bombing, suicide bomb attacks, sporadic shooting of unarmed and innocent citizens, burning of police stations, churches, kidnapping of school girls and women, etc. Kidnapping, rape, armed robbery and political crises, murder, destruction of oil facilities by Niger Delta militants alongside the attacks carried out by Fulani Herdsmen on some communities in the North and South; the unknown gun men attack on police stations and army Military checking points, and the secessionist agitation by the Indigenous People of Biafra (IPOB) that has resulted to wanton destruction of lives and properties and Oduduwa Republic agitators have been another major insecurity challenge facing the country (Callister, 2015).

All these agitations are occurring at the post COVID-19 pandemic which served as major attack on human race after the first and Second World War, thus, has ridiculed economic cum political strata of the nations of the world. Nigeria, according to Callister has been included among one of the terrorist countries of the world. Many lives and properties have been lost and a large number of citizens rendered homeless. Families have lost their loved ones; many women are now widows; children become orphans with no hope of the future (Callister, 2015).

This, according to Callister has implications for national development and had made frantic efforts to tackle these challenges posed by terrorism and insecurity in the country and put an end to it but the rate of insurgency and insecurity according to Callister is still alarming. The

events surrounding September 11, 2001 and other recent events of terrorism across the globe especially the current wave of terrorism in Nigeria, had focused our minds on issues of terrorism and insecurity. In all these agitations by these splinter groups, Social Media has stood over time as mechanism of capturing, storing and broadcasting the theatrical manifestations of these malicious pandemonium, which often times, are manifesting through violence (Patrick, 2020).

It is on this ground therefore that this study aims at identifying the role of social media in the fight against insecurity issues in the Nigerian state. To achieve this aim, Content and Analytical Methodology and Narrative theory are employed as guide.

Aim and Objectives of the Study
The aim of this study is to interrogate the role of Social Media in documenting and disseminating insecurity issues in the post COVID-19 pandemic. The objectives include:
  i.   To ascertain the role of social media in the fight against insecurity in Nigeria in the post COVID-19 pandemic.
  ii. To identify factors militating social media in the fight against insecurity in Nigeria in the post COVID-19 Pandemic.
  iii. To ascertain the cause and effect of insecurity in the Nigeria in the post COVID-19 pandemic.
  iv. To proffer useful suggestions on possible ways of curbing insecurity in the Nigerian state in the post COVID-19 pandemic.

Research Questions
  i.   What are the roles of social media in the fight against insecurity in Nigeria in the post COVID-19 pandemic? b. What are the factors militating social media in the fight against insecurity in Nigeria in the post COVID-19 pandemic?
  ii. What are the cause and effects of insecurity in Nigeria in the post COVID-19 pandemic?
  iii. e. What are the useful suggestions on possible ways of curbing insecurity in Nigeria in the post COVID-19 pandemic?

Significance of the Study
This study will be of great importance, as it will provide necessary information on the roles of social media in the fight against insecurity in Nigeria in post COVID-19 pandemic. It will also provide further research in combating insecurity in Nigeria. The study will also be useful for further purposes and for further researches into insecurity in the post COVID-19 pandemic within and outside the country.

Scope of the Study
The study will be restricted to identifying the roles of social media in the fight against insecurity in the Nigerian state in the post COVID-19 pandemic. It will also identify the factors militating social media in the fight against insecurity in Nigeria. More so, the study will thereafter identify the cause and effects of insecurity in Nigeria in the post COVID-19 pandemic. Finally, solutions to insecurity issues in Nigeria will also be sought in the cause of this research.

Insecurity in Nigeria in Post COVID-19 Pandemic

The first insecurity issue after the post COVID-19 pandemic in Nigeria is the #EndSARS agitation. On this, Oluwole (2021) avers that "over the last two weeks, protests organized around #EndSARS—the mass action calling for a complete ban of the Special Anti-Robbery Squad (SARS) of the Nigerian police force—has rocked cities across Nigeria. Set up in the mid-1990s to combat incidences of armed robbery, SARS has over the years metamorphosed into a force associated with harassment of innocent citizens, extortion at gunpoint, and extrajudicial killings of suspects". More so, the #EndSARS protests have become a symbol for broader resentment and opened the path for marginalized Nigerian youths to vent bottled-up grievances against the government, starting with the excesses of SARS, which the government has failed to address after several promises of reform (Oluwole, 2021).

Ironically, Oluwole (2021) asserts that "hoodlums have taken advantage of the security vacuum created by the #EndSARS protest and the anger that instigated it". The attendant action of jail breaks potentially foreshadows dangers for overall security in the country. In addition, simmering separatist tendencies in some regions and any misplaced response by government could create opportunities for such groups to deepen their rhetoric and mobilization. Protesters were however harassed and attacked by security forces and armed thugs in Abuja, the Federal Capital Territory, and some states. On October 20, social media footage showing men identified as military officers shooting at peaceful protesters in Lagos sparked global outrage. Several people were reportedly killed but the death toll remains uncertain (Adejumo, 2011).

Before then, the COVID-19 pandemic rattled Nigeria's socio-economic landscape and highlighted serious gaps in the country's social protection system. COVID-19 also exacerbated challenges in the humanitarian response in Nigeria's northeast region, where the government's armed conflict with the Islamist extremist armed group Boko Haram, now in its 11th year, has left over 7.5 million people in need of humanitarian assistance. Insecurity in the region persisted as Boko Haram and its splinter faction, Islamic State West Africa Province (ISWAP), continued to launch attacks against civilian, humanitarian, and military targets. At least 363 civilians were killed by the Islamist insurgents between January and September (John, 2020).

In August, authorities in Borno State in the northeast announced plans to send 1,860,000 Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) and refugees back to their communities despite ongoing safety concerns. Sixteen days after IDPs were returned to Kukawa Local Government Area on August 18, Boko Haram insurgents attacked the community and abducted at least 100 people. The government continued to participate in forced returns of Nigerian refugees from Cameroon. In the northwest and parts of the south, inter-communal violence continued as herder-allied armed groups, vigilantes, and criminal gangs killed hundreds of civilians, kidnapped people for ransom, and raided cattle. Widespread sexual violence against women and girls, including an attack that led to the death of a student in May, spurred a national outcry and prompted the authorities to declare a national emergency over rape and sexual violence.

To further navigate on the insecurity issues in the Nigerian state, mostly on the aspect of Fulani Herdsmen clash with the local farmers, Idowu (2017) according to John (2018) submits that the violence between herdsmen and farmers has displaced more than 100,000 people in Benue and Enugu States and left them under the care of relatives or in makeshift Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) camps while many are still struggling to rebuild their lives. The Global Terrorism Index (GTI) according to John recently placed the Nigeria's Fulani herdsmen as the world's fourth deadliest militant group for having accounted for about 1,229 deaths in 2014 (Dulue & Obi, 2021).

On the other hand, thousands of people with mental health conditions according to Kenneth (2020) remain chained and locked up in various facilities, including state hospitals, rehabilitation centers, traditional healing centers, and both Christian and Islamic faith-based facilities. In February, the Senate Committee on Health held a public hearing on a draft mental health bill. Further, the forms of secessionist attacks have abruptly questioned the unity of the Nigerian state. For example, Dulue and Obi (2021) avers that "the state no longer has the monopoly of force, its lost control," Idayat Hassan, director of the Abuja-based Centre for Democracy and Development, told The New Humanitarian.

From the north to the south, life has become nasty, brutish, and short. Gunmen stormed the Imo State police command in Owerri on Monday, using explosives to get in (Patrick, 2020). They then looted the armoury, torched the building, and headed to the nearby Owerri Correctional Centre, where they freed over 1,800 prisoners. Police officials said the attackers were members of the Eastern Security Network (ESN), the armed wing of the secessionist movement the Indigenous People of Biafra (IPOB). That group is demanding independence for the region, although it has denied its involvement.

Further, since the Fourth Nigerian Republic was founded in 1999, many people were killed in the Fulani-farmer violence due to an expansion of the agriculturist population and deteriorating environmental conditions. Insecurity and violence have led many people to create self-defense forces and militias, and they participated in further violence, especially between Muslim Fulani herdsmen and Christian farmers (Bukari, Sow, & Scheffran, 2018). Recently, Christian leaders in Nigeria claimed that 6,000 people were killed at the beginning of this year by the Muslim Fulani group, and the majority of people who were murdered are women and children (Clark, 2018).

The frequent attacks on the Nigeria farmers weakened the communities' growth. According to the International Crisis Group, the conflict between Nigerian farmers and herders killed at least 1,300 people in the first half of 2018. Since the beginning of 2018, more than 18 people from Benue State were killed, and thousands of people were displaced because of attacks. Also, people living in the Southern region were impacted by the Boko Haram insurgency. Government's failure to handle the insurgency quickly caused social instability and pressure (Clark, 2018).

Summing the three forms of insecurity in Nigeria, Dulue and Obi (2021) aver that "the Igbo-speaking southeast is Nigeria's new zone of instability. It adds to a long list of other security troubles, including jihadist violence in the northeast that has left 11 million people in need of aid; unchecked banditry in the northwest; piracy and organized crime in the Niger Delta, and pastoralist-farmer clashes in much of the rest of the country that have displaced hundreds of thousands of people. Armed gangs, operating out of poorly administered rural areas – or the neglected shanty towns of cities – are part of a deeply entrenched criminal industry".

Causes of Insecurity in Nigeria in the Post COVID-19 Pandemic
The discontent among youth was already simmering given the economic crisis sparked by the fall in global oil demand (and compounded by the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic), institutionalized corruption, and state profligacy that have drawn more Nigerians into poverty. The foregoing coincided with eight months of closure of educational institutions due to strikes held by University lecturers, leaving many young people alienated and angry. According to the National Bureau of Statistics, as of the second quarter of 2020, the unemployment rate in Nigeria stood at a staggering 27.1 percent and the underemployment rate at 28.6 percent. Of the 21.7 million unemployed, young people (aged 15 to 34) account for a whopping 34.9 percent. They also account for 28.2 percent of the 22.9 million underemployed Nigerians.

Worsening economic conditions and bleak projections for the future have only fanned the flames. The country has barely recovered from the economic recession that started 2016, and President Buhari has now called on Nigerians to brace for another recession. Youth were already incensed by reports of high-level elite's corruption, galloping inflation, and unprecedented levels of unemployment, and now the government has announced increase in the price of the fuel and an electricity tariff. So many opinions have been aired on the present epoch of disorderliness plaguing the front of the Nigeria state (John, 2020).

These opinions, though diversified, highlights that Nigeria is a lawless state, thus, is at the point of tumbling; which demands international attention. For instance, a former United States Ambassador to Nigeria, John Campbell, and a former Director with Harvard University's Kennedy School of Government, Prof. Robert Rothberg, have said it is time for the US to acknowledge that Nigeria is a failed state in the light of the many challenges plaguing the country. In an article titled, 'The Giant of Africa is Failing' which was published in the May/June edition of 'Foreign Affairs' magazine, they argued that every part of Nigeria now faces insecurity which threatens the nation's corporate existence.

Concept of Social Media
Social Media is an online platform which people use to build social networks or social relations with other people who share similar personal or career interests, activities, backgrounds or real-life connections (Akram & Kumar, 2017). Social media consists of computer-based technologies for easy communication, interaction and collaboration. They are digitally-mediated communication software that enable users to create, share and view content in publicly networked one-to-one, one-to-many, and/or many-to-many communications (Hopkins, 2017). The low cost and accessibility of new social media devices according to

Akram and Kumar (2017) also allowed more options for media consumption than ever before and so instead of a few new outlets, individuals now have the ability to seek information from several sources and to dialogue with others though message forum about the information's posted (Akram & Kumar, 2017).

All social media involves some sorts of social platforms, whether that be mobile or stationary. Against this backdrop, John (2020) avers that "not everything that is digital, however, is necessarily social media".

Popular Social Media Tools and Platforms:
1) Blogs: it is a platform for casual dialogue and discussions on a specific topic or opinion.
2) Facebook: The world's largest social network, with more than 1.55 billion monthly active users (as of the third quarter of 2015). Users create a personal profile, add other users as friends, and exchange messages, including status updates. Brands create pages and Facebook users can "like" brands' pages.
3) Twitter: A social networking/micro-blogging platform that allows groups and individuals to stay connected through the exchange of short status messages (140 character limit).
4) YouTube/Vimeo: Video hosting and watching websites.
5) Flickr: An image and video hosting website and online community. Photos can be shared on Facebook and Twitter and other social networking sites.
6) Instagram: A free photo and video sharing app that allows users to apply digital filters, frames and special effects to their photos and then share them on a variety of social networking sites.
7) LinkedIn: A place where groups of professionals with similar areas of interest can share information and participate in a conversations.

Benefit of Social Media to the Society
Social Media as trend of communication and sharing of ideas, possess inherent and cordial benefit to the people and the society at large. Many business organizations according to Mohammed (2019) are on Social Media today to engage with their users, audiences to promote their business. Appearance on Social Media for business generates a significant impact on their product and services. Social Media helps the business organizations to improve their brands in numbers of ways and get back with a genuine audience (Hopkin, 2017). Let's say we are looking to buy a new TV. We are interested in a particular brand and model, even stumbling upon a slick banner ad that told all the astonishing features of the TV. While quoting Luna (2018), Mohammed (2019) assert that "who would we believe, the ad, or our friend? The proliferation of internet data and the influence of social media has given the consumer a power they've never had in all of consumer history".

Another social media benefits according to Mohammed (2019) is insight and market intelligence. Social media according to Mohammed is an easy way to learn about our audience, and it's also less expensive than traditional market research methods such

as surveys and focus groups. You can use social media to gain vital information on competitors, who they are, what content they're sharing, what their customers are saying about them, and so on. Social media intelligence can help firms track brand health and market structure and can even provide a leading indicator of shifts in consumer sentiment (Mohammed, 2019).

Negative Effects of Social Media to the Society
According to Mohammed (2019), there are several concerns assessed in this research related to social media usage in society around the world. Privacy is the number one concerns of social media and the internet through many ill-usage. Based on this, Palfrey (2010), in Mohammed (2019), assert that the inappropriate use of technology, absence of privacy, sharing of private data, and dropping testimony on user sites, vulnerable teenagers for threats and notable hazard. The hacker can reach users of data that the user leaves on the sites browses continuously this allows the hacker to be able to get the registry data from one site to enforce threats.

Still on this, Laun (2018) in Mohammed (2019) aver that "the social media users now have the power to find to inform and educate themselves. If the average Facebook user has 250 friends, posting a product or service review to those friends and getting just one re-post from them, spreads that review to 62,500 people. One more re-post from those people reached 15.6 million people in only two re-posts for free. Based, wrong product or service review can negatively and significantly affect business organizations. The idea that consumer backlash could force the company to change policy because if reach was historically exclusive to instances that caught national news attention (Joshua and Chijoke, 2018).

Theoretical Framework
To understand how the mass media could play meaningful role in combating insecurity in Nigeria in post COVID-19 pandemic would require a theoretical explanation. This is because mass communication theories according to Chinenye and Emelda (2013) explain the likely effect of mass communication process in the society. This interrogation is anchored on agenda –setting theory. The agenda setting basically states that the media, through frequent coverage of issues determine what the dominant discussion would be. The theory according to McQuail (2008) as quoted by Pate (2012), in Chinenye and Emelda (2013) says the media may not tell us what to think, but they divert our minds to what to think about.

By frequently reporting certain issues, the media according to Chinenye and Emelda (2013) move those issues from press agenda to public agenda. Through frequent, meaningful and responsible coverage of acts that breed insecurity in Nigeria, the media can sensitize the public against such against. Frequent discussions on issues of insecurity according to Chinenye and Emelda will not just attract attention to the need to address such problems but also raise consciousness on the need to combat insecurity.

Methodology
This research work employed the case study and content analysis research approaches of the qualitative research method. It involves explaining the issue, describing, analyzing and interpreting data on the analysis of the role of Social Media on insecurity issues in the

Nigerian state in the post COVID-19 pandemic era. It is qualitative because it deals with the analysis of the cause and effects of insecurity issues and descriptive because it involves the use of ideas to describe and analyze the role of Social Media in the fight against insecurity issues in Nigeria. To achieve this, the study employed the primary and secondary sources. The primary source is the researchers' ideas concerning the cause and effects of insecurity in the Nigerian society in the post COVID-19 pandemic, while the secondary source includes materials from the institutional publications, articles, journals, text books, internets, research materials, among others.

Social Media and Insecurity Issue in Nigeria
Social media have really contributed so much in tracking perpetrators of crimes in the Nigerian state in the post COVID-19 pandemic era. Examples of such perpetrators of crime include kidnappers, armed robbers, rapists, assassins, among others. We are responsive that one arena where the social media have continued to employ right from its assumption within the matrix of media surveillance is in relation to security, thus has contributed towards combating of terrorism.

Further, Social Media platforms are used in advancing social and national insecurity, such as the situation in the northern and south-eastern parts of Nigeria. For some years now, terrorism and propaganda have engulfed the northern part of Nigeria by insurgent groups while separatist groups have also carried out demonstrations in the south-east (Chinenye and Emelda, 2013). Each of these groups is using various kinds of online media to propagate their agenda. Through the use of social media platforms such as Facebook, Instagram, WhatsApp, Twitter, the heinous activities by these unpatriotic sects in the northern region are reported and the government of all level are usually aware of the daily happenings in the region.

The kidnapping of the Chibok School Girls and other kidnapping activities in the region were made none to the general public through the use of Social Media. It is also through the reportage of Social Media that it was discovered that the hideout of the dreaded Boko Haram sect is Sambisa Forest. More so, the recent Fulani Herdsmen and farmers clashes in more than Fifteen (15) states in Nigeria were daily reported, which creates awareness to the general public.

The #EndSARS demonstration in the Nigerian major cities by angry youths were captured and made known to the general public through the social media and the heinous killings of over Twenty Five (25) youths in Lekki Toll Gate was captured and immediately circulated through Social Media Platforms even when cameras at the Toll Gate were removed to avoid traces of such activities (Kenneth, 2020).

In like manner, the malicious attacks of police stations and killing of police and military officials in the Nigerian state by unidentified gunmen that has threatened the peace and harmony of the Nigerian state in the post COVID-19 pandemic were captured by secret viewers who ultimately shared through Social Media, and was subsequently and officially made known through television and radio broadcast.

Recently, the secessionist activism by the members of the Indigenous People of Biafra and the Oduduwa republic agitators were also made known to the general public through elements of Social media. The response by the state government of the affected states and the central government was also made known through Social Media. Most times, the government may not be at peace with the Social Media when the general public uses Social Media platforms to escalate propagandas, which sometimes is fake news (Joshua and Chijioke, 2018, in Chinenye and Emelda, 2013).

Opinions on Insecurity Issues in Nigeria
So many critics have analysed the insecurity issues in the Nigeria state in the post COVID-19 pandemic era. Some believes that Nigeria, due to her inability to curb insecurity issues plaguing her state should be declared as a failed state. Against this backdrop, Campbell and Rotberg (2021) in their article, noted that "Nigeria's worldwide companions, particularly the USA, should acknowledge that Nigeria is now a failed state". In recognition of that truth, they need to deepen their engagement with the nation and search to carry the present administration accountable for its failures, while additionally working with it to supply safety and proper financial system (Adejumo, 2011).

In like manner, Campbell and Rotberg (2021) aver that "even the police have found it difficult to curb crime due to the sophisticated weapons that criminals wield". To this, Campbell and Rotberg insisted that "underneath the administration of President Muhammadu Buhari, a number of overlapping safety crises has remodeled Nigeria from a weak state right into a failed one". Buhari's authorities according to Campbell and Rotberg has struggled to quell numerous Jihadi insurgencies, together with the one waged by the militant group Boko Haram," the article read.

Campbell and Rotberg said the Federal Government seemed to have given up in some areas because non-state actors had taken over while quasi-police organisations and militias controlled by state governments had become more common. The authors stated that due to kidnappings and other crimes, several schools had been forced to shut down. "Regional quasi-police forces and militias—generally related to state governments however not often formally sanctioned—train de facto authority in some areas. However, in lots of others, the federal authorities have successfully ceded management to militants and criminals," the article read. The authors of the article maintained that most failed states in Africa such the Central African Republic, Somalia, and South Sudan are small or marginal but Nigeria, in contrast, boasts a rising inhabitants of over 200 million people and could be the third-largest country on earth by 2050.

Campbell and Rotberg (2021) said happenings in Nigeria also affect other areas of Africa which shows Nigeria's importance. They said even though Nigeria still has some signs of being viable, its structure which relies largely on oil receipts, undermines growth as well as deep-rooted corruption. Further, Campbell and Rotberg writes that "however the Nigerian state has long failed to supply its residents with social companies and Nigerian politics is basically an elite sport disassociated from governance". The Federal Government according Campbell

and Rotberg doesn't or cannot tax the true wealth of the nation, stays too depending on income from oil and gasoline, and lurches from one fiscal disaster to a different. Corruption is structural, too, casting almost everybody as each perpetrator and sufferer," the article read.

Finally, Campbell and Rotberg argued that "the US ought to assist the push for a formidable Nigerian-led state reconstruction effort. The authors also recommended that through conferences, technical recommendations, and different instruments of "comfortable diplomacy," the US ought to help civil society and Nigerian non-governmental organisations in their efforts to strengthen the nation's democracy.

These observations raised are plausible owing to the fact that former Nigerian President, Chief Olusegun Obasanjo, at the Sixteenth edition of the prayer breakfast organized for him by the Ogun State Chapter of the Christian Association of Nigeria "that the insecurity issues are far more the federal government can manage, stressing that what the country needs at this point in time was prayers to God, for His intervention to rescue Nigeria. The elder statesman further stated that "because of the gravity of damage done to the country, there was a need for the Nigerian nation to be healed". Chief Olusegun Obasanjo further listed the issue militating against the peace and development of Nigeria to include insecurity, secessionist agitation, banditry, kidnapping and gross corruption in government. Now, the issue is further aggravated by the present action taken by the Buhari administration, the Twitter ban.

In conclusion, Chief Olusegun in his word noted that "we have some challenges. These are beyond what we can handle. We have to pray to god. Our land needs to be healed. We have been overwhelmed. Those in government, executive, legislative, public servants, civil servants, private sector, we are overwhelmed".

Conclusion
From the study, it is pertinent to deduce unequivocally that Social Media platforms, such as Facebook, WhatsApp, Twitter, Instagram and other communication gadgets have distinctively assisted towards capturing and disseminating of crucial information's as it concerns conflicts, agitations, and general insecurity in the Nigerian state. With the use of the above platforms, first hand information's of insecurity activities in the Nigerian states in the post COVID-19 pandemic are shared to the general public even before journalist or television and radio representatives would arrive to capture the event. This is so because the sharers of these lucrative first hand information's are victims of insecurity. Most of the sharer also lost their lives after sharing such important post, while some, out of fear, in their hideout, documents and share immediately to the general public.

The reason for such post is for security assistance and most times, they get rescued by the police or military personnel's, while in few occasions, the assistance that they crave for, never comes or comes few hours after the deal is done.

Recommendations

From the study, the following recommendations are drafted.

1. The study insist that the social media houses should be empowered and protected as that would increase confidence in the discharge of duty.
2. Social Media laws should be established by the Federal Government to monitor the activities of social media users to avoid fake news reportage.
3. Social satellites should be enhanced to accommodate live broadcasts of events in the Nigerian society.

References

Adejumo, A. A. (2011). The problems and challenges of insecurity in Nigeria, Retrieved 09.06.2021 from http://newsdiaryonline.com/tok_security.html.

Akram, W. & Kumar, R. (2017). A study on positive and negative effects of social media on society, *International Journal of Computer Sciences and Engineering*, 5 (10).

Bukari, K., N, Sow, P., & Scheffran, J. (2018). Cooperation and co-existence between farmers and Herders in the midst of violent farmer-herder conflicts in Ghana, *African Studies Review, 61*, (2).

Callister, K. O. (2015). Foreign policy, National and regional insecurity, *Journal of Humanities and Social Sciences, 19* (6), 6-11

Campbell, H. & Rotberg, R. I. (2021). *Nigeria is a failed State*, Retrieved on 17th of June, 2021 from https://foreignpolicy.com/2021/05/27/nigeria-is-a-failed-state/

Chinenye, N. & Emelda, E. (2013). Mass media relevance in combating insecurity in Nigeria, *International Journal of Development and Sustainability*, *2* (2), 861-870

Clark, E. (2018). *Insecurity: Restructuring's the way out,* Retrieved on 18th of June, 2021 fromhttps://www.vanguardngr.com/2018/08/insecurity-restructurings-the-way-out-clark/

Dulue, M. & Obi, A. (2021). *Nigeria unhappy union: How growing insecurity threatens the country's future*, Retrieved on 10th of June, 2021 from https://www.thenewhumanitarian.org/ Analysis/2021/4/8/how-growing-insecurity-threatens-nigerias-future

Hopkin, J. (2017). *How to define social media – An academic summary*, Retrieved 12th June, 2021 from http://julianhopkins.com/how-to-define-social-media-an-academic-summary/

Ifeyinwa, N. & Emmanuel, C. O. (*2017).* Social media and security challenges in Nigeria: The way forward, *World Applied Science Journal, 35* (6), 993-999

Jacob, O. & Andrew, A. O. (2016). Terrorism and insecurity in Nigeria: Moral, values and religious education as panaceas, *Journal of Education and Practice, 6 (*11), 123-134

John, C. (2020). *Insecurity in northeast Nigeria and beyond,* Retrieved on 18th of June, 2021 from *https://www.brookings.edu › events › insecurity-in-*

Joshua, E. B. & Chijioke, F. O. (2018). The impacts of social media on national security: A view from the Northern and South-Eastern Region of Nigeria, *International Review of Management and Marketing, Econjournals, 8*(5), 50-59.

Keneth, R. (2020). *Nigeria events of 2020*, Retrieved on 10th July, 2021 from https://www.hrw.org/world-report/2021/country-chapters/nigeria

Mohammed, K. (2019). *Impact of social media on s*ociety, Retrieved on 12th June, 2021 from https://www.researchgate.net/publication/333671238_Impact_of_social_media_on_society

Oluwole, O. (2021). *Rising insecurity in northwest Nigeria: Terrorism thinly disguised as ba*nditry, Retrieved on 18th June, 2021 from https://www.brookings.edu/blog/africa-in-focus/2021/02/18/rising-insecurity-in-northwest-nigeria-terrorism-thinly-disguised-as-banditry/

Patrick, E. (2020). *50 Years on, Biafra trouble still fresh*, Retrieved on the 10th of June, 2021 from https://foreignpolicy.com/2020/06/11/nigeria-biafra-kanu-reconciliation-independence/