Poverty and National Security: Government Initiative in Perspectives

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A b s t r a c t

The paper examined the intricate connections between poverty, national security and government programmes aimed at promoting the general economic wellbeing of the citizens. The paper relied largely on secondary sources and used the frustration aggression theory to show that the poverty level of the people is largely responsible for the huge insecurity challenges faced by the country. The paper examined the numerous poverty alleviation programmes embarked upon by successive administrative in Nigeria, the findings shows that only an infestiminal number have benefitted from these programmes. The paper therefore recommended among others for a comprehensive review that will ensure that the people are carried along by consulting them. Also the paper recommended for better transparency in the execution of the programmes through regular evaluation to measure the impact on the poor.

Keywords: *Poverty, National security, Inequality, Government initiative, Social deprivations*

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Background to the Study

Mass poverty is synonymous with failure in security globally; poverty has become a not solely humanitarian concern, but it can threaten the security of a state. Poverty erodes a state's capacity to prevent the spread of disease and protect the natural environments forest and watersheds. Poverty creates the conditions conducive to transnational criminal and terrorist activity, luring desperate individuals to be recruited into activities which are against their conscience but they had to be involved in the crime for survival purposes, undermining the ability of the state to prevent and counter those violent threats. Poverty can also give rise to tensions that can erupt into full blown civil conflicts. Further taxing the state and allowing transnational predators greater freedom of action Rice (2016:6). From the foregoing one fundamental threat to National Security Identified is *poverty*. Therefore, we can understand why governments globally target poverty reduction or eradication is a major goal of government, especially in Third World countries. Although poverty is found in all societies of the world, we should note that it is a social problem, poverty creates pervasive and widespread inequality that is a threat to national security.

Therefore, in this paper we shall explicate the concept of poverty, and National security. We shall also identify and discuss the programs of the Government aimed at alleviating and eradicating poverty. Part four of the paper will also present a global perspective of poverty and strategies to tackle the scourge championed by the United Nations for different countries of the world and part five will contain a discussion on two critical factors that constitute a threat to Nigeria's national security namely corruption and disruption of oil supplies through vandalism of oil pipelines and how this threatens the survival of Nigeria. The conclusion and recommendation is in the last part of the paper.

Statement of the Problem

The paper attempts to establish a link between poverty and insecurity in Nigeria. The paper is alarmed by the rate of growth in poverty as a result of poor performance of the several poverty alleviation programmes. Nigeria was recently declared by the world poverty clock (2018) as the poverty capital of the world. The paper therefore took interest in finding out why Nigeria has performed poorly in spite of numerous poverty alleviation programmes and projects. The brookings institute have shown that more than 643 million people across the world live in extreme poverty living on less than $1.90 per day and that Africans accounted for two thirds of the total number. The growth of unemployment, the youth bulge and other indicators shows clearly that there are more people thrown into poverty on a dialy basis making the citizens to be insecure and therefore compounding the security situation of the country. Therefore, the paper will attempt to answer the question (i) Why is the poverty situation worsening in Nigeria in spite of the poverty alleviation programmes put up by successive administrations in Nigeria? (ii) Is there a nexus between poverty and the widespread insecurity in Nigeria?

Theoretical Framework

The paper relied on and used the frustration naggression theory to discuss the various drivers of insecurity in Nigeria. The theory was developed by Dollard, Miller, Doob,

Mowrer and Sears (1939) and further developed by other scholars who argue that when people perceive that they are prevented from achieving a goal, their frustration is likely to turn to aggression. The closer you get to your goal, the greater the excitement of the pleasure. Thus the closer you are to you're the more frustrated you get being held back. Unexpected occurrence of the frustration also increases the likelihood of aggression. This theory tends to fit into the desires of many Nigerians who had hopes of being removed from poverty but their hopes were dashed by the failures in the implementation of the programmes of poverty alleviation.

The Conceptualization of Poverty and National Security
As is usually the problematique of defining concepts in the social sciences, because there is no one single universally acceptable definition that is usually adequate, we shall examine a few of these definitions. Poverty is the condition or quality of being poor and the condition of having little or no wealth. It is the deficiency or inadequate supply meaning that there exists lack in the face of need. Muhammad (2012:243). Consequently, upon this understanding of poverty Haralambos and Herald (1980) defined poverty as absolute issues which involves human needs and are measured in terms of resources required to maintain health and physical efficiency. So critical in this definition is the ability to maintain health and physical efficiency. According to Eteng and Anam (2019), poverty is an old phenomenon which confronts many people especially rural dwellers. Poverty results in lack of qualitative education, lack of portable water, and inadequate medical facilities in a state.

Poverty defined in absolute terms as the one above measures poverty in relation to the amount of money necessary to meet basis needs such as food, clothing and shelter. The concept of absolute poverty is not concerned with the broader quality of life issue or with the overall level of inequality in society. Also according to Aliyu (2002) poverty consists of two interacting deprivations – Physiological and social physiological deprivation is the inability of individuals to meet or achieve basic materials and physiological needs which can be measured either by a lack of income (which limits access to food, education, health, housing, water and sanitation, service), or by the failure to achieve desired outcomes such as high quality diet (rich micronutrients), health status, educational attainment and the quality of health, water and sanitation services reached. While social deprivations refer to an absence of elements that are empowering, such as autonomy time, information, dignity and self-esteem. Lack of empowerment is reflected in exclusion from important decision making processes, even when the outcomes are of considerable importance to the poor. Examples are decisions about public investments in the local community and management of common properties and priorities for agriculture research and extension.

Social exclusions arose as a result of the shortcomings of the definitions which sees poverty largely from income and consumption perspectives. The concept of social exclusion emerged largely in reaction to this type of narrow definition of poverty. The World Bank (2001) described poverty in terms of its manifestations which can be linked

to the lack of income and assets to attain basic necessities of life. These are food, shelter, clothing, and acceptable level of health and education such as rudeness, humiliation, shame, inhuman treatment and exploitation in the hands of the people in authority, absence of rule of law, lack of protection against violence. From the foregoing, many factors coverage to make poverty an interlocking, multi-dimensional phenomenon. It can be seen as lack of voice, power and independence that subjects the poor to exploitation and leave them vulnerable to rudeness, humiliation and inhuman treatment. Some scholars think the cause of poverty to exploitation. However, whatever reason or circumstances are used to explain poverty a common denominator to it in respect of the condition of the poor is that it tends to produce similar response – insecurity within the family setting with a concomitant effect on the entire nation.

According, to the World Bank (2005) estimate that 1,345 billion poor people in the developing countries live on USD $1.25 a day. Extreme poverty remains an alarming problem in the world developing regions. Extreme poverty literally kills, according to Bramard and Chollet (2007:3). This claim is true both directly through hunger, malnutrition and disease and indirectly, by leaving poor countries vulnerable to domestic upheavals and war and by generating transnational threat that endanger regional and international security. It is important to acknowledge that poverty and violence reinforce one another giving credence to the diction in Nigerian local parlance that "a hungry man is an angry man". But we must note that their specific relationship is mediated by the context specific drivers ranging from resource scarcity, 'to weak institution, to malignant political leadership to demographic trends. Like a spider web, each country is unique, there is no single route to prosperity or penury, no single path to peace or war. Every country will have to navigates its way out of the scourge of poverty or remain perpetually under conflicts and violence.

The significance of security in society and nation states has shown to us that it cannot be neglected but special attention needs to allocate to it in order not to completely erase any trace of society. It should be noted that the state itself is founded according to the social contract theorist on the basis of guaranteeing the security of all. Governments all over the world have pursued the safety and comfort of its citizens by investing heavily on security. This therefore launches us into the significance of the cold war era. During this period the focuses was on the traditional approach to security which is state centric. Insecurity was therefore, conceived as threats to the state and the need to defend the state from such threats which accounted for the race for arms and nuclear weapons. The survival of the state as an entity instead of the individual was usually the preoccupation. In the post-cold war era scholars now place emphasis on the security of the individual. What is now known as Human Security. Security issues are therefore those of a political, strategic, economic, social, or ecological in nature. However, scholars are divided on the relationship between poverty and insecurity. However, we shall conceptualize National Security by examining some few definitions.

National Security

National Security is an appropriate and aggressive blend of political resilience and maturity, human resource, economic structures and capacity technological competence, industrial base and availability of natural resources and finally the military might" Also Maier's (1993:5) defined National Security through National power by saying that National Security

> … is best described as *a capacity to control those domestic and foreign conditions that the public opinion of a given community believes necessary to enjoy its own self-determinations or autonomy prosperity and wellbeing.*

Paleri (2008:521) also defined National Security as:

> *the measurable state of the capability of a nation to overcome the multi-dimensional threats to the apparent well-being of its people and its survival as a nation-state at any given time, by balancing all instruments of state policy through governance, that can be indexed by computation, empirically or otherwise and is extendable to global security by variables external to it.*

From the definitions above we can assume that the security of a nation is predicated on two central pillars as explained by McGrew (1988:101) namely: a Nations security on one hand entails the maintenance and protection of the socio-economic order in the face of internal and external threat. On the other, it entails the promotion of a preferred international order, which minimize the threat to core value and interest as well as to the domestic order. In his analysis of national security in Nigeria, Dike (2010) affirmed that Nigeria's security is based on a holistic view which sees the citizens as the primary beneficiaries of every security and developmental deliverable that the state can offer. He further said that Nigeria national security have two major components namely (1) broad elements that is state security and human security. That the primary objectives of Nigeria National Security shall be to strengthen the Federal Republic of Nigeria to advance her interest and objectives to enhance genuine development progress and growth and improve the welfare and well being and quality of life of every citizen. The second aspect of the nation's national security entails the preservation of the safety of Nigerians at home and abroad and the protection of the sovereignty of the countries integrity and its interest.

The task of guaranteeing human security according to Omede (2011:92) is enshrined in the constitution of the Nations around the world. In Nigeria section 197 of the 1979; 215 of the 1989 and 218 of the 1999 constitution clearly spelt out the functions of the military as;

> *'defending Nigeria from external aggression, maintaining its territorial integrity and security its borders from violation on land, sea, and air, suppressing insurrection and acting in aid of civil authorities to restore order when called upon to do so by the president; but subjected to such conditions as may be prescribed by an Act of the National Assembly and performing such other functions as may be prescribed by an act of the national Assembly'*

Consequently from the above we can immediately see that the Nations Security is seen from two angles and each is complementary to the other.

The Drivers of Insecurity in Nigeria
i)   Poverty
ii)   Unemployment
iii)   Infrastructural decay
iv)   Rural urban migration
v)   Corruption
vi)   Economic mismanagement
vii)   Lack of Quality Education
viii)   Availability Of Small Arms And Light Weapons
ix)   Youth Bulge
x)   Ungoverned Spaces

Since the attainment of democratic system of governance in 1999, following a prolong period of military rule spanning, over 2year several policies embarked upon by the military saw Nigerians being marginalized and alienated from the state. In particular, the adoption of the Structural Adjustment Programme in June 1986 by the Babangidas administration brought along with it a high incidence of poverty, unemployment, rural–urban migration, corruption and economic mismanagement that brought other forms of hardship on the populace. This untold hardship brought upon the vast majority of Nigerians made most citizens to be denied or lacked basic essentials that enhance the quality of life such as lack of access to quality education, effective health care, portable water, decent shelter, employment and other necessities of daily life in order to make people feel secure. This inadequacy and challenges has created a frustration of rising expectations which in turn has resulted in violence, kidnapping, armed robberies, prostitution terrorism and the recent trend of religious fundamentalist agitating against the values and ideals particularly education. Although a number of scholars have tried to linked poverty with violence others have actually blamed poverty as the cause of violence or violence causes poverty so again we are faced with the chicken and egg scenario which is first.

We can argue that the upsurge in violence has been attributed to the engagement by the military forces in peace-keeping support operation in Liberia and Sierra-Leone. The proliferation of small arms and light weapons attributed to returning soldiers, we can also blame the urban bias nature of our development programs which tends to favour urban centres at the detriment of rural areas. Also to be blamed is our 'do or die politics' which has also made politicians to arm a brigade of youths to unleash terror on political opponents. In the face of massive poverty bedeviling the country does it mean the government has been aloof just watching and doing nothing. The Nigerian government right from independence has been pursuing several strategies to improve the quality of life of the people to wipe away poverty however these strategies have not resolved the problem. In the next section, we shall review a number of these strategies.

Poverty alleviation programs in Nigeria past, present and contemporary initiatives
Attempts to eradicate poverty are not new in Nigeria right from the colonial period were made to improve the condition of life of the people. In 1956, the colonial government started a 10 years' development welfare plan in other to improve the condition of life of the people. Since regaining our independence in 1960 successive Nigeria Governments have made both micro and macro policy intervention initiative in order to tackle poverty. These policies were expected to at least raise the standard of living of Nigerians consistent with the overall National philosophy and objectives of the government which is to provide for *a free, democratic just and egalitarian society; a United strong and self-reliant nation a great dynamic economic land full of opportunity for all citizens*. To work towards the realization of this lofty objectives and philosophy from 1962 – 1985, the various development plans of the Nigeria Government continued, welfare programs aimed at enhancing the living standard of the people were executed. In 1960 for the best part of the 1960s; poverty eradication efforts in Nigeria centered on education, which was seen as the key to economic; technological and intellectual development of the nation. Therefore, education programs were implemented alongside agricultural extension services encouraged food production.

National Accelerated Food Production Program (NAFPP)
In 1972 General Yakubu Gowon introduced the National Accelerated Food Production Program and the Nigerians Agricultural and cooperation bank which was entirely devoted to funding agriculture the NAFPP turned out to be a colossal waste and nothing was achieved.

Operation Feed the Nation
In 1976 Operation Feed the Nation was introduced by the then Head of State General Olusegun Obasanjo. The Government expanded money in getting ill prepared University undergraduates to go to the rural areas to teach the peasant farmers how to farm. The program although encourage civil servant to use their extra time for farming in their backyard was short lived and a failure.

Green Revolution Program
In 1979, the then president Alhaji Aliyu Usman Shehu Shegari introduced the Greek Revolution program. Thus program had the turn objective of curtailing food importation while boosting crop and fiber production. The overall objective was to encourage big mechanized farming. Quite a number of civil servants and military personnel in and out of office used their access to the state to their advantage because of the wide range of facilities committed to the Greek Revolution Program. A lot of these emergency farmers were only interested in getting the certificate of occupancy for large tracks of land, which they will use as collateral for securing loans. When the program ended in 1983, two billion Naira of tax payers' money was wasted.

Back to Land Programme and War Against Indiscipline 1984 - 1985
The back to land program of the Buharis administration was aimed at alleviating poverty but failed because if was ambitious and wanted to make to farmer out of virtually all

Nigerian. Also pursued by the Buharis regime was the war against indiscipline which was aimed at instituting discipline amongst Nigerians. These programs succeeded in alleviating poverty as the period witnessed increase in agricultural products and people were able to keep their environment clean.

The Comprehensive Poverty Allevation Programme of Babangida 1985 – 1993
  i)   Directorate for food Roads and Rural Infrastructure (DFFRI)
  ii)   Peoples bank
  iii) National Agricultural Land Development Authority (NALDA)
  iv)   National Directorate of Employment 9NDE)
  v)   Better Life for Rural Dwellers etc.

Under the Babangidas regime several programs and institutions were embarked upon and established to address the problem of poverty as listed above. The establishment of DFFRI was not only a radical departure from the approach of previous regimes but also recognized the linkage and complementarities associated with basic needs such as food, shelter, and portable water. The directorate had the responsibility of providing basic infrastructure facilities or increased agricultural outputs and mobilizing the rural products by organizing them into cooperatives. Since its inception in 1986uptill the time it winded up in 1993 DFFRI had completed over 273,526km of roads and over 50,000 rural communities still benefit from it rural development projects and programs.

The Babangida's regime also recognized that Nigerians especially poor people have no access to credit facilities so borrowing from the Gramen bank in Bangladesh the ideas of collective insurance against defaulting loan beneficiaries the idea of providing credit to people without collateral was mated and the Government established the Peoples Bank, with the aim of granting loans to poor people without any collateral.

Set up of Nalda
Another very good initiative was the establishment of the Nigerian Agricultural Land development authority (NALDA) the authority was intended to reduce the prevalence of subsistence agriculture in the country and its place with inputs and developing land for them to point of planting at subsidized rates.

However, in spite of the lofty goals of these programs some have ceased to exist. The only surviving legacy of the Babangidas regime is the National Directorate of employment (NDE) it has survived for 39 years by its mandate, NDE is to design and implement programs to combat mass unemployment involving all categories of labour i.e. skilled and unskilled. In its first year of operation it created 148,000 job opportunities and articulated polices aimed at developing work programs with labour intensive potentials. The program we must note is one of the success stones of program that was well conceived and implemented. Hundreds of thousand youths have benefited from different schemes of the NDE namely.

i. Vocational Acquisition training – 673,000
ii. Entrepreneurial Business training –373,366
iii. Training for rural employment
iv. Training for labor based works program.

According to Muhammad (2012; 247) the NDE had disbursed N526, 901,313:11k since inception for it various programs only 24.4% of this total or N129, 048,757:63k was recovered from beneficiaries.

In addition to these efforts, the first ladies to the Presidents Babangida and Abacha embarked on their own poverty alleviation program. Maryam Babangida introduced the better life program. While Maryam Abacha introduced Family Support Programin 1987 and 1994 respectively, these programs were aimed at enhancing the standards of living of rural dwellers especially women and to promote the rural folks to embark on self-help rural development projects. These programs promoted education, business, management recreation and the greater awareness about the plight of women in the rural areas. In addition, the programs were put in place to bring women together and to highlight their developmental problems and proffer solutions to such problems. Women were educated on simple hygiene, family planning and the importance of child care. They were also enlightened on opportunities and facilities available to them at the local level for improving and enriching their lives.

The Family Economic Advancement Program (FEAP) in Nigeria quest to get out of debilitating poverty FEAP was introduced coinciding with the period that Nigeria became among the 25 poorest nations in the world. FEAP existed for about two years 1998 – 2000 during which the program received N7billion out of which N3.3 billion was disburse as loans to about 21,000cooperative societies nationwide that were production oriented (Mohammed; 2012).

National Poverty Eradication Program (NAPEP) NAPEP was established in 2000 to take over from Poverty Alleviation Program (PAP). The objectives of NAPEP are to eradicate absolute poverty, through a coordinated implementation and monitoring of program in four schemes; The Youth Empowerment Scheme (YES), Rural Infrastructure Development Schemes social welfare Services Scheme, and National Resources Development Conservation Scheme. These Schemes were to be implemented all levels of government. NAPEP has established structures at all levels nationwide under it Capacity Acquisition Program (CAP) it trained 100,000 unemployed youths just as 5000 others who received training as tailors and fashion designers were resettled. A total of 50,000 unemployed graduates have also benefited from NAPEP, mandatory attachment program which is an aspect of CAP (NAPEP; 2002). Other programs embarked upon to ease the suffering of the people and move them out of poverty are the Petroleum Trust Fund, Urban Mass Transit program, Primary Health Care Scheme, Nomadic education, our minerals producing areas development commission (OMPADEC)etc Sure-P Programme.

Millennium Development Goals of Year 2000
We must also recognize that the government of Nigeria having subscribed to the United Nations inspired Millennium Development Goals of eradicating poverty by 2015 came up with its poverty reduction strategy process. However we should note that the MDGs goals or targets

  i.   Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger
  ii. Achieve universal basic education
  iii. Promote gender equality
  iv. Reduce child mortality.
  v.   Improve material health
  vi. Combat aid, malaria and other diseases
  vii. Ensure environmental sustainability
  viii. Develop a global partnership for development.

Although substantial progress has been made in the implementation of the MDGs in Nigeria with the quick wins projects (Constituency projects), which was designed by the Federal Government in 2007 to ensure projects are executed in every federal constituency and senatorial district to provide basic infrastructure and services for the people projects were implemented in the areas of health; education and water sectors and included building classrooms, primary health centres, libraries, boreholes etc. another major strategy was through the social safety nets. Nigeria is said to have the third targets population of poor people in the world after China and India between 2007–2009. There was conditional transfer to 18,750 vulnerable households in Nigeria Igbuzor (2016). In spite of the numerous projects executed and successes recorded in the implementation of the MDGs some of the goals were unattainable with the end of the implementation year of the targets pegs at 2015. Another global strategies has been rolled out by the UNC known as the sustainable development Goals SDGs. The SDGs Identified 17 goals to transform our world. These goals are to build on the MDGs and include the following according to the UNDP (2015)

  1. No poverty
  2. Zero hunger
  3. Good health and well being
  4. Quality education
  5. Gender equality
  6. Clean Water and Sanitation
  7. Affordable and clean energy
  8. Decent work and economic growth
  9. Industry innovation and infrastructure
  10. Reduced inequalities
  11. Sustainable cities and communities
  12. Responsible consumption and productivity
  13. Climate action
  14. Life below water
  15. Life on land
  16. Peace and justice strong institutions
  17. Partnerships for the goals

Poverty alleviation programmes under the Bihari's regime 2015-2019.
The philosophy methodology and delivery of the Bihari's poverty alleviation programme was not structurally different from previous regimes before it therefore we shall list the programmes as follows:

i) **S**chool feeding programme with the following allocations [a] N300billion=2016, N339BILLION=2017, N338Billion =2018
ii) N-POWER in 2017, 162000 N-Power graduates were registered to be paid N30,000 monthly.
iii) Conditional cash transfers scheme over 300000 households benefitting from N5000 monthly cash transfer
iv) Trader money by the end of October 2019 N19.6 Billion has been disbursed to 1.95 million Nigerians who have been verified 2.57 million.(vanguardngr.com; 2020)

Evaluation of the Programs
We have noted that Nigeria is third largest country with poor people and today it is the poverty capital of the world hosting 89 million people. Therefore, the implementation of these programs and projects were well commendable however these programs suffered from policy summersaults discontinuity and rather than abate more Nigerians are becoming poorer by the day in their droves. What has accounted for this poor state of affair is the politicization of some of these programs and institutions with individuals who have not keyed into the goals of the organization but were appointed as political compensation which is largely the reason for the collapse of most public enterprises.

Some of the barriers for effectiveness of the programs identified by Muhammad (2012) which this paper strongly subscribes to are (i) poor conception that is poor policy formulation and coordination, lack of involvement of the stakeholders who are the poor themselves, inadequate implementation strategies policy discontinuity and lack of sustainability, absence of policy framework, absence of target setting, for ministries and agencies duplication of functions among institutions and agencies, Embarking on projects that have no relevance to the poor, abandonment of projects, unhealthy competition between institution and agencies, existence of barriers in the form of bureaucratic hurdles, incomprehensible rules and regulations and difficulty in accessing information and lack of supervision corruption and inadequate commitment to the program.

In this paper we have attempted to show that there are serious issues that constitute threats to the survival of Nigeria that contributes to creating poverty. According to Abraham Maslows hierarchy of need security is a cardinal need of man As the saying goes safety first reveals that security is a major factor needed in any society without which we examine the deliberate policies of the government we shall observe that because of the environmental neglect in the Niger Delta Region where it was recorded by Chukwuma and Sunday (2013:762) as quoted in Ogbeni (2012) shows that a total of 16 083 pipeline breaks were recorded in the past ten years adding that while 398 pipeline breaks representing 2.4% were due to raptures, the activities of unpatriotic vandals accounted

for 15,685breaks which translates to about 97.5% of the total number of cases. Between 2009-2011, NEITI recorded that Nigeria lost a total of 10.9billion dollars to oil theft. Therefore, this constitutes a threat to Nigeria's security and survival because the degradation of the environment as a result of mismanagement of oil resources in the Niger Delta has made the people poor and turned them into crime which seems to pay in Nigeria. The vandalisation of oil pipelines contributed to dwindling revenues which in itself threatened the survival of Nigeria compelling the then president YarAdua to embark on a program of amnesty in other to bring peace in the region because of the activities of militant groups.

Also constituting a major threat to the survival of Nigeria is the widespread corruption of government and contractors working for the government. Corruption has been a major threat to our collective survival and a major source of poverty for our people. This is so because our collective patrimony put into programs and projects to alleviate poverty is usually diverted into private pockets or it is killed at inception. Because the elites have frustrated most government policies and always attribute the failure of a policy shows how weak the Nigerian state is in instilling discipline in its work force. This is why today Nigeria is occupying the number 144 position out of 175 countries sampled by transparency international scoring a mere 25%in 2015 with great prospect of promoting a more transparent government under current renewed initiatives and fight against corruption by the president Buhari's administration through an inquest into the arms deal.

This paper cannot be concluded without highlighting the importance of national security complementing both the hard ware and the soft approach that envisages the promotion of human security. Although there is nothing wrong in promoting a systems of defense network and measures aimed at the safety of citizens, the state and the government. We must emphasize that this involves serious investment in intelligence gathering to avoid failures or being caught unawares and equipping the military with the latest technology in warfare. Because of the fear of coups and counter coups it appears as if the military has suffered from lack of arms which were clearly seen in the recent past.

Conclusion and Recommendations
This paper analyses the relationship between poverty and national security and also examined some of the projects and programs executed in other to fight the scourge of poverty in Nigeria.

After an examination of the issues raised the paper makes the following suggestions as the way forward:
1. The state should not abdicate its responsibilities to the citizens as it is currently the case where individuals have become their own governments virtually providing for themselves all essential social services like electricity, water, education security etc.

2. The grinding poverty in the land should be arrested by the state by waging a war against poverty. in the pursuant of this goal government needs to restructure and redesign the approaches to poverty with the ones that will reduce poverty permanently in a sustainable manner. The government can easily do this by establishing a sustainable development goals commission to take stock of all that was achieved under MDGs so that communities will benefit fully from these projects.

3. Lastly there is an urgent need to declare a war in the education by increasing spending's in human capital development. Government should revamp the local governments by ensuring that the federal states and local government have measureable benchmarks with which their successes could be measured thereby promoting the overall development of the country.

4. We must also ensure that religious organizations are closely watched and monitored.

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