

# Boko Haram Insurgency in Nigeria: Its Implication and Way Forwards toward Avoidance of Future Insurgency

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**Abstract-** The end of 2011 general election in Nigeria results to mass recognition of another set of militant popularly called Boko Haram. These set of militant during the cause of prosecuting their objective have destroyed properties worth Billions of Naira, killed thousands of innocent people and add to religious misconception in Nigeria. It should be noted that the scope of this paper were not restricted to Boko Haram matters alone because the present writer belief that certain factors that applied to other groups that had emerged in Nigeria also laid foundation for emergence of Boko Haram. As a result of the above fact, militancy instigating factors as well as the effect of Boko Haram's means of prosecuting their objective along with way forwards toward avoidance of future insurgency are object of discussion here.

## I. INTRODUCTION

Different sets of groups had arose in Nigeria with little or real militancy approach in prosecuting their different objective among them is Oodua People's Congress (OPC) within Yorubas, Bakassi Boys and Movement for Actualisation of Sovereign State of Biafra (MASSOB) among Igbos, Niger-Delta Militant as well as Boko Haram that is object of discussion here and others without particular identity within Northern part of Nigeria. And in my humble view, the activities of Boko Haram pre-dated 2011 general election; because there are the generation of people that have been engaging in different political and ethnical crisis courtesy of religion in the Northern part of Nigeria.

No wonder S. A. Ekanem, J. A. Dada and B. J. Ejue (2012:232) stated that Boko Haram have been in existence right from the 1960s but only started to draw attention in 2002. It is on record that this particular group have been operating under the name Shabaab Muslim Youth Organisation with Mallam Lawal as the leader since 1995 but leadership of the group shift to Mallam Mohammed Yusuf when Mallam Lawal left Nigeria to continue his education in Saudi Arabia. It is the leadership of Mallam Mohammed Yusuf that allegedly opened the group to political influence and popularity (Brock Joe). There is no gain in denying the fact that Mallam Mohammed Yusuf is the one that officially founded Boko Haram in 2002 in the city of Maiduguri with the aim of establishing Shari'a government in Borno and neighbouring State (Johnson Toni).

The official name of Boko Haram that is object of discussion here is *Jama'atu Ahlis Sunna Lidda'await wal-Jihad* which in Arabic Language means "People of the way of Prophet Muhammed (peace be unto him) and Community (of Muslims) in line with the earlier generation of Muslims" and not Boko Haram which simply means "Western secular education is

Islamically prohibited". Boko Hara has also been defined to means that evangelism deceptively camouflages as Western Education is Islamically unacceptable (DCCN, 2009: 2). Please note that the origin of the name "Boko Haram" have been traced to Media and Public/Community coinage (DCCN, 2009: 2).

In prosecuting their objective, Boko Haram are use to bombing Churches, Mosques, Police Stations, Schools; Universities inclusive and other Government owned Properties. As well as privately owned property without excluding innocent souls through the machinery of suicide bombers as well as slaughtering and kidnapping people; alien inclusive which have resulted to demise of the larger percentage of the Captives. The most pitiable fact is that most of those suicide bombers are teenagers which can be summarily belief to be the resultant effect of brainwashing. It is my humble view that Boko Haram during the cause of prosecuting their objective has done great harm to this Nation order than other set of militants that have emerged in Nigeria.

Corroborating this, Emmanuel Oladesu (The Nation Newspaper, 2013: 4) stated thus:

*Since the end of the civil war no calamity of enormous proportion has befallen the fledging nation – state more than the harrow unleashed by the dreadful sec – Boko Haram. Many lives have been lost property worth billions of naira have been destroyed. Nobody is insulated from the attack. Government officials and buildings, traditional rulers, police and military formations and church worshippers are targets. On daily basis, there is panic. The fear of the invincible agitators has become the beginning of wisdom.*

This is the situation of things until 28 January 2013 when the sect announced temporary ceasefire through one her leader Sheikh Mohammed Abdulazeez Ibn Idris (The Nation Newspaper, 2013:1) which were latter counter to be untrue by another member of the group. It should also be noted that Federal Government of Nigeria have offer members of Boko Haram amnesty which have not yield any positive result to the extent that different Committee has been set both at State and Federal level for the purpose of putting end to the activities of Boko Haram.

It is pitiful that the situation of thing would not have worst up to this extent if all the Northern Leaders have interfere in the matter at the earliest stage during the cause of which members of Boko Haram would have been tamed. No wonder Da'wah Coordination Council of Nigeria (2009:24) reported thus:

*A number of Islamic Organisation including the Muslim Students Society of Nigeria (MSSN) and the National Council of Muslim Youth Organisation (NACOMYO) had on a number of occasions informed and warned some traditional leaders of the*

*impending problems they expect from the BH group. Unfortunately, they were not taken seriously. A few of the traditional leaders however did have dialogue with some of the BH members. These unfortunately did not result in much.*

It should be noted that not all the stakeholder stands mute in respect of Boko Haram as a result of which dialogues and debates was introduced to wage into the matter.

Corroborating this Da'wah Coordination Council of Nigeria stated that a number of prominent Muslim Scholars<sup>1</sup>, activists and Da'wah workers from various Organisations had been involved in dialogue and debates with the leadership and followers of Boko Haram group in order to either convince them of their wrong position or to dissuade others from joining them (DCCN, 2009:24). Although the dialogues and debates with members of Boko Haram convince some people within its domain to reject their ideology but disappointedly in some of the debates, some Scholars focused their attacked on the personality of Late Muhammad Yusuf instead of his ideology which is reported by Da'wah Coordination Council of Nigeria (DCCN, 2009:25) to won more sympathy for the group within its domain.

## II. EFFECTS OF BOKO HARAM INSURGENCY IN NIGERIA

The insurgence of Boko Haram; particularly, the adopted mode of prosecuting their objective have posed serious danger to our Nation called Nigeria and its citizen without excluding foreigners which will be briefly discussed here.

### Security Challenges:

By security challenges, it means the effect of Boko Haram insurgency in Nigeria on security of life and property as well as other consequential effect. The insurgency of Boko Haram in Nigeria have posed serious security challenges to Nigeria in the sense that people were been denied the choice of exercising their natural freedom of movement due to fear of attack from members of Boko Haram. Particularly in some parts of Northern Nigeria where Boko Haram have taken over through planting of bombs as well as brutalized attack on innocent souls which history have shown that the attack is not from Boko Haram alone but some group have been using the privilege of existence of Boko Haram to nurse their personal and ethnical agenda through brutalising of people.

Corroborating this, one of Boko Haram Leader; Sheikh Abu Mohammed Abdulazeez Ibn Idris stated that the group is aware of the fact that some criminals have infiltrated their movement and continued to attack and kill people using their names (The Nation Newspaper, 2013: 3). It could also be recalled that kidnaping have also been used by some group of people hiding under Boko Haram crisis during the cause of which innocent souls were been kidnapped with demands for ransom with fruitless effort in rescuing some of the captive which have even led to the death of numbers of the captive. Also, the insurgencies of Boko Haram in Nigeria have exposed the

security lapses in Nigeria because of attacks that has been done on some unexpected places like Police Headquarter in Abuja, Abuja United Nation Office among others.

Also confrontations that have occur between Boko Haram and security forces during the cause of which serious casualty were recorded even among the security agencies and have also exposed Nigeria security lapses to the extent of exposing that Nigeria Police are only professionals in using forces to quench peaceful protest but cannot quench deadly once like Boko Haram insurgency. Boko Haram tragedy have also exposed further some of the fatal inefficiencies in the system by which Nigerian leadership has often sought to arrest or even prevent such recurrent civil crises(DCCN, 2009:24). The situation of things among others have led President Goodluck Jonathan to replace service chiefs in his administration; National Security Adviser<sup>2</sup> inclusive.

### Economic Effect:

The economic effects of militancy insurgency in Nigeria simply connote consequential effect on people and government's life which can be viewed from 2 different perspectives. They are the effect on the State that is, Nigeria and individual member of the State that is, Nigerian; particularly residents of Bauchi, Borno, Yobe and neighboring State. The militants; not limited to Boko Haram alone by their nature are used to crippling the economic activities of any place they spread their tentacles as well as led to migration of people from the affected place due to restiveness. No wonder the Nation Newspaper (2013:3) reported about the activities of Boko Haram thus:

*Borno and neighbouring Yobe State – the epicenter of the activities of the sect – have been crippled economically. Thousands of people have died in the sect's bloody campaign.*

It must be noted that Boko Haram have not only led to closure and or abandonment of people's business activities within affected region but also led to migration of people from the affected Region as well as once led to reduction of people's patronage of product from Northern Region because of rumour that member of Boko Haram are planning to send poisonous product from their region to other parts of Nigeria. No wonder Mr Umar Ibrahim Yakubu (Leadership Newspaper: 2012) opined thus in respect of Boko Haram:

*we discovered that 97 per cent of businesses were negatively affected by the security problem. Some of them had to close down, some of them had to retrench their workers, and others had to cut down in the number of hours of operation.*

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<sup>2</sup> President Goodluck Jonathan sacked General Andrew Owoeye Azazi as National Security Adviser and replace him with Colonel Sambo Dasuki. The President also sacked O. O Petirin as Chief of Defence Staff and elevates Rear Admiral Ola Sa'ad Ibrahim to his position. Rear Admiral Ola Sa'ad Ibrahim before his elevation is Naval Staff who was replaced with Rear Admiral D. J Ezeoba. M. D Umar was also sacked and replaced with A. S Dadem as Chief of Air Staff. The President also sacked Ogbonna Onovo as Inspector General of Police and replaced him with Hafiz Ringim who was subsequently sacked and replaced with Mohammed Dahiru Abubakar. Mr. Afakriya Gadzama was also sacked and replaced with Mr. Ita Ekpeyong as Director-General of State Security Service.

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<sup>1</sup> Few of them are Sheikh Abdul-Wahab (from Kano), Muhammad Awwal Adam "Albani" (Zaria), Mallam Isa Ali Fantami (Bauchi), Ibn Uthman (Kano), Imam Gabchia (Borno) and Late Sheikh Ja'far (Kano) e.t.c

Also the insurgencies of Boko Haram have reduced drastically; government derivation from the affected region due to restiveness in those places as well as reduced investment and growth of business in the affected places without excluding government executed project. No wonder 2011 World Investment Report of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development reported that lull in business activities caused by insecurity in Kano State alone has cost the Nigerian economy N1.3trillion (\$6 billion) as a result of attacks by the Boko Haram group. It was further reported that the report monitored on the Voice of America (VoA) also shown that Centre for Research and Documentation in Kano attributed the development to a drop in earnings for nearly all businesses in the state (Leadership Newspaper: 2012).

#### **Political and Social effect:**

By political effect, it means its effect on government's performance that's the government ability to deliver its objective to its citizen while social effect on the other hand connotes its effect on society and people's ways of life. The insurgence of Boko Haram in Nigeria has drastically reduced government of the day's performance in the affected area. Although it is trite fact that Nigerian politicians are fond of promising heaven and earth for the purpose of gaining people's mandate; it is my humble view that President Goodluck Jonathan were not be able to fulfil the larger parts of his promise due to confusion created in the Nation by insurgence of Boko Haram. It must be noted that the insurgence of Boko Haram have made public forum caution able place to be in some Northern Part of Nigeria.

It was bring to my knowledge around 2011 that it is now a policy that there cannot be public assemblage without permit in Federal Capital Territory; Abuja and some Northern part of Nigeria with exception of North-East where public assemblage have been totally banned due to activities of Boko Haram. The activities of Boko Haram have aggravate to the extent of developed negative impact in the mind of some Christian that all Muslims are extremist without taken into cognisance that extremism applicable to both Christianity and Islam; what would you say about one of the Nigeria respected Reverend who refused to assist his sister because she failed to convert to Christianity.

It should be noted that the activities of Boko Haram have made some Non-Muslim who have not be privilege to mingle with Muslim in their life to belief that all Muslim are fundamentalist while some of them were mischievous with their opinion with little exclusion about few Muslims from Yoruba Part of Nigeria. It should also be noted that the activities of Boko Haram have makes some Nigerian who are not from Boko Haram affected State to be avoiding affected State to the extent that some Nigerian Graduate who are serving the Nation under the scheme of National Youth Service Corp (NYSC) are seriously rejecting being posted to some part of Northern Nigeria.

The social challenges posed by insurgence of Boko haram can also be attested to by the mass movement of residents who are from other States of the federation; out of the North Eastern part of the country, especially Maiduguri, the capital of Borno State. And not only that, insurgence of Boko Haram have reach

the extent that suspicious and rumour of attack is the easiest information to spread within North-Eastern Zone of Nigeria.

#### **Nigeria Unity:**

Nigeria as a Nation is heterogeneous in nature because it comprises of over 300 ethnic groups living together as a country but it is a pity that history have shown that this 'ill-unity' have been shaking since independence which were further compounded by the activities of Boko Haram because initial target of Boko Haram sect were Non-Northerners. Nigeria unity is called 'ill-unity' because Prof. Ebere Onwudiwe (2009) have stated that Nigeria is kept one rather than make one when he stated that the phrase "to keep Nigeria one is a task that must be done" should be replaced with "to make Nigeria one is a task that must be done" because the original slogan is not conceived at the deeper level of togetherness, and that is why the Country is in the bad shape that it is today. It should be noted that the unity of Nigeria is been shaking because of the political motive attached to the activities of Boko Haram which have instigate some region to continue their clamoring for succession.

#### **Diplomatic Relation:**

By diplomatic relationship, it means the consequential effect of Boko Haram insurgence on the relationship between Nigeria and other Nation of the World. The insurgence of Boko Haram in Nigeria has negatively affect the relationship between Nigeria and other Nation of the world because of bombing couple with kidnapping and hostage taking with or without demand for ransom; particularly of alien which have resulted to demised of some of them and have greatly been an object of disturb not only to Nigeria but include International Community. It could be recollect that few years ago, United State of America warned her nationals not to go to some State in Nigeria without forgetting that United Nation have once include Nigeria in watching list of terrorist in the World which was later removed. Also it is once reported that there are strong indications that Nigeria may be blacklisted by international anti-money laundering watchdogs called Financial Action Task Force (FATF)<sup>3</sup> over its inability to track the source of funds of Boko Haram and curb terrorism financing in general (Odidison Omankhanlen and Johnson Babajide: 2012).

### **III. MILITANCY INSTIGATING FACTORS IN NIGERIA**

It has been submitted that Boko Haram that is order of the day are not the first militants group that have emerged in Nigeria which may not be the last particularly when some other unknown group have been perpetrating evil in the Northern parts of Nigeria. This is because it appears to this present writer that some factors in which are object of discussion here are creating enabling environment for militant's insurgency. The factors are 'ideology', 'unemployment and poverty', 'corruption and lack of development', 'fictitious fact and ignorance', 'failure of governance and good leadership', 'social justice, marginalization and neglect', 'human right violations' and 'frustration'.

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<sup>3</sup> Financial Action Task Force (FATF) is the global standard setter for measures to combat money laundering, terrorist and proliferation financing.

### **Ideology:**

By ideology, it means a set of beliefs especially one held by a particular group that influence their behaviour. It could be recalled that the primary ideology behind formation of OPC is to defend, protect and promote Yoruba culture as well as interest and as a matter of fact, it is this ideology that influence them to challenge the annulment of June 12 Presidential election's results that favoured a Yoruba man; Chief M. K. O Abiola (Omobolaji Olorade Olarinmoye, 2006/2007: 111 - 131). The ideology of MASSOB is to revive the former Secessionist State of Biafra which was created in 1967 by the Ibo ethnic group while Niger-Delta Militants' ideology is based on political autonomy and a greater share of oil revenue derived from their region.

Boko Haram that is object of discussion here has ideology that is slightly differ from others. Boko Haram ideology is that western secular education is islamically prohibited and that there should be another system of education based purely on the teaching of the Qur'an and Sunnah<sup>4</sup> as understood by the earliest generations of Muslims without any attempt to provide for alternative curriculum for this system of education (DCCN, 2009: 10).

### **Unemployment and Poverty:**

I have once observed that my Country; Nigeria despite the fact that is endowed with lots of natural gifts still far behind the economic and social progress required to impact the well being of the average Nigerian; as a result of which one half of the population live on less than one dollar per day and as well top three Countries in the world that have the largest population of poor people (Aro Olaide Ismail, 2011: 160). This among others served as one of the reason why larger part of Nigerian youths are unemployed and the employer of some of the available jobs are stressing importance on working experience as criteria for securing the job thereby resulted to poverty which as a matter of fact makes them available for easy inducement for militancy and other social vices like political thugs among others.

No wonder World Bank in an outcome of her research conducted in respect of Niger-Delta crisis view poverty as one of the key causes of conflict when he stated that the key root cause of conflict is the failure of economic development such that many of the world's poorest countries are locked in a tragic vicious cycle where poverty causes conflict and conflict causes poverty" (Punch Newspaper, 2007: 9). It is the resultant effect of poverty and unemployment that makes angry people particularly youth available in all parts of the federation for easy inducement for militancy and other social vices as well as increased people's apathy towards aiding security agent in combatting militancy and other social vices in Nigeria. No wonder Iwuanyanwu (The Punch Newspaper, 2012) is of the view that high level of unemployment in the Country is alarming and the government needs to address the issue if it hopes to win the war against insecurity.

### **Corruption and Lack of development:**

The term corruption is incapable of precise definition but is synonymous to extortion, exploitation, fraudulency, venality,

dishonesty, profiteering, nepotism, breach of trust, malfeasance, bribery, crookedness, shady deal, jobbery among others. Lack of Development have been view as consequential effect of lack of people's vital need which is not closed but include lack of motor able road, constant electricity and water supply, frustrating telephone and internet network, inadequate houses as well as avoided natural disaster which were not given proper and timely attention such as erosion, flood among others.

And in analytical mind; mine inclusive, corruption has been an instrument that have been used to underdeveloped this Nation called Nigeria which have pave way for militancy because resources that could have been used to empower the people have been converted to private use and drastically reduce the resources available for development as well as provision of social services such as education, health as well as quality transport system; and thereby make room for people to be angry as well as create enabling environment for easy inducement of youth for militancy and other social vices.

No wonder Hutchful (1985) in his paper in respect of Niger-Delta crisis is of the view that anger of the people of the Niger-Delta Region especially the youth derives merely from the fact that other parts of the country; sometimes the arid regions are built to the standards obtainable in the developed world. They have bridges built over dry land and less travelled roads while most of the Niger Delta communities are only accessible by boats and seriously in need of bridges. It is on the basis of the above fact I'm of the opinion that it is the underdevelopment in Nigeria as a whole with exception of few places that is serving as the main drive behind the larger part of social vices that is troubling Nigeria today; Boko Haram and Niger-Delta militancy inclusive.

### **Fictitious facts and ignorance:**

For the purpose of this arena, fictitious fact are facts which are not directly and or physically exist; which its existence can only be prove with the instrument of 'faith' as well as facts which cannot subjected to direct confirmation. Lots of proposition has been made by the 2 Holy Books that dominate religious practice in Nigeria; the Holy Quran and the Holy Bible about "heaven and earth" or better still "present and here-after" which have been interpreted by different religious leader based on their perception with some religious leader holding view that the content of a particular Holy Book cannot be understood unless the person is in sprit.

It has also been adopted as a means of religion propagation by both Christian and Muslim devotees particularly their different Leaders that non devout member will not gain paradise and will definitely end-up in hell at the here-after. While the term ignorance predicates lack of information or knowledge. It is ignoramus thinking coupled with passing of wrong message among religious leaders and followers that have aggravate the tension in Nigeria particularly Northern parts of Nigeria. It is pitiful that the larger percentage of Nigerians; both Christian and Muslim are religious fanatic who are used to displaying their religious fanaticism through extra ordinary preaching among others without hiding it while some in defence of their fanaticism refer to others devotees of other religion as fanatics.

Another factor that is instigating religious crisis in Nigeria is that an average Northerner probably Muslim sees all Southerner particularly Christian to be morally loose, permissive

<sup>4</sup> Sunnah means ways and life of Prophet Muhammed (S.A.W)

and undisciplined religiously without consider Southern Muslim to be in the same category with them; religiously. Premise on fictitious fact and ignorant belief, lots of utterances have been made as well as lots of omission and action have arose which have aid militia and people's perception about the situation as well as have been used to create religious tension in Nigeria and as a matter of fact, insurgence of Boko Haram have been medially and subjectively associated with islamisation of Nigeria rather than objectively discuss the issue as it is that is; in line with the political objective that associate with the struggle.

#### **Failure of good governance and good leadership:**

I have once observe good governance as a system by which society's resources is been manage transparently with accountability as well as given room for popular participation in government among others by responsible leaders (Aro Olaide Ismail, 2011: 160 – 167). While good leadership has been observe as leadership that is driven by the concept of 'patriotism', 'honesty' and 'mean-well for the Nigerians' which will reflect through good governance (Aro Olaide Ismail, 2011: 64 – 71). It is my observation that the inability of the Nigerian government to consciously manage public resources entrusted on them for people interest have contribute greatly to insurgence of militancy in Nigeria; Boko Haram inclusive. If these entrusted resources have been use for the benefit of the whole Nigerians, youth would not be available for easy inducement for militancy and other social vices.

Ordinarily this entrusted resources is for the benefit of Nigerians as a whole whereas it is been use largely for the benefit of few people directly and indirectly in government. It is on the basis of the above fact am aligning myself with Usman when he observed thus about Niger-Delta which appear here as a typical example: Niger Delta Region is riddled with bad governance/corruption on the parts of government officials, both at the state and local government levels. It has been argued that if government officials in the region have utilized judiciously their monthly allocations, to better the lots of the ordinary people, through the creation of jobs, and embark on infrastructural development of the region, the situation would have been better than this current sorry state.

Rather, the jumbo monthly allocations are spent on frivolous things that have no corresponding bearings on the life of the people. As a matter of opinion, if proper review of Nigerian budget is done, it will be realised that few people that constitute Nigeria government are allocating fat sum to themselves at the expense of under-develop the state which were even made worst during this 4<sup>th</sup> Republic that we have been since 1999. It could be recalled that Mallam Lamido Sanusi Lamido; The Central Bank of Nigeria Governor once inform the public that 25% of Nigeria Annual Budget is been allocated to National Assembly alone<sup>5</sup>.

The increase in crime rate and the helpless attitude of law enforcement agencies towards crime have been cited by the founders and admirers of Boko Haram in order to claim legitimacy for these groups. Mr Mu'azu (Peter Nkanga) in his

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<sup>5</sup> The above expression was made at the occasion of Igbinedion University Okada 8<sup>th</sup> Convocation Lecture delivered by him titled Growth Prospects for the Nigerian Economy on 26 November 2010.

reaction in respect of situation of things in Nigeria stated that "there is widespread disenchantment with the Nigerian State arising from its failure to meet its obligations to the people and the perception that State policies are implemented to advance private interests for personal accumulation". It is my strong belief that failure of good governance and good leadership have indelible foot print in emergence of militancy in Nigeria; Boko Haram inclusive.

That is why I am not really surprise when Pastor Williams Kumuyi (Punch Newspaper, 2012); the General Superintendent of Deeper Life Bible Church linked the nation's numerous problem to inability of electorate to elect credible leaders.

#### **Social injustice, marginalisation and neglect:**

For the purpose of this arena, social injustice presuppose unfair treatment of people in the society while marginalisation on the other hand presuppose discriminative approach of distributing social amenities and other governmental project as well as uneven division of political office within Society. Also neglect for the purpose of this arena presupposes abandonment of certain sets or group of people in distributing social service to people. This social injustice, marginalisation and neglect have contributed immensely to insurgency of militancy in Nigeria which have unarguably been associated specifically among others as a factor that instigate insurgence of Niger-Delta Militants.

While Boko Haram insurgency has also been attributed to social injustice, marginalisation and neglect because it is the belief of some Northerner that the current tenure lawfully occupied by President Goodluck Jonathan; a Southerner ought to be occupied by a Northerner. It could be recall that South-East Region of Nigeria has been on their louder voice for the emergence of Nigerian President from their zone. It was reported on 25 of September 2012 by Punch Newspaper that the Ndigbo Unity Forum (NUF)<sup>6</sup> has called on the Federal Government to address the infrastructural challenges facing the South-East geo-political zone with allegation that the zone was "the most cheated" in the allocation of funds to the six zones since the dawn of the Fourth Republic which depicts marginalisation.

It is also be on record that South-West Region of Nigeria are desperately complaining of marginalization and social injustice in respect of holders of key political offices in President Goodluck Jonathan's administration that have commenced since 29 of May 2011. It should be noted that aside Ministers from all the 6 States that constitute this Region, no indigene of South-West is a member of key political office in this government despite the fact that national character in imbedded in our system. And in a deeper scrutiny by analytical mind; mine inclusive, transformation of Boko Haram from mere religious organisation with politician influence to militant group were as a result of feeling that the tenure of presidency occupied by President Goodluck Jonathan; a Southerner ought to have been occupied by a Northerner which portray marginalisation.

#### **Human rights violations:**

Security agents in Nigeria are fond of violating people's right particularly innocent soul courtesy of investigation and

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<sup>6</sup> Ndigbo Unity Forum (NUF)

enforcing the law which had with time make people wild particularly; youth and as a matter of fact, change peaceful protest to militancy particularly as it affect Niger-Delta Militant and Boko Haram insurgency. In 1966 as a case study, Nigerian troops was alleged to have terrorized entire communities including raping of innocent women in an attempt to suppress the Isaac Boro rebellion because he was considered to be a threat to the free exploitation of the petroleum resources in the Niger Delta (ICE Case Study: 5).

It should not be forget that on 11 January 1999, Ijaw women who were engaged in a peaceful demonstration for marginalization of their people in Port Harcourt were violently tear-gassed, beaten, stripped as well as detained by a combined team of policemen and soldiers (Brisibe, 2001:6). It has also been said that insurgence of Boko Haram commenced peacefully with religion preaching before sudden departure from religion preaching to violently attack on people and property as a result of violation of their member's right by Nigeria security agency.

#### **Frustration:**

The phrase frustration implies feeling annoyed and impatient by the people because larger percentage of them felt that they have not achieved their sets goals. The economic situation of Nigeria with arising consequence coupled with corruption, 'fictitious facts and ignorance', 'failure of good governance and good leadership', 'social injustice, marginalisation and neglect' and lack of development among others which have negatively reflect on the people and thereby lead to frustration on people's part to the extent of instigating militancy among other social vices particularly among the youths.

No wonder an author observed that there are wide spread of ignorance and poverty in Nigeria; a situation which Nigerian state has consistently failed to deal with. When one adds religious/social intolerance; youthful restiveness/idleness and unemployment to the mix (as seen in the Niger Delta), it leads to frustration. A frustrated soul will do anything to ventilate pent up emotions. The recent Boko Haram insurgency in Northern Nigeria puts these in good perspective (Samuel Asuquo Ekanem, Jacob Abiodun Dada and Bassey James Ejue; 2012:232).

#### **IV. TOWARDS AVOIDANCE OF FUTURE MILITANCY INSURGENCY**

It must be noted that Boko Haram and other groups that have arose in Nigeria do not emerged out of vacuum; that is there emergent can be traced to available lacunae in the system which this section aimed to filled. It is on the basis of the above fact I'm recommending the following as way forward toward managing Boko Haram sect and or preventing insurgence of another sect of militants in Nigeria.

#### **Traditional institution integration:**

Nigeria by nature is endowed with well organised traditional institutions headed by Obas, Emirs as well as Obis among others and their Lieutenants among Yorubas, Hausa/Fulanis and Igbos respectively. Some of the institution are

well structured just like pyramid<sup>7</sup> to the extent that its links people directly particularly among Yorubas and Hausa/Fulanis. Despite the above fact, it is pitiful that the traditional institutions were relegated to ceremonial function alone. The institution is not properly integrated to Nigeria political system, particularly to solve problems that torched the society directly.

It is the belief of this present writer that the pyramid structure of this traditional institution can best be employed by the government to solve upcoming crisis that affect group of people particularly people with ascertainable identity because those Lieutenants will one way or the other have link to one of them which can be solved with the aid of negotiation. It is on the basis of the above I found it crucial for Government to integrate Traditional Institution into our political system.

#### **Economic empowerment and employment generation:**

Economic empowerment for the purpose of this arena simply appear as putting the machineries in motion to restore the people's essential lacking at basic level so as to be in position of acquiring the basics materials needed such as foods and shelter, housing, health services, safe drinking water, clothing, sanitation facilities, education e.t.c that will make them attain a minimum standard of living (Aro Olaide Ismail, 2011: 160 – 167). It is the belief of this present writer that if basic need were provided for people coupled with employment; particularly for youth, it will minimise people's desperation and frustration that make them available for easy inducement for militancy and other social vices.

No wonder Bill Clinton (Compass Newspaper, 2013); at the 18<sup>th</sup> Edition of ThisDay Annual Awards in Abeokuta, Ogun State capital challenged the Federal Government to urgently bridge the poverty gap among Nigerians towards solving the Boko Haram insurgency and religious strife in the country. He further thus in analysing Nigeria major three challenges:

*Secondly, you have to somehow bring economic opportunity to the people who don't have. This is not a problem specific for Nigeria.*

#### **Reformation of security agency:**

Nigeria Police just like other security agencies in Nigeria are facing so many challenges among whom are corruption, inadequate welfare packages, lack of necessary materials, lack of proper orientation, conducive environment among others which need attention by way of practical reform. It needs to be noted that some step are been taken towards this direction but failed to yield tangible result because war against corruption among other social vices have not really penetrate inner caucus of Nigeria society. Another form of reform needed by security agency is that security agencies need to be handling matters with proper investigative skill and professionalism because there are uses to early closure of case file.

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<sup>7</sup> Using Egbaland that constitute Ogun Central Senatorial District among others as a typical example, the Confederal State of Egbaland is divided into 4 Region having Alake as the head of a Region and Paramount Ruler of Egbaland. Each Region have their own Chiefs apart from some Chiefs installed by Alake under his paramountcy whose jurisdiction cut across Egbaland. Also each Region is divided into sections with their own head as well as Chiefs.

No wonder Mr Mu'azu (Peter Nkanga, 2011), who dwelt on the activities of Boko Haram which he said he had monitored over time in Borno State, stated that "the environment creates the terrorist group". He stated further that the sect's recurring attacks including suicide bombings in the country is the direct result of the Nigerian government's "brutal suppression of all forms of dissent" by its predictable use of force.

#### **Proper religious enlightenment:**

It is as a matter of fact that Christian and Muslim devotees need to avoid extremism in their religious practice and that both religious leaders during the cause of preaching; need not be given sermon that will cause civil disturbances. No wonder John Olurunfemi Onaiyekan (Punch Newspaper, 2012); the Roman Catholic Cardinal Archbishop of Abuja stated that Christian and Muslim extremists are responsible for many of the tension between the two communities in Nigeria, a Nigerian Archbishop called the believers to pursue a joint "divide mission". And stated further that most of our problem are caused by the reckless utterances and activities of extremist fringe, group on both sides of the divide.

Furthermore, Religious Leaders need to have at the back of their mind during the cause of preaching; the principle of "live and lets others to live" because some avoidable crises have been fuelled courtesy of preaching. Corroborating this, Da'wah Coordination Council of Nigeria (2009: 28 - 29) stated as follow: every member in the society has the duty to contribute their quota in the development and the promotion of peace in the society in accordance with level of their authority and influence.

#### **Government attitude towards crisis:**

It is my humbly view that Nigeria Government should adopt negotiation in handling up growing crisis rather than applying force. No wonder Ambassador Yusuf Mamman (Vanguard Newspaper, 2011) in discussing Boko Haram controversy blame it on extra judicial killings by the police. He stated further that if policemen were not careless in spraying innocent citizens who were not carrying any weapons with bullets, as shown on Al Jazeera TV, the problem would not have got out of control. Also in suppressing peaceful protest, security agencies should stop attacking peaceful protesters with force like what happen in Lagos during 2012 subsidy protest.

Corroborating this, Al-Jazeera (Vanguard Newspaper, 2011) reported that a group of innocent people packed in one place who were suspected to be members of Boko Haram. These people were not holding guns. They were not holding weapons and the police started killing them. Even when Mallam Yusuf Mohammed was murdered by the police, he was not holding anything. He was not holding any weapon. So, we must look at this from the point of investigation, arrest and prosecution. If investigation collapses because Nigerian police lacks direction and sense of purpose, then we must go back to the drawing board. What happened has made the Boko Haram members say, okay, since they are killing us, why surrender. If we surrender, they kill us, if we don't surrender; they kill us, so, no need. If you see what Al-Jazeera forwarded to the telephone of many people, those people were just standing, not holding any guns and then, police came and started spraying them with bullets, even your own anger would be kindled.

## **V. CONCLUDING REMARKS**

Is of no doubt that different set of militants group have emerged in Nigeria with Boko Haram leading the prawn. It has been established that insurgence of Boko Haram have posed serious challenges to this Nation which have been briefly highlighted without neglecting factors that instigate militancy insurgency in Nigeria which latter concludes with recommendations towards avoidance of future militancy insurgency. It could be recalled that the main drive behind formation of all this ethnic militant are social injustice, marginalisation, neglect, deprivation and seeming insecurity for the people.

No wonder O. O Ehiede (2007: 273) stated that the militia groups in the Niger Delta emerged as a result of the peculiar problems in the Niger Delta among whom is environmental degradation and alleged political insensitivity of the state while the OPC sprang up as a consequence of the annulment of the 12<sup>th</sup> June 1993 presidential election won by Chief M. K. O. Abiola, a Yoruba. The author stated further thus:

*we can see that the fears and demands of the ethnic militia groups have basically revolved around the issues of the national question: marginalisation and domination of one group by another . . . the concern of MASSOP is the marginalisation of the East in the power equation in Nigeria; that of OPC is about "power shift," and restructuring of the Nigerian federation and the quest for self-determination by groups in the Niger Delta region is based on the social justice, neglect and marginalisation that the area suffers in the Nigerian nation.*

It is the belief of this present writer that in a deeper scrutiny by analytical mind; mine inclusive, there is a clear different between rat and rabbit no matter their similarity. Therefore there is a clear different between Boko Haram and their cause as well as Islam; the fact is speaking for itself. Corroborating this, the Nation Newspaper (2013: 5) reported thus:

*even though the group started out as a purely Islamic group, the disposition of the group became questionable for three reasons. Firstly, the sect is not only out for non-Muslims, it is fighting the government as well. This is evident in the group's bombings of the United Nation (UN) House in Abuja and other government owned structures. Secondly, recent **Boko Haram news** showed that the sect has non-Muslims as its members. Thirdly, the group has not spared some prominent Muslims, as they had attacked mosques and killed Islamic religious leaders in the past.*

And I belief that Boko Haram were have early been used by some Northern Politicians as a political militia but the group subsequently move out of their control and constitute threat to the whole Nigeria. No wonder Ambassador Yusuf Mamman (Vanguard Newspaper, 2011) stated that you cannot separate politicians from this because whether bombings were done by militants of the Niger Delta or Boko Haram or any armed group in Nigeria, politicians have a hand in it. Many armed groups are sponsored by politicians.

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