Political Instability and Economic Relations in Nigeria

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Abstract

The paper explored Political Instability and Economic Relations in Nigeria. Socio-economic and political development cannot thrive in an atmosphere of political instability. The Nigerian state is greeted with numerous problems that stifle economic relations and development. Prominent among such problems are; ethno-religious conflict, insecurity, corruption, and poor governance etc. The system theory propounded by David Easton was adopted as the theoretical framework. Secondary source of data was deployed for the study; it involves the collection of data from textbooks, magazines, and articles etc. The study find out that political instability in Nigeria has manifested in different dimension such as ethno-religious conflict, insecurity, military interruption of democratic government, corruption, poor leadership. The study recommends that Nigerian government should intensify measures to address the numerous security challenges that threaten Nigeria in order to restore investors' confidence and enable farmers to return to their farms so as to enhance economic relations and development in Nigeria.

Keywords: Economic; Nigeria; Insecurity; Political; Government

Introduction

Every government needs a stable atmosphere to enable it deliver on its mandate to the people. Thus, the nexus between political stability and progress cannot be over emphasize. Gong and Rao (2016) conceived political instability as a situation where a government, political system, or country experiences significant uncertainty, unpredictability, or disruption in its political processes and structures. Aisen and Veiga (2013), defined political instability in three ways; first as the propensity for regime or government change; focus on the incidence of political upheaval or violence in a society such as assassinations, demonstrations, and so forth; focuses on instability in policies rather than instability in regimes (i.e. inconsistency in government policies).

Since the attainment of political independence in 1960, Nigeria has experience diverse form of political instability. These include; over throwing of democratically elected government by military juntas, civil war and ethnic and religious conflict etc. The military has interrupted Nigeria's democracy at different stages of her political history. There were several coup and counter coup some which where bloody (1966 coup claimed the life of Nigeria Prime Minister Tafawa Belewa). Also, between 1967-1970, Nigeria fought a civil war that claimed the lives of many including the social displacement of thousands and properties. Nigeria has experienced several ethno-religious wars. Examples of such ethno-religious conflicts are the Kafanchan-Kaduna crisis that occurred in the 1980s and 1990s, the Kaduna Sharia riots of 2000 and the Jos riots of 2001 (Osaghae and Suberu 2005). Several lives were lost during the Kaduna crisis of 2000 and the Jos insurrection of 2001. All these crises hampered the government and promoted instability in the Nigerian state. Political instability can manifest in diverse forms such as ethnic and religious tensions, military intervention, inconsistency in government policies, corruption, governance issues, and insurgencies (e.g. Boko Haram in the northeast, Eastern Security Network in the east, Banditry in the northwest and Militancy in the southsouth and Niger delta region etc) etc.

Political instability has grave implications for economic relations as it stifle investment climate, infrastructure development, inflation and currency stability, trade relations, Foreign Direct Investment (FDI), bilateral and multilateral relations, oil and gas and agriculture etc. Nigeria despite having uninterrupted

democratic rule since 1999, has experience some degree of instability; inconsistency in government policies, insecurity, and ethno-religious conflict which threatened the Nigerian state.

It is against the background that paper intends to examine political instability and economic relations in Nigeria.

Statement of the Problem

Political instability is regarded as one of the hindrances to economic development in Nigeria. This is based on the premise that it serves as an obstacle to the long-term policies and thereby limiting policymakers to short-term macro-economic policies. In addition, political instability results in frequent changes in policies and this, in turn, adversely affects the performance of the various sectors of the economy. Tabassam et al., (2016) emphasized that an unstable political environment reduces the level of investment in the economy and hence economic growth due to the uncertainty and volatility. Asteriou and Price (2001) argued that the patterns of government spending are affected by political instability as the government has to spend more to restore stability instead of on investment (this is true owing to the wave of insecurity that confront Nigeria today; the focus of the government is on how to address these security challenges). Aisen and Veiga (2011) indicated that political instability reduces the level of productivity as well as the rate of human and physical accumulation while Kuznets (1966) linked the slow growth rate of Nigerian economy to political disorder. Barro (2013) claimed that the effect of economic policies on economic growth depends on the prevailing political conditions.

Political instability has grave impact on Nigerian economy in diverse ways. Firstly, Nigeria as a state has been experiencing significant levels of political instability since 1999. For instance, political instability has been a major issue since its independence in 1960. The frequent changes of government that is quite common since 1960 have promoted unstable economic policies, inconsistent economic planning and poor leadership (Abdelhameed & Rashdan, 2021). It has also constituted an adverse economic environment which makes it difficult for rapid economic growth (Kimaro, 2017). Between 1966 and 1993, out of several coups that took place in Nigeria, six eventually led to the formation of new governments.

Even after Nigeria successfully transited to democratic system of government in 1999, the country has been facing a series of religious, community and ethnic crises that led to the loss of lives and livelihood (Nweke, 2017).

The myriads of economic, political and ethno-religious problems that bedevil Nigeria has raise problem for economic relations

Aim and Objectives of the Study

The aim of the paper is to examine the impact of political instability on Economic Relations. The work is guided by the following objectives:

i. Examine the dimension of political instability in Nigeria
ii. Analyze the impact of political instability on economic relations in Nigeria
iii. Make appropriate recommendations on how to address the problem of political instability in Nigeria

Methodology

According to Bhattacherjee (2012), a research design has to do with creating a blue print of the events to be carried out so as to satisfactorily answer the research questions identified in the study. In the view of Asika (2009, p13), "it is the structuring of investigation aimed at identifying variables and relationships to one another". The historical research design was adopted for this study. It has to do with studying past event so as to understand present event in other to predict future event.

The secondary source of data was utilized for the study. Secondary source of data refer to the set of data collated or authored by another person, archives, in the form of documents collected for a purpose other than the present one in which it is being used (Asika, 2006). Selltiz et al (2008), has declared that the usefulness of secondary sources of data lies in the fact that information of this sort is collected periodically. Also, gathering of information from such sources does not require the cooperation or assistance of the individual about whom information is being sought. The sources of data for this study includes: magazines, newspapers, textbooks, journals and seminar papers among others. The content analysis was adopted as our method of data analysis.

Theoretical Framework

The theoretical framework adopted for the study is the system theory propounded by David Easton in 1965. Easton defined the political system as the authoritative allocation of societal values. A system conceived every phenomenon as a complex whole which is made up of inter dependent and inter related parts. Each of this part carryout specific functions for the survival and maintenance of the whole**.** Ekpenyong (2003) traced the origin of the system theory to David Easton (1965, p.23) and quoted him as saying that "a system is an interdependent structure in which the parts are necessary for all other part to function well and thus essential to the stability of the whole structure, it functions like a biological organism whose parts inter-relate and inter depend in such a way that what affects one part also affects the other and in fact the whole parts. Each function must be performed to ensure the survival of the whole structure".

According to Mukoro (2015), a system is a set of elements standing in interaction. In other words, it is a group of things which have something in common. This includes any grouping with any sort of relationship - a collection of people, a forest, among others. As long as it is possible to identify a group of things, this cluster can be seen as a system. Basically system theory lays emphasis on the whole rather than parts. The parts could be organisms or organization, not looked at separately believing that the functioning of the whole is causally and inescapably tied to the functioning of the parts (Mukoro, 2005).

The system theory is also known as input-output approach. System analyst sees the political system as consisting basically of receiving inputs from the environment or within the political system itself and converts these inputs into outputs. Easton cited in Ntete (2004), conceived the political system as the authoritative allocation of societal value. Inputs are made up of demand and support while outputs are made up of policies, projects and programmes. System analyst belief that as demands are made on the system, support also should be given to the political system to enable it survive. Ake (1975 cited in Ntete, 2004) refers to demands as articulated statements which are directed to the political system and which tends to propose that some kid of allocation should be made in a particular way. On the other hand, support may be viewed as the different ways in which individuals or groups oriented themselves favourably towards the

political system (Ake, 1975 cited in Ntete, 2004). Support in particular refers to those actions which act as expressions of solidarity with the norms, values or basic rules of the political system.

Outputs can be seen within the context of political transaction which are initiated by or within the political system in response to inputs from within the political system or environment (Ntete, 2004). There is a feedback mechanism which is a channel of communication between the political system and it environment. Through the feedback mechanism, the political system is aware of information in its environment.

Relating and applying the system theory in understanding political instability and economic relations in Nigeria, it become pertinent to state that the system theory conceived every phenomenon as a complex whole with interdependent and inter related parts. The Nigerian state is made up of different groups, element or sub system such as religious, cultural and non- state actors etc. The activities of one group have grave impact on the entire social system (Nigerian state). Therefore, religious, ethnic and violence from non-state actors such as Boko Haram, Bandit and Militancy etc. have grave impact on other sector of the Nigerian state; economy, security and overall political system.

Results and Discussions

Dimension of Political Instability in Nigeria

Political instability in Nigeria has assumed different dimension such as; ethnic and religious tensions, military interruption in Nigeria body politic, inconsistency in government policies, corruption, governance issues, and insecurity etc. With regard to ethno-religious conflict, Nigeria is a multi-ethnic and religious society with over four hundred (400) ethnic groups, belonging to several religious sects (Enukora, 2005). Nigeria since the attainment of political independence has remained a multi-ethnic nation state, which has been grappling and trying to cope with the problem of ethnicity on the one hand, and the problem of ethno-religious conflicts on the other (Omorogbe & Omohan, 2005). This is because over the years the phenomena of ethnicity and religious intolerance have led to incessant recurrence of ethno-religious conflicts, which have given birth to many ethnic militias like the O' dua People Congress (OPC); the Bakassi Boys; the Egbesu Boys;

the Ijaw Youth Congress (IYC); and the Igbo People Congress (IPC). Others include the Arewa Poeples Congress (APC), the Movement for the Actualization of the Sovereign State of Biafra (MASSOB); and the Ohanaeze N'digbo (Omorogbe & Omohan, 2005). With the emergence of these ethnic militias and the deep divides between the various ethnic groups, religious intolerance has become more violent and bloody with more devastating results using the ethnic militias as the executors of ethno-religious agenda.

In Nigeria, it is interesting to note that ethnicity and religious bigotry has become a fulcrum of various forms of nationalism ranging from assertion of language, cultural autonomy and religious superiority to demands for local political autonomy and self-determination. All these sometimes lead to some forms of contextual discrimination of members of one ethnic or religious group against another on the basis of differentiated systems of socio-cultural symbols and religion (Mohammed, 2004). Therefore, in a multi-ethnic and religiously diverse society like Nigeria, with some forms of contextual discrimination, relationships between people may be characterized by lack of cordiality, mutual suspicion and fear as it is the case among the ethnic and religious groups in Nigeria. In fact, this mutual suspicion and lack of cordiality among the various ethnic components explains why ethno-religious conflicts have become a permanent feature of Nigeria as a country as far back as 1980s to date (Oromareghake & Akpotor, 2008). Thus, before the present democratic experiment in Nigeria, there were ethno-religious conflicts that claimed so many lives and property (Mohammed, 2005). Notable among such crises are the maitatsine religious disturbances in parts of Kano and Maiduguri in the early 1980s; Jimeta-Y ola religious disturbances (1984), and Zango Kataf crises in Kaduna State (1992). Others are Kafanchan College of Education Muslim Christian riots; Kaduna Polytechnic Muslim-Christian skirmishes (1981 -1982); and the cross vs the crescent conflict at the University of lbadan (1981-1985) (Mohammed, 2005). Yet, other early ethno-religious conflicts include the Bulumkutu Christian-Muslim riots (1982); Usman Danfodio University Sokoto (1982); and the Muslim-Christian Clash during a Christian procession at Easter in Ilorin, Kwara State (1986) (Mohammed, 2005). The spate of ethno-religious conflict in Nigeria has however; increased with the birth of Fourth Republic.

The first leg of ethnic and religious riots in Nigeria in recent time was in July 1999, when some Oro cultists in Sagamu, in Ogun State accused a Hausa woman of coming out when the cultists were outside with their gnome. This led to some altercations, which eventually led to full-blown crisis. Many people, majorly of Hausa and Yoruba tribes lost their lives. The infamy was however, temporarily put to check only when a dusk to dawn curfew was imposed on the sleepy town of Sagamu by the state government. Unfortunately, however, as the infamy was put off in Sagamu, reprisal killings started in Kano, a major Hausa city. As a result, many people died and property worth billions of Naira destroyed. Kano residents of Southern extraction who had lived, all their lives in the ancient city of Kano had to return to their native land to count their losses. When Kano City was settling down for peace, Lagos erupted with another orgy of violence, visibly as a mark of vengeance of the Kano mass killing of the Yoruba tribe men. This time, the O'dua People Congress moved against the Hausa/Fulani traders in the popular mile 12 market and for two days, the area was turned to a killing field.

In September 2001, the ethnic tension between the Tivs and Iunkuns in Plateau State reached a head after decades of fighting. The September 2001 ethnic tension was caused by what can be called a mistaken identity (Albert, 2001). What this means is that some Tivs took some nineteen soldiers to be Iunkuns but in fake army uniform. The Tivs youths captured them and slaughtered them one by one. The reprisal attacks by the men of the Nigerian army in Zaki Biam were devastating. Also in the same month, Jos, the Plateau State capital city, joined the madness (Albert, 2001). The cause of this was the appointment of a Christian as a Local Council Chairman. It is interesting to note that by the time sanity found its way back to the city, more than hundred and sixty (160) lives had been lost in the mayhem (Albert, 2001).

With regards to military interruption in Nigeria politics, since Nigeria became independent in 1960, there have been numerous military coup d'états in Nigeria. The first military coup in Nigeria occurred on 15 January 1966 bringing to abrupt end in the life of the first democratic government. On 29 July 1966, a counter-coup occurred that terminated the Ironsi's military regime. On 29 July 1975, another military coup occurred that terminated the regime of Gowon. On 13 February 1976, another military coup occurred which was bloody as it took the life

of Murtala Mohammed the then military administrator. On 31 December 1983, another military coup occurred which terminated the democratic elected government of Shehu Shagari. On 27 August 1985, another military coup occurred that terminated the regime of Buhari and ushered in Ibrahim Babangida regime. On 22 April 1990, there was a failed military coup led by Major Gideon Orkar to oust the regime of Ibrahim Babangida. On 17 November 1993, there was a palace coup led by General Sani Abacha that ousted the Interim National Government (ING). All these coup and countered coup created an unstable political atmosphere in Nigeria political landscape.

With regards to insecurity, insecurity orchestrated by Boko Haram, Banditry, Eastern Security Network (ESN), Militancy and Cultism among others have plunge Nigeria into political instability. With regards to Banditry, Mosadomi and Danjuma (2020, p.34) noted that "banditry has assumed a formidable dimension forcing the country's political and economic managers and, indeed the entire country to rue the loss of their loved ones, investments and absence of safety in most part of the country". According to Olaniyan and Yahaya (2016, p.96), "the prevalent banditry which have enclosed the northern region especially northwest region of Nigeria, mainly, Zamfara, Katsina, Kaduna and Sokoto States, has become a threat to national security". Tauna (2016, p.31), reported that "between October, 2013 and March, 2014, 7,000 cattle were rustled from commercial livestock farms in northern Nigeria". Also, Nwannah (2020, p.87) reported that "about 330 attacks were carried out by bandits and 1,460 deaths were recorded between January and July, 2019".

Victims of bandit attack are often subjected to inhuman treatment which often results to loss of life. As noted by Egwu (2016, p.43), "bandit killed, maimed, and raped women before dispossessing them of their valuable". While in some instances, they also kidnapped girls or women in the process (Egwu, 2016). Suffice to say that the northwest region of Nigeria encompasses seven states namely Kano, Jigawa, Katsina, Kaduna, Zamfara, Sokoto and Kebbi. Five of these states, which are Katsina, Kaduna, Zamfara, Sokoto and Kebbi have been mostly affected by the scourge of banditry. As it relate to Boko Haram, the activities of the group has grave impact on Nigeria's political stability. Stephanie and Adebayo (2018, p.76), conceived Boko Haram "as an Islamic sect that believes politics in northern

Nigeria has been seized by a group of corrupt and false Muslims". It wants to wage a war against them and the Federal Republic of Nigeria largely, to create a "pure" Islamic state run by sharia law. Transparency International (2019, p.19) noted that "since August 2011, Boko Haram has planted bombs almost weekly in public or in churches in Nigeria's northeast region". The report further stated that "the group has also broadened its targets to include setting fire on schools. In March 2012, some twelve public schools in Maiduguri were burned down during the night, and as many as 10,000 pupils were forced out of education" (Transparency International, 2019, p.19).

As it relate to the activities of militancy, militancy has impacted negatively on the political stability of Nigeria. The activities of some militant groups such as; The Movement for the Emancipation of the Niger Delta (MEND) and Niger Delta Avengers (NDA) etc have threatened the political landscape of Nigeria. The Movement for the Emancipation of the Niger Delta (MEND) is a decentralized militant group in the Niger Delta region. According to Ajibefun (2016, p.114), "MEND's actions – including sabotage, theft, property destruction, guerrilla warfare, and kidnapping – are part of the broader conflict in the Niger Delta and has reduced Nigeria's oil production by 33% between 2006-07". The group's efforts are directed toward crippling oil production in the Niger Delta and exposing both the oppression of the people in the region and destruction of their natural environment by the oil corporations in partnership with the Federal government (Ajibefun, 2016). Its composition includes members of the Ijaw who accuse the government and Multinational Oil Firms of promoting massive economic inequalities, fraud, and environmental degradation.

MEND's methods include kidnapping oil workers for ransom, armed assaults on production sites, pipeline destruction, murder of Nigerian police officers, and theft of oil for sale in the black market (Ajibefun, 2016). Nine officials of the Italian petrol company Eni SPA were killed when armed members of MEND attacked Eni SpA's security forces in Port Harcourt. On May 10, 2006, an executive with the United States-based oil company Baker Hughes was shot and killed in the south-eastern city of Port Harcourt. On June 2, 2006, a Norwegian rig offshore was attacked and 16 crew members were kidnapped by MEND. On October 2, 2006, 10 Nigerian soldiers were killed off the shore of the Niger Delta in their patrol

boat by a MEND mortar shell. Earlier that day a Nigerian/Royal Dutch Shell convoy was attacked in the Port Harcourt region resulting in some people being wounded (Ajibefun, 2016).

With regards to corruption and poor governance, Ake (1995) painted a gloomy picture of the African continent. According to him, decades of efforts toward development have yielded largely stagnation, regression or worse. The tragic consequences of this are increasingly clear; a rising tide of poverty, decaying public utilities and infrastructures, social tensions and political turmoil, and now, premonition of inevitable drive into conflict and violence (Ake, 1995). He specifically identifies two major governance issues that proved to be more debilitating impediments to development performance (Ake, 1995). One is the lack of participation and consensus - building, which Mayer et al. (1996) and Kessleman et al. (1996) called the lack of a sense of national community. Meaningful development and political stability require the collective identity of the citizenry. Where this is lacking well-meaning development projects are regarded with suspicion, indifference or even hostility and at best, as an exploitative resource, something to be taken advantage of rather than something to be committed to (Ake, 1995).

Secondly and closely related to this, is the lack of accountability and transparency. This has a grave effect on development, as corruption and inefficiency are concealed; as observed with the spate of abandoned projects. The African State, according to Ayittey (2006), has evolved into a predatory monster or a gangster state that uses a convoluted system of regulations and controls to pillage and rob the productive class the peasantry. It is a common knowledge that heads of state, ministers, and highly placed African government officials raid the African treasury, misuse their positions in government to extort commissions on foreign loan contracts, skim foreign aid, inflate contracts to cronies for kickbacks and deposit the loot in overseas banks. The very people who are supposed to defend and protect the peoples interests are themselves engaged in institutionalized looting. These governance issues have produced a baneful structure in an environment that engenders instability in the political system as the people yearn for the elusive dividends of good governance. One of the major factors responsible for political instability is the failure of the political class to sufficiently adhere to

the basic tenets of democracy and constitutionalism (Kew, 2006). As Harriman (2006) has rightly noted, this situation has given rise to abuse of power, brazen corruption, disregard for due process and the rule of law, intolerance of political opposition, abuse of the electoral process and the weakening of institutions. This contradicts the tenet of governance, which presupposes the process of social engagement between the rulers and the ruled in a political community (Adejumobi, 2004).

Impact of Political Instability on Economic Relations in Nigeria

Political instability has grave implications on economic relations in Nigeria. Instability arising from insecurity such as Banditry, Boko Haram, and Militancy etc including those from ethno-religious conflict, military disruption of democratic government, corruption and poor governance have stifle economic relations in Nigeria. Nigeria has long been regarded as one of Africa's economic powerhouses due to its abundant resources and diversified populace. Abdelhameed and Rashdan (2021) noted that as a developing nation, Nigeria grapples with several security challenges that directly impact its economy, ranging from insurgency to conflicts between farmers and herders to organized crime looting and abduction for ransom. These security threats not only undermine national stability and the rule of law but also have adverse effects on the economy, affecting price, output, employment, trade balance, poverty, inequality, defense expenditure, government budget patterns, socio-political environment, and several others (Abdelhameed & Rashdan, 2021).

With regards to security threat from Bandit, Boko Haram, and Herders etc. Abdelkader (2017) averred that insecurity has severe and far-reaching consequences for the economy of the affected areas, and the incessant activities of non- state actors have created a pervasive sense of fear and insecurity, directly impacting economic activities and development in Nigeria. According to him, given the north predominant reliance on agriculture as the cornerstone of its economy, the presence of bandits, Boko Haram, and Herders etc has disrupted agricultural activities, as farmers are often afraid to cultivate their fields due to the risk of attacks. Thousands of people have been displaced as a result of insecurity related activities. This displacement has resulted in the abandonment of farmlands, exacerbating food crisis. Insecurity has forced many people to flee their

homes, abandoning businesses and livelihoods. The economic displacement of individuals and communities has created a ripple effect, affecting local markets, small businesses, and overall economic productivity.

This disruption has led to a decline in food production, threatening food security for millions of people. Recently, the Food and Agricultural Organization listed Nigeria as one of the countries at risk of food security (2024). This prediction is based on the activities of different non-state actors that have constrained farmers from engaging in farming activities, leading to food shortages in the country. The north is known for the production of key staple food such as yam, cattle, tomatoes and onions among others in large quantities. Most of the produce from the north are usually exported to the southern region. There is therefore a strong economic relation between the southern and northern region in terms of trade and investment. The food crisis and shortages created as a result of insecurity crises in different part of the country has threatened the Nigerian political system with grave prospect for political instability. The prevailing insecurity in Nigeria discourages both domestic and foreign investments, and the lack of a secure environment undermines the implementation of developmental projects that could otherwise contribute to Nigeria's economic growth.

Ethno-religious conflict has grave implication on economic relations and development. Ethno-religious conflict causes the youths with lots of deprivations due to weaknesses in social organization, social institutions and structural deficiencies in creating enabling environment for the society and economy to grow and retards all economic and social progress. Ali, (2008) for example, established that, 'throughout the crisis years in Takum/Ussa, there was a decline in the level of agricultural investment/yield, decline in income levels of the people of the area, and increased level of social and residential segregation and damages to lives and property worth millions. The resultant effects of these are high level of poverty, unemployment and severe economy relations etc

With regards to military interruption in Nigeria's body politics and economic relations, Emenyeonu (1997) noted that while it can neither be wished away nor dismissed as a complete fiasco, military intervention in Nigerian politics has so far demonstrated the existence of a wide gap between the visionary promises of coup

makers and actual performance. Regardless of the circumstances under which it has occurred in Nigeria, military intervention has merely lived with if not exacerbated the political, economic and social problems of the nation. This is not to talk about dismal performances in other spheres of administration such as economic husbandry and the provision of moral leadership. Anim (1990), observes that since the first coup that introduced military intervention in politics, the armed forces have manifested all the weaknesses of the other sections of the society; corruption, graft, indiscipline, ethnicity, disrespect for law and order. In most cases, the impact of military rule has been most glaring in the areas of civil liberties in general and press freedom in particular (Anim, 1990).

With regards to corruption and poor governance, they have impacted negatively on investment climate and Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) thereby creating an environment for instability in Nigeria. Corruption is a serious obstacle to Nigeria's economic growth and is often cited by domestic and foreign investors as a significant barrier to doing business. Nigeria's ranking in Transparency International's 2021 Corruption Perception Index fell slightly from its 2020 score of 149 out of 175 countries to154 of 180 in 2021 (TI, 2021). Studies have shown that countries with good regulatory framework attract more FDI inflows while those with poor legal structure such as Nigeria cannot safeguard investment (Peres, Ameer, 2018) and so foreign investors are scared of investing in such countries. The presence of corruption in almost every facet of the Nigerian economy has negatively affected both foreign and local investments in Nigeria, such that it has become a natural phenomenon in everyday business transactions (Omodero & Dandago, 2018). All these anomalies have grave impact on Nigeria's political stability.

Findings

Based on the study, the following findings are reach

I. The work find out that political instability portend grave danger to economic relations and development in Nigeria. This has manifested in the form of stifling investment climate and lowering of Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) etc.

II. The study find out that political instability in Nigeria has manifested in different dimension such as ethno-religious conflict, insecurity,

military interruption of democratic government, corruption and poor leadership etc.

Conclusion

Socio-economic and political development cannot thrive in an atmosphere of political instability. The Nigerian state has been greeted with diverse forms of political instability such as insecurity arising from the activities of Banditry, Boko Haram, Eastern Security Network (ESN) and Militancy etc., other forms of political instability are; ethno-religious conflict, military disruption of democratic government, corruption and poor governance etc. All these have grave implication for economic relations and development of Nigeria. Insecurity perpetrated by terrorist has stifle investment climate in Nigeria and lower Foreign Direct Investment (FDI). Corruption and poor governance by political elites has further threatened Nigeria's political system and undermine economic relations. There is high inflation rate, poverty, unemployment and hunger which can be attributed to the activities of terrorist groups in the country, corruption, poor leadership and inconsistency in government policies etc. All these have threatened the political system and undermine economic relations and development in the country.

Recommendation

Based on the study, the following recommendations are made

i. Nigerian government should intensify measures to address the numerous security challenges that threaten Nigeria in order to restore investors' confidence and enable farmers to return to their farms so as to enhance economic relations and development in Nigeria.

ii. The anti-corruption agencies in Nigeria; Economic and Financial Crime Commission (EFCC) and the Independent Corrupt Practices and Other Related Offences(ICPC) should be strengthen to enable them address discharge their constitutional responsibilities (fight against corruption).

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