

# Effect of Insecurity of Security Officers on Nigeria's Economic Prospects

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## ABSTRACT

This study examined the effect of insecurity of security officers on economic prospects in Nigeria. This work seeks to explain the meaning of security, insecurity, types of security, causes of insecurity of security officers, and its effect on Nigeria's economic prospect. The security officials whose statutory assignment is to secure the citizens' and aliens' lives and properties must be first safe to discharge their duties diligently. Therefore, a random sampling was done through the distribution of 130 questionnaires to respondents. Also, secondary data, such as, relevant books, newspapers, research articles, and government publications in Nigeria, were adopted. After the data analysis was conducted, the findings testified that insecurity of security officials is evident in Nigeria due to many identified factors responsible for their insecurity. This hinders Nigeria's economic prospect from discouragement caused to both existing and prospective investors locally and internationally. It also led to the displacement of investors from the crisis zone to a peaceful area, sometimes leading to the relocation of industry to assured security countries. After rigorous findings, this research concluded and recommended that the government, civil society, and every arm of society must take a proactive approach to ensure that the safety of every security official in Nigeria is given needed attention to address the issue.

**Keywords:** Economic prospect, Human security, Insecurity and security.

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## INTRODUCTION

The issue of insecurity recently in Nigeria has become a worrying matter that needed urgent attention. Particularly, insecurity against security officers has become a common occurrence in Nigeria. This has threatened national security and has cost the country a lot, which led to a huge allocation of the national budget to the security sector. This view is also in line with **Achumba and Akpor (2013)**. As a matter of fact, security has been an issue that attracted a rapidly growing interest and big concern among the scholars in social science, in which a wide spectrum of issues on the subject (security) has remained constant, in which breakthroughs and findings are still being made showing the strategic importance of security in the development of nations and actualization of peace and order of human relations (**Monsuru, 2013**). Statutorily, the security and well being of the people in respective status, the rich, the poor, the elites, illiterates, and security officials are constitutional responsibilities of a reasonable government. **Olabanji and Eze (2014)** also asserted something similar in their work, "Insecurity and Socio-Economic Development in Nigeria." These researchers have identified, after rigorous findings, that the security officers must be given all necessary security apparatus that will assure that they are hundred percent safe, to enable them to discharge their statutory duties as recognized by the International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP) Law Enforcement Code of Ethics (1983), which posited that "as a law enforcement officer, my fundamental duty is to serve the community, to safeguard life and property, to protect the innocent against deception, the weak against the oppression or intimidation, and the peaceful against violence or disorder, and to respect the constitutional rights of all to

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liberty, equality, and justice" With these identified fundamental duties of the law enforcement officer, it is factual to say that reasonable government should give priority to the safety of its security officials (law enforcement agencies), such as, the police, army, navy, air force, custom, immigration, and so on. There is an understandable technicality here; "one cannot give what he or she did not have." Security officers here recognized to be any among those law enforcement agencies. It is when their safety is assured that they could perform those identified fundamental duties by IACP. Researchers here refer to an insecure nation as a prison for investment, which cannot see the daylight. Therefore, a security officer's insecurity is a parasite to the national economy, causing severe damage to Nigeria's economic prospects.

## STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

The issue of the recent insecurity of security officers in Nigeria has reached an alarming stage. Therefore, the safety of a security officer is not negotiable. The needful must be considered and must promptly be done to enhance viable economic prospects. Recently, many security officers lost their lives due to frequent

bandits attacks, which caused a lot of economic loss to the nation. The effect of insecurity of security officers on Nigeria economic prospect needs to be identified by the government and relevant agencies and finding a lasting solution to it before it crumbles the whole economy.

### Research Question

- Does insecurity of security officers is evident in Nigeria?
- Does insecurity of security officers have any significant effect on Nigeria's economic prospects?

### Research Objective

- To investigate the incidents of insecurity of security officers and to ascertain if it is evident in Nigeria.
- To analyze the effect of insecurity of security officers on Nigeria's economic prospects.

### Scope of the Study

This study thoroughly investigates the incidents of security officers' insecurity, types of insecurity, causes of insecurity of security officers, and its effect on Nigeria's economic prospects, using information gathered from available government documents, related publications, and researchers' experience. It focused on relevant security agencies in Nigeria.

## LITERATURE REVIEW

The issue of insecurity, particularly against the security officers which referred to as law enforcement officers, such as, the army, police, navy, air force, prison, immigration, custom, and other paramilitary are all recognized to be the earth or backbone to security arena in Nigeria. **Ali (2013)** traced the origin of insecurity to the return of democracy in 1999. Recently, the insecurity against law enforcement officers caused a severe threat to national security and resulted in a lot of decadence or damage to Nigeria's economic prospects that call for urgent attention by the government at various levels. This also generates an internal security crisis in Nigeria. **Egbefor (2014)** explains that the problem of internal security crisis cannot be properly understood nor decoded unless the analysis and the interpretation of the underlining causes, types, effects, and solution are premised on the contemporary global financial and economic crisis, while **Omoyibo and Akpomera (2013)** also posited that security is a concept that is before the state. The state exists to provide that concept. Therefore, law enforcement officers are the machinery that will realize the concept for the government. Basically, the Federal Republic's 1999 constitution stated that people's security and welfare should be the government's primary purpose. Hence, a reasonable government should know that the security officials' safety is not negotiable and should be given priority while discharging its responsibilities. **Okonkwo R. I. et al. (2015)** and **Bright (2018)**, in their respective study, revealed that despite the government effort that created the Anti-Terrorism Act 2011, which criminalized terrorism as to cob the issue of insecurity and to bring peace in Nigeria but not yield any result. Because the law enforcement officers that are to secure the nation are no more safe in the hand of terrorists, militia groups, robbery, and

other deadly groups claiming their lives daily, this shows that the government needs to take proactive measures to bring peace. Thus, the Global Peace Index (GPI) (2012) revealed Nigeria's low ranking in security.

### *Causes of Insecurity against the Security Officers (Law Enforcement Officers)*

There are various factors identified responsible for the insecurity against the law enforcement officers, which depend on the understanding of different investigators. Therefore, the researcher identified the following factors to be responsible for insecurity against the security officers known as law enforcement officers /officials:

*Lack of workable and serviceable equipment:* Many types of equipment used by many law enforcement officers here in Nigeria are outdated; that is why one will see Nigeria's law enforcement official performing excellently well in the United Nation Foreign Mission because the UN provides them with quality equipment without playing bad politics.

*Shortage of manpower:* The number of security officers to Nigeria's population requires more personnel recruitment. This also resulted in recently concluded recruitment by the Nigerian army, the police, immigration, custom, etc.

*Inadequate funding:* Nigeria's army, the police, and other armed forces are not well funded; the little allocated to them were not judiciously spent, thus, posed a severe threat to national security and led to witness long insecurity in Nigeria.

*Poor security management:* The issue of insecurity is persistent in Nigeria due to poor managerial factor that rests in the government's hands and those security chiefs. If the security officers are not well managed, the result is what we are all encountering in this country. Though, the government and the service chiefs are working hazardously but yet to meet Nigerians' expectations.

*Lack of technological advancement:* The issue of security outside the world recently has advanced from initial traditional methods into the modern use of technology in the detection of crime, fight against terrorism, cultism, among others. It will cob the trend of insecurity, bring about the safety of law enforcement officials, ease their work force, and bring about efficiency while discharging their duties and responsibilities to make Nigeria's economic prospect a sound one.

*Misappropriation of fund:* This can keep a nation into an unstoppable security problem; a typical example of this can be traced back to the previous regime in Nigeria, where a reasonable amount of money allotted to procure security equipment was shared among the politicians without considering the high rate of insecurity and the matter still on the table at Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) for a thorough investigation, the initial focus was to equipped the security, but sharp practice made the government to lost focus. Therefore, the terrorist groups are at the custodial of sophisticated weapons than law enforcement officials. This led to recall to a very recent post alleged to be from the commander of the Nigerian army at the battlefield at one of the crisis zone states in Nigeria.



*Bad leadership:* The role of leadership in ensuring national security shall not be underestimated. Any country with a bad leader as head of security will lead such a nation to a lot of security crises. Competency plays a big role here; any nation with a competent leader will enjoy proper security standards and stick to the profession's ethical standard.

*Corruption (sharp practice):* This is another factor that hindered Nigeria's security, which led to recent insecurity that the country is now into; many government's allocated fund ends up in corruption, sometime in Nigeria one will heard that animal part away with huge money.

*Bad politics:* Here in Nigeria, particularly during electioneering when politicians are buying their ways to gain an elective post, sometimes at the election. Today, it very hard to conduct the general elections in Nigeria without claiming the lives of many security officials, factually, electoral fraud has been a normal game that is associated with political tension, violence, and crises in Nigeria; this is also similar to the views of scholars, like **Adekanye (1990)**, **Chukwuma (2006)**, **Daniel (2001)**, **Egbefo and Salihu (2014)**, and **Jibrin (2006)**.

*Porous border:* The inflow of criminals with illegal arms and other light weapons into the country as a result of unchecked or not properly checked has led to frequent criminality, also obstruct the country peace and increase the rate of insecurity in Nigeria; this also conforms with the view of **Hazen and Horner (2007)**.

*Unemployment:* This is a factor that majorly led to security crises in Nigeria because of inadequate employment for many employable graduates that led many youths to join militia group that today destroying lives and property, a lot of innocent citizens and security officials lost their lives to the militant mess, unemployment resulted to abject poverty, and rendered many youths useless; **Adagba et al. (2012)** also posited the same.

*Government:* Constitutionally, the 1999 Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria posited that the people's security and welfare should be the government's primary purpose. Therefore, it is unfortunate that the government failed to provide this constitutional responsibility diligently. Thus, endangered the lives of security officials and the general public; **Olabanji O. E. (2014)** also observed the same.

### *Types of Security*

The issue of insecurity has made us understand that Nigeria's security covers a wide range of issues, both traditional and non-traditional, which goes beyond explaining security to protect an individual's life and property. Thus, it also covers measures to mitigate to avoid the effects of other threats, like environmental pollution, terrorism, shortage of water, HIV-AIDS, etc., on man and the state. **Monuru et al. (2013)** identified the following types of security: community, economic, environment, food, health, personal, and territorial. Researchers choose to explain them as under.

*Economic security:* This can be referred to as creating an enabling environment and employing employable graduates and living

wages to unemployed ones. It is quite unfortunate here in Nigeria that unemployed people are left to their fate, while in advanced countries, the government often puts in place social security for citizens who are out the job, in which stipends are provided for the citizens to keep body and soul together, some that have jobs do not have job security. Therefore, economic deprivation has been the major source of increasing criminality and criminal activities among the people, particularly the youth.

*Environmental security:* **Adeboyejo (1994)** described the environment as "the total surrounding or external conditions within which an organism or a community exists." Thus, the concept of the environment has begun to dominate the international discourse; the United Nations efforts are being made through its relevant agency United Nations Environment Program (UNEP) to monitor environmental issues, and make reports and plans for such issues and to act and promote legal instrument on the environment. Such an environment includes, the lithosphere, hydrosphere, and biosphere, ozone layer damage, water pollution, and environmental degradation, to mention a few. Therefore, the effects of an insecure environment also pose a severe threat to national security.

*Personal security:* This is a type of security that involves protecting an individual from any physical violence. Therefore, both the state and other entities, like any other people or group of people, member(s) of the person's immediate family are barred by the law to carry out any action(s) that can cause injury or death against that individual. This kind of security also prevents the individual from physical aggression against oneself, which means self-killing is regarded as a criminal offense.

*Territorial security:* It is an aspect of the United Nations mandate, which the world body has found crucial to maintaining global peace and security. This connotes protecting the state from any internal and external aggression.

State by State Analysis of Insecurity of Security Officers in Nigeria

The issues of insecurity in Nigeria nowadays is very alarming. The security officers who shoulder the responsibility of securing the life and property of the citizenry are no more up to the task of the current security challenges in Nigeria, going the investigation of the researcher with the references to the noticeable insecurity against security officers in Nigeria, which has become a daily routine.

*Nasarawa state:* **Emeka (2013)** revealed that tension in Nasarawa where 100 police, DSS missing in Lafia. The state police command has said that only 17 out of 90 police officers, excluding other security officers, who were on a mission to arrest the chief priest of Ombatse shrine, located 10 kilometers from Lafia, the state capital, returned with various degrees of wounds. *Ombatse* in the English Language means "time has come." The terrible act led to the cancellation of the then President's scheduled visit to Namibia to personally oversee security agencies' efforts to curtail the new security challenge in the state. It was also revealed that 40 dead bodies of the missing policemen had already been recovered from the forests. It is a great mess to the national security because a single attack of such claimed that magnitude of officers that lost

their lives, which robbed the institution of its operational chief in the state. More so, **Nwofor S. (2019)** explained that gunmen kill three police officers attack the convoy of Nasarawa Deputy Governor. The Deputy Governor's convoy was attacked on 20th August 2019 by gunmen, where three police officers and a civilian were killed. The incident happened around Gako hill in Nasarawa, Eggon local government, when the Deputy Governor was said to be heading to Abuja for the inauguration of ministers scheduled to occur on Wednesday 21st August 2019.

*Zamfara state:* **Samuel (2018)** revealed that the force headquarters has declined to provide details of the killing of many Nigerian police officers in the state on 29th November 2018. No fewer than 50 officers who were part of a police anti-rustling team deployed in the troubled state were killed in an ambush by armed bandits; multiple police sources told Premium Times. The incident led to the former Vice President's call for national mourning after bandits killed over 50 police officers in Zamfara state.

*Kogi state:* On Friday 5th June 2020, the police confirmed eight of their personnel and a civilian were killed in a robbery attack in Nigeria North Central, Kogi state. A gang of 25 armed robbers stormed a bank and police station at Isanlu, a serene town in the Kogi state. On 4th June 2020 (Thursday) evening, Police-Public Relations Officer (PPRO) said in his statement, "during the incident eight police officers lost their lives among which women police officers while others sustained various degrees of injuries. Therefore, as these continue to occur, the country (Nigeria) may likely be referred to as prison for investment and result in real investors' relocation. They will like to keep their business in a safer place, which may hinder Nigeria's economic prospects."

## Theoretical Review

In Nigeria of today, it is understandable that managing security has remained an activity, which requires the stakeholders to develop connections and relationships in theoretical terms, which assist the policymakers in exploring a wide range of policy options, assessing their strengths and weakness in addressing the complex political, socio-economic, and environmental threats to security. Therefore, the researcher adopted the theory of idealism that emerged in the 1920s as an initiative that guarantees world peace and security. This theory believed that security could be efficiently managed through the non-coercive or non-violent process, based on the fact that violence would only give birth to further violence. The use of violence or force cannot guarantee any security within or internationally. **Kasali (2003)**, in his study, revealed that those scholars of this thought hold that security can best be managed if government at all levels from local to the world ensured that a security system based on the development of civic culture on international agreements and treaties, stress on depolarization, demilitarization, a transcendence of enemy imaging, and solidarity. Scholars of this theory also believe that democratic governance has the ultimate mechanism for effective security management. Therefore, World War II's emergence had undermined this theory's relevance in the management of international security, especially as it concerned democratic order issues. Meanwhile, the world population's

experience has shown that democracy cannot achieve peace and security, but some democracies can carry out offensives capable of jeopardizing national and international security.

## Keywords/Additional Information

### *Economic Prospect*

This refers to the focus on current economic trends, both domestically and globally, as well as, forecasts of the most important macroeconomic variables, including inflation, interest and exchange rates, Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth, and household consumption. Source: <https://www.ber.ac.za>.

### *Human Security*

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) (1994) posited that human security means, firstly, safety from such chronic threats as hunger, disease, and repression. Secondly, it means protection from sudden and harmful destruction in daily life patterns, whether in house, in jobs or communities, identified those elements that made up human security, such as, food, health, community, economic, personal, health, and environmental security. Anything short of this definition that includes those identified elements amount to insecurity.

### *Insecurity*

**Igbuzor (2011)**, **Oche (2001)**, and **Nwanegbo and Odigbo (2013)** all scholars, while explaining insecurity, they emphasized the absence of threats to peace, stability, national cohesion, political, and socio-economic objectives of a country. Insecurity connotes different meanings, such as, absent of safety, danger, hazard, uncertainty, lack of protection, and lack of safety **Olabanji and Ese (2014)**, while **Beland (2005)** referred to insecurity as a state of fear or anxiety due to absence or lack of protection.

### *Security*

South Africa White Paper on Defence (1996), while explaining security, referred to it as an all-encompassing condition, in which individual citizens live in freedom, peace, and safety, participate fully in the process of governance, enjoy the protection of fundamental rights, have access to resources and the basic necessity of life, and inhabit an environment, which is not detrimental to their health and wellbeing. **Tickner (1994)** expanded this explanation to include that in terms of the state's internal security and security systems of health, money, and trade.

## Empirical Review

**Bright (2018)**, in his study titled "Insecurity and economic growth in Nigeria: A diagnostic review," using elements of descriptive qualitative analysis and data from a secondary source, analyzed its effect on some economic parameters. The finding revealed that insecurity has a negative impact on Nigeria's economy. The study recommended an increase in capital expenditure on internal security and concluded with a discussion of some policies to be designed and targeted at addressing insecurity's economic effects.



## METHODOLOGY

### Research Design

This research has been drawn from contemporary documents that germane in politics, both locally and internationally, and been descriptive in nature. It focuses on the extent of security officers' insecurity and its effect on Nigeria's economic prospects. Related articles, journals, books, and online sources contributed a lot to this study's reality.

### Sample Size

In this research, the investigated population comprised of respondents picked at random. The survey was captured and discussed 130 respondents from the general public and technically work on information given on their precise observation concerning insecurity against security officers and its possible effect on Nigeria's economic prospects.

### Sample Techniques and Instrument

The technique adopted in this study is enumerative, multiplying the number of respondents to generate the percentage. While one single, simplified instrument of the structured questionnaire was used to determine the effect of security officers' insecurity on Nigeria's economic prospects. The demographic information part of the instrument was used to gather the personal data of the respondents. This instrument was to get exact needy information as the questionnaires administered randomly present the analogy objectively.

## RESULTS AND FINDINGS

This section explains the method adopted in this study. In assessing the respondents' general responses concerning the data collected through the use of questionnaires, aiming to report and

discuss the results of the data, analyze, interpret them to answer the research questions, and thereby accept or reject the proposed hypothesis. This study pasted reasonable research questions. The information below presents the analysis of the data relevant to the research questions. The findings related to each hypothesis tested are provided. The required statistical presentation for this study is also presented in Table 1.

### Section A: Statistical Analysis

The respondents were required to rank each statement of fact on a scale of 1 to 4, which is shown in Table 1. The presentation and interpretation of data analysis in this section combine the frequency table and mean (average) ranking of each statement. The Likert scale used for the questionnaire ranged from 1 to 4 (i.e., strongly agree to strongly disagree). The acceptable range of mean for each of the questions in this section is  $> 1.5$  (see Table 1 on mean score interpretation of factors for details).

### Section B: Findings of Evidence of Insecurity of Security Officers in Nigeria

Table 2 shows that 73.85% of the respondents having the mean of 2.76 agreed that there are evidence of insecurity of security officers here in Nigeria.

Table 3 shows that insecurity of security officers resulted in incessant security challenges that Nigerian investors are facing, 69.23% of the respondents with a mean of 2.64 agreed to this.

### Section C: Investigation of the Effect of Insecurity of Security Officers on Nigeria's Economic Prospects

Table 4 shows that 73.85% of the respondents having a mean of 2.76 agreed that security officers' insecurity is evident, which has severe negative effect on Nigeria's economic prospects.

**Table 1:** Scale for interpretation

<i>Unit weight</i>	<i>Weighted interval</i>	<i>Mean verbal description</i>
4	2.5–4.0	Strongly agree
3	1.5–2.49	Agree
2	1–1.49	Disagree
1	Below 1	Strongly disagree

**Table 2:** Evidence of insecurity of security officers in Nigeria

<i>Valid</i>	<i>Frequency</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Valid percent</i>	<i>Cumulative percent</i>
Strongly agree	58	44.62	44.62	44.62
Agree	38	29.23	29.23	73.85
Disagree	20	15.38	15.38	89.23
Strongly disagree	14	10.77	10.77	100
Total	130	100	100	

**Table 3:** Investigate major security challenges in Nigeria

<i>Valid</i>	<i>Frequency</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Valid percent</i>	<i>Cumulative percent</i>
Strongly agree	44	33.85	33.85	33.85
Agree	46	35.38	35.38	69.23
Disagree	22	16.92	16.92	86.15
Strongly disagree	18	13.85	13.85	100
Total	130	100	100	

**Table 4:** Evidence of security officers' insecurity, which has a severe negative effect on Nigeria's economic prospects

Valid	Frequency	Percent	Valid percent	Cumulative percent
Strongly agree	28	29.23	29.23	29.23
Agree	58	44.62	44.62	73.85
Disagree	14	10.77	10.77	84.62
Strongly disagree	20	15.38	15.38	100
Total	130	100	100	

**Table 5:** Governments, civil societies, general public, and any other relevant authorities to give safety of security officers a priority by provision of quality, workable and serviceable equipment to facilitate safety and valuable Nigeria's economic prospects

Valid	Frequency	Percent	Valid percent	Cumulative percent
Strongly agree	46	35.38	35.38	35.38
Agree	44	33.85	33.85	69.23
Disagree	18	13.85	13.85	83.08
Strongly disagree	22	16.92	16.92	100
Total	130	100	100	

### Section D: Possible Remedy to the Issue of Insecurity of Security Officers and its Effect on Nigeria

Table 5 shows that 69.23% of the respondents having the mean score of 2.64 agreed that governments, civil societies, the general public, and any other relevant authorities to give the safety of security officers a priority by the provision of employment, quality, workable, and serviceable modern types of equipment to facilitate safety and valuable Nigeria's economic prospects.

### CONCLUSION

After a series of findings above, researchers conclude the following:

- There is evidence of insecurity of security officers here in Nigeria.
- The occurrence of insecurity of security officers resulted in incessant security challenges in Nigeria.
- The insecurity of security officers is established; therefore, it has a severe negative effect on Nigeria's economic prospects, as indicated above.

### RECOMMENDATION

After a thorough investigation, the following was recommended:

- The government's constitutional responsibility includes the protection of life and property. Therefore, the government at all levels should take a proactive approach to give priority to the safety of security officers since they are government tools in discharging their statutory duties.
- The governments, civil society, the general public, and any other relevant authorities should provide employment, quality, workable and serviceable equipment to facilitate safety and valuable Nigeria's economic prospects.
- The government should ensure that security issues are not politicized, and security must be done at the right time.

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