Insecurity and its Implications for Sustainable Development in Ankpa Local Government Area of Kogi State, Nigeria

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Abstract
Nigeria is under severe internal socio-economic and security threats due to banditry, kidnapping, insurgency, political, ethno-religious conflagration, communal strife, etc. These acts of insecurity have continued not only to threaten the socio-economic fabric of the country but also to undermine its sustainable development. This article, therefore, examines the security challenges and their implications for sustainable development in Ankpa Local Government Area of Kogi State. The paper argues that insecurity erodes sustainable development as lives and investments are insecure, businesses and other economic activities are slowed down, investors are scared away, and poverty, unemployment and crime rates exacerbate. This paper adopts the cross-sectional survey design method with a quantitative approach to data analysis. The findings of the study indicated that a range of factors including a high rate of poverty, surging unemployment level, high crime rate, shortage of security personnel, herders and farmer clashes, political rivalry, and community conflicts are among the salient challenges militating against security and peace in Ankpa LGA. The paper concludes that insecurity and underdevelopment have an inverse relationship, therefore, the Government should convoke a security summit, and mainstream youth empowerment and social investment programmes.

Keywords: Security, Insecurity, sustainable development, Ankpa Local Government Area, Development

Introduction

The prevalence of social conflicts and the consequences thereto have made our world and communities very unstable and unsafe. This development has produced dire socio-economic consequences, mainly impacting national development and livelihood sustainability (Ogwola, 2022). For instance, ongoing conflicts between Russia and Ukraine, Israel and Palestine in the Gaza Strip; Iran and Iraq, Syria and in African countries (Egypt, Libya, Tunisia, Sudan, South-Sudan, Mali, Somalia, and Nigeria) have continued to create a sense of insecurity with the massive displacement and refugee crisis, destruction of social infrastructure, disruption of social and economic systems and increased crime and violence. Thus, insecurity of any nature or dimension is antithetical to development, hence it must be prevented at any cost.

The pervasiveness of insecurity threatening the corporate existence of Nigeria is profound in several ways. The National Bureau of Statistics reported that between May 2023 and April 2024, the sum of over two trillion naira (N2.23 trillion) equivalent to 1.5 billion dollars was paid by Nigerian households affected by kidnapping. The survey revealed that an estimated 51.89 million incidents of kidnapping were recorded with the North Central region having the second highest number of incidents with 8.8m immediately following the North-West with 14.4m incidents (Tunji, 2024). As observed by scholars, Nigeria as a nation-state is under a severe internal socio-economic and security threat due to the litany of conflicts, insurgency, ethno-religious conflicts, insurrection by ethnic militia, banditry, herder and farmer conflict ((Ngonadi, Nnamdi & Umeozor, 2022; Ogwola, 2017; Ezema, 2013). The character of violence and criminality by these groups have persistently hampered peace and security. A common consequence emerging from these acts of violent criminality is that they have adversely promoted humanitarian crises ranging from exacerbated refugee conditions to poverty, disease, malnutrition and epidemics. In general,

they tended to hamper the development process and slow down the provision of basic infrastructures and investment opportunities (Tersoo & Ejue, 2015). This development, according to Suleiman (2018, 2) appears to be a "direct result of the complex inner issues" bedeviling the Nigerian state. The argument is that the state is unable and weak enough not to be able to guarantee the security of the lives and property of its citizenry effectively.

The scale of the insurrection in Nigeria by this ethnic militia is tragic. In the northeast and northwest, the activities of the Islamic sect, Boko Haram and banditry have claimed millions of lives and rendered many destitute in the region. The activities of the Ombatse cult in Nasarawa State and the oscillating waste of human life and agricultural produce (Jamestown, 2013), occasioned by the Fulani herders and farmers' conflicts in north central Nigeria remain very volatile. In Eastern Nigeria, the militia wing of the Igbo liberation organization code-named Eastern Security Network (ESN) of the Indigenous Peoples of Biafra (IPOB), engaged in kidnapping, homicidal activities and murder of state security personnel facilitated by some gang leaders, also remains a perilous challenge in the region. In the South-South zone, the insurrection by the Niger Delta militants despite the presidential amnesty remains an endemic criminality (Jarikre, 2017). Evidentiary, the dwindling of crude oil production from 2.4million / 2.6 million barrels per day (BPD) at its peak in 2012 to 700,000 (BPD) was largely due to the vandalization of critical oil infrastructure, cultism, organized criminality, piracy, oil theft, kidnapping and an increase in small and light weapons" (Jarikre, 2021: 177). This produced a negative impact on the development of the Nigerian state in general and Ankpa Local Government of Kogi State in particular. Undoubtedly, one of the critical challenges that development in Nigeria had to contend with is insecurity arising from ethnic militia insurrection, insurgency, kidnapping and banditry that have engulfed the country for about two decades now.

Sustainable development has become a ubiquitous development paradigm and slogan of development and environmental activists (Mensah, 2019). Notwithstanding its pervasiveness and popularity, development is a complex multidimensional phenomenon that cults across a broad range of political, economic, technological and social spheres of human activity (Jarikre, 2016a, 99). Sustainability means the capacity to maintain some entity, outcome or process over time (Basiago, 1999 in Mensah, 2019). Fischer et al. (2023) provide a profound explanation of the approaches, dimensions and policy concepts of sustainability in understanding the concept of sustainable development. The frameworks of the Millennium Development Goals (MDG 2000) and the 17 Sustainable Development Goals of its successor in 2015, described "sustainable development as development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs." (Fischer et al, 2023, 17).

The security profile of Ankpa LGA underscores a high level of insecurity as a result of bandits ravaging villages and communities, herdsmen invading and attacking helpless and unarmed farmers, criminal activities on highways, political thuggery, cultism, etc. Consequently, several harmless persons have been reportedly killed, maimed, kidnapped, tortured, raped and robbed (Achoba & Irefin, 2023; Yunusa, 2021). Geographically, Ankpa Local Government Area is located in Kogi State, North Central zone of Nigeria. Though the area is attractive to diverse peoples, it is mainly populated by Igala people and is estimated at 267,353 (NPC 2006). It is made up of several agrarian communities, prominent amongst them are Ankpa town (the headquarters of the LGA), Odagba, Abo, Acherane, Adde, Aguma, Aka, Akwu, Ede, Efiwo, Ebakpoti Biraidu, Enjema and others. The people are predominantly farmers and have a fairly extensive arable land with a suitable climate for the production of various crops but gully erosion poses a significant threat to soil fertility and agricultural productivity" (Idoko, Ogah, & Alkali, 2024:32). Nevertheless, a good

percentage of the people engage in trading, craftsmen, teaching or civil service work (Kakwagh, 2019, 89). The area also boasts of coal and since 1968, the Nigeria Coal Corporation has been engaged in surface coal mining (Nwajuiba, 2005).

This article focuses on the insecurity and its implications for sustainable development in Ankpa Local Government Area of Kogi State The first part of the article provides an overview of security challenges in Nigeria. It is followed by a conceptual discourse of security, insecurity, development and sustainable development. The article proceeds by recapping the research methodology and discusses the inverse relationship between insecurity and sustainable development within the context of factors that precipitate and undermine development in Ankpa Local Government Area (LGA)

Conceptual Discourse
Security and Insecurity
Generally speaking, the concept of security could be described as a phenomenon shaped by the Cold War concerning national security within the international political system. Undoubtedly, it was a 1940s invention by the United States of America and institutionalized during the Cold War. Its usage gained currency and widespread acceptance among the allies of the US and later all actors in the international system. As Dalby (2002) observed, Security is about the future or fears about the future… it provides narratives of danger as the stimulus to collective action but is much less useful in proposing desirable futures" (Dalby 2002, p. 163). A plethora of literature has attempted to define the term along the sub-discipline of International Relations and Security Studies. Although many scholars have different approaches to the concept of security, however, there is common ground that deals with threats to survival. As Collins et al. (2007) posited what security studies have done since the end of the Cold War is to bring back assumptions along the lines of what it is to be secured and how that could or should be done. (Collins et al 2007, p. 2).

We need to acknowledge security as a critical social problem necessary for making sense of the world as we know it. In this way, attempts have been made to expand the scope of security from the realist point of view which confined security within the ambit of state capacity to deter or defeat aggressors but to include not only military threats but also from economic vulnerability, ecological threats and natural disaster (Jarikre, 2012, 171; Imobighe, 2001, 40). In the same way, Jonsson (2009) drawing from an oral interview with Barry Buzan in 2008, describes how to look at security when he asks "What's the process by which threats get constructed: who speaks it, who listens to it, how does something get put together and accepted as a threat." (Jonsson, 2009, 10). Buzan's seminal work People, State and Fear like the earlier works of Clausewitz, provides the most extensive contemporary examination available on human security from a state-combined perspective (Jarikre, 2012, 171). It is problematic to define security, however, as long as the conception of security is not bound to mere state activities it could have implications for environmental security and other items to be secured. The neo-realist and postmodernist thrusts to the new security thinking have never denied the reality or assumption that the state has a primary role to play without isolating the non-state actors in the quest for global security (Jarikre, 2012, 171).

Insecurity is a hydra-headed monster; its prevalence endangers life, puts valuable properties in harm's way, triggers socio-cultural dislocation, and slows down the pace of socio-economic development. Insecurity is not new to societies and has existed since antiquity. Nevertheless, it is pertinent to have a clear understanding of security to grasp the meaning of insecurity. Pointedly, security as a social contract encapsulates citizens' willingness to surrender their rights to the government which oversees their survival by protecting the life, freedom or liberty of the citizenry (Adofu & Alhassan, 2018). Therefore, when there is security, fear, anxiety, tension, and apprehension over the loss of property, life, goals, and values are absent (Iregbenu and Uzonwanne, 2015).

Based on the foregoing, insecurity could be seen as the absence of security as shown in the definitions above. It is a condition where vulnerability to harm, loss of life, property or livelihood exists (Achumba et al. 2013). This is characterized by the vulnerability of an individual or group to danger or harm against which they cannot take defensive action. Obi (2015) describes insecurity as a chronic threat to human life, territories, states, religious beliefs, property and institutions among others. His description portrays insecurity as a phenomenon threatening the existence of people and affecting their environment.

Development and Sustainable Development
Development as a concept is a victim of definitional pluralism (Lawal & Oluwatoyi, 2011). It is a difficult word to define. However, attempts have been made by erudite scholars to conceptualize development. For instance, Gboyega (2003) captures development as an idea that embodies all attempts to improve the conditions of human existence in all ramifications. It implies improvement in the material well-being of all citizens, not the most powerful and rich alone, in a sustainable way such that today's consumption does not imperil the future, it also demands that poverty and inequality of access to the good things of life be removed or drastically reduced. It seeks to improve personal physical security and livelihoods and expansion of life chances. Jarikre (2016b) opines that development is not a set of policies or programmes but an upward directional movement through which society and people create and recreate themselves into higher levels of perfection and realization of all latent capabilities (energy, efficiency, equality, productivity, complexity, creativity, mastery, enjoyment and accomplishment) within the broad range of physical, social, institutional and psychological infrastructure (p. 39)

Over the years, three broad schools of thought and debates on development have emerged. These are modernization, dependency and the Marxist school of thought. Modernization sees development as a desired state of affairs whereby society must aspire to attain, moving from a backward stage (traditional) to advancement (modernity). Proponents of this school include Walt Whitman Rostow, David Apter, David McClelland Edward Shills etc. For them, the global North have transited the traditional practices and can be classified as a developed nation while the global South without duly meeting the requirements for development are enmeshed in the circle of poverty, diseases, unemployment, and low technological know-how. The Dependency School of thought emerged as a critique of the views of the modernization theorists, pioneered by Latin American scholars like Raul Prebish, Fernando Cardoso, Theotanios Dos Santos, James Caporaso, Andre Gunder Frank, Jahun Gultang, Immanuel Wallerstein, Walter Rodney, and Samir Amin. Their postulations are based on the assumption that development and underdevelopment are two sides of a coin, which could be understood within the context of a structural linkage between the developed capitalist nations and periphery (third world countries). The Marxists' School of thought emerged from the views of the German philosopher Karl Marx (1818-1883), whose postulation is from the class system. For them, two classes are seen as representing two sides of a fundamental contradiction which originates from a conflict that brings about a significant change. Ostensibly, development in this regard is the equal distribution of the ownership of the means of production, and social justice which individuals are bestowed with (Marx & Engel, 1950) cited in Haralambos and Holborn (2008).

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP, 2009) conceives sustainable development as development that meets our present needs without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. The UNDP identified three elements which should work together to ensure sustainable development. These include economic development, social development and environmental protection. In this way, Dernbach (1998) and Stoddert (2011) agree that intergenerational equity recognizes the long-term scale of sustainability to address the needs of future generations. Collaborating the

above, Anazodo et al. (2014) contend that sustainable development can only make sense to people when they are involved in the process of decision-making through a bottom-top approach. Conversely, the idea of weak sustainable development explains that only the aggregate level of capital matters: man-made, or manufactured, capital is an adequate alternative to natural capital. Strong sustainability idea, on the other hand, recognizes the unique features of natural resources that cannot be replaced by manufactured capital (Stoddert, 2011). Suffice it that sustainable development ensures the need for human capacity building and active involvement of all (Ake, 2011) as well as a healthy environment such as clean air and water (Emas, 2015),

Methodology

The research design of this study is essentially a cross-sectional survey design, with an emphasis on the triangulation of data. Thus, in-depth interviews, questionnaire administration and non-participant observation methods were utilized. The choice of these methods was based on the nature of the study and the need to integrate the different components of the study in a coherent and logical manner of presentation in order to effectively address the research objectives. Based on the researchers' judgment and knowledge of the study area and population, participants were intentionally selected based on their characteristics, knowledge, experiences and other criteria. The population of this study consisted of the residents of Ankpa LGA of Kogi State. The targeted population was 130 respondents purposively selected and comprising ten (10) respondents each from the thirteen (13) wards (Ankpa Township, Ankpa Suburb I, Ankpa Suburb II, Ankpa I, Ankpa II, Enjema I, Enjema II, Enjema III, Enjema IV, Ojoku I, Ojoku II, Ojoku III, Ojoku IV) in the Local Government. The choice of ten respondents from each ward was done to ensure that each community in Ankpa LGA had equal opportunity of express their lived experiences on the socio-economic implication of insecurity. Specifically, the purposive sampling technique was employed in selecting the population for the study. The choice of this

method is based on the fact that the targeted population were dispersed in different locations within and outside Ankpa LGA. Besides, the researcher was interested more in the respondents he feels are in a better position to respond with utter reliability and validity. Both primary and secondary sources of data were utilized for data collection. The primary sources of data used in this research work involved the use of 130 copies of questionnaire while the secondary data sources included the data gathered from scholarly literature and government publications. The data for this study were analyzed using the quantitative and qualitative approaches. Data generated from primary sources were analyzed quantitatively, using descriptive statistics. Frequency distribution tables were utilized.

Findings of the Study

This section focuses on the presentation and analysis of the primary and secondary data collected from the respondents. The analysis is, thus, conducted based on the data extracted from the questionnaire administered and the personal interview conducted. The responses to the research questions were extracted using Likert's five-scale response model comprising: Agree (A), Strongly Agree (SA), Disagree (DA), Strongly Disagree (SD), and Undecided (UD). The details of the findings and discussions are documented using a combination of frequency and percentage distribution tables respectively.

The causes of insecurity in Ankpa Local Government Area

Research question one sought to determine the factors which orchestrate insecurity in the study area. The data, as grouped in Table 1, shows that poverty is a factor that aids and abates insecurity in Nigeria. This finding is in tandem with several other findings as reviewed in the conceptual discourse. Data from national surveys, and regional, continental and global organizations revealed that Nigeria is one of the world's poverty-stricken countries. For example, it is been reported that Nigeria has historically experienced many conflicts, which impinge on human security.

Table 1: Causes of insecurity or challenges of security in Ankpa Local Government Area

S/N	Causes of insecurity in Ankpa LGA	A (%)	SA (%)	DA (%)	SD (%)	UD (%)	Total (%)
1	Poverty	50 (38.42)	60 (46.15)	10 (7.69)	02 (1.53)	08 (6.15)	100
2	Unemployment	55 (42.30)	65 (50)	05 (3.84)	00 (0)	05 (3.84)	100
3	Crime and criminality	45 (34.61)	60 (46.15)	10 (7.67)	10 (7.67)	05 (3.84)	100
4	Inadequate security personnel presence & community policing	25 (19.23)	50 (38.42)	20 (15.38)	15 (11.53)	20 (15.38)	100
5	Herders & farmers crisis	30 (23.07)	40 (30.76)	30 (23.07)	25 (19.23)	05 (3.84)	100
6	Politically motivated violence	40 (30.76)	48 (36.92)	22 (16.92)	18 (13.84)	02 (1.53)	100
7	Communal conflicts	20 (15.38)	15 (11.53)	50 (38.42)	35 (26.96)	10 (7.69)	100

Source: Field Survey, 2024.

With the return to civil rule in 1999, militants of religious and ethnic groups have become appears more violent. While the unrest has its roots in poverty and economic competition (BBC, 2012), its economic and human damages further escalate the problems of poverty (such as increasing the mortality rate). The import of the finding is that poverty, with all of its attendant consequences, is a huge source of security threat and underdevelopment in Nigeria in general and Ankpa LGA in particular. This trend must be urgently nipped in the bud if the country must experience growth and sustainable development.

Secondly, another cause of insecurity has been ascribed to a high level of unemployment in the study area. When the respondents were asked to agree or disagree with whether or not unemployment is a cause of insecurity and lack of sustainable development in the study area, their responses showed that 55 (42.30%) agreed, 65(50%) strongly agreed, 05(3.84%) disagreed, 00 (0%) strongly disagreed, while 05 (3.84%) were undecided. The import of the above result is that there is a strong correlation between unemployment and insecurity in the study area. The higher the rate of unemployment, the worse insecurity gets in the way of sustainable development. To avert this scenario, relevant stakeholders must work in synergy to create jobs and employment opportunities for the youth and vulnerable classes in society. The third construct

was on crime and criminality, the results indicated that 45 (34.61%) agreed, 60 (46.15%) respondents strongly agreed; 10 (7.67%), disagreed; 10 (7.67%) strongly disagreed while 05 (3.84%) said they were not sure. This finding shows that there is a high crime rate and it is a security threat, which implies that there is a positive relationship between high crime rate and insecurity in Ankpa LGA.

The fourth construct on the availability and presence of security personnel in strategic spots in the study area. Responses collated and analyzed indicated that 25 (19.23%) agreed that inadequate presence of armed security personnel was a cause of insecurity in the study area; a huge number of respondents, about 50 (38.42%) strongly agreed; 20 (15.38%) disagreed; 15 (11.53%) strongly disagreed, while 20 (15.38) were undecided. The import of these findings is that inadequate policing of the communities by security officers is a huge incentive for insecurity to hold sway. The fifth construct is on herders and farmers conflicts in the affected study area. The responses collected were measured and the following mean score was obtained: 30 (23.07%) agreed; 40 (30.76%) strongly agreed; 30 (23.07%) disagreed; 25 (19.23) strongly disagreed, while 05 (3.84%) not sure. These findings reveal the escalating trends involving herdsmen and farmers conflict in Nigeria. In Ankpa Local government, the menace of armed herdsmen and militia contributes significantly to the breach of peace and security of the sampled community. These findings further highlight the national character with which herders and farmers conflict has assumed in Nigeria. The sooner this deadly crisis is halted and resolved the better and more united the country might be.

The sixth construct centres around the role of politically motivated violence in the breach of security in Ankpa LGA of Kogi State. On this variable, the following responses were extracted: 40 (30.76%) of the respondents said they agreed; 48 (36.92%) strongly agreed; 22 (16.92%) disagreed; 18 (13.84%) strongly disagreed while 02 (1.53%) were undecided. The import of this finding is that political violence is a strong factor

contributing to insecurity and lack of sustainable development in Ankpa LGA. Finally, communal conflicts with a total mean score of 26.91% are the least of the factors that pose a security and development challenge in Ankpa Local Government Area.

Insecurity and sustainable development in Ankpa Local Government Area

Table 2, measured the impact of insecurity on sustainable development in Ankpa LGA. As documented in the table above, a range of variables were studied or evaluated. The results collated were analyzed using mean scores. The first variable indicated a mean score of 84.60 per cent (an addition of the agreed and strongly agreed mean scores). In essence, these findings showed that insecurity discouraged potential investment opportunities in Ankpa Local Government Area.

Table 2: *Impact of insecurity on sustainable development in Ankpa Local Government Area*

S/N	Impact of insecurity on sustainable development in Ankpa LGA	A (%)	SA (%)	DA (%)	SD (%)	UD (%)	Total (%)
1	Discourage potential investment opportunity	68 (52.30)	42 (32.30)	10 (7.69)	07 (5.38)	03 (2.30)	100
2	Increase unemployment rate among the youth	50 (38.46)	58 (44.61)	12 (9.23)	09 (6.92)	01 (0.76)	100
3	Reduce the level of human development index	70 (53.84)	35 (26.92)	20 (15.38)	05 (3.84)	00 (00)	100
4	Discourage farming & Create food scarcity	63 (48.46)	27 (20.76)	20 (15.38)	08 (6.15)	02 (1.53)	100
5	Waste of human life and properties	30 (23.07)	90 (69.23)	09 (6.92)	01 (0.76)	00 (00)	100
6	Reversal of socio-economic gains	40 (30.76)	60 (46.15)	12 (9.23)	08 (16.15)	10 (9.69)	100
7	Slows down the pace of democratic rule	64 (49.23)	40 (30.76)	10 (9.69)	10 (9.69)	06 (4.61)	100

Source: *Field Survey, 2024*

The second variable measured was whether or not insecurity in Ankpa LGA increases the unemployment rate among the youth, the computed mean score was 83.01 per cent (an addition of agreed and strongly agreed mean scores). The interpretation is that the higher the level of insecurity the higher the rate of unemployment amongst the youths. These findings further indicate that jobs are usually lost where the level of insecurity is high because

investors are scared away from conflict-prone areas, as the security of their investments is not guaranteed. The third finding showed that insecurity reduces the level of human capital development index amongst the sampled population in Ankpa LGA with a mean score of 80.76 per cent. Others include reduction in farming activities and food scarcity with a cumulative mean score of 69.22 per cent; waste of human life and properties with a computed mean score of 9.3 per cent; reversal of socio-economic gains 76.91 percent and slowing down the pace of democratic rule with a computed mean score of 79.99 per cent respectively.

Relationship between insecurity and underdevelopment in Ankpa Local Government Area

This research question sought to determine the nexus between insecurity and underdevelopment in the study area. Table 3, aims to establish the Nexus between insecurity and underdevelopment in Ankpa Local Government Area.

Table 3: *Nexus between Insecurity and Underdevelopment in Ankpa Local Government Area*

S/N	Relationship between insecurity and underdevelopment in Ankpa LGA	A (%)	SA (%)	DA (%)	SD (%)	UD (%)	Total (%)
1	Insecurity is a cause of underdevelopment in Ankpa LGA	50 (38.46)	69 (53.07)	07 (5.38)	03 (2.30)	01 (0.76)	100
2	Underdevelopment impact negatively on security of life and Properties of Residents of Ankpa LGA	45 (34.61)	78 (60)	10 (9.69)	02 (1.53)	00 (00)	100
3	The high rate of youth unemployment & poverty negatively impacts on security & development in Ankpa LGA	38 (29.23)	83 (63.84)	06 (4.61)	04 (3.07)	00 (00)	100
4	Insecurity & underdevelopment have an inverse relationship	69 (53.07)	52 (40)	05 (3.84)	03 (2.30)	01 (0.76)	100

Source: *Field Survey, 2024*

Firstly, on the relationship between insecurity and underdevelopment in the study area, the computed mean score for agreed and strongly agreed totalled 91.53 per cent, an indication that a high level of insecurity causes underdevelopment in the study area (Ankpa LGA). This is because

insecurity slows down investments, leads to loss of human lives and property, discourages farming activities and thereby engenders food scarcity amongst other negative consequences.

The second finding indicated that underdevelopment impacts negatively on the security of life and properties of residents of Ankpa LGA. These findings were based on the computed mean score of 94.61 percent, for agree and strongly agreed responses as elicited from the questionnaire instrument. The import of the finding is that underdevelopment and insecurity share an inverse relationship: a high rate of the former impacts on the latter and vice versa. The third variable examines the relationship between poverty, youth unemployment and the high rate of insecurity in Ankpa LGA. The computed mean score for variables agreed and strongly agreed was 93.07 per cent. This is a clear indication that poverty and unemployment share a positive or inverse relationship. It is a further demonstration that poverty and youth unemployment are potential and actual triggers of insecurity and underdevelopment in the study area. The fourth set of variables evaluated under research question three concerns the relationship between insecurity and underdevelopment. As usual, the responses of the sampled population as computed for agreed and strongly agreed give a high mean score of 93.07 per cent. These findings further demonstrate that there is a positive and high correlation between the level of insecurity and underdevelopment as evidenced in the respondents' responses. In other words, the higher the level of insecurity the deeper the rate or level of underdevelopment.

Discussion of Findings
The findings from this study revealed the causes and effects of insecurity and how they impact on sustainable development in the country. The causes of insecurity as extracted from the data provided by respondents and a plethora of literature, include; poverty, unemployment, crime and criminality, inadequate security personnel presence & community policing, herders & farmers crisis, politically motivated violence and communal conflicts, etc. These factors as

previous studies have affirmed are the salient triggers and beacons of insecurity that appear to undermine sustainable development in Nigeria. Nigeria is considered one of the world's poorest countries. In fact, in the year 2021, Nigeria was reportedly tagged as the world poverty headquarters.

Yahie (1993) identified the factors that cause poverty in most nations to include: (i) structural causes that are more relatively permanent and depend on a host of exogenous factors such as limited resources, lack of adequate skill, location disadvantage and other factors, which are inherent in the social and political set-up of the society or nation concerned. The disabled, orphans, landless farmers, household headed by females with little or no empowerment fall into this category; (ii) the second is the transitional causes that are mainly due to structural adjustment reforms and changes in domestic economic policies that may result in price changes, increased unemployment and so on (a typical example is the removal of petroleum subsidy has resulted in high inflation or price hike in the prices of goods and services, as result of which many Nigerians are now deeply enmeshed in poverty). Natural calamities climate change, earthquakes, drought, environmental degradation and so on, also induce poverty. Unemployment and crime, as our findings revealed, are intertwined with poverty. Unemployment, no doubt, has been a saliently evasive phenomenon causing poverty and crime. This has to be revised for positive development to occur,

Furthermore, what appears as a salient point in its own right, is the dearth of community policing due to a shortage of law enforcement personnel to man strategic posts in conflict-prone zones of Ankpa LGA. Although vigilantes were involved in community policing at the designated locations, their efforts need to be complemented by the presence of the State security agencies. In addition to this, is the need for a well-equipped security outfit against the sophisticated armed herders, in a politically motivated violence against farmers and illegal occupation of community forest. On the question regarding the

impact of the security challenges in Ankpa LGA, the following findings were reported; these include (i) the repelling of potential investment opportunities by prospective investors; (ii) an increase unemployment rate among the youth due to loss of job opportunities, reduction in the level of human development index due to a range of associated actors like malnutrition or poor feeding, high rate of school dropouts, poor shelter and sanitation, diseases and social afflictions amongst others. (iii) Stunted farming activities & food scarcity; wastage of human life and properties; (iv) reversal of socio-economic gains, and (v) slowing down the pace of democratic rule in the country. On the relationship between insecurity and underdevelopment, the following findings were extracted: that insecurity is a cause of underdevelopment in Ankpa LGA; that underdevelopment impact negatively on the security of life and properties of Residents of Ankpa LGA; and that the high rate of youth unemployment & poverty negatively impact on security & development in Ankpa Local Government Area.

Conclusion

Based on the above findings, we conclude that insecurity and underdevelopment have an inverse relationship. The higher the rate of one the preponderant the rate of the other. These findings are eminently supported by the data we collected from our primary and secondary sources. As our findings showed, challenges to security in Akpan LGA include a range of factors such as poverty, unemployment and crime, ethnic-cum communal conflicts, herders and farmers squabble, political rivalry, and parlous gaps in community policing efforts by local vigilantes and Nigeria Police Force and other law enforcement agents collectively impact sustainable development in the study scene in particular and Nigeria in general. One of the ways to address this challenge is to tinker with and implement the following recommendations: The government, in collaboration with other stakeholders, should quickly convoke a security summit to include all critical stakeholders in Ankpa LGA and Kogi State; accelerate infrastructural development of Ankpa LGA to boost and encourage small scale

enterprises; intensify youth empowerment and social investment programmes to the residents of the LGA and promote intelligence gathering amongst local populace in the Local Government Area

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