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Armed Banditry and Challenges of National Development

Is Nigeria's Governance System Failing?

Adeleke Adegbami*, Oluwaseun Kugbayi**

- * Senior Lecturer, Olabisi Onabanjo University, Ago-Iwoye, Ogun State, Nigeria. E-mail: adeadegbami@yahoo.com
- ** Lecturer, KolaDaisi University, Ibadan, Oyo State, Nigeria. E-mail: oluwaseunkugbayi@gmail.com

Abstract

The incessant bandits' activities vis-à-vis kidnapping of people for ransom, robbing them of their possessions, raping and even killing them at will by groups of people officially described as bandits in parts of Nigeria is worrisome. The study examines the nexus between governance and armed bandits' activities, as well as its effects on the people and national development. The study relies on researchers' observation of unfolding events in the study areas and secondary data. The study revealed that the poor quality of governance offered by the successive political leaders of Nigeria was the major inducing factor of these bandits' activities. Other factors include political and economic reasons, a high unemployment rate, and a high level of poverty. The study concluded that bandits' activities, if not quickly nipped in the bud will continue to inhibit the political, social, and economic development of the country, also, the activities are capable of truncating the evolving democratic governance and the corporate existence of Nigeria.

Keywords

governance, armed banditry, development, poverty, unemployment

Introduction

The year 1999 is no doubt special in the political history of Nigeria as the year ushered in democratic governance after a protracted year of military incursion into the governance and administration of the country. People's expectations at the commencement of this political dispensation were peace, tranquility, and all-round development. This was not unexpected due to some of their negative experiences during the military administration of the country which made democratic governance more desirable, however, some of these expectations were dashed.

Notwithstanding the twenty-five uninterrupted years of democratic governance in Nigeria, the country has continued to witness the poor quality of governance, with additional problems of unemployment, poverty, low quality of life, and general insecurity, vis-à-vis activities of insurgencies, Boko Haram, bandits, etc. The fact that the successive government in Nigeria's

Fourth Republic appears incapable of proffering solutions to many of these menaces, contributed to the germination of other problems that have been clogging the peace, and tranquility of the country as well as hindering its socio-economic development and further inhibiting the progress of different sectors of the economy in Nigeria.

One of the activities that have been a thorn in the flesh of Nigerians is that of bandits (Okoli & Ugwu, 2019), especially in the northwest and northeast parts of the country. The incessant bandits' activities vis-à-vis kidnapping of people for ransoms, robbing them of their possessions, raping, and even killing them at will (Okoli & Okpaleke, 2014), is not only hindering socio-economic and political development, it equally intrudes on people's peace and threatening their rights to life. Many Nigerians have lost their lives in the course of these dastardly activities, and banditry and insurgency have placed the country at a prominent place on the scale of terrorism impact. In 2019 and 2020 for example, the Global Terrorism Index, ranked Nigeria as Number 3 of the countries with a high impact of terrorism, after Iraq and Afghanistan. Given the above, the study examines the nexus between governance and armed bandits' activities, as well as its effects on people and national development.

Weak Governance and Banditry in Nigeria: A Theoretical Perspective

There seems to be a consensus on what constitutes good governance, and specifically, there are indices to determine whether governance is good or not. In essence, it is agreed that economic development, that is, improved economic well-being, a better condition of living for the citizenry, and development in all sectors of the economy of the country, largely depends on good governance. Countries that are unresponsive to the plight of their citizens, and corrupt countries have always found it difficult therefore to mobilize resources and fail to deliver essential services to the poor (Kaufmann et al., 1999; Chhibber et al., 1997). Although, government efficiency may not automatically transform the lives of the poor, a weak state in terms of the dimensions of good governance is not likely to do much for the poor either (Moore, 2004).

Weak governance is used to describe the unwillingness on the part of the government to carry out its responsibilities (cited in OECD, 2005, 2). Put differently, it is a condition where public authorities fail to protect the rights of the citizens and fail to provide basic public services to the people. Thus, "government failures" in these categories do spawn failures in "political, economic and civic institutions" (OECD, 2005).

One of the major factors found to have contributed to weak governance is the ascendancy of an organized gang of criminals into the governance system of a country. Organized criminal gangs do put forward their members to contest for political offices. They do support such members by bankrolling their ambitions to secure election victory. Whenever the candidates of organized gangs win elections, come to power, and are in a position of authority, the government of such a country is in danger. Such a country will have its democratic process weakened, with defective political structures and weak state institutions, which will further undermine the governance system (Ikoh, 2013). Defective political structures combined with weak institutions have been discovered to make a country susceptible to organized crimes (Henkel, 2013), of which banditry is one.

While it is believed that weak governance spawns organized crimes, yet weak governments cannot curb and control organized crimes. This is because it is always difficult, if not impossible, for ineffective bureaucratic structures to deliver effective services. Organized crime contributes to the weakening of government capacity by exploiting the country's resources and eroding the government's legitimacy which is crucial to good governance. Organized gangs have been able to infiltrate many African countries' politics and economies. The gangs have also formed

syndicates controlling and regulating the daily activities of the government (Alemika, 2013a). This is achieved in the words of Alemika, "in a mutually reinforcing pathway, by employing corruption to co-opt officials and to capture critical state agencies" (Alemika, 2013b, 16). Therefore, it is not news in Nigeria that politicians and/or members of their families and security agents have on many occasions been indicted for their involvement in different organized crimes (Alemika, 2013a). The declaration by a political group tagged "I Stand with Buhari", to expose alleged sponsors of terrorism and banditry in the country bore eloquent testimony to this. According to this group:

We have a list of their names, from state governors down to political influencers, youth organizations, as well as clandestine organizations under their payroll. We are therefore giving them until the end of the month to disband their private militia and discontinue their sponsorship of banditry and terrorism in Nigeria. If they refuse by the end of the month, we will not only expose their identities to the world but will also embark on mass action against them in their respective locations (Sahara Reporters, 2021, para. 5–7).

Weak governance in Nigeria has continued to manifest in the areas of dwindling capacity of political leaders. However, the political leaders are yet to realize the danger attached to such activities of insurgencies, armed banditry, and other menaces, as capable of posing a threat to the unity and corporate existence of the country. For that reason, Olaniyan & Yahaya (2016) affirm that banditry thrives as a result of gross governance deficits. And so, weak governance has been a major obstacle to development and has been impeding the government from responding to pressing challenges in the country (Andrijevic et al., 2020).

The political operators in Nigeria have, due to their weak governance, subjected its citizens to declining living conditions. They promised economic prosperity and general development to the citizenry during the electioneering campaign only to renege on the promises after they got to office. Worst still, they even mismanage the national resources including funds received from the donor agencies in the form of aid. This has continued to keep a large number of people in perpetual poverty. It is in line with the above that the American Security Project states thus:

banditry has become an appealing method of income in northwest Nigeria where weak governance, youth unemployment, poverty, and inequality have left people with depleted options for livelihood. Security services are often understaffed and lack the proper resources to effectively combat banditry. Vast areas of unregulated forests allow for easy concealment, and police and military forces have difficulty penetrating the rough terrain. In addition, under-policed borders have aided the proliferation of small arms and light weapons amongst bandit groups. (Brenner, 2021, para. 4)

The Origin and Contributing Factors to Banditry in Nigeria

The origin of banditry in Nigeria could not be precisely determined. Some scholars, however, trace its origin to around 2011 when the northwest part of the country experienced a wave of violent attacks between the nomadic Fulani herders and sedentary Hausa farmers (Brenner, 2021). Prior to 2011, armed banditry used to be unnoticed, ignored, and under-reported, till the situation changed in 2011 when a set of gangs that specialized in armed banditry became apparent and ruthlessly attacked and killed people taking possession of their wealth and properties (Rufa'i, 2018).

According to the International Crisis Group (2020), the security crisis in the northeast and northwest stems from the age-long contest and competition over resources including land and water. And so, both Fulani herders and Hausa farmers have over the time mobilized armed groups being referred to as "bandits" and "vigilantes", to protect their different interests.

Different scholars from different perspectives have chronicled how banditry developed in the country. Some of them believe that banditry spawned out of the inordinate ambition of some politicians who want to get to power by hook or by crook. This set of politicians organized, armed, and sponsored some youths to pursue electoral victory for them during the 2011 general elections. However, after the victory had been secured in the elections, the youths used as machinery to get to power were completely forgotten. Thus, when these set of youths can no longer meet their daily needs, they convert the arms and ammunition given to them during elections into tools for perpetrating crimes for their sustenance (Gadzama et al., 2018).

To scholars such as Shettima & Tar (2008), Olaniyan & Yahaya (2016), and Okoli & Abubakar (2021), banditry is a response to the injustice meted out against the agro-pastoral groups in parts of the country (International Crisis Group, 2021). Therefore, bandits sprang from the building up of mercenaries to fight and defend the herders against the farmers. From the onset, the idea of building up mercenaries was to bring about unity and cohesion among the herders (Rufa'i, 2021), but it turned into these mercenary fighters being transformed into bandits committing crimes against the people and the state (International Crisis Group, 2020).

The informal gold economy in northern parts of the country is another issue supporting banditry. Bandits are believed to be working with the artisanal, their deals involved exchanging the illegally mined gold for weapons, especially at the border areas of the country. It is also argued that the spate of banditry is the aftermath of the ascendency of some warlords yearning to have their share of the country's wealth (Ogbonnaya, 2020; GI-TOC, 2021). According to Mukhtar (2021), expressed in an interview with the *Daily Trust*,

Banditry is a kind of offshoot of other criminal activities that the country has been facing. The bandits took advantage of the security situation in our country [...] So go back to the last ten years and find out what happened with our governance, with our societal structures and situation then we will now understand how the banditry began. In the beginning, they were ordinary criminals who stole cows and whatever. But it took a different dimension because it later became a lucrative business. (Mukhtar, 2021, para, 2)

The issue of banditry according to Tade, in Remi (2021) is attributable to a high level of unemployment that pervades the northeast and northwest states of Nigeria. These parts of the country are leading in terms of unemployment and people living in poverty. These duo variables of unemployment and poverty are common factors that spark criminality and other social menaces. While supporting his claim with statistical details, Tade states thus:

The statistics from the region from the National Bureau of Statistics in the last quarter of 2020 showed that Katsina alone has 25.5percent unemployment rate of about 438,808 people unemployed; Jigawa has 565,978 (38.69%), Kaduna has 1,111,091 (44.35%), Kano has 717,086 (25.5%) while Kebbi, Sokoto, and Zamfara have 213, 570 (17.25%), 162,349 (14.48%), 202, 568 (12.9%) respectively. The statistics on the poverty rate in the region are a sign of danger and failure of effective leadership. (Tade, cited in Remi, 2021)

In essence, there are links between unemployment, poverty, and criminality in Nigeria. The high rate of poverty is a manifestation of a high level of unemployment, especially among the youth, which has been found to induce criminalities among this group of people (Adegbami & Uche, 2016). Other contributing factors to banditry in Nigeria include massive and unregulated forest areas that allow for the concealment of loathsome activities, under-policed borders that allow the influx of unregulated and unidentified people into the country, and proliferation of small arms and light weapons.

Banditry Strengths and Strategies of Operation

Banditry can be seen as a form of organized crime. It is a form of armed robbery or violent crime, that involves threat and use of force to coarse and intimidates people with the intention of robbing, raping, kidnapping, or killing the victim(s) (Olaniyan & Yahaya, 2016). In carrying out these odious acts and activities, the bandits use various techniques to deal with their victims. Bandits' operating techniques include ambushing victims on the highways and different transit points, invading, and sacking communities (Ahmed, 2021).

Bandits' system of operation involves the soldierly and mastery skills of using different types of military weapons. The knowledge acquired from a series of training from the military and paramilitary officers alike perhaps has assisted them. This suggests an underground relationship between them and the security agents, vis-à-vis the Nigeria Police, The Nigeria Army, etc. In the words of Gumi:

These bandits are operating with a lot of people in the security system. This is business, otherwise, how can these big weapons they use across the borders into the country if money is not exchanging hands? (Gumi, cited in Omonobi, 2021)

The soldierly skills of using different types of weapons by the bandits also suggest that there are retired military and paramilitary officers among them.

Bandits carry out their operations in groups, it can be under one or more leaders. Anyone cannot just be or become a bandits' leader. Some of the peculiarities of a bandits' leader are being charismatic, having the required experience, and being skillful in carrying out operations effectively (Kugbayi & Adegbami, 2023). Beyond this, bandits' leaders must possess wealth in terms of money, this is essential to make relevant friends needed for successful operations. Money is also crucial to bribe people who matter, and people of importance to bandits' activities. And of course, money is indispensable to pay for necessary connections, extend networks, and negotiate for safety where and when necessary.

Bandits' major source of power came from information, to this extent, they have some loyalists, especially among the poor masses, who see giving information to the bandits as a means of getting daily bread. Given the fact that these informants are free citizens, they can move around the communities and gather necessary information for the smooth operations of bandits.

Bandits also adopt guerilla tactics including ambushes, hit-and-run raids, and petty warfare strategies among others. At times they invade the roads and organize roadblocks, through which they may easily halt and prey on the commuters, dispossess them of their properties, kidnap some, and demand ransom from victims' relatives and friends, or kill them. With the money generated from these dastardly activities, they live a reckless life, continue to buy the loyalty of some people, and most importantly acquire advanced weapons for further operations.

Bandits are heavily armed in the course of their operations. They normally force themselves into people's homes, private organizations, as well as government institutions at will. The bandits' operation also involves groups of gunmen entering targeted areas on motorbikes, shooting people they find on their way, and carting away their livestock and other valuables (Hassan, 2021).

The activities and operations of bandits in Nigeria could be described as torrential. In January 2021, no fewer than 200 people were killed and almost 10,000 people were displaced following a series of attacks carried out in Zamfara state only. The attacks started when not less than 300 armed bandits were conveyed down to the Anka Local Government Area on motorcycles and raided about eight villages. Similarly, they raided another ten villages in Anka and Bukkuyum Local Government Area in the following two days. During these raids, it was reported that about 2,000 cattle were stolen, several houses were burnt and people's bodies were mutilated (ACAPS, 2022; Global Centre for the Responsibility to Protect, 2022). Similarly on February 18, 2024, no fewer than 12 people were killed and nine others seriously injured by bandits when they attacked Gindin Dutse Makyali village of Kufana district in the Kajuru Local Government Area of Kaduna State (Enyiocha, 2024), and on Monday March 11, 2024, at least seven persons were also killed following bandits attacked of a market in the Wase Local Government Area of Plateau State (Abraham, 2024).

Bandits' attacks on the military and other security agents in Nigeria are also unprecedented. For instance, they have succeeded in downing an Alpha Jet belonging to the Nigerian Air Force, beating down the Military intelligence, attacking the Military's Officers Training School, and killing some members of the armed forces. In January 2022, eleven security agents were killed in Shiroro and Paikoro local government areas of the state. According to the Niger State Government "the terrorists, numbering over 100 invaded the community in broad daylight, killing eleven Joint Security Taskforce members and leaving many injured" (cited in Maishanu, 2022). In March 2022, the bandits carried out another dangerous attack on the country's commercial train that was carrying passengers from the Federal Capital Territory of Nigeria, Abuja to Kaduna which is the major military base of the country. The bandits bombed the moving train with hundreds of passengers on board. In the process, eight passengers were killed, many were kidnapped, with an unascertained number sustaining various degrees of injury (Egobiambu, 2022).

Blooming Bandits' Activities: Is Nigeria's Governance System Failing?

The fact that bandits' activities are blooming daily basis signifies that there is a problem with Nigeria's governance structure. And the implications of armed bandits' activities on Nigeria and Nigerians have been brutish and nasty. The bandits' activities did not only have tangible effects but also intangible ones which may be difficult to quantify in monetary terms. The activities apart from being destructive to the country's political and socio-economy also have a shattering effect on human survival and existence. According to Maltzan (1998, 14), "For individual victims, the psychological effect is devastating. But once crime reaches endemic levels, it inflicts severe strains on the social fabric and ultimately leads to moral decline and disintegration of society".

The upsurge of banditry in the country has disrupted people's means of livelihood and the delivery of essential services to the areas being affected by bandits' activities. Since 2011, when the activities of banditry are well documented, about 200,000 people have been rendered homeless and had consequently fled their abode. In essence, banditry has been a major cause of

people's displacement in the northern part of the country, and about 77,000 Nigerians have fled to neighboring countries because of this (Brenner, 2021).

That Zamfara becomes one of the poorest states in Nigeria is not unconnected with the resultant effects of banditry. The state, being the center of bandits' activities, has continued to record the highest rate of violent deaths, with about 495 reported killings between July and October 2021 (Hassan, 2021). In their report, Ojewale & Balogun (2022) state that no fewer than 1,126 villagers were killed between January and June 2020. On December 6, 2021, 23 persons lost their lives due to bandits' attack on the bus conveying travelers from Sokoto to Kaduna at Gidan Bawa village in Isa local government area of Sokoto State. Also, in January 2022, at least 200 villagers were killed by bandits in Zamfara State, a situation which was described as "one of the region's worst recorded atrocities" (Ojewale & Balogun, 2022). Again, in March 2022, the bandits attacked a commercial train conveying passengers from Abuja to Kaduna, where eight of the passengers got killed, many sustained various degrees of injury, while many were kidnapped (Egobiambu, 2022). The continuous bandits' activities have greatly increased the number of widows, widowers and orphan children (Yahaya & Bello, 2020). Besides, many people through their heinous acts have lost sensitive organs of their bodies, which rendered them incapable of caring for themselves.

The implication of banditry on children and women cannot be overstated. They are the most vulnerable to bandits' attacks, as being appearing defenceless. For instance, about 61 out of more than 780 children abducted for ransom by bandits in 2021 were still in captivity some months after. In addition, children's right to education is in peril due to constant attacks on schools, and so, many of the schools were shut down indefinitely. The incident has thus added to the growing number of out-of-school children in the country. Regarding women and girls, they bear the most excruciating burdens. They are on many occasions subjected to sexual violence, raped, worst still, they are sometimes commodified, and traded-off in exchange for families' protection. Giving the picture of what has transpired in Niger State, Ojewale & Balogun (2022) state that "at least 30 women and girls were raped indiscriminately across five communities in Shiroro Local Government Area of Niger State. A similar act was carried out in Tsafe Local Government Area of Zamfara State in response to communities refusing to pay a N3 million levy (approximately 5,000 USD). In the unfolding events, bandits are also co-opting women for their criminal activities".

The spate of banditry attacks has equally sparked off a food emergency across the northeast and northwest regions, this is because, not less than 450,000 people fled farms and rural markets (Hassan, 2021). Farmers have been constantly attacked, and are expected to either pay exorbitant levies to armed bandits or abandon their farmlands. As a result, many of them can no longer access their farmlands. Thus, the projection that about 38 million people in the country will become food insecure between June-August, 2022 (WFP, 2022), was not a mere projection but reality.

In essence, targeted attacks meted on farmers have led to their displacement, and can neither produce foods in subsistence nor commercial quantity. The humanitarian efforts to respond to their needs are being overstretched, and so, many of them have no access to organized assistance and are in despairing need of necessities of life to survive.

Another major effect of banditry on Nigerians and Nigeria is that of resource wastage. For instance, on July 18, 2021, the bandits put down an Alpha Jet belonging to the Nigerian Air Force on the border between Zamfara and Kaduna States. The Nigerian Air Force on October 7, 2021, as reported by the Wall Street Journal paid a whopping sum of 20 million naira (c. 14,000 USD) to bandits to recover "an antiaircraft gun" that the bandits had seized from them

during a clash (cited in Kperogi, 2021). Also in September 2021, after the mass kidnappings and brutal raids on civilians, bandits placed a ransom of twenty million naira on five villages to avoid being attacked (Ojewale & Balogun, 2022). Apart from these, the country has reportedly spent about N6trn (about 4.5 billion USD) on security without making much headway in the last 10 years (Ibemere, 2020). Similarly, in June 2021, the Minister of Finance, Zainab Ahmed disclosed the plans of the Federal Government of Nigeria to borrow a sum of 722.53 billion naira (1.76 billion USD) from domestic capital markets to fight against insecurity (Jimoh et al., 2021). These are resources that should ordinarily be expended on projects for development to improve the quality of life of the citizens under a good governance setting.

Another implication of banditry has to do with the image of the country before the international community. The image of a country is evaluated by different variables, including the National Development Index, level of human security, political stability, quality of leadership, and level of the welfare of the citizens, etc. However, none of these variables could be said to be adequate when assessing Nigeria. The security challenges have continued to present the country negatively and dent the international outlook of the country. And so, countries across the world have been warning their citizens not to travel to Nigeria.

Bandits' activities have continued to disrupt business activities and cause the relocation of businesses to a relatively safer area. The activities have also undermined the activities of Agro-Allied and some other industries and have equally inhibited industrial expansion. Bandits' activities have further made Nigerian industries uncompetitive, thereby, adding to the unemployment issue (Wuyo, 2021). Banditry has also discouraged foreign investors from transacting businesses in Nigeria. For that reason, many foreign investors who should have invested in the country's economy have stayed away due to a high level of insecurity.

Flowing from the implications and far-reaching impacts that banditry activities had on the country, and without any tangible solution in sight, one may then ask, is the governance system of the country still working? That the incumbent President of Nigeria canvassed for foreign assistance toward curbing the insecurity challenges in Nigeria is a testimony to the fact that the country's governance system is failing, as the government appears incapable of handling its security issues. It will be recalled that in 2021 President Buhari requested the USA to relocate its Africa Command (AFRICOM) headquarters from Germany to Africa to be able to assist in curbing the security menace, particularly in Nigeria and Africa in general. He made the request during a virtual meeting with U.S. Secretary of State, Anthony Blinken. President Buhari, according to his Special Adviser on Media and Publicity, Mr. Femi Adesina, states:

The support of important and strategic partners like the U.S. cannot be overstated as the consequences of insecurity will affect all nations, hence the imperative for concerted cooperation and collaboration of all to overcome these challenges. In this connection, it underscores the need for the U.S. to consider relocating AFRICOM headquarters from Stuttgart, Germany to Africa (Ogundele et al., 2021).

In a similar vein, the Former President of Nigeria, Olusegun Obasanjo in the year 2022 declared that the Buhari Administration has no solution to the spate of insecurity in Nigeria. According to him: "I believe that all right-thinking Nigerians must know that we have a situation that has overwhelmed the administration." (Obasanjo cited in Akhaine et al., 2022)

In addition, the outburst of Mr. El-Rufai, the former Governor of Kaduna State, where most of the military bases of the country were located, equally portrayed the incapacitation of the government to perform one of its major responsibilities, which is to secure people's lives

and their properties. El-Rufai while reacting to the series of attacks in Kaduna state and its environment states:

I have complained to Mr. President and I swear to God, if action is not taken, we as governors will take action to protect the lives of our people. If it means deploying foreign mercenaries to come and do the work, we will do it to address these challenges." (El-Rufai, cited in Daily Trust, 2022)

In essence, the request by the Nigerian President for foreign assistance in curbing the security challenges in Nigeria is a threat to the country's sovereignty. And the outburst of the Governor of Kaduna State to invite "foreign mercenaries to come and do the work" that the government is incapable of doing is a mockery of Nigeria's independence. Similarly, the statement made by the former President of Nigeria that the spate of insecurity has overwhelmed the government is a plain admittance that Nigeria's governance system is steadily failing.

With the assumption of office of President Bola Tinubu in May 2023, the security situation in Nigeria has remained challenging, with banditry remaining a major problem. While there have been some successes in disrupting the activities of criminal gangs, the overall security situation remains fragile. In addition, the ongoing conflict in the country's northeast region has continued to destabilize the country and further exacerbate the insecurity. As a result, the bandits' activities in the country remain high, and many communities remain vulnerable to attacks. For instance, in the first quarter of 2024, there have been several reported incidents of bandit attacks on communities in Nigeria. In January, a group of bandits attacked the military camp at Nahuta town in Katsina State, burgling stores, breaking into homes, taking away properties and animals worth millions of naira (Umar, 2024). In February, another attack was reported in the Kufana district area of Kaduna State, in which twelve people were killed and many others were injured (Adekunle, 2024). Also, in March, several villages in Zamfara State were attacked by bandits, resulting in the death of ten people and the abduction of several people (Salaudeen, 2024). These attacks are just a few of many that have taken place across the country. The attacks have had a devastating impact on the affected communities, causing widespread suffering and destruction. The attacks have also led to increased insecurity and instability, making it difficult for people to live in peace.

Any country where its government cannot guarantee people's security is a failed country. Thus, the postulations by Rotberg (2003, 1) that "nation-states fail because they are convulsed by internal violence and can no longer deliver positive political goods to their inhabitants", became relevant given the situation on the ground in the country. The relevance of the statement is better appreciated when one considers the security threats facing the country, from the activities of armed banditry to that of the Boko Haram insurgency, cases of unchecked kidnappings, the conflict between the herdsmen and farmers, and recurrent communal and social conflicts among others remains unabated, while social services delivery by the government has declined steadily.

Conclusion

The study has been able to establish the rising waves of banditry in the northeast and northwest parts of Nigeria, without low or no sign of halting the menace, which invariably suggests that the governance system in Nigeria is gradually failing. The odious challenge has continued to inflict unquantifiable damages on political, economic, educational, social psychological, and other

areas of the lives of the country and its citizens. The study concluded that bandits' activities, if not quickly nipped in the bud will continue to inhibit the growth and general development of the country, beyond this, the activities are capable of truncating the evolving democratic governance and the corporate existence of the country. The study recommends that good governance should be instituted, this can be achieved by banning people of questionable character from holding public offices in the country, and leaders with proven integrity and emotional intelligence who will deal with the root causes of heinous activities in the country be put in place.

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