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THE CHALLENGE OF POST 2015  
DEVELOPMENT AGENDA**

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## ASSESSMENT OF INSECURITY CHALLENGES IN NYANYA AREA OF ABUJA, NIGERIA

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Insecurity is a major phenomenon plaguing many regions in Nigeria. However, the situation is more intensified in the northern part of the country where Boko-Haram insurgency has thrived unabated. Insecurity is not only caused by a single factor but a combination of factors such as armed robbery, burglary (house and shops), terrorism, cult activities, among others. The aim of this study is to assess the incidence of insecurity and its effect on residents of Nyanya, Abuja. Nyanya has 40232 households, 10% of the households population were used to carry out this study using multi-stage systematic random sampling method Nyanya was divided into six (6) neighbourhoods and questionnaire were distributed according to the number of household in the neighbourhood. The study discovered that Nyanya has 51.4% of armed robbery occurrence on monthly basis, 41.2% incidence of shop burglary on daily basis, 30.4% incidence of house burglary on weekly basis, 55.8% cases of false pretence on daily basis and 51.4% occurrences of unlawful possession on daily basis; and these crimes are mostly caused by unemployment and under-employment, poverty, low and lack of formal education, lesser penalty for offenders, lack of parental care, peer pressure, poor social amenities among others. However, as risen the level of insecurity and fear in Nyanya from 30.6% in 2013 to 67.4% in 2015. In view of these, many crime prevention measures have been taken by the residents and the government among which are effective police patrol, several military check points, and restriction of movement. The research therefore recommended that Government should strengthen its security forces in areas like the Nyanya village, Nyanya a market area and Maresaba junctions respectively to reduce the level of crime occurrence and there should be a joint security service between the government security and the resident's security providers to help contain crime activities in the area.

*Keywords: Insecurity, Security, Crime, Safety, Fear, Terrorism*

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## INTRODUCTION

Insecurity can be seen as a situation where the life and property of citizens in a particular country or a society is not adequately protected (Online Dictionary, 2015). The word security emanated from the Greek word *Se-Cura*, meaning "to be in a state of no fear". This state of being free from any threat within or without underscores the importance of putting in place actions and structures that can ensure the shelving of a people away from any harm. There is no doubt that security has been a subject that has attracted a rapidly growing interest and concern among the scholars in social sciences whereby a wide spectrum of issues on the subject – security have been studied and new breakthroughs and findings have been made. The experience of the world in recent times emphasise a paradigm shift in security discourse. Any internal or external threat challenging the authority of the State in monopolising violence was considered as a security threat (Worcester, 2015). Fear, on the other hand, is a strong uncontrollable, unpleasant emotion caused by actual or perceived danger or threat (British Dictionary, 2015).

Nigeria, no doubt is an inimitable country where thousands of people who are multi-ethnic, multi-cultural and multi-religious co-exist. However, competition for the control of socio-political and economic authorities among the various ethnic groups has led to series of violence and civil unrests (Ojo and Ayesoro, 2013). The problem of insecurity is not only a sectional or a regional problem rather it has become a global phenomenon that has attracted the attention of every stakeholder in the world today (Michael, 2008). However, poor urban planning, design and management play a significant role in shaping of urban environments that put citizens and property at risk (Akukwe, 2013). The dangerous dimension of the insecurity challenge has become a great source of worry to security experts as they have predicted that, what is on ground has shifted to the realm of terrorism, a global phenomenon where no one is safe (Haruna, 2012). It is regrettable, however, that the security organizations have failed to tackle the challenges, even as they have become the target of terrorists who have never hidden their disdain for the intelligence and law enforcement community (Alozieuwa, 2012).

In Nigeria however, the most pronounced terrorist activities are the Niger Delta militants and the dreaded Islamic extremist group popularly known as the Boko Haram which have its official name as *Jama'atu Ahlis Sunna, Lidda'awatt Wal-Jihad*. This literally means "people committed to the propagation of the prophet's teachings and Jihad", with the goal of maiming activities in the north-eastern part of the Nigeria living some other parts of the country with terrorist activities such as kidnapping, armed robbery, and many others. These have introduced fears among the populace of the country (Bello, 2012).

Nyanya is a satellite town in the FCT it is known for its high commercial activity and this has attracted population to the area; this has in turn caused crime such as theft, armed robbery, prostitution, and other social delinquencies are common found in the area. The most pronounced incident that occurred is the twin bombing of the motor park that took place on 1<sup>st</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> April 2014 that led to the death of 94 persons according to This day online news

of April (2014). However, the insecurity challenge facing the north-eastern part of the country in recent times has triggered the movement of people into the town thereby making the town congested.

In the discourse of security in Nigeria, Okorie (2011), Jega (2002), Salawu (2010), Onyishi (2011), Ezeoha (2011), Lewis (2002), have identified several causes of security crisis in Nigeria that pose serious consequences to national development. Highest among them is ethno-religious conflicts that tend to have claim many lives in Nigeria.

## STATEMENT OF PROBLEM

Abuja metropolis was designed to accommodate a total population of about 3 million by the year 2010 and a maximum population of 4million well into the 21st century in 2012 the population of Abuja was 2,245,000 (NPC 2012) but today, Abuja have a population of Abuja today is over 5million people with over 3million commuters that come into the city on daily basis. This growth has adversely affected the study area in the aspect of spill over population (Abuja Today Online, 2015).

Rapid urbanization is said to have led to the twin bomb blast that was later claimed to be perpetuated by the dreaded Islamic sect (BOKO HARAM) who took the advantage of the motor park located along the Abuja Keffi road these act led to loss of lives and properties. This is in consonance with the view of Ojo and Ayesoro (2013) who argued that uncontrolled urbanisation has the proclivity of security challenges. This has however possess fear amongst the dweller of Nyanya and also to the socio-economic activities of the satellite town and has also threatened the mutual co-existence of the inhabitants of Nyanya. Also as a result of these blasts, traffic congestion has increase making the journey of 10 minutes the journey of hours.

## AIM AND OBJEVTIVES

The aim of this study is to assess the Challenges of insecurity in Nyanya Abuja. The main objectives of this study are to:

- I. Identify areas within Nyanya that are presently facing high security challenges;
- II. Examine the efficiency of the security agencies responsible for maintaining a secured environment;
- III. Appraise the effect of insecurity on the socio-economic activities of residents of Nyanya Abuja; and Evaluate the role of residents in managing security challenges

## LITERATURE REVIEW

The present study relies heavily on the theory of social disorganisation. The theory was formulated by Shaw and McKay in 1942, following a research conducted in Chicago to

examine the location of security threatening factors in the residential areas in the city (Shaw and McKay, 1942; Seepersad, 2010; Ojo and Ayesoro, 2013), believing "that an ecological theory of social disorganization could explain the patterns of criminality" (Lewis, 1996). By using maps to carry out 'crime mapping', Shaw and McKay (1942) noted that the distribution and rate of crime did not owe origin spatio-temporal factors in the city. The theory posit that crime occurs more in 'particular areas of the city, and importantly, remained relatively stable within different areas despite continual changes in the populations who lived in each area' (Ojo and Ayesoro, 2013; Seepersad, 2010). In areas of the city where crime persists, for example, the rates of crime continue to be comparatively high irrespective of which racial or ethnic group are the dominant residents of that area at that particular time, with a corresponding decrease in the rate of crime as the residents migrate to areas with low rate of crime (Ojo and Ayesoro, 2013; Lewis, 1996). These observations led Shaw and McKay to the conclusion that crime was likely a function of neighbourhood dynamics, and not necessarily a function of the individuals within neighbourhoods (Seepersad, 2010).

Shaw and McKay (1942) also noted that, aside from the lack of behavioral regulation, socially disorganized neighborhoods tended to produce "criminal traditions" that could be passed to successive generations of youths. This system of pro-delinquency attitudes could be easily learned by youths through their daily contact with older juveniles. Thus, a neighborhood characterized by social disorganization provides fertile soil for crime and delinquency in two ways: through a lack of behavioral control mechanisms and through the cultural transmission of delinquent values (cited in Seepersad, 2010). The present study adopts this theory in order to justify the assertions of social disorganization theory in the Nigerian context. This follows the standpoint of Ojo and Ayesoro (2013) who noted that this theory is of immense relevance to the success of any study that deals with the issues of security threats in the urban areas.

## MICRO-SOCIAL THEORIES OF AND EXPLANATIONS OF INSECURITY

The micro-social theory of security threat is one of the many theories developed to explain the reason behind people's violent actions. One of the main developers of this theory is Collins (2007). The theory specializes in explaining violent situations in general, as opposed to the generally practiced approach which takes an individualistic approach to explaining violence (Collins, 2007). He argued that in trying to explain violence, it is important to "seek the contours of situations, which shape the emotions and acts of the individuals who step inside them" stressing that "it is a false lead to look for types of violent individuals, constant across situations". Hence, in the opinion of this theory, though violence is an attribute of young men, not all young men are violent; but that middle-aged men, children, and women are violent too. However, though poverty, marginalization, divorce or separated parents, and so on, in the appropriate situations, are major causes violence (Collins, 2004; Collins, 2007; Ojo and Ayesoro, 2013), this may not Always be the case (Collins, 2007).



Summarily, this theory posits that in an attempt to proffer countermeasures to violence, there are at least three methods for getting at situational details of violent interactions: recordings (where violent scenes are mentally recorded and written), reconstructions (where a thorough situational analysis is carried out through analyzing prevailing and historical events), and observations (through a sociological, psychological and economic in-depth study); and these "are most useful when used in combination" (Ojo and Ayesoro, 2013; Collins, 2007).

## **INSECURITY IN NIGERIAN CONTEXT**

Nigeria in recent times has witnessed an unprecedented level of insecurity. This has made national security threat to be a major issue for the government and has prompted huge allocation of the national budget to security (Achumba, et al 2013). Consequently, Azazi, (2011) observed that in order to ameliorate the incidence of crime, the federal government has embarked on criminalization of terrorism by passing the Anti-Terrorism Act in 2011, installation of Computer-based Closed Circuit Television cameras (CCTV) in some parts of the country, to enhance surveillance as well as investigation of criminal related offences, heightening the physical security measures around the country, which is aimed at deterring or disrupting potential attacks, strengthening of security agencies through the provision of security facilities, the development and broadcast of security tips in mass media. Despite these efforts, the level of insecurity in the country is still high. To corroborate this assertion, GPI (2012) has stated that Nigeria has consistently ranked low in the Global Peace Index, signifying a worsened state of insecurity in the country. Hence, Adagba, et al (2012), Uhumwuangho and Aluforo (2011) argued that the efforts of government have not yielded enough positive result.

## **RESEARCH METHODOLOGY**

This study covered six (6) neighbourhoods in Nyanya Abuja namely: Nyanya Area 'A', Nyanya Area 'B', Nyanya Area 'C', Nyanya Area 'D', Nyanya Area 'E', and Nyanya Village. This research adopts a cross sectional research design method this type of research design is confined in a particular place at specific point in time. Cross sectional surveys are studies aimed at determining the frequency (or level) of a particular attribute, such as Specific exposure, disease, or the effect of a phenomenon in a defined population at a particular point in time (Wikipedia, 2015). Similarly, a cross-sectional research is an observational one. This means that researchers record information about their subjects without manipulating the environment (Winter, 2009). In line with the above definitions, this research begin with reconnaissance survey of the study area, data collected from the civil defence corps and police on areas that has attracted high level of policing, personal interview was carried out on some of the residents on their perception on the problem of insecurity in the area, GPS reading (coordinate) was taken from the areas identify as criminal hideout and the blast scene of April 1 and 14 2014.

In carrying out this research work, the multi stage systematic random sampling method was adopted to sample 138 households in the study area for the research. This sampling method was used to eliminate subjectivity and impact in the research by giving every member in the

surveyed population an equal probability of an individual in the sample to be selected (Singh, 2006 and Kothari, 2004). The data collected were analysed in descriptive terms, following the fact that security challenges are recurrent in the study area.

## DATA ANALYSIS AND PRESENTATION OF RESULTS

This assessment was carried out to know the street in the study area. The survey that was carried out shows that Area 'A' have 14.5% of respondents, Area 'B' have 21.0% respondents, Area 'C' have 14.5% respondents, Area 'D' have 6.5% respondents, Area 'E' have 36.2% respondents and Nyantya village have 7.2% respondents. See figure 4.10.

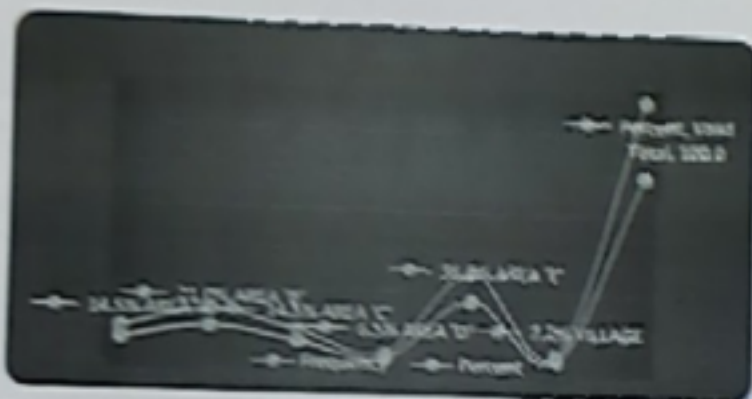


Figure. 4.1 Street Name of Respondents

Source: Field survey 2015.

This assessment in figure 4.2 was carried out to be able to determine the Areas that is highly faced with security challenge. It was discovered 15.2% of the areas are highly faced with insecurity, 60.9% are moderately faced with insecurity, 19.6% are merely challenge and 4.3% are not faced with any security challenge.

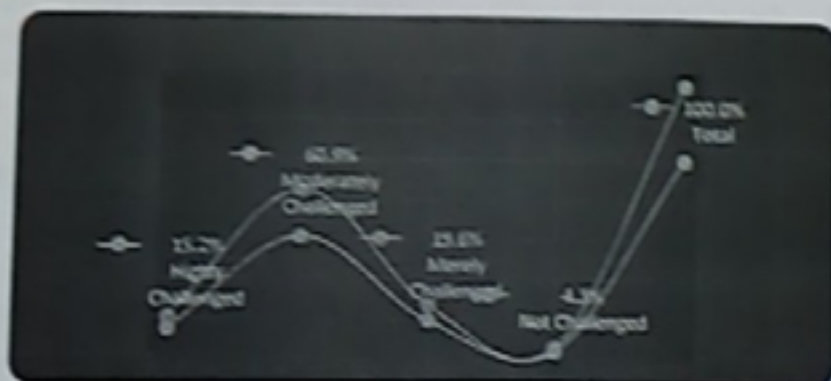


Figure. 4.2 Streets That Are Highly Faced With Insecurity

Source: Field survey 2015.

Figure 4.3 shows the assessment was done in order to know the level of security in the study area. The study discovered that 18.1% of the respondent are feeling highly secured, 47.8% are having a feeling that they are moderately secured while 23.9% are merely secured and 10.1% are not secured.

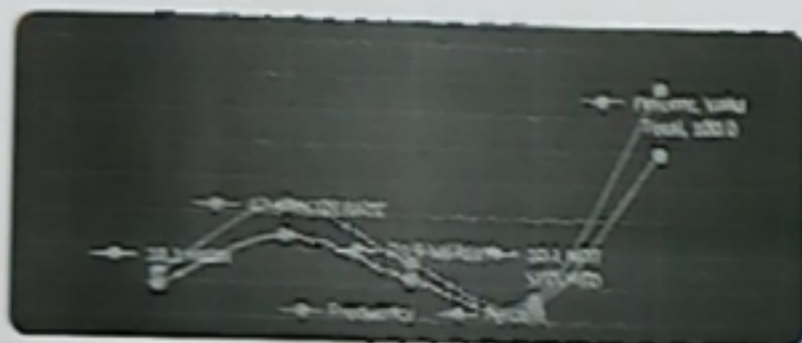


Figure 4.3 Level of security  
Source: Field survey 2015.

This was asked bring the research to the limelight of the security providers in the study area. The research find out that 48.6% of securitization is provided by the government, 23.9% is provided by private individuals while 21.0% is provided by the community (vigilante group) and 6.5% did not choose any of the aforementioned options (Table 4.1).

Table 4.1 Security Providers

Security Provider	Respondents	Percent
Government	67	48.6
Individual	33	23.9
Community	29	21.0
None Of The Above	6	6.5
Total	138	100.0

Source: Field survey 2015.

Table 4.2 seeks to know the special distribution of security agencies in each of the phases in the study area. The result of the survey carried out shows that 55.8% of the respondents have a police post or any other security post in there street while 44.2% of the respondents do not have.

Table 4.2 Spatial Distribution of Security Agencies

Options	Respondents	Percent
Yes	77	55.8
No	61	44.2
Total	138	100.0

Source: Field survey 2015.

Table 4.3 below, sought to know the level of patrol in the study area. The surveyed result shows that 2.9% of the respondents did not answer the question, 38.4% of the respondents



answer was that they see them daily, 13.0% see the patrol team weekly, 5.1% see them monthly and 40.6% only see them when there is information about crime.

**Table 4.3 Level of Patrol**

Level of Patrol	Respondents	Percent
Not Answered	4	2.9
Daily	53	38.4
Weekly	18	13.0
Monthly	7	5.1
Only When There is Information About Crime	26	40.6
Total	138	100.0

Source: Field survey 2015.

The rate of murder occurrence in the study area was assessed so as to avail the research the opportunity to ascertain the level of fear. The surveyed data reveals that 3.6% of the respondent said the crime occur on daily basis while 8.0% experience murder on weekly basis in the study area, 9.4% experience murder on monthly basis and 79.0 experiences murder on yearly basis. Table 4.4.

**Table 4.4 Level of Murder Occurrence**

Level of Occurrence	Respondents	Percent
Daily	5	3.6
Weekly	11	8.0
Monthly	13	9.4
Yearly	109	79.0
Total	138	100.0

Source: field survey 2015

## SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

It can be summarized from the data collected and analysed that Area 'E' is presently faced with high security challenge with 36.2% level of insecurity compare to other neighborhoods like Area 'A', 'B', 'C', and 'D' who have 14.5%, 21.0%, 14.5%, 6.5% and level of insecurity challenge. It was also deduced that 15.2% of the respondents who are highly challenged lives around Nyanya market, Nyanya village, Mararaba gate areas respectively this is because these areas are densely populated and can also be characterized by busy commercial activities while areas that are moderately challenged with 60.9% stay in area 'A', 'B', 'C' and 'D' whereas, 19.6% that are merely challenged lives around Mobile police Barracks and Nyanya labour camp respectively. However, areas that are highly secured are Nyanya Mopol Barracks area, with 18.1% while areas that are moderately secured are the Nyanya labour camp of Area 'A', Area 'B', C and D with 47.8% moderate security level. Mararaba gate, Nyanya village and the Market Area are having 23.9%, and 10.1% which makes these areas merely secured. The research finds out that both private individuals and government agencies forms the largest security providers in the study area with 48.6% and 23.9% security proving research findings also discovered that the spatial distribution of security agencies is done at 55.8% yet the residents still feel the sense of insecurity.

The effectiveness of policing in the study area is at 44.2% level of efficiency while the vigilante group has 39.9% level of effectiveness. It was noticed that street gates are not effective in the study area but human guard/watch man constitutes 28.3% level of effectiveness, more so, road bumps are have 51.4% level of ineffectiveness and security/guard dogs has 37.7% level of ineffectiveness with 30.4 level of effectiveness. It was also gathered that neighborhood security alarm also have an ineffectiveness level of 49.3% and 24.6% level of effectiveness while street light have low level of ineffectiveness of 17.4% and 37.5% level of effectiveness. The research also find out that military personnel provides 41.3% security in Nyanya. Consequently, the use of surveillance cameras are not effective in the study area the level of the ineffectiveness is 69.6% warning signs/ caution signs are also not effective with 56.5% level of ineffectiveness, but findings also came up with 44.2% check point effectiveness.

## CONCLUSION

In conclusion, the major effect of insecurity in Nyanya Abuja, presents its self in three dimensions these dimensions can be highlighted to be; rapid urbanization which is the major cause of insecurity in the study area, as well as poverty/ low economic status, lack of parental care, social class among others if carefully taken care of will lead to a reoccurrence of bomb blast in the study area

## RECOMMENDATIONS

The research has shown that there is a geometric increase in the level of insecurity and fear from 32.6% in year 2013 to 67.4% in year 2015. In view of this, the research recommends the following planning measures to curbing insecurity in Nyanya:

- I. Government should strengthen its security forces in areas like the Nyanya village, Nyanya market area and Mararaba junctions respectively to reduce the level of crime occurrence in those areas.
- II. There should be a joint security service between the government security and the resident's security providers to help contain crime activities in the area.

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