



Incompetency in Governance and Menace of Proliferation of Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW) in Nigeria: Causes, Impacts, and Solution.

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Keyword

Awful governance, Small arms and light weapons, Unproductive, Arms proliferation, Election, Unguarded border, National Security.

Abstract

This study examined the implication of the scourge of awful governance in Nigeria, and discusses the threats of proliferation of small arms and light weapons vis-a-vis less efficient governance by drawing a synergy between both variables, and unveiling the menace of proliferation of SALW as a devastating implication of unproductive governance in Nigeria. This paper adopted interviews as a tool for data collection and also retrieved valuable information's from readymade works of scholars. This paper investigated the causes of proliferation of small SALW in Nigeria, and discussed the constitutional failure of Nigerian government as the propellant of arms proliferation in Nigeria.. The study also examined the impacts of proliferation of SALW in Nigeria and finally articulate recommendation's that will serve as a panacea to the menace of proliferation of SALW, and also serves as the solution to the effect of unproductive governance in Nigeria.

INTRODUCTION

It is undisputable that a nation bedeviled by bad leadership and bad governance will certainly account for high rate of poverty and drastic increase in rate of crime, because there is a concomitant relationship between good governance and drastic reduction in poverty and crime rate and vice-versa. For instance, in a country like Nigeria where poverty raged due to bad governance, citizens have been seen total ways design a criminal way of survival at all means which includes armed crime that has automatically connected to the utilization of little arms and light weapons (SALW). By the by, Bad administration is by and large progressively viewed as one of the main driver of all underhanded and enduring inside our social orders (Kalbaq, 2015). The counteraction of wrongdoing and viciousness in Nigeria today reviews a fundamental truth that each man finds right to harmony and security, harmony and enduring security ought to constantly be the relentless target of any administration and her residents (Guardian 2014).

The constitutional failure of Nigerian government in providing security to her citizens as specified in the 1999 constitution of Nigeria Section 14 (2b) especially the provision of the basic necessities of live e.g. food, shelter, employment, education, protection of live and properties etc., has birthed the challenges of insecurity ravaging the country at present. The frustrated nature of the citizenry has prompted the citizens in fashioning-out a criminal ways of survival such as armed robbery, terrorism, armed banditry, yahoo-yahoo syndrome, kidnapping and Drug trafficking that has even dent the image of the country abroad. Certainly aggression is the result of blocking or frustrating a person's effort to attain a goal (Dollard et al 1939). The aforementioned crimes

ware not perpetrated with mere hands, but are rolled-out with the use of small arms and light weapons (SALW). It is estimated that 70 percent of over 10 million illegal weapons in circulation in West Africa are in Nigeria (Ugwumba, 2019). Despite the efforts by the government and international institutions such as the PCASED, ECOWAS and UNIDR in nipping in the bud the scourge of arms proliferation, the menace remains alarming in Nigeria. It is also germane to note that what causes armed crime in an advanced and civilized society of the west and Europe differs from what causes crime in African continent. The causes of crime in advanced society may be drug addiction, lack of archaic laws, tolerant and careful government with soft laws to punish offenders being civilized countries, while in African and Nigeria; it has to do mostly with poverty and bad governance. It is in view of this that this study examined the causes, impacts and proffer workable solution to the menace of proliferation of small arms and light weapons SALW in Nigeria.

STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

actualizing the menace of proliferation of small arms and light weapons (SALW) as an implication of bad governance has not only poses and enhances insecurity in the country, but has also to a large extent contributed to the acts of criminalities in the society as many criminals amongst the citizenry were able to carry-out or perpetrate their criminal acts which would not have been possible without the use of small arms and light weapons. Crimes such as banditry, herders' attacks, drug trafficking, armed robbery, kidnapping, terrorism etc. has abysmally been aided and enhanced by illicit arms that abound the society. The perpetration of the above crimes indeed has claimed many lives, injured many, as the entire Nigerian society has been thrown into threat of insecurity. It is in order to nip the above menace in the bud that this study examined the scourge of bad governance vis-à-vis proliferation of small arms and light weapons in Nigeria; it impacts on the society and finally articulates the panacea to the above challenges.

Research Questions

- What are the causes of proliferation of small arms and light weapons in Nigeria?
- What is the synergy between bad governance and proliferation of small arms and light weapons in Nigeria?
- What are the impacts of proliferation of small arms and light weapons in Nigeria and what is the solution?

Research Objectives

- To examine the causes of proliferation of small arms and light weapons in Nigeria
- To find out the synergy between the bad governance and proliferation of small arms and light weapons in Nigeria.
- To investigate the impacts of proliferation of small arms and light weapons on Nigeria and actualize its solutions.

Research Assumptions

- Bad governance and Poverty are the major causes of proliferation of small arms and light weapons in Nigeria.
- There is a synergy between bad governance and proliferation of small arms and light weapons in Nigeria
- Insecurity and increase in crime rate are the impacts of proliferation of small arms and light weapons in Nigeria.

Significance of the study

This paper has the potency to provide government policy makers with factual information as regards proliferation of small arms and light weapons, terrorism and insecurity with a view to guide them in policy formulation. The paper will also be useful to students, researchers and authors carrying out research on similar topic or as bases for further research, as it will serve as a source of factual information's.

CONCEPTUAL CLARIFICATIONS, FACTUAL DISCUSSIONS AND THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK.

Bad governance

Kalblaq (2015) submits that "terrible administration is the powerlessness of a public organization to oversee public undertakings and public assets, disappointment of an administration to address the issues of society while utilizing all assets available to them. Coker et al (2014) likewise places that terrible administration has been perceived to mirror an overall propensity of a public establishment not having the option to oversee public undertakings and public assets. He further noticed that terrible administration turns out to be more articulated when a state or government fizzles (wretchedly) to address the issue of the general public despite the fact that it utilizes best of the relative multitude of assets available to them.(UNESCAP, 2004 in Owoye, 1992) contended that awful administration incorporates legislatures that are insufficient and wasteful, not straightforward, not receptive to individuals, not considered responsible for their activities, biased and selective to the elites, non-participatory; don't observe the guidelines of regulation and lacking strategies that are agreement. Further certifying this position, Owoye referring to Calderist (2006) states that affirmed diligent issues of maladroit administration, institutional disappointment, and pandemic debasement are seen as variables of terrible administration in Africa. For Calderist, that's what Africa's concern is, it has never known great government and no mainland have encountered such drawn out autocracy" (referred to in Owoye, 1992). Any government that fails in their responsibilities of protecting lives and properties, protecting the external sovereignty of her nation and fails to guarantee the welfare of all citizens, or concern for the welfare of others (altruism) in the country is a bad government, and the consequence of such act are poverty and drastic increase in crime rate. Crimes are automatically linked to the use of arms and ammunitions, hence proliferation of small arms and light weapon. What is proliferation of small arms and light weapons?

Proliferation of small arms and light weapons (SALW)

Proliferation of small arms and light weapons implies the continuing increase in the numbers and production of small arms and light weapons in the society, whether legally produced or gotten through illicit means weapons that can be conveyed or worked by a couple of people'. This is no question a relevant issue in created countries, for example, the US where firearm control has been a subject of much debate (Yang, 2002). Yang (2002) sets that 'with the finish of the virus war, worldwide consideration went to the commonness of restricted furnished struggle or low force struggle assessed to have caused more than 1,000,000 passing's in the previous many years. 90% of which are non military personnel losses from the aimless utilization of brutality, SALW lies at the core of such viciousness, as such weapons are effectively realistic and operable. Yang went further that in addition to the fact that they are utilized by Militias, extremists, looters and warriors in struggle zones all over the Planet'.

Amnesty international (2003) submit that 'multiplication of little arms and light weapons is a term used to portray the development in both the approve and unlawful business sectors, they set that in 2003, different global associations (counting Amnesty worldwide, and IANSA), and homegrown gatherings (for example the little arms working gathering in the US) serious themselves to restricting the exchange and multiplication of little arms all over the Planet. They said that about 500,000 individuals are killed every year by the utilization of little arms'. In other words proliferation of small arms and light weapons implies whether legally or illicitly the preponderance of small and light ammunitions in the society. This is arms that abound in the society and are easily purchased with a low cost and are easily operated at a slight training, hence enhance are easily used by criminals.

National Security

The concept national security and its definition depend on individual perceptions. However, Mbachu (2012) argued that it has to do with the security of the entire citizenry in all ramifications of lives. Nevertheless, Imobigbe (1987) argued that "security implies the freedom from or the absence of those tendencies which could undermine internal cohesion and the corporate existence of the nation and its ability to maintain its vital institution. He argued further that national security is reoffered as a conscious effort to achieve freedom from danger and national ability, values, legitimate interest and enhances the well-being of the people". Mbachu (2012), contends that public safety has to do with the security of the whole populace in all implications of life's that covers wellbeing, economy, training, great government, food innovation, climate, political and so on. As the police, migration, customs, and common protection associations are accused of the obligation of keeping up

with inner security". This paper posits that the argument of both scholars above are all encompassing, and have really signifies the meaning of national security in its broader sense. Nevertheless, National Security is the primary responsibility of every government, as clearly specify in section 14(2b) of the constitution of the federal republic of Nigeria. It has to do with the protection of lives and properties on one hand, and the guarantee of citizen's welfare through the provision of the basic needs of lives on the other hand. In other word, ensuring the citizenry freedom from fear and freedom from want which can be realized at the absence of, or limiting arms proliferation in the country.

WHAT ARE SMALL ARMS AND LIGHT WEAPONS

Small Arms and light weapons refer in arms protocol to two main classes of man portable weapons. Small arms are broadly speaking, firearms designed for individual use. They includes: hand-guns, machine pistol, short gun, rifles, carbines, sub-machine gun, assault rifles and light machine guns (UN, 2003). Light weapons then again are by and large, intended for use by a few people filling in as a group. By and large, term alludes to any weapons that can be conveyed by a couple of individuals, models rang from Military style firearms, gun, carbines, attack rifles, light Machine weapon, explosive launchers, Mortars, Mobile enemy of tank weapons, rocket launchers, and shoulder-discharged enemy of airplane rocket launchers(UN, 2013).

Light weapons may include "knife, stick, cutlasses, catapults, stones" etc. and the availability of this weapons in large quantity without control in the society among the citizens, has to a large extends signifies the failure of government especially in a state where they are prohibited. Like Nigeria for example, there is a growing number of illegal arms and light weapons which is realized as a result of the failure of Nigerian government to perform her constitutional function which is holistically human security (provision of basic needs of lives) (Osewa, 2019).

THE CAUSES OF PROLIFERATION OF SMALL ARMS AND LIGHT WEAPONS (SALW) IN NIGERIA.

Introduction.

Nigeria is practically a lawless country with no practically working government. The mantle of leadership in Nigeria is handled by visionless, selfish, mediocre and public treasury looters who usually parade themselves as leaders. The country's boat is paddled by the incompetents, while the state values have long being eroded. It is a pitiable dismal that the deceptive political activities of Nigerian leaders had left the country in an unpalatable situation that has dragged Nigeria to becoming partially a state of Nature, a lawlessness country where citizens seek redress and survival through all means such including criminal acts that are championed with the use of small arms and light weapons. The incompetency and failure of Nigerian political leaders in government have birthed the following thus, inability of the government to give to her citizens the basic necessities of lives, the use of thugs by Nigerian political leaders during elections, the selfish idiosyncrasy of Nigerian leaders and the inability of Nigerian leaders to curb the spirit of ethnic and religious bigotry, the lack of adherent to the law by our political leaders and their institutions, unguarded borders and the inability of government to effectively tackle the setting up of illegal factories around the country, and are also seen as the major causes of proliferation of small arms and light weapons in Nigeria. nevertheless, each of the aforementioned factors is properly analyzed below.

(1)Inability of the Nigerian government to take up her constitutional duties.

The number of small arms and light weapons among the citizens of Nigeria is becoming very high, this is due to the fact that Nigerian government have failed in their constitutional responsibility to protect lives, and also failed to guarantee welfare of all in the state. The government have failed in giving the basic needs of lives to her citizenry, as citizens have now design a criminal way of survival at all cost and through cruel means such as armed robbery, kidnapping, terrorism, drug trafficking, political thug and area boys syndrome, hired assassin, yahoo-yahoo,419, cultism, ritualism etc which has now being the order of the day in Nigeria, with the above deadly activities not perpetrated with mere hands, but are carried out with the use of small arms. Any government that fails to secure its citizens by guaranteeing them freedom from fear and freedom from want (protection of lives and properties and the provision of basic needs of live to her citizens) end up being a failed

government, and the consequence of such is mostly poverty, and metamorphosis into high rate of criminality in the country. In other words poverty and penury are the drivers of crime in Nigerian society.

From the civilian regime of the formal president Obasanjo in 1999 to the present regime of Buhari, in this year 2022, none of their administration had been able to give good governance as expected in Nigeria. According to Durer (1942) he argued that perhaps government responsibility to provide social programs to its citizens is the most controversial of all, governments provide the parameters for everyday behavior of citizens, shield them from outside impedance, and frequently accommodate their well-admission and bliss. To ensure prosperity of populace, food, cover, clothing, business, schooling, great wellbeing office, social and fundamental offices, security and so forth must be given by the public authority. Butcher (2017) sets that administration is viewed as supplier of labor and products that people can't give exclusively to themselves. Government in this origination is the answer for aggregate activity issues, the medium through which residents make public merchandise that benefit everybody, and the fundamental financial foundation of human network falls into this classification too (Slaughter, 2017).

It is because Nigerian framework normally breeds baffled and damaged Nigerians who are effectively incited at the smallest misconception, to this end wrongdoing is pervasive in the nation and those behind Boko Haram revolt can undoubtedly enlist troopers to join their positions(Ubani, 1995 in Mordi, 2014). Furthermore, Boko Haram does not attack with ordinary hands, they do with the use of arms and ammunitions in their arsenals, which includes small arms and light weapons and even heavy guns.

(2) The regularity at which Nigerian political partyactor's employs political thugs to disrupt elections and electioneering.

Still within the realms of bad governance, Nigerian politicians have now resorted to the use of political thugs in disrupting election processes during election and electioneering. Using of political thugs to silence opposition, oppress, steal ballot boxes has also been seen as a strategy of winning election in Nigeria. The killing of engineer Funsho Williams on 27th July 2006 in Lagos state and the killing of Ayo Daramola in 2006 in Ekiti state and many more are typical example of such acts. Political thugs are hired by politicians, and politicians go to the extents of buying forthug's small arms and light weapons, such as pistol, double barrel, Ak 47, sub-Machine guns, cutlasses, Knives etc. to be used as instrument of destruction during election.

This weapons most of the time are not being retrieved from the thugs after election, and those political thugs later use them as an instrument of terror on the society. Those arms are used for petty theft and armed robbery and other social vices. According to Maliki et al (2018) in a news, posit that a politician in Lagos who did not want to be referenced reports to Daily believe that to upset a meeting, a government official just has to give around 20 hooligans, employing firearms, cutlasses and cudgels,#2,000 each. All punks require is cash for drugs and a dinner. They place that occasionally, the government official supplies the firearms, which are scarcely gotten back to him after any political activity. They report that Hoodlum in Mushin area of Lagos flaunted he could get a weapon for just #10,000. Another factor is the use of secret cult members from Nigerian institutions and the ones on the street by politicians as political thugs to destabilize political processes. Political leaders that are expected to show integrity, good leadership, end up being cruel and architect of bad governance. Samuel (2017) argued that democracy in the African context has becoming a germinating ground for youth violence and radicalization to the extent of making arms proliferation a regular business among the youth and the merchants of death. Cultists heard to be a very strong man on the street or in the University are the ones used as political thugs. Hooliganism is cruel in nature and has it connection with the use of arms, hence proliferation of small arms and light weapons in Nigeria.

(3) The idiosyncrasy attitude of the Nigerian leadership and the menace of ethnic and religious bigotry bedeviling the Nigerian State.

Very harsh, cruel and politically unenlightened leadership happens to be the kind of leadership that has been experienced by Nigerian citizens for long. Up till today, leaders that ruled arbitrarily leaving the constitution of Nigeria in abeyance are the leaders being forcefully enthroned in Nigeria by the political godfathers. The character and attitudes of Nigerian leaders so far, has always been reflective of their government. These attitudes and characters are mostly shaped by their religious and ethnic orientation. Nigerian leaders tend to develop, show through their body languages a kind of hatred for people from other tribe, ethnic and religious background. For example, this type of leaders usually violated the principles of federal characters by regionalizing the appointment of officials into government offices like we have in this present government of Buhari. Another

example is a Governor of a state who also violated the state laid down tradition of considering candidates of both religion of Christianity and Islam simultaneously as Governor and Vice Governor and vice-versa, as he deliberately appointed a person of his own religion as his vice governor instead of appointing someone from another religion. I am referring to Governor Nasirel Rufai of Kaduna State.

These has to a large extends instigated crisis, where followers of various religion and a member of a particular ethnic felt extremely marginalized and raised arms and deadly weapons against each other from distinct ethnic and religious backgrounds. They go to the extents of buying weapons to be kept in their various arsenals to be used for religious and ethnic wars in Nigeria. This is why we always have continuous killings in some part of the country. Ituma and Uchenna (2015) submit that” in ongoing past, savage collective, strict and political struggle have turned into a customary element as well as repeating decimal of our public activity. They went further that these contentions result from various worth framework, forceful rivalry for financial assets and undesirable contest for political power. There is not really a year in Nigeria without major fierce clash. Struggle in this regard, particularly in northern piece of the nation has fluctuated in extension, power and nature, and has taken boundless cost for living souls, leaving some dead, harmed and various others uprooted because of the contribution of little arms illicitly obtained”The inability of Nigerian government to tackle and kill the spirit of religious and ethnic sentiment has resulted into many ethnic and religious crises in Nigeria. These crisis are mostly championed with the use of arms, hence proliferation of small arms and light weapons in Nigeria. Presently such acts have signifies in the activities of Boko-Haram terrorists declared in the northern part of the country who which to spread Islam across the northern part of the country. Some hoodlums in the northern states have imbibed the beliefs of those Islamic terrorist to create hatred and perpetrate evil by maiming those practicing opposite religion. These killings were also perpetrated with the use of small arms and light weapons, hence proliferation of small arms and light weapons in Nigeria.

(4) Lack of arched working laws in Nigeria.

Lack of strong laws to catch up with Nigerian politicians caught buying arms to political thugs for distorting election process during election. Nigerians have had many experience and cases of politicians buying guns to political thugs to obstruct political rallies and destabilized electioneering. Most of the time, these politicians were not seen being prosecuted, especially when the politicians in question belong to the ruling party. It is the inability of the law to catch up with these politicians that made many politicians continued in their deadly acts of encouraging hooliganism and political issues in Nigeria. Some powerful politicians are above the law of the land in Nigeria, as Nigerian laws are bent to suit their nefarious acts and deed. According to Albert Venn Dicey (1885) He posits in his book titled the rule of law that all men should be equal before the law and no man should be above the law and that there should not be impartiality when dealing with people according to the law, and that no man should be made to suffer in abeyance of the constitution. This is not applicable in Nigeria, as some political Demagogue is seen to be more powerful than the law in Nigeria, they are above the law. A country where there is no harsh working laws to tackle the illegal procurement of guns by the politicians, the rate of arms procurement and possessions become uncontrolled and very high which is inimical to the political development of such country..

(5) Too many unguarded illegal borders in Nigeria.

It is a fact that bad governance tends to jeopardize the security of a Nation, as the security architecture of such a nation tends to be weakened. Nigeria is a country where security operatives, including the border security operatives such as custom and immigration, are not given the required specialize training. Training and retraining of officers abroad are not done regularly as expected. In other way round, acceptance of bribe has become daily and normal way of lives and protocol of officers, with police, custom, army and immigration officers all interested and concerned in taking bribes (Kabir, 2020), Foreigners and goods are easily smuggled into Nigeria when immigration and custom officers received bribe (Adebajo, 2019) all this happened as a result of the worsening economic life of the officers, and the fact that officers are not being inspected by the government regularly as expected. Other factor is the unprotected bush ways where smugglers pass through as an illegal route where illegal arms and ammunitions are imported into Nigeria.

In December 2017, punch newspaper reported that the UN officers for West African and the Sahel, which organized conference, estimated that seven to 10 Million small arms and light weapons flood West Africa annually, Alarmingly, Nigeria is the major destination of the weapons. They preceded that apart from those intercepted; many of the SALW easily flood the country through the porous borders. Arms bootleggers attack

the country with their destructive stash, taking advantage of the various automated courses (Punch, 2017). This carelessness is characterized by the way that Nigeria has just 84 endorsed line control posts, however arms syndicates bootleggers and psychological militants work through 1,400 automated and unlawful courses (Punch, 2017). Salau (2017) submits that the gatekeeper examinations uncovered that runners are on consistent schedule conceiving various tricks to beat the traditions development, by and large, such demonstrations are executed around evening time when they parade their arms prepared for battle with the officials that come across their way (Salau, 2017). Unguarded lines have really improved the multiplication of little arms and light weapons (SALW) in Nigeria.

(6) The existence of too many illegal local gun factories in Nigeria.

The Nigerian state has become so corrupt and unorganized due to bad governance to the extent that citizens do not take laws for granted. Citizens no longer have respect for the sovereignty and laws of the country as shady deals and illegal businesses have become a normal means of survival among the citizenry. The number of small arms and light weapons existing in the country is becoming very alarming as illegal local arms factories abound and are set up in every corner of the country. According to Charles (2018) in *Punch* Newspaper he reported that an illegal local gun factory was discovered in Oju local government Area of Benue state by the Nigerian police. He posits that some of the locally fabricated equipment use AK-47 prohibited ammunition.

It is the inability of Nigerian security institutions to act as effectively as expected and the worsening economic lives of Nigerians which has made citizens resort to criminalities has now led to the setting up and patronizing of illegal gun factories in every corner of the country. Opara (2018) reported that the Niger state police command has uncovered an illegal firearms factory in the Mashegu local government Area of the state. He submits the police had recovered no fewer than 110 different types of gun and over 80 ammunitions from the citizens. A state (country) with bad governance is a failed and unorganized state where laws suffer and are left in abeyance. Toromade (2016) also submits that the troops of Nigerian Army uncovered an illegal arms factory in Wamba local government Area of Nassarawa state. The factory that belongs to a blacksmith gun fabricator called Dan Asabe Audu who said some of the guns are sold as low as ₦30,000. This is the case and what poverty has really caused in Nigeria as a result of bad governance.

Like I submitted earlier, there is a concomitant relationship between bad governance and drastic rise in the rate of crime. Most crimes are not perpetrated with bare hands, but with the use of arms, especially crimes such as armed robbery, kidnapping, hired assassins, cultism, drug dealings, terrorism etc. are all perpetrated with the use of small arms and light weapons (SALW).

THE IMPACTS OF PROLIFERATION OF SMALL ARMS AND LIGHT WEAPONS IN NIGERIA

The proliferation of small arms and light weapons in Nigeria has raised immense havoc in Nigeria. Crime has become increased, crime such as kidnapping, armed banditry, drug trafficking, and series of gun-men activities and the deadly activities of the Fulani herdsmen, and terrorism have been on the increase in Nigeria. It has also increased the rate, and makes more pronounced, and enhanced deadly clashes such as communal, religious, and political crisis, while cultism activities have been on the increase in Nigeria. The death toll in Nigeria has been very high and the negative effect of crisis in Nigeria has also become more intense. Many Nigerians have been forced to flee from their homes as they now permanently reside in the IDP camps as a result of armed conflict ravaging the country (Nigeria). This has become a great security challenge to the country, and needed the concerted effort of all Nigerians, emergence of good government who will be honestly committed in fighting crime and support from outside Nigeria for the menace to be successfully dealt with.

Uwa and Anthony (2015) submit that the expansion of little arms and light weapons is one of the significant security challenges as of now confronting Nigeria, Africa and without a doubt the world overall. They continue that dealing and wide accessibility of these weapons fuel public clash, political flimsiness and represent a danger, not exclusively to National security, yet additionally to reasonable turn of events. The wide spread of, or the proliferation of arms in Nigeria is contributing to armed crime and militancy in Nigeria (Uwa and Anthony, 2015). Mutum (2018) posits that the negative impact of illicit arms trafficking in Nigeria can be said to be the root of insecurity in the country, accounting for increase in violence and mass killings. Mutum opines that it has also contributed to increasing number of violent conflicts, constant human and drug trafficking which remains a challenge to authorities and in outside Nigeria. Arms proliferation in Nigeria has enhanced the security

challenges in Nigeria, thereby allaying foreign investors who are within the country and the ones willing to come into Nigeria to invest. The adverse effect of this has been increasing unemployment and economic backwardness.

Proliferation of small arms and light weapons has caused the death of many in Nigeria, such as the civilian and the military and Para-military officers. SALW has led to rising rate of criminality, and citizens are being endangered. Also, the threat of the illicit use of SALW in terrorism ravaged areas has prevented the delivery of humanitarian and economic aids and contributed immensely to the challenges of refugee and internally displaced persons (IDP) in Nigeria (Editorial board 2018).

Proliferation of small arms and light weapons has no doubt hampers the smooth running of government, prevent peaceful legal change of government processes especially during elections, as many aggrieved selfish politicians has taken laws into their hands by employing political thugs, buying them arms to obstruct election processes. This has always being the situation and experienced in Nigeria, hence preventing political advancement and development in Nigeria.

LEGAL FRAMEWORK IN TACKLING ARMS PROLIFERATIONS IN NIGERIA: HOW WORKABLE?

The issue of arms proliferation in Nigeria has been a issue of concern for years, as record has showed that the proliferation of small arms and light weapons in Nigeria is at its climax. Despite the effort of government and other international institutions such as the ECOWAS, and the laws promulgated by the national Assembly to tackle the menace, arms proliferation is still at its apogee in Nigeria. However, Ugwumba (2019) posits that, the report of West Africa Action Network on little arms in 2006 impelled the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) to embrace a show to control creation; course and non military personnel ownership of little arms and light weapons to diminish uncertainty and other transnational sort out wrongdoing in the sub-locale. The parliament in Nigeria has likewise taken action to lay out a National commission for the expansion of arms and unlawful importation of little arms, ammo and light weapons (David, 2018:30 in Ugwumba, 2019). What's more, the way that Nigeria is depending on guns Act of 1959 in taking care of the instances of infringement (Osimen, 2015:11 in Ugwumba, 2019).Despite all of the aforementioned efforts, there is still persistent increase in the rate of small arms and light weapons in Nigeria. Accessing the real solution, the issue of arms proliferation eradication should not be limited to enacting a fresh law to eradicate arms proliferation in Nigeria, or looking at the obsolete nature of the law enacted such as the firearms Act of 1959 only, but addressing the issue from the root cause of the menace. There is a concomitant relation between bad governance, poverty and high rate of armed crime in Nigeria, meaning where a state have a good governance, there will certainly be drastic reduction in the rate of poverty and armed crime and vice-versa. To address the issue of alarming arms proliferation in Nigeria, government needs to look inward, and ensure good governance by establishing a government that will guarantee the citizenry of the basic need of lives and take them off all forms of criminalities. Provision of social and essential amenities with which business can thrive such as uninterrupted power supply, good roads, reduction in taxation, giving business loans and grants to the poor citizenry, and employment opportunities in government institutions to the teaming youths of the country will go a long way in reducing poverty and crime and invariably avert the acts of proliferation of small arms and light weapons in Nigeria.

Firearms Act (Amendment) Bill, 2018 was passed by the parliament in November 2018 to cater for increase of fine, stringent jail terms against offenders, and destruction of illegal imported arms which is codified in section 27(1) (c)(i-v), 28 and 35 (2) of the Act (Ugwumba, 2019). The amendment recommends 10 years jail terms for illegal possessors, importers and manufactures of firearms in the country, with a fine of 1 million naira against offenders (Ugwumba, 2019).However, all of the above has failed to address the issue of arms proliferation in Nigeria, because the workable solution is linked to establishing good governance, enhancement of citizen's economic lives and ensuring that citizens have high standard of living which must be taking as a child of necessity in Nigeria.

THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

Frustration- Aggression Theory:

Disappointment Aggression speculation was "first created in (1939) by Dollard, Doob, Miller, Mower and Sears at the foundation of human relations Yale University and first distributed in mental audit, 48,337-342 and further created by Miller, Leonard, and Berkowitz in (1968)". The hypothesis says that "hostility is the consequence of hindering or baffling an individual's endeavors to accomplish an objective. The disappointment animosity speculation endeavor to make sense of why individuals scape goat". It endeavor to give clarification to the reasons for viciousness. It expresses that dissatisfaction causes hostility, yet when the wellspring of the disappointment can't be tested, then, at that point, animosity get dislodged into an innocent target. The hypothesis quarreled over mob and transformations, that, both are brought about by appropriate and more denied segments of the general public who might communicate their restrained disappointment and outrage through savagery.

Nevertheless, the argument of the theorists as explain above is in tender with the situation in Nigeria. It is the failure of Nigerian government to guarantee the basic needs of lives to her citizens that has in-turn breed's poverty in the land and led the citizens to resorting to criminalities for survival. Those citizens who believed to have been deprived of their basic needs to better livelihood have now responded in a violent manner through series of crime. In other words, in a bid to find a means of survival at all means has made Nigerian citizens engaged themselves in all sort of criminal activities, such as armed robbery, kidnapping, terrorism, drug trafficking etc. Crime that are perpetrated with the use of small arms and light weapons which in-turn enhances the production of illegal arms and promote the flooding in of illicit arms through Nigerian porous borders, hence proliferation of small arms and light weapons in Nigeria. Bad governance gives birth to Poverty, poverty promotes crimes, and crime enhanced illicit use of arms. Bad governance in Nigeria has indeed breeds proliferation of small arms and light weapons in Nigeria.

METHODOLOGY

Methodology simply implies the method through which data are collected and other strategies with which the study is conducted are applied. However, this paper adopted the hybrid method, that is, the combination of both primary and secondary method of data collection. Interviews are conducted as a tool for data collection, while other valuable data are collected from ready-made works of scholars and authors. The study adopted the correlational design as the correlation between the two variables (bad governances and proliferation of small arms and light weapon) is established. This study conducted eleven (11) interviews all together, while the populations for this study are the security agents as a whole, lecturers and experts in the area of security studies, government official and citizens who have vast knowledge of the security challenges Nigeria's is confronted with.

The samples are three (3) security agents (police officers), two (2) Army officers, two (2) Lecturers at the department of peace and conflicts studies, two (2) Lawyers, one (1) University security senior officer and one (1) House of Assembly staff with different profession. The study applied the purposive sampling technique as those respondents interviewed were selected based on their expertise and experience as regards the nature of insecurity in Nigeria being experts in security field and studies respectively. Responses collected from the respondents were analyzed thematically, as respondents were coated verbatim. After transcribing those responses from the respondents, the researcher tried to check those responses to the ones in the tape- recorded by Phone garget during the interview in order to ascertain the validity of the responses and to ensure it is not different from the spoken minds of the respondents as recorded during the interview. The research was carried out in Ekiti State and Lagos State respectively.

Table 1.1. Table showing the status of the respondents interviewed.

S/N	Name	Status	Organization	Qualification	Position
1	.....	Police Officer	NPF	BSc	Sergeant
2	.....	Police Officer	NPF	HND	Inspector
3	.....	Police officer	NPF	BSc	ASP
4	.....	Army officer	N/Army	MSc	Captain
5	.....	Army Officer	N/Army	Diploma	Sergeant
6	Tomide, M	Lawyer	Legal Practitioner	LLB, LLM	Principal partner
7	Daniel, A	Lawyer	Legal Practitioner	BL, BLL	Lawyer
8	Ajibulu, A. I	Security Officer	University	BSc	Security
9	.....	Lecturer	University	PhD	Lecturer
10	.....	Lecturer	University	PhD	Lecturer
11	.....	Accountant	Ekiti State House of Assembly	BSc	Accountant

Field Survey (2022).

The whole respondents were eleven (11) in numbers, which comprises of two (2) army officers, three (3) police officers, two (2) lawyers, two (2) lecturers, one (1) civilian security officer and one (1) state house of assembly staff respectively.

DATA PRESENTATIONS AND ANALYSIS ON PROLIFERATIONS OF SMALL ARMS AND LIGHT WEAPONS IN NIGERIA

Introduction.

This section focuses on the presentation and analysis of data collected for this study. In addition, the assumptions articulated for this study were also tested. Data collected from the interviews were also presented and analyzed. Consequently, the sampling technique adopted was purposive sampling technique which allows for the selection of only those respondents with vast knowledge and expertise on the security challenges ravaging the Nigeria state. The method of data analysis for this study is thematic analysis. The researcher analyzed those responses collected from those respondents thematically by coating the respondents verbatim and linking it with an existing literatures that argued in same direction. Through this method, the existing relationship between the two variables was evaluated and discovered.

Test of assumption one (1): Bad governance is the causes of proliferation of small arms and light weapons in Nigeria. Respondents were asked to give their perceptions on the causes of proliferation of small arms and light weapons in Nigeria. The entire respondent argued that where government is not living up to the societal expectations, and where citizens are denied of the basic needs of lives, citizens tend to look for a means of survival at all means which may connect to armed crime.

The first respondent a police sergeant posits that: the causes of proliferation of small arms and light weapons in Nigeria are numerous; one is our porous borders that are not properly secured. Another thing is politics, that is, offenders in this case who belongs to ruling party were given soft landing-case which will not see the light of the day.

A respondent, at Ekiti State house of assembly posits that: the causes of proliferation of small arms and light weapons in Nigeria can be traced to the problem of unemployment, corruption in the society, insecurity, quick money (rich) syndrome that has ravaged the country.

Another respondent, a lawyer who submits that: The cause of proliferation of small arms and light weapons in Nigeria ranges from cultism, armed robbery, kidnapping etc. Generally refers to as violent crime, because they need these small arms and light weapons to carry out this crime. More jobless youth are seen to be drafted into this violent crime because they are done for the purpose of survival.

A respondent a lecturer at the University, department of peace and security studies argued that: proliferation of small arms and light weapons implies the increase in number or production of small arms and light weapons in the country. However, arms proliferations are caused by the emergence of numerous armed crimes in Nigeria. Armed crime such as armed robbery, kidnapping, terrorism and other armed banditry that emerged due to high rate of unemployed youths in the country and poverty ravaging the country.

In consonance with the submissions above, Ugwumba (2019) argued that, proliferation of small arms and light weapons in Nigeria has been blamed largely on lack of adequate and strong legal and institutional framework by the government to regulate and prevent unhindered movement of arms and ammunitions, and tackle the menace of unemployment in the country.

Test of assumption two (2): there is a nexus between bad governance and proliferation of small arms and light weapons in Nigeria. Respondents were asked to give their perceptions on the relationship between bad governance and proliferation of small arms and light weapons in Nigeria. Almost all the respondent posit that bad governance and proliferation of small arms and light weapons in Nigeria are interwoven, that one leads to the other.

A respondent, army captain argued that: absolutely there is a nexus between bad governance and proliferation of small arms and light weapons in Nigeria. A good example is the terrorism going on in the Northeast. Intelligence research has shown that majority in the North are very poor, a home land of the destitute. Most of this beggars are end up been employed by the deadly group easily for monetary compensation, and to act as soldiers. There is a saying that an idle mind is the devil's work shop.

Another respondent, a police inspector submits that: obviously there is a connection between them. A society where citizens found it difficult to access the basic needs of lives, especially employment, such society will definitely be ravaged by different armed crime. Man- must- wack syndrome make people acquire weapons in other to rob and provide food for their families.

Another respondent, a University security officer posits that: there is a nexus between bad governance and proliferation of small arms and light weapons in Nigeria. This is as a result of bad leadership in the helms of affairs. A leader that does not have the blue print or agenda of what he has in plan and eventually find him selves in power cannot perform as somebody who has understudy the system and the people before he get to power.

A respondent, an ASP in the police argued that: the nexus is glaring, and easily traceable. Countries where citizens enjoy the basic necessities of lives and also have access to social amenities will definitely develop, and there will be low rate of crime existing in such society. This is why you found limited crimes in the developed countries.

The last respondent here, a staff in a state house of assembly posits that: yes the two vices go in peri-pasu. It was bad governance that resulted to proliferation of small arms and light weapons in Nigeria. And to also address it, the government of Nigeria must be on their toes in ensuring welfare of all citizens in the country.

(Ubani, 1995 in Mordi, 2014) also posits that because Nigerian system naturally breeds frustrated and traumatized Nigerians who are easily provoked at the slightest misunderstanding, this is why crime is prevalent in the country and those behind Boko Haram insurgency can easily recruit foot soldiers to join their ranks.

Test of assumption three (3): Insecurity is the impacts of proliferation of small arms and light weapons in Nigeria. Respondents were asked to share their opinion on the effect of proliferation of small arms and light weapons in Nigeria and analyze it solutions. They all agreed it has led to high rate of crime and insecurity in Nigeria.

The first respondent, an army sergeant submits that: simply the impact of proliferation of small arms and light weapons in Nigeria has being high rate of crime and insecurity in the country. As a result of this, the country is experiencing up spring of newer factions of terrorists groups and new armed crime like kidnapping in the country. The solution to this is intensive military strategies and measures such as the counter-terrorism

approach which could be carried out only if the necessary ammunitions, training, intelligence and citizens support are gotten.

Another respondent, a lawyer argued that: proliferation of small arms and light weapons in Nigeria has encourages citizens to go around carrying small arms and light weapons unchecked, which means they have a strong persons behind them. The effect of these is devastating, catastrophe, bad harmful killings of fellow citizens, robbery and can lead to crisis if not check mate. As regards the solution, i think the government needs to do more in eradicating poverty in Nigeria as this will certainly reduce the rate of crime in the country.

A respondent, staff at the state house posits that: the effect of proliferation of small arms and light weapons in Nigeria are enormous e.g. political instability, Boko Haram war, cases of kidnapping, robbery, and unwillingness of foreign investors to invest in Nigeria. Employment opportunities could be the solution.

The last respondent, a lecturer at the department of security studies, argued that: the effect is simply insecurity. Its springs up a lot of armed crime and enhance clashes such as religious clashes, ethnic conflicts, and election crises in the state when people are carried along in governance in such a way that poverty and unemployment are drastically reduced, invariably the rate of crime will reduce in the country.

Uwa and Anthony (2015) submit that the proliferation of small arms and light weapons is one of the major security challenges currently facing Nigeria, Africa and indeed the world in general.

DISCUSSION OF FIELD SURVEY FINDINGS ON BAD GOVERNANCE AND PROLIFERATION OF SMALL ARMS AND LIGHT WEAPONS IN NIGERIA

Based on the outcome of the field survey conducted on this study, the study thereby finds out that there is a nexus between the two variable of bad governance and proliferation of small arms and light weapons in Nigeria. The study finds out that it is the inability of Nigerian government to provide a conducive living environment, where citizens will have access to the basic needs of lives such as food shelter, clothing, education and most importantly employment that will engaged the citizens and make them have a comfortable living, so that they don't end up engaging themselves with social vices that can lead the country to the state of insecurity.

The study finds out that the causes of proliferation of small arms and a light weapon in Nigeria is endemic poverty ravaging the state (country) it is the. inability of Nigerian government to provide her citizenry with the basic needs of lives especially employment and education, and lack of social amenities to make petty business of citizens thrive which has invariable increase the rate of crime in Nigeria, hence arms proliferation in Nigeria. Nevertheless, when we talk about unemployment, it is not limited to the inability of the government to give a white collar jobs. Where a government cannot provide for a palatable environment for business to thrive, then we can also say that the government has failed to give employment to her teaming citizenry. The country as a whole had long been ravaged by high rate of youth's joblessness, poverty and hopelessness, thereby making the youths fall easy prey to criminality.

The study also finds out that the impact of proliferation of small arms and light weapons in Nigeria is insecurity, high death toll, humanitarian crisis and threat. The springing up of many social vices such as the previously listed vices, corruptions, lack of economic growth and development has being the order of the day in Nigeria as foreign investor will not want to come invest in an economically backward, and unsecured state like Nigeria, thereby creating gross unemployment, and impacting the economy of the country negatively. For example, organizations like the Unilever and Mobil had relocated their head offices to other state like Ghana, and this have greatly had a devastating impact on the economic development of Nigeria.

The study finally realized that the solutions to the menace of arms proliferation in Nigeria are good governance, poverty and unemployment eradication, creation of employment opportunities, social and essential facilities that will enhance citizen's livelihoods and increase citizen's standard of living. Establishing intensive counter-terrorism measures with the necessary equipment's, intelligence information's, citizens collaborations with security operatives and the training and retraining of Nigerian security operatives will also serves as panacea to eradicating the arms proliferation bedeviling the country.

CONCLUSION

Arms proliferation has become a security challenges to the World and Nigeria in particular, arms proliferation in Nigeria is not an automatic factor, and it emerged as a result of the failure of Nigerian government. It is a pitiable sad condition that leaders and citizens of Nigeria have been badly conscientized, and unenlightened to foresee the implications of poverty and arms proliferations in the country. Bad governance breeds poverty, while poverty breeds crime, and crime automatically partner's small arms and light weapons. If the issue of bad governance is not addressed soon in Nigeria, Nigerian state is certainly sitting on a time bomb of revolution which will certainly explode one day. We hope to see the situation addressed soon, if not, Nigeria may become a history years to come. The study unveiled the fact that there has being an increasing threat to live, and lack of peaceful co-existence amongst Nigerians.

RECOMMENDED SOLUTIONS

Bad governance and the proliferation of small arms and light weapons in Nigeria are bad phenomenon that needed to be strangulated quickly before its kills Nigeria. Government needs to do their best in giving good governance that will kill the spirit of crime and the use of small arms in perpetrating crimes in the society. When citizens are given the basic needs of lives, crime and the use of small arms and light weapons will automatically drastically reduce in Nigeria, and perpetual peace will be guaranteed in the state. Nigerian government should also enact a law that will alley the acts of using political thugs, area boys and cultist by Nigerian politicians during election or at any point in time. This will denied the thugs access to small arms and light weapons, and also reduce the circulation of illicit small arms among the citizens.

The challenges of communal, ethnic and religious crisis should also be addressed and curb in Nigeria by the government. A draconian law that will kill the spirit of religious extremism and tribal intolerance should be enacted by Nigerian government, so that citizens can begin to see themselves as one Nigerian at the expense of citizen's religious believe and ethnic affiliation. Nigerian government should be a responsibly honest government, and curb the acts of bending laws to suit party members and politicians. Any party member caught promoting the acts of proliferation of SALW, by buying guns to political thugs, should be arrested or dealt with according to the law of the land. Nevertheless, to ascertain this, we need a God fearing, sincere and good leadership in Nigeria.

The border security operatives like the customs and immigration officers and others should be empower and strengthened by sending them abroad for specialized training on border security operations, so that they can be able to tackle the menace of inflow of illegal arms through Nigerian borders. Nigerian government should also work on how to close up the illegal routes in the bushes that are being used by criminals in bringing inilegal small arms and light weapons into the country. Nigerian military and other security institutions should do more in discovering and closing down of illegal arms factories in Nigeria. Government should set up combine task-force that will comprises neighborhood civilian force and other security operatives that will be saddled with the responsibility of searching and disclosing illegal arms factories across the country.

Community policing Act must be enacted at the National Assembly to empower every state set up a community police to complement the efforts of the Nigerian police mostly at the grassroots. This initiative will accommodate and engage the grassroots citizens as a means to reducing unemployment and reducing the rate of insecurity in the various states. The grassroots citizens are the ones that understand the map and the geographical nukes and cranes of their communities, hence can ensure the security of the place. A good example of this initiative was the establishment of the Lagos State Neighborhood Safety Agency by the Lagos State government through an Act of law at the Lagos State Assembly in 2016, and the establishment of the Southwestern Security Networks (AMOTEKUN) by the western State Governors in year 2020. These security institutions despite their inability to carry guns and powerful guns respectively had been doing tremendously well in securing their various communities, especially the Lagos Neighborhood Safety corps in Lagos State and in Ondo State where the Amotekun force is more effective. This is a line to toes by the federal government in averting the challenges of insecurity in Nigeria; hence the law is a child of necessity, a panacea to Nigeria's insecurity.

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