

## SOUTH EAST ZONE OF NIGERIA AND THE CHALLENGES OF HUMAN SECURITY DEVELOPMENT

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### **Abstract**

*The paper examined the South East zone of Nigeria and the challenges of human security development. For years, the zone has been battling with many daunting challenges especially in the area of security in her bid to attain a meaningful regional economic development. In terms of human capital endowment, the zone is known to be populous. The zone is also blessed with other natural endowments that contribute to the sustenance of the Nigeria economy. Despite the entrepreneurial skill and the survivalist spirit of people of the zone, the area is yet to witness an appreciable level of human security development. Criticisms continued to trail the inability of president Buhari's administration in particular to significantly carry the zone along in the scheme of things. Moreso, the continued preference for the traditional approach in handling cases of insecurity in the zone has remained worrisome. Essentially, human security development emphasizes on food security (Stomach infrastructure) and overall welfare of the individual. Adopting the theory of basic needs, the paper reveals that the prioritization of man's needs is to ensure his ultimate survival and happiness. In certain quarters, the phenomenon of change from a certain level to a better and more desirable level in man's life and environment is described as development. Methodologically, the paper relied on secondary means of data collection developed from books, the internet, Newspapers and journals. The content method was adopted in the analysis. The paper recommends that the various levels of government in Nigeria should emphasize more on human form of security instead of the traditional form. Specifically, the various state and local governments in the zone should do more to empower the people socio-economically, emphasize on human rights, equal justice as well as participatory governance.*

**Keywords:** Security, South East, Development, Leadership, Nigeria.

### **Introduction**

Nigeria, as a political entity is currently composed of six geo-political zones including the South East. Several pre and post administrative and political arrangements heralded the creation of Nigeria as a nation state. The South East was carved out of the former Eastern region and East central state. The component states are those of Abia, Anambra, Ebonyi, Enugu and Imo. Criticisms have continued to trail the arrangement whereby the South East is left with only five states whereas the other geo-political zones in Nigeria have upwards of six or seven states.

Among the people of the South East, one major political experience that is yet to be forgotten is the outbreak of the Civil war between her and Nigeria. The war was fought over alleged marginalization of people of the region by the central or Federal government then (Nnaeto & Ndoh, 2017). Unfortunately, some of the issues that resulted to the violent impasse between the Igbo speaking States and Federal Government are yet to be successfully addressed by the powers that be up to the fourth Republic in Nigeria.

The plight of the people of the Igbo speaking States as far as Nigeria politics is concerned worsened after the 2015 general elections and the consequent swearing in of the winner of the election (Muhammadu Buhari). The party under which the President won, did not receive much support from the

people of the zone except in Imo State and Ebonyi where former Governor David Umahi defected from his initial party to join the ruling party at the national level.

Thus, no indigene from the South East zone served in Buhari's core or inner cabinet or appointed as a service Chief. Consequently, the reluctance or failure of the federal government to embrace constructive engagement to address incessant protests and allegations of marginalization of the Igbo speaking states or South East zone gave rise to expression of violent agitations by the people in several quarters. To advance their bid, the people resorted to the formation of some separatist movements.

On several occasions, the federal government and its security agencies has adopted the force option to arrest, torture, detain and even kill some members of the sects while they are carrying out their non violent protests. The Human Rights watch and similar bodies has severally reported against some acts of brutality, inhuman treatment and abuse of human rights meted to the sectarian groups, their leaders and sympathizers. In a further move to suppress the operation or existence of the sects found among the Igbo speaking geo-political zone of Nigeria, the federal government sued the IPOB and secured a court injunction from an Abuja High Court on September 14<sup>th</sup> 2017 which outlawed the Indigenous People of Biafra (IPOB) and declared it a terrorist group. The federal government again resorted to dispatching several security outfits to the South East in a bid to silencing the people and entrenching among them the culture of fear. In addition, the setting up of a fierce Military outfit known as "Operation Python Dance" to enforce South East Zone Security which among others demolished the palace of Nnamdi Kanu's father and whisked away the traditional ruler and his wife was described as the climax of the federal government's effort in militarizing Security issues among the people of the zone

Nnamdi Kanu's continued detention has ended up raising a lot of concern even when an Appeal Court in Abuja in 2022 ruled in favour of his release. Thus, the preference of the Federal government for the use of traditional approach to security issues in checkmating the agitation of the people over their bid to free themselves from bad governance and alleged marginalization by the powers that be has virtually made the South East Zone become a theatre of warfare as the zone has almost been militarized. In Imo, Ebonyi, Anambra, and parts of Enugu State no day passes without reported cases of mayhem being perpetrated by some government security agencies, Fulani herdsmen, unknown gunmen and other criminal elements.

Traditionally, the security of a people or nation is usually conceived in terms of their ability to succeed in defending themselves from either internal or external attack or successfully resist when threatened. As Adams (2015) avers, security generally has to do with freedom from fear or other issues that may portend threats to overall human prosperity. On the other hand, the concept of human security applies to the aspect that addresses man's overall welfare needs with respect to the provision and availability of all socio-cultural, economic and other essentials necessary for the realization or actualization of the worth of the human person.

Development has been described in several ways. For Nnoli (1981) development is both things centered and people centered. That is, improvement from one growth level to another in the lives of people and their environment. Similarly, Anyanwu (2021) contends that development denotes the aggregate effort aimed at improving the element or factor that would enhance the life and nature of persons in a given society, whether large or small.

The experience of the South East Zone of Nigeria in terms of human security development has remained worrisome over the years. There has continued to be the collapse of the needed infrastructural facilities and the enabling environment for the people's meaningful survival. Studies such as the one carried out by Nnaeto (2019) reveals that although the South East zone has the least number of states vis a

vis other zones in Nigeria the highest number of military check points and police road blocks are found in the zone. It is in the light of this that this paper investigated the South East, Nigeria and the challenges arising from human security development.

### **Theoretical Foundation of Analysis**

This study is anchored on the theory of human needs. The assumption here is that every human being naturally has some basic needs which he/she strives to fulfill. These needs are innate or fundamental to the extent that their denial against a group or individuals by another group who may have been charged with the responsibility of distributing or providing the needs would normally lead to agitation, severe complaints or conflict. The human needs theory was popularized in the works of Rosati, Carroll & Coate (1990). Some other precursors of the human needs theory are Burton (1990), Azar (1994) and Gurr (1970). The basis of analysis here is that the needs in question are essential to human happiness or survival.

Irrespective of the social status or standing of people, evidence has shown that every human being has some basic needs whereby their denial or non provision would normally lead to a social or psychological disconnect or frustration as it will be difficult for the individual to actualize himself without those needs. Such needs may include those that have to do with security, survival, protection, affection, love, creativity, reproduction, recognition, self esteem, among others (Onyekachi & Abanaeme, 2019). Among the basic human needs, financial security has been found to be the only one factor affecting people's happiness. A study carried out by Richard Layard revealed several conditions responsible for the joy of individuals after a survey. The study went ahead to enumerate these conditions (Michael & Stephen, 2011).

Abraham Maslow in his hierarchy of needs theory identified the first two category of needs he calls basic and instinctive needs. These are physiological needs which he identified to include; the need for shelter, survival, food and drink. The second is safety needs which include the need for protection and security. The last category are the ones he grouped under societal and civilizational needs (Sharma, Sadana & Kaur, 2011). No matter the effort made to suppress the availability of these needs to the citizens, such may not succeed in the long run as these needs are imperative to human survival (Nwachukwu, 2018). In other words, there would always be societal imbalance or tension as long as these needs are distanced from majority of the people.

Applying the human needs theory in this case, its relevance is apt in the sense that the basic prepositions of the theory constitute the basis for the measurement of human development index in South East, Nigeria. The level of frustration and relative deprivation among the people of the South East Zone has been on the increase over the years and that significantly account for the heightening of the level of various forms of agitations, poverty, tension and insecurity across the South East Zone. This theory is therefore found suitable and relevant to this study.

### **The Concept of Human Security Development**

The word "human" is used to describe the human species created in the likeness of God. On the other hand, human security has to do with efforts aimed at safeguarding the life, property, interest or comfort of the human person from fear, undue tension or violent attack. Simply, security denotes safety from various forms of losses or threat. Earlier, the traditional idea of security which layed emphasis on instituting a power state through military effort dominated discourses on security (Nnoli, 2006).

Africa and some other states actually had a false idea of security by holding that security can only be realized through the barrel of a gun. In the 21<sup>st</sup> century therefore, security has actually gone beyond the exclusive emphasis that has state or national preservation as major focus. Lasting security is one that is

people focused. As important as security is, its different variants have been identified. Among these are: regime security; economic security; industrial or work place security; human security and environmental security (Aja, 2009; and Adedoyin, 2014). Out of these many variants, this paper focused on human security as it is the aspect of security that so much centres on human wellbeing and survival.

Human security came up following a heated attack on state emphasis on traditional form of security. The concept was popularized in 1994 by some global agencies such as the World Bank. Several aspects of human security that touches on the welfare of the human person were covered in the reports. Both the core aspects that involves man's ultimate needs or welfare in his immediate environment, work place and other aspects affecting the overall needs of man were also captured. Thus, the security of man marks a clear departure from the orthodox or traditional concept of security which placed security above and not below society.

As Onyekachi, Abanaeme & Umar (2019:131) contend, “human security has to do with concerted efforts aimed at addressing natural and other factors which their negligence may result to death, human losses or other calamities”. United Nations Development Report (2004) advocated that human security is basically focused on some fundamental objectives such as dealing with those security challenges that may affect human existence especially in an environment filled with increasing threats to human life.

Human security is basically human focused; the major assumption here is that there are innate needs, problems and challenges that are culturally bound which affect mankind. Such human challenges as poverty, communicable diseases, environmental threats, weak institutions, population growth, and socio-economic challenges in varying degrees affect people in several ways globally. People are bound to react in very negative ways once these basic needs that constitute human security are threatened. Human security also constitutes measures undertaken to guarantee people's safety against every form of threats. A state that is committed to human security normally takes pro-active measures to mitigate threats against human lives and remedial actions at the failure of such measures.

As Ndubuisi (2017) argues, human security denotes the extent of the commitment of the state to the pursuit of the citizens' welfare in concrete terms. The protagonists of the concept are of the view that a national or regional security arrangement would remain a mirage if the interest or welfare of the people is not considered first. This is in line with human rights tradition. Thus, securing the well being of the people invariably translates to empowering them and society. The community or society must be saved from vulnerability or life threatening challenges, diseases, pestilence and uncertainties that endanger human existence. The emphasis on human security is that people must be saved or protected from factors that may end up endangering their existence. Among others, human security emphasizes on early warning system and prevention in order to minimize huge losses that may emanate from insecurity, long term solutions are also sought to address the triggers of insecurity.

Efforts in boosting human security are always targeted towards realistic or realizable policy options and strategies that are long lasting and citizens oriented as well as being comprehensive enough in order to tackle those complex situations and disasters brought about by insecurity. Human security is generally protective. The understanding is that individuals and societies are often brought to their knees due to circumstances beyond their control, either natural or man-made. In this case, emphasis on human security is usually aimed at drawing up counter measures and strategies that would help mitigate the harsh effect of unfortunate circumstances that may threaten human survival, welfare and existence. According to Global Neighbourhood (2005:80):

Human Security is a people centered approach that emphasizes much more on basic human dignity than weapons. The security of people means that global security goes beyond the protection of borders, ruling elites and exclusive state interest to extend to the protection of people. States cannot be seen as secured unless their citizens are secured.

Ajdari & Asgharpour (2010) submit that human security denotes the removal of poverty and deprivation and by extension guaranteeing a meaningful level of life and basic human rights. This involves the protection of both human beings and the government from harm, injury, pains and other forms of devastation. Besides, it has to do with the provision of basic needs of man in addition to non physical aspects that improves human existence. Human security is usually considered in two perspectives, that is, the qualitative and quantitative aspects. Qualitatively, human security refers to human personality with respect to individual independence and people's right to determine their destiny and free participation in social life. Human security is strongly related to democracy and human rights. In this case, human security is not geographically bound. With respect to the quantitative view, the concept of human security is used to describe the satisfaction people are meant to derive in some specific areas such as food supplies, shelter, education, health, among others. These needs are usually important for generational sustainability.

Martin & Owen (2013) identified the three components of human security to include; First, freedom from fear, that is, the conditions that guarantees individuals and groups protection from direct threats to their safety and integrity as well as different forms of direct and indirect violence, real or imagined. Second, freedom from want, which constitute conditions that provide for protection of basic human needs, improved quality of life, livelihood and human welfare. Third, freedom from indignity whereby individuals and groups have their fundamental human rights protected and guaranteed as well as making choices that enable them make use of useful opportunities that abound in their daily lives.

From the foregoing therefore, human security could be described as the overall concrete efforts and strategies put forward by the various levels of government in terms of giving priority to the basic needs of the people as against emphasis and commitment towards equipping the state with arms and weapons.

### **Human Security; Some Identified Aspects**

Generally, human security addresses various aspects of security bothering on the welfare of the individual. Ndubuisi (2017) identified three specific areas of human security to include:

#### **Economic Security**

This has to do with assurance of basic and regular income. This is further extended to include: availability or access to employment and economic resources for meaningful survival. Absence of these needs lead to economic insecurity and suffering as individuals and households fail to meet their basic needs. Experience in some areas in Nigeria especially the Igbo speaking states has revealed that there have been worsening socio-economic disparities and contradictions arising from abject neglect of the government to make life enhancing facilities available to the people. The unending communal conflicts boundary clashes, civil disturbances, Sit-at-Home and other forms of violence being witnessed in different locations of South East, geo-political zone have been resulting partly from socio-economic imbalances and disparities between different classes and groups both within and outside the zone. To worsen matters, there have been gross infrastructural deficit which has grossly been affecting the production sector with a dire negative consequence on availability of essential commodities and declining living standard among the people of South East, Nigeria.

#### **Food Security**

Food security implies a situation where a vast majority of the populace can consistently boast of having their food, dietary requirements or balanced diet met in order to ensure a healthier living (FAO, 2001 Report). This is usually considered in three dimensions. Food availability deals with adequate supply of nutritional requirements, quantitatively and qualitatively. Food access considers the demand

households or individuals make for food items which is determined by some factors. Normally, adequacy in food supplies or that of food nutrients, commonly known as balanced diets usually promote a healthier life and body that can be resistant to diseases. This condition which has been the burning desire of people of the South East Zone of Nigeria has however continued to elude majority of the people.

### **Health security**

Health security is a measure of overall quality life devoid of sicknesses and diseases. Security in health occurs when life is devoid of emotional, physical, psychological and spiritual stress which when not controlled may result to the breaking down of the person involved. To further buttress the point, it is usually stated that “health is wealth” and a healthier nation is a wealthier nation. Health, as a major aspect of security is a sine qua non in human existence as it is only the living that can plan ahead. Without health security, realization of individual, societal and national objectives remains a mirage. This accounts for the reason why both global and national health agencies or Ministries have usually voted in huge budgetary allocations into the health sector even though the purpose for such allocations has hardly been felt in several quarters.

A sickly population can hardly work to feed its teeming population. Besides, when a nation fails to checkmate the outbreak of killer diseases and viruses, such a nation may end up being depopulated through massive death of her citizens which ultimately would grossly affect the nation's overall survival.

### **Development**

Human security shares a lot with the concept of development even though both concepts cannot be used interchangeably. Scholars have conceived development in several ways. For Nnoli (1981) development is connected with the ability of a people to utilize the opportunities available to them to work towards improving their overall living conditions. These opportunities may not be common among various societies as societies develop according to their own pace. Development therefore is said to be inner driven among known societies. In addition, various societies usually make frantic efforts to confront or find solutions to those factors that hinder their developmental strive rather than following the pathway to a better living standard which has already been attained by some other societies.

The above scenario marks a clear departure between Africa that is generally referred to as developing and those of Western World that are described as developed. By all standards, development represents man's qualitative and progressive self improvement. The efforts made by man through his labour leads him to reproducing himself socially and in this way improve his life in other several areas. With the combination of his efforts, talent and skill with fellow humans, man is also able to transform his physical and human environment, as he attempts to eliminate all possible obstacles confronting or working against his bid. Development has also been conceived as a diverse concept that takes many forms to be brought about (Tolu & Ibe, 2011). Generally, development has to do with human empowerment and self reliance (Onuoha, 2008). In almost all societies, development is targeted at the following:

- i) It must be people's focused as man is at the centre of all development effort;
- ii) Improving man's access and opportunities to amenities that make life worth living;
- iii) Raising the standard of living and other things such as the income level, improved employment, quality education, better attention to socio-cultural and humanistic values which shall end up enhancing the people's material well being and generate individual freedom and participation in public affairs and decision making;
- iv) Expanding the level of the various socio-economic choices made by man so as to save him from various forms of social or political deprivations.

Up until the third quarter of 2023, human security development in South East Nigeria in particular has remained contentious in several quarters considering the little impact the strategies put forth in this regard has made so far. In the opinion of Seers (1969) certain pertinent questions to be asked about development include: what has been happening to some of the measurements of human security such as the level of unemployment, poverty, inequality, insecurity among others? If these decline from high levels, then, we can talk of development for the country. If there is however an increase on the rate at which these basic needs are growing, it would be doubtful to conclude that the people's standard of living has increased. In this vein, we talk about development when there is an appreciable or significant increase in the overall living standard of a majority of the citizenry. Meaningful development of people shows that they create and recreate themselves as well as their circumstances in order for their potentials and personalities to be fully realized (Ake, 2001).

According to Todaro & Smith (2010:20) "Development is understood to mean a condition where a society witnesses a consistent level of elevation in socio-economic terms which may translate to the people experiencing a new lease of life". The scholars went further to identify certain concrete values associated with development. Specifically, a people or society must have an unhindered access to certain essential human needs such as shelter, quality health, protection from harm or danger for them to be classified as developed. Improved economic progress of both the individual and society hinges so much on the provision of the above needs. In other words, improved living standard of the populace, significant reduction of the poverty level, reduced income inequalities as well as greater employment are among necessary conditions for development (United Nations Development Programme, Human Development Report, 1994). Self esteem represents another core value which simply represents a sense of worth, self respect, identity, dignity, respect, honour and recognition. This however varies from one society to the other. The last value in this consideration is what the scholars call freedom from social servitude, misery, oppression, dogmatic beliefs, among others. In this regard, social psychologists generally agree that wealth increases the range of human choices and not just happiness (Lewis, 1963).

Todaro & Smith (2010) in a bid to expand the concept of development came up with certain objectives which development seeks to achieve among people or society. The first has to do with the widening or increasing man's access to social amenities in order for his life to be enhanced. The second is the raising of the level of living as well as possession of higher income, career enhancement and other forms of empowerment, the combination of which would enhance the material well being as well as more individual self actualization and natural self esteem of man.

Finally, expansion of the range of economic and social choices at the disposal of individuals and nations by making them less dependent on others and helping them get rid of the shackles of ignorance, human servitude and other forms of human degradation constitute core aspect of development.

### **Challenges of Human Security Development in South East Zone of Nigeria**

A lot of contending challenges have continued to marr the series of efforts towards sustainable human security development in the South East Zone of Nigeria. This paper has advanced the following:

#### **i) Poor attention to the agricultural sector and related agro allied activities by the south east zone**

Just before and immediately after Nigeria's political independence, the former Eastern Region (where the South East Zone now situate) was noted as one that produced the highest quantity of palm oil and also excelled in other agricultural related activities such as livestock or animal husbandary, farming and crop production (FDI, 1983). As a zone that is blessed with vast arable lands, agricultural operations was able to reduce unemployment as it provided food on the table of majority of people of the South East zone.

Unfortunately, the oil boom experience of Nigeria in the 1970's made the South East Zone abandon agriculture as all eyes have to be on oil. As at 2023, the crisis in the oil industry continued to grossly affect human security development in the South East region in particular and Nigeria in general.

**ii) Emergence of non state actors in the zone**

The contemporary times (the 21<sup>st</sup> century) has been witnessing heightening insecurity being perpetrated by terrorist groups at global and national levels. By extension, this has led to the emergence of other sects or non state actors at sub-regional levels. These are groups often known as unknown gunmen, criminal elements and merchants of death that for various reasons have arisen to challenge the might of the state or legally constituted government, (Rosen – field & Geller, 1993).

In recent times, the nefarious activities of these groups which have made in-road into the area known as South East, Nigeria has been resulting to security breaches, making the area most insecure and unsafe for habitation and business. On several occasions, they have been known to highjack the enforcement of the every Monday restriction of movement Order in the area which is the brain child of Nnamdi Kanu's separatist group. In addition, the unknown gunmen have also been involved in launching of attacks against security agencies and facilities in major cities in Igbo land and its environs. The areas include Oyibo (Rivers State), Orlu, Umulolo, Ihube, Aku (Imo State) Aba, Ohafia (Abia State) Enugu (Enugu State), Onitsha (Anambra State) Abakaliki (Ebonyi State) among others.

**iii) Continued detention of Mazi Nnamdi Kanu**

The continued detention of Mazi Nnamdi Kanu even after a Nigerian Court of Appeal situated in Abuja division in 2022 ruled in favour of his release has remained a major factor working against the security of the South East zone. Majority of the people have resorted to venting their anger against the Federal government, adopting both conventional and unconventional means which are not helping matters at all.

**iv) Collapse of industrial establishments in the South East zone and reluctance to revive South East indigenous technology**

Mismanagement of the economy by the various levels of governments in Nigeria has left the South East zone in serious economic dilemma. For instance, Avutu Modern Poultry initiated by the former governor of Imo State, late Sam Onunaka Mbakwe, Nkalagu Cement Factory (Enugu) Golden Guinea Breweries Ltd (Abia state), Aba and Onitsha Textile mills and several others (government or privately owned) collapsed and their workers sacked due to mismanagement of the companies. Worse still, the people of the South East zone later developed a sense of inertia towards their indigenous technology in the areas of basket making, crafts of various kinds, local skills and cultures that promoted societal development.

**v) Negative impact of globalization, infiltration and importation of unwholesome foreign cultures among people of the region**

The severe consequences which has been occasioned by globalization on weaker economies of the world in the latest century has also left the South East, Nigeria regional economy worse off. Ootobo (2017) observes that globalization has resulted to the impoverishment of a majority of the working class through loss of jobs due to incidences of rationalization, downsizing and right sizing of workers. Thus, the free movement of persons, goods and services which globalization encourages has also led to most indigenes of the South East embracing foreign cultural practices and lifestyles such as kidnapping for ransom, armed banditry, ritual killings and ostentatious lifestyles which are traditionally alien to the people of the South East.



**vi) Politics of seeming exclusion and marginalization of the South East zone in mainstream national Politics**

Marginalization is used to describe the state of affairs among a group in a given relationship, political system or social formation whereby one or a galaxy of the members expresses some feelings of being short changed or not being carried along in the scheme of things (Ogu, 2009). For about sixty two years since Nigeria gained political independence and twenty four years of unbroken democracy in the country, the people of the South East extraction has not relented in raising their voice over seeming or alleged exclusion and marginalization of the zone in national politics in Nigeria. This has arisen because no indigene of the area up till 2023 has been able to occupy the position of the nation's Chief Executive (Okechukwu, Nwachukwu & Chijioke, 2016). Regrettably, major political appointments at national level since 2015 have continued to rotate among the other geo-political zones. At the conclusion of the 2023 general elections and declaration of the presidential result in favour of the All Progressives Congress (APC) flagbearer, Ahmed Bola Tinubu, some politicians of the party from the South East zone muted the idea of zoning some key positions to the zone but that was once again turned down by the major political actors in the party.

**Conclusion**

Nigeria's South East zone which is one of the geo-political zones in Nigeria is an area with huge human and material potentials. The people of the area have been contributing to Nigeria's development since her emergence as a political entity. The people are highly enterprising and resourceful as they demonstrate a high level of survivalist spirit in all their endeavours. From the creation of Nigeria and up till the 21<sup>st</sup> century, majority of the people claim they have not had a fair deal in the political entity called Nigeria. Several political and socio-economic factors have contributed to the series of agitations from people of the South East Zone. The use of the traditional approach to security in checkmating the people's agitations and security breaches in the Zone has severely been criticized in view of the consequent losses in human lives and property occasioned by this. Boosting of human security development strategies have rather been advocated. An enabling environment for the realization of individual, societal, regional or national goals can be created only through social justice and equity. Security or development of a people can only be attained by addressing the basis of their agitations and not by executive repression or suppression.

**Recommendations**

The study recommends as follows:

**i) Reduction of youth unemployment in the South East Zone through meaningful economic empowerment and skills acquisition**

In view of the rising level of youth unemployment among the people of the zone, concerted effort should be made by the leaders of the zone as well as the state and local government to come up with meaningful programmes and skills that would keep the youths off the street. A group that seem to have been forgotten should not forget themselves. In this case, the South East people of Nigeria should always take the bull by the horn by engaging in productive and meaningful ventures as a way of survival.

**ii) Greater emphasis on human security development by the federal government and other levels of government in the South East Zone**

There is the dire need to boost infrastructural facilities in the South East Zone rather than posting more and more security agencies in the area. Most of these security men are merely on the road to

extort money from motorists and engagement in other unethical practices that are helping to fuel more insecurity in the area.

**iii) Promotion of good governance among elected and appointed Political Office holders from the South East extraction.**

Genuine development of a people is something that must be inner driven, moreso, for the people of South East, Nigeria, in view of the fate the zone has historically faced in the country. As Governors of the various geo political zones in Nigeria have their forums, that of the South East should be used to emphasis on good governance, genuine patriotism and accountability among the leadership. Leaders of the zone that have inert culture of corruption, embezzlement of public funds, misappropriation and maladministration must be shown the way out or severely resisted by the people.

**iv) Genuine integration of the South East Nigeria in national Politics**

In concrete and realistic terms, the national political leaders despite their party affiliations should arise and see the full integration of the South East Zone in national politics as a task that should be pursued and realized in order for the people to feel belonged and carried along in Nigeria.

**v. Grassroot development efforts through formation of cooperatives and involvement of Town or Developmental Unions**

These development efforts once existed in several areas in the South East but were marred by corruption and unaccountable leadership. There is a dire need to revive them in view of the enormous roles they played in boosting the economy and welfare of rural dwellers. The “isusu” scheme for instance was formidable in those days.

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