

SIT-AT-HOME ORDER AND SOCIO-ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN THE SOUTHEAST: IMPLICATIONS

Ogba, Michael Chinonso

Department of Political Science, Federal University, Geshua
michaelogba4@gmail.com

Akogwu Chukwunonso Joseph & Ezech Kelechukwu Dennis

Department of Political Science, Nnamdi Azikiwe University, Awka
cj.akogwu@unizik.edu.ng; kd.ezeh@unizik.edu.ng

Abstract

The Sit-at-Home (SAH) order is a form of civil disobedience that involves individuals or groups voluntarily staying indoors as a means of protest. It has become a prevalent form of protest in the South-Eastern region of Nigeria, where it is usually observed on Mondays, in response to calls from the Indigenous People of Biafra (IPOB) for the continued detention of its leader, Mazi Nnamdi Kanu, by the Department of State Service (DSS) and the perceived marginalization of the South-East region in the national politics. The SAH order has significant implications for the economy of the region. The order has led to a significant reduction in economic activities in the region, affected businesses, markets, and has led to loss of income for individuals and businesses (both large and small businesses, with small businesses being the significant mainstay of the region's economy). The SAH order has also affected transportation, as many commercial vehicles do not operate on SAH days, leading to a reduction in movement of goods and services. The SAH order has also led to a decline in investor confidence in the region and the uncertainty and insecurity caused by the SAH order have made investors wary of investing in the region. This has led to a reduction in Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) and has also affected the flow of capital into the region. Based on the foregoing, the study analyzed how the SAH order and compliance have affected overall economy activities in the South eastern states of Abia, Anambra, Ebonyi, Enugu and Imo, since its commencement in 2020. The study adopted the social movement theory and relied on data collected from secondary sources. The study found that the SAH order and compliance has led to a reduction in economic activities, a decline in investor confidence, poverty, sufferings, fear and despair. It has also affected the tourism industry which is an essential part of the economy in the region. Among several other recommendations, the study recommended that there is a need for dialogue between the federal government and secessionist group to find a lasting solution to the issues causing the SAH order. Other standout recommendations are that the Federal Government should adequately incorporate the region in governmental positions at the federal level, engage in more federal projects in the region, create employment for the teeming unemployed youths in the region and quickly release Mazi Nnamdi Kanu from detention.

Keywords: Economic activities, Indigenous People of Biafra (IPOB), Insecurity, Marginalization, Sit-at-home

Introduction

In recent times, the Southeast region of Nigeria has witnessed a significant trend in the form of sit-at-home orders on Mondays. This has resulted in the closure of markets, businesses, and other economic activities. Sit-at-home was initially initiated as a form of protest by the Indigenous People of Biafra (IPOB) to commemorate the detention of their leader, Nnamdi Kanu. According to Ugwu (2022), SAH has taken on a more political and social dimension, with widespread compliance from the residents of the

southeast region. In an attempt to buttress the severity of the Sit-at-Home order as imposed by the non-state actor group known as the Indigenous People of Biafra (IPOB), Ozibo & Okorie (2022) averred that this phenomenon has become a recurring word among about 22 million Southeast dwellers in Nigeria and as such there is virtually no movement of persons on specified days. Consequently, every Monday since mid-2021 has been marked as a none movement day in the region pending the release of her leader, Mazi Nnamdi Kalu from detention (p. 189).

The Indigenous People of Biafra (IPOB), has been at the forefront of enforcing compliance with the Monday sit-at-home order across Southeast Nigeria since August 2021. IPOB, founded in 2012 by Nnamdi Kanu, a British-Nigerian political activist, and known for his outspoken and often controversial statements, is a controversial separatist organization in Nigeria that seeks the creation of an independent state of Biafra. The group has been designated a terrorist organization by the Nigerian government, which accused it of inciting violence and seeking to overthrow the government. The group has been involved in a number of clashes with Nigerian security forces, and its members have been arrested and charged with various offenses, including terrorism, sedition, and treason. Despite its extreme rhetoric, IPOB has attracted a significant among the Igbo people, who feel marginalized by the Nigerian government and believe that an independent Biafran state would better serve their interests (Ugwu, 2022). Corroborating this, Ugwu (2022, p. 4) noted that “IPOB seeks the creation of an independent state of Biafra, made up of the predominantly Igbo-speaking southeastern states of Nigeria.”

The roots of the Biafra secessionist movement date back to the 1960s, when the Igbo people declared independence from Nigeria, leading to a bloody civil war that lasted from 1967 to 1970. Biafra eventually surrendered, and its leaders were granted amnesty by the Nigerian government, but the issue of Igbo self-determination has continued to simmer in Nigeria ever since.

IPOB emerged in the wake of a series of protests in the southeastern states of Nigeria in 2012, which were sparked by the alleged killing of several Igbo youth by Nigerian security forces. Kanu, who had previously been involved in pro-Biafra activism in the United Kingdom, returned to Nigeria and began to lead the movement, using social media and radio broadcasts to rally support. Kanu was arrested on treason charges in Lagos on 14 October 2015 and was detained for more than a year, despite various court orders that ruled for his release. On 28 April 2017, Kanu was released from prison on bail. After jumping jail and fleeing abroad, Kanu played a major part in the insurgency in southeastern Nigeria, as the Nigerian security forces attempted to quash IPOB's armed wing, the Eastern Security Network, resulting in a low-level conflict in early 2021. Despite the fighting, Kanu maintained that IPOB was interested in a peaceful solution and achieving Biafran independence without violence. In June 2021, he was arrested again, but this time, by Interpol, and was handed over to Nigeria (Esho, 2022). Since June 2021 until date, he has been in DSS custody and since August 2021 until now, IPOB has been enforcing sit-at-home on Mondays in the southeast, to force the Federal Government to release him.

The Monday sit-at-home order and widespread compliance across the southeast region has no doubt had immense impacts on the economy of the region, as Mondays are typically one of the busiest days of the week for businesses and markets. It is important to note that the sit-at-home orders are also observed on other days of the week Nnamdi Kanu is to appear before the court of competent jurisdiction (Emeruwa, 2021). The total closure of economic activities on Monday and other such days when sit-at-home is enforced, has resulted in significant losses for businesses, particularly small and medium-sized enterprises that operate on a daily basis. According to Ekechukwu (2022) “The sit-at-home order has adverse socioeconomic consequences as it was later hijacked by hoodlums who committed havoc in the region” (p. 78). Based on the foregoing, this paper explored the economic implications of the Monday sit-at-home order and compliance in the southeast region of Nigeria.

Theoretical Framework

This study is anchored on Durkheim's theory of social solidarity (1893). The theory is based on individuals in a society's inter connect, which allows them to believe they can improve the lives of others. This theory is based on the fact that diverse groups in our society have similar values and beliefs. Solidarity is a human connection or association with one another that leads to an unusual bond that binds persons or groups together. Solidarity is motivated by a variety of factors: affection shared values and ideas, and self-interest for some (Douwes, Stuttford & London, 2018). The social solidarity theory is of two types: Mechanical and Organic Solidarity. Mechanical solidarity is the social organization of individuals in society who have one belief system. This single belief system sparks up individual members to cause them to work cooperatively and harmoniously. Organic solidarity is a social organization that manifests due to one's need for one another.

The theory was used to find individual acts and extrapolate what could happen collectively. So, in terms of how this theory relates to the study, IPOB declared a mandatory Monday sit-at-home order, which every southeasterner and sympathizer of the group complied with in solidarity for Mazi Nnamdi Kanu's prompt and unconditional release. Individualistic action snowballs into a group action working together to achieve a central goal, in this case, the unconditional release of the IPOB leader by the Nigerian federal government (Osita et al, 2022).

The notion of sit-at-home order and its economic implications in the region

The "Sit-at-home" directive originated from IPOB as a means to exert pressure on the Nigerian federal government, seeking the release of Mazi Nnamdi Kanu. However, the organizers underestimated its consequences, as it led to severe security issues and had a profound negative impact on various socio-economic institutions. Hospitals, schools, churches, banks, and public organizations were among those affected, and economic activities came to a standstill due to the widespread adoption of the sit-at-home order (Okah, 2021; Osita, 2022; Ugwu, 2022). During the initial phase of the sit-at-home directive, a significant number of individuals in the South-East region showed solidarity with IPOB by adhering to the order. However, as time passed, the economic consequences of this action started to negatively impact the local population. As a result, the enforcement of compliance led to the destruction of valuable goods worth billions of naira. (Ogunode & Chijindu, 2022). Owoeye, Ezeanya and Obiegbunam (2022) observed that IPOB's Monday sit-at-home order has impacted negatively on the socio-political and economic activities of the people of South-East zone. Their study suggested a fair allocation of resources among the six geo-political zones, prompt resolution of Nnamdi Kanu's case, and the implementation of rotational presidency. These measures aimed to reinstate IPOB's Monday sit-at-home order while also bringing stability to the socio-political and economic aspects of the South-East region. The sit-at-home order has resulted in immense hardships for the people of South-East Nigeria. The region's weekly closures due to IPOB's directives have further added to the burdens faced by the local population. Nwodo (2021) is of the view that implementing weekly lockdowns in the Southeast region would have disastrous consequences for its people, considering the hardships they endured during the previous Covid-19 lockdown. Such measures would particularly impact individuals reliant on daily earnings, leading to adverse effects on the region's economy, which would be further weakened as a result. The proposal to enforce a weekly lockdown of the entire South-East region has raised concerns about its potential economic impact, as noted by Ogbu (2021). Ohagwa (2021) argued that IPOB should avoid actions that could exacerbate the hardships faced by the very people they seek to liberate. Imposing a sit-at-home order throughout Igbo land would prove detrimental to the economy and further impoverish the population, particularly since many are engaged in trading, according to Chukwuma (2021). The leadership of MASSOB also expressed their disapproval of any activities that might compromise the

security and economic stability of the people in the Southeast of Nigeria. Given the historical experiences of the Igbo community, including slavery and economic hardships, inflicting additional economic burdens on themselves would be unaffordable, as highlighted by Edeson (2021).

According to Igboke (2020), it is essential for the Nigerian government to take prompt action in empowering and investing in the youth by providing them with education and skill acquisition opportunities. However, the government's approach to handling IPOB's quest for self-determination has been criticized for its heavy-handedness on one hand. On the contrary, implementing policies that can eliminate various forms of agitation through the establishment of good governance is also crucial. The study further suggests adopting regional government and true federalism to address issues hindering national development proactively. In the same vein, Anele (2021) argues that the current administration's inability to handle Nigeria's diversity effectively has led to a significant increase in agitations for self-determination, exemplified by the intrinsic sit-at-home order. The focus of IPOB's agitations and sit-at-home order centers around the disparity in the number of states, local governments, Senate, and House of Representative seats allotted to the South-East region. These imbalances have resulted in the region receiving the least allocation of the Federal Budget and the lowest distribution of constituency projects compared to other regions (Ogbonnia, 2021).

The Mondays Sit-at-home Order and Direct Implications on Economy, Education and Human Survival in South East Nigeria

The sit-at-home order issued by the Indigenous People of Biafra (IPOB) has unquestionably had a detrimental impact on the economy of Eastern Nigeria, leading to increased poverty among the people the group claims to protect. This has resulted in a significant economic threat to the daily income earners in the region. By enforcing the sit-at-home order through fear and intimidation, IPOB has alienated many residents who are otherwise supportive of the region's well-being. According to Odili (2021), the sit-at-home order has caused a massive decline in the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) of the Southeast relative to other regions in the country. Moreover, The Cable (2022) reported that the order has caused Nigeria's government to lose an estimated revenue of over \$1 billion every week. Anambra state governor, Chukuma Soludo, stated that the state alone loses N19.6 billion every Monday due to the sit-at-home order (Daily, March 2022). The cumulative effect of 52 lost Mondays in a year, as a result of the sit-at-home order, amounts to an estimated N4.618 trillion (\$10.495 billion) in revenue losses for micro-businesses. This represents the overall economic toll on the region for adhering to the sit-at-home order every Monday (Ugwu, 2022). The impact on individual businesses is also evident. One example is Mr. Clement Aniago, a vulcanizer in Anambra State, whose business suffered as a result of the sit-at-home order. His vulcanizing machine and tools were destroyed by those enforcing the order (Guardian, 2022). The South-East region, known as a trading hub, experiences significant losses on Mondays, typically the busiest and most productive day for traders. The estimated trading loss is between N700 billion (£1.3 billion) and N3 trillion (£5.55 billion) (Punch, 2022).

Transportation is another crucial sector affected by the sit-at-home order. With major markets in the region, transporters lose a substantial sum of N10 billion (£18.5 million) for each sit-at-home day. This decrease in income not only impacts transporters but also results in reduced tax remission to state governments (Punch, 2022). The hospitality and tourism sector also suffers due to the insecurity on Mondays. Tourists and revelers avoid the South-East region altogether, causing significant economic repercussions. Cities like Owerri and Enugu, once vibrant with nightlife, have seen a decline in patronage (Ezirim, 2022). The region's educational excellence is also affected as academic activities are disrupted on sit-at-home days. This disruption particularly impacts businesses operating around primary and secondary schools in the region, where many people depend on daily income. Overall, the sit-at-home

order by IPOB has had far-reaching consequences on Eastern Nigeria's economy, affecting various sectors and causing substantial financial losses.

Sit-at-Home Order and Foreign Direct Investment

Foreign direct investment (FDI) plays a critical role in stimulating and accelerating economic growth and development. According to Bitar, Hamadeh, and Khoueiri (2019), FDI inflows boost technology transfer, local company productivity, and financial capital requirements, resulting in job creation and economic growth. In spite of the enormous importance of FDI to economic growth especially in developing countries, social unrest has become a major obstacle to the flow of FDI in Nigeria. According to the US Department of State (2020), security remains a major concern to investors in Nigeria due to the high rates of violent crime, kidnappings for ransom, and terrorism. Social unrest lowers confidence and increases uncertainty (Vaskov, Pienknagura, and Ricci, 2021).

The Seattle Emergency Management, also noted that cities that are prone to social unrest could be stigmatized and consequently lose investments and tourism. As a result of this, no investor would want to invest in an environment where their investment cannot be protected. Looking at the rise in the incidences of social unrest and tension that comes out of Nigeria, many international investors would be scared of investing in the country. They would prefer to invest in environments where such investments can be protected.

Onyebuchi (2018) affirmed the above sentiment when he stated that several significant investors have fled Nigeria for nations with more secure and stable atmosphere thereby leaving the Nigerian economy gasping for breath. Empirical evidence from a study of the most attractive economies for the location of FDI from 2007- 2009 showed that Nigeria was listed among the 40 most attractive economies for the location of FDI (UNCTAD, cited in Onyebuchi, 2018).

The report placed Nigeria in the fourth position in Africa, behind South Africa, Egypt and Morocco. Today, the situation is completely different. According to the 2018 UNCTAD World Investment Report, FDI inflows into Nigeria decreased by 21%, while capital flight increased by 8% (Adenyuma&Onyeche, 2019). One of the reasons for the decline in FDI is the rising incidence of social unrest which has literally chased investors away to other more secure and investment friendly neighboring African countries notably, Ghana and Rwanda.

"The economic growth of Southeastern Nigeria heavily relies on the dynamic and stimulating impact of Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) (Odili, 2020). The inflow of FDI to any region has similar positive economic consequences, including the advancement of technology transfer, domestic production, financial capital development, job creation, and overall economic prosperity, among other benefits (Bitar, Hamadeh, and Khoueiri, 2019). However, despite the significance of FDI to the Southeastern economy, the implementation of the sit-at-home order has significantly hindered the flow of FDI to the region. The US Department of State (2020) highlights how the issue of insecurity jeopardizes investors' confidence in making investment decisions in Nigeria. The restriction of movement on Mondays has further compounded the security challenges faced by the country, with acts such as kidnapping for ransom, violent incidents, and terrorism taking place on sit-at-home days.

FDI is attracted to business environments characterized by high confidence and low uncertainty. Therefore, the sit-at-home order does not promote FDI in the eastern region of the country (Vaskov, Pienknagura, and Ricci, 2021). As a result, the sit-at-home order stifles FDI, leading to negative implications for businesses and tourism in the area. Investors are reluctant to invest in regions where the confidence in investment protection is notably low (Odili, 2021). Considering the various adverse outcomes and tensions associated with sit-at-home orders, foreign investors would understandably fear investing in such a volatile business environment.

Onyebuchi (2018) echoes this sentiment, noting that due to social unrest in Nigeria, many foreign investors have chosen to leave the country in favor of more stable business environments abroad. According to a UNCTAD report cited in Onyebuchi (2018), Nigeria was among the 40 most promising economies for FDI from 2007-2009. However, the situation has changed due to ongoing social unrest, including the impact of sit-at-home orders. A 2018 UNCTAD report revealed a decline of 21% in Nigeria's FDI inflow and an 8% increase in capital flight (Dajo and Akor, 2022). The decrease in FDI can be attributed to the series of social unrests in Nigeria, with the sit-at-home order adding to the existing list of challenges (Esho, 2022).

During the Biafra Remembrance Day observed on May 30th and 31st in the five South-East states, the Nnamdi Kanu-led Indigenous People of Biafra (IPOB) group agitating for the State of Biafra to be carved out of the old Eastern region, issued a sit-at-home order (Onoh, 2022). Previously held on May 30th to commemorate the declaration of Biafra by the late Dim Chukwuemeka Odumegwu Ojukwu, and also in remembrance of the death of over one million people in the Nigeria/Biafra civil war, the event took an unprecedented dimension this year. Unlike the normal street parades that would attract the attention of security forces, for the two days, IPOB ordered a total shutdown of economic and social activities. The roads in some of the states were deserted. Government institutions, banks, schools, corporate businesses, markets and shops were shut, as people stayed at home for fear of attack.

In Enugu for instance, about four persons were reportedly killed by unknown gunmen in separate attacks in different parts of the city. Three of the dead were police officers, while one was a retired Chief Judge of Enugu State High Court, Justice Stanley Nnaji. In Ebonyi, about five residents were reported to have lost their lives during the lockdown.

Combined with previous attacks, especially in Imo State, the attacks from the sit-at-home order have created a palpable sense of terror in the people of the region. The fear is heightened by the fact that security facilities in parts of the region remain under attack from hoodlums, with arms being carting away for use in subsequent operations.

Analysts say the rising insecurity in Nigeria's Southeast is part of the factors encouraging the separatist movement not just in the region, but in other parts of the country. They blame the attacks on IPOB/ESN and allege that the attacks are carried out by mercenaries deployed by some politicians to destabilize the region and tag it insecure. This precarious situation calls for an honest commitment by both security agencies and political leaders to address the situation and save the Nigeria's Southeast region from imminent doom.

To combat crime and insecurity in the South-East, governors of Nigeria's Southeast five states of Abia, Imo, Enugu, Ebonyi and Anambra had jointly launched a regional security outfit called Ebube Agu in April; an imitation of the Amotekun in the South-West (Ezirim, 2022). During the launch of the outfit, governors in Nigeria's Southeast condemned cases of burning down police stations and other government institutions as well as killings in the region. They promised to do all within their power to support the security agencies in containing the crises.

Impact of the sit-at-home on the unemployment rate in southeast

South-east as a whole has a reasonable share of this challenge as a state (Imo) in the region currently has the highest rate of unemployment in the country. Putting it in a specific and wider context, unemployment rate for Abia, Anambra, Ebonyi, Enugu and Imo states currently stood 50.07%, 44.22%, 40.16%, 31.62% and 56.64% respectively (National Bureau of Statistics, 2021). The unemployment in the region knows no boundary as it is found both in urban and rural areas. Chioke et al cited in Okoh, Onwe & Ofoma (2022) observed the high level of unemployment in the rural communities of Enugu East Local Government Area of Enugu state in the South-East.

In Anambra State, the availability of job opportunities in government institution, bureaucratic establishment and the presence of markets tend to attract people to the urban centers in Anambra State. This situation results in high rate of unemployment because many who migrated are disappointed to find out that there is scarcity of job in the state due to high rate of the impact of sit-at-home compliance by the people. Onitsha North local government which is the study Area is one of the two local government areas in Anambra State that is made up by a single community, the other being Nnewi North Local Government Area. Onitsha North Local government area is the commercial-nerve center of Nigeria as it houses the biggest market in West African sub-region. The inhabitants are mostly traders, though some of them are civil servants, designers, artisans, industrialists etc.

In Imo state, a recent Unemployment data released by NBS revealed that about 48.70% of young people who are ready to work are not doing anything. In fact, they are jobless for a clear understanding. Additionally, from the combined effect, approximately 75.10% of young people in Imo State are either unemployed or underemployed.

Implications on unemployment in the southeast region

Unemployment is one of the major problems affecting the lives of many in the southeast of Nigeria as well as the entire Nigerian Society which increased to an outmost level after the compliance to the sit at home order.

According to Nwachukwu and Chinedu (2017) unemployment is a major microeconomic problem facing most developing countries. It is a condition in which people who are willing and capable of working find it difficult to secure jobs to eke out their living. This has great adverse effect to the country since it leads to great fall in the growth rate of output and income leading to low standard of living. The implications of unemployment in the southeast are very severe and threatening to the people as well as the economy as a whole (Obumneke 2009). The unemployed may be affected by this social malaise in terms of income. This precarious condition can lead the youth in a vicious cycle of poverty. Due to the depression associated with unemployment, it can lead the unemployed to create ground for crime. Unemployment may be viewed as one of the causes of social crimes obtainable in Nigerian society. In Onitsha North Local Government Area, crimes like armed robbery, kidnapping, cybercrime, terrorism, prostitution are being committed.

Adejumola and Olajubutu (2009) asserted that unemployment has been identified as the major cause of social crimes such as armed robbery, prostitution, political thugery, kidnapping and all facets of violence. We often note from the social media that most of the apprehended criminals are youths without gainful employment. Thus, the rising level of social disorder and insecurity permeating the entire country is attributable to the problem of unemployment. Unemployment has great implications on the unemployed health as well as his family. If a person who is a bread winner is ejected out of his work for a long time, he will be filled with despair due to the issue of poverty. There will be creation of anxiety in the mind of the unemployed person which may lead him to being pessimistic about life and may result in having a psychological problem due to mental stress.

The family members of an unemployed person will as well suffer health wise. Lack of food or malnourished food will make their body organs susceptible to disease or infection. The economic recession and the high rate of unemployment has led to mass movement of people both graduate and non-graduate to other countries in search of job opportunities which may or may not be available. Some end up their lives in prison due to the sale of psychotic substance. We often hear that many Nigerians are languishing in various prisons across the world due to drug related offences. It is noteworthy that unemployment has led to the formation of aggrieved youths known as area boys who target the very society that alienated them, Bennel (2000) argued that Urban Society is becoming increasingly

criminalized particularly with the proliferation of youth gangs. Banks, houses, markets etc are not safe due to frequent occurrence of armed robbery incidents. They punish the society that fails to provide them with means of livelihood and dignity by robbing its members of their property at gunpoint (Ideyi, 2005).

Conclusion

This study has shed light on the significant implications of the IPOB Monday sit-at-home orders on the economy of the Southeast region. The disruptions caused by these orders have had adverse effects on trade, investment, and overall economic growth. The findings highlight the urgency for proactive measures to address the underlying issues and mitigate the economic consequences. The study emphasized the need for a comprehensive and multifaceted approach to address the issues behind the sit-at-home orders. It calls for proactive measures that address the root causes of the grievances, foster inclusivity, and promote sustainable development. By implementing these solutions, the Southeast region can overcome the economic challenges posed by sit-at-home orders and pave the way for a more prosperous and harmonious future.

Recommendation

Based on the findings, the paper recommends the following:

1. **Dialogue and Conflict Resolution:** Engaging in dialogue with IPOB and other relevant stakeholders to address the underlying grievances and find peaceful resolutions can help reduce tensions and the frequency of sit-at-home orders. This approach requires open communication, negotiations, and efforts to understand and address the concerns of the separatist group.
2. **Strengthening Security:** Ensuring the security and safety of residents and businesses in the Southeast is crucial. Government and security agencies should work collaboratively to enhance security measures, including intelligence gathering, surveillance, and targeted enforcement against criminal activities. By establishing a secure environment, the impact of sit-at-home orders on the economy can be reduced.
3. **Public Awareness Campaigns:** Conducting public awareness campaigns to educate the general public about the negative consequences of sit-at-home orders on the local economy can help discourage participation. Informing citizens about the potential economic losses, impact on livelihoods, and alternative peaceful means of expressing grievances can reduce compliance with such orders.
4. **Economic Support and Job Creation:** Implementing targeted economic support programs, especially for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) in the Southeast, can help alleviate the adverse effects of the sit-at-home orders. This can involve providing financial assistance, grants, and low-interest loans to affected businesses, as well as promoting job creation initiatives to mitigate unemployment rates.
5. **Diversification and Regional Development:** Encouraging economic diversification and regional development can reduce the vulnerability of the Southeast economy to disruptions caused by sit-at-home orders. By focusing on sectors such as agriculture, manufacturing, tourism, and technology, the region can expand its economic base and create more resilient industries that are less affected by civil unrest.
6. **Infrastructure Development:** Investing in infrastructure projects, such as roads, bridges, airports, and power supply, can enhance connectivity and stimulate economic activities in the Southeast. Improved infrastructure can attract investments, facilitate trade, and promote regional integration,

- making the economy more robust and less susceptible to the impact of sit-at-home orders.
7. Stakeholder Engagement: Engaging with various stakeholders, including community leaders, religious organizations, civil society groups, and business associations, can foster understanding and collaboration. By involving these groups in decision-making processes and addressing their concerns, it is possible to build consensus and promote peaceful coexistence, which ultimately benefits the economy.

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