



THE IMPLICATIONS OF HERDSMEN ATTACKS ON NIGERIA NATIONAL SECURITY: A STUDY OF BENUE STATE

by

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Abstract

In the recent years, the orgy of violence and indiscriminate slaughter of human beings by Fulani herdsmen in Benue State have the capacity to undermine Nigeria's national security. This study examines the factors responsible for the herdsmen attacks on Nigeria national security in Benue State. It would also determine the implications of these attacks, and finally suggest measures needed to effectively combat the herder's attacks. The hypothesis of this study is that there is no significant relationship between herdsmen attacks and national security in Nigeria. The study will adopt both primary and secondary method of data collection as its main sources of data. The primary source of data is questionnaire administration. On the other hand, the secondary method of data collection will include textbooks, newspapers, journals, magazines, etc. The methodology is quantitative research which places emphasis on the statistical data and the use of such data to test the hypothesis. The theoretical framework for this study is Governance theory. The survey investigated 300 respondents comprising the security personnel in charge of the operational units of herdsmen and community leaders, religious organizations (Christians and Muslims), herdsmen association (MACBAN), farmers associations, women and youth associations and the adult household (father and mother). The results showed that herdsmen attacks have negative implications such as insecurity of lives and property, unemployment, food insecurity, etc. The study therefore recommends effective intelligence gathering and sharing mechanism among the security agencies both within the country, and between Nigeria and her neighbors. Also, the leadership of the country should muster enough political will to deal decisively and effectively with herdsmen attacks on farmers that undermine national security in Nigeria, among others.

Keywords: *Farmers, Fulani, Herdsmen, National Security and Nigeria*

Background of the Study

The Herdsmen attacks on the Nigeria national security in Benue State have negative implications. These negative implications include loss of lives and property, displacement of people (especially women and children), destruction of infrastructural facilities, unemployment, food insecurity, grounding of economic activities, hunger, poverty and death.

The crisis between the farmer and the herder has been in existence since the pre-colonial period, but it was better managed because there was an organized system that gave the Fulani man the opportunity to feel the impact of government which took care of his animals through the general vaccination against pests (Yandev, 2018). Besides, Fulani herdsmen were known to migrate with their cattle from one part of the country to another with sticks in their hands, caps on their heads and their bags, grazing on the grazing routes and people's farm lands peacefully. The sticks are to guide the cattle as they migrate from one place to another, while the cap is to protect the herdsmen from the hot scotch of sun and the bag is used to put their drinking water.

However, in the recent years, the violent attacks by herdsmen on the farmers / host communities have elicited some criticisms. According to Punch (Editorial, 2016), "Fulani herdsmen are the new face of terrorism in Nigeria, having graduated from carrying arrows or sticks, their deadly weapons boasts of sophisticated weapons, including AK-47 assault rifles which they deploy against host communities across the country". The Fulani herdsmen who are heavily armed against the farmers/host communities have left several people dead, destroyed properties worth billions of Naira and displaced thousands of people from their homes. No wonder, in its November 2015 report, the Sydney, Australia based institute for Economics and Peace, the Global Terrorism Index (GTI), labeled

herdsmen as the fourth deadliest terror organization in the world after Boko Haram, the Islamic State in Syria and Iraq and Al-shabab. Similarly, the Socio-Economic Rights Accountability Project (SERAP), in its March 2018 report has urged the United Nations (UN) Security Council to declare the incessant killings by herdsmen in some parts of the country as an act of terrorism. In a statement by its Deputy Director, Timothy Adewale, SERAP, asked the council to "treat the atrocities by herdsmen as terrorist acts, in line with UN Security Council resolution 2349(2017), which addresses Boko Haram's presence in the Lake Chad Basin and calls on all states to combat all forms and manifestations of terrorism. SERAP, added, declaring attacks by herdsmen as terrorists would help make up the authorities to seriously address the threats posed by herdsmen and combat the crimes against humanity being committed against Nigerians"(Adewale, 2018). In a report by the Civil Rights Liberty Organization (CRLO) in 2015, herdsmen clashes with farmers have resulted in 3.7 million deaths from 1999 to date (Ande, 2016).

This paper examines the factors responsible for the herdsmen attacks on the Nigeria communities especially in Benue State. It also evaluates the implications of these attacks and suggests measures to combat the herders' attacks. This study is timely as it will inform policy action.

Fulani Herdsmen

Fulani herdsmen or Fulani pastoralists are nomadic or some-nomadic Fulani herders whose primary occupation is raising livestock. The pure Fulani pastoralist engages in random movement of cattle while the semi-nomadic makes their transhumance migration and return to camps or homes (Iro, 1995).

Adebayo (1991), describes Fulani herdsmen as the Fulbe na'i or Fulbe ladde, the cattle or bush Fulani. The Hausa name for their

group-Fulani Bororo-would appear to have been derived from Bororo'en, a Fulbe name for a 'Special' class of Fulbe Ladde who are essentially animist, highly nomadic, and who maintain a closed system. Fulbe Ladde and Fulani Bororo are not the same thing. In other words, while the Fulbe Ladde may actually not be nomadic, although they reside in the bush, the Bororo are essentially nomadic. The Fulbe Ladde or Fulani Bororo can be found in any part of Nigeria where there is green pasture, but not all the time, because they are very mobile. They understand their hosts but not many of their hosts take time to understand them. This group of Fulani has preserved its bloodline, having refused to become integrated into the host's society.

However, apart from the Fulani herdsmen, there are other groups of people who are involved in cattle related issues. These are the cattle rustlers and cattle rearers. Cattle rustlers, are people who steal farm animals especially cattle, horses, and sheep. In Australia, such stealing is often referred to as doffing and the perpetrators as duffer (Baker, 1945 and Derricourt, 1899). In North America, especially cowboy culture, cattle theft is dubbed rustling, while an individual who engages in it is a rustler. In other countries such as America old west, in the American frontier, rustling was considered a serious offence and in some cases resulted in vigilantes hanging the thieves. In Nigeria, people who steal cattle are called rustlers and the act is called rustling. According to Siollun (2016),

“Boko Haram and Cattle Rustlers are acting as Agent Provocateurs in the conflict. Boko Haram get their meat from stolen cattle provided them by the bandit cattle rustlers. The rustlers often attack herders, kill them and steal their cattle. Herding communities often assume that resentful farmers are responsible and take

misdirected revenge against them” (Siollun. 2016: p.8).

Cattle rearers are people who take care of the cattle from birth to the period of maturity when they can either be slaughtered for consumption or used to provide milk. These people are not from a particular region or ethnic group. In other words, some are Ibos, while others are Hausas and Yorubas. The primary aim of the cattle rearers is to take care of cattle from birth to a period of maturity. As cattle rearers, they have associations which are used as platforms to unite their members and protect their interest as a pressure group. Although, the Miyetti Allah Cattle Breeders Association of Nigeria (MACBAN) is the only recognized body and mouth piece for cattle related issues and herdsmen, it does not speak for all the Fulani pastoralists, because some of them belong to other groups. For example, there are Miyetti Kautal Hore Association of Nigeria (MKHAN), Miyetti Allah Cattle Rearers Association of Nigeria (MACRAN), to mention a few. MACBAN was founded in the early 1970s with headquarters in Kaduna. It is registered with the Corporate Affairs Commission. MACBAN became operational in 1979 and gained wider acceptance as an advocacy group in 1987 (Mohammed & Ibrahim, 2015). MACBAN is a loose partisan advocacy group centered on promoting the welfare of Fulani pastoralists in Nigeria (Waters-Bayer & Taylor-Powell, 1986). A major goal of MACBAN is to be the umbrella organization of Fulani herdsmen within the country. The activities of the organization involve liaising with the government on behalf of the pastoralists, land use rights, nomadic education and conflicts resolution between pastoralists and farmers. MACBAN represents the interest of about 100,000 semi nomads and nomads in the country. Miyetti Allah Cattle Breeders Association of Nigeria has a branch in each of the six zones of the country, which promptly intervenes on matters concerning the herdsmen within its zone.

In Nigeria, the tribe known to be predominantly cattle herders is the nomadic Fulani. The largely reside in Northern Nigeria, but they follow their livestock along migrating patterns. Besides, they are known to begin art of herding cattle probably at very young age with sticks in their hands, and not sophisticated weapons such as AK-47 rifles.



Fig. 1: Herdsmen guiding their cattle on the road



Fig. 2: Young boy in the midst of cattle on the grazing field



Fig. Young boy in front of a herd of cattle with other herdsmen on the road



Fig. 4: Herdsmen with their cattle on the grazing field

National Security

Before defining national security, it is germane and necessary to understand literarily the meaning of security. This is because, security is not only national, but also state and international. According to Nwolise (2013), security is described as the primary concern of all humans and nations at all times, as it is a pre-requisite for their survival, progress and happiness of humanity.

Although, national security was first introduced in the United States of America after the second World War (Romm, 1993), it falls under the traditional school of thought which favours the maintenance of the cold war conception of security. No wonder, Nwolise opines that the cold war period gave the high level domination to the conventional security doctrine to the extent that security rest on the believe that only a military system can effectively deter attack and threat of force (Nwolise, 2008). The traditional security paradigm is a realist construct of security in which the referent object is the state (Abolurin, 2010 quoted in Afolabi, 2015).

In the contemporary world, national security which falls under the non-traditional school of thought de-emphasizes the survival of the state as the essence of security. In other words, security must recognize the imperative of those critical factors or elements such as economic security, social security, cultural security, political security, energy security, environmental security, and even technological security that could pose a great danger to lives and property, if not properly addressed by the government. Thus security at this stage is human centered and no longer state centered.

Nwolise (2012), defined national security as:

"The prevalence of in a nation, through conscious and adequate, strategic planning, actions and coordination of all vital sectors, of conditions of law, justice, peace, order, safety, and economic well-being in such preponderance as to effectively neutralize the internal harbingers of fear, want, violence, and disintegration, as well as contain the external harbingers of aggression, subjugation and

plundering".(Nwolise,2012:pp.27-33).

McNamara (1968) insisted that development is essential for security. However, he regrets that ignorance on the part of leaders makes this fact problematic. In his word:

"The rub is that we do not grasp the meaning of security in this context. In a modernizing society, security means Development, security is not military hardware, though it may involve it, security is not traditional military activity though it may encompass it. Security is Development, and without development there can be no security. A developing nation that does not in fact develop, simply cannot remain secure for the intractable reason that its own citizenry cannot shed its human nature. This is what we do not always understand, and what Governments or modernizing nations do not always understand" (McNamara, 1968:p.149).

Booth (1991), one of the proponents of the new thinking corroborated McNamara. He observed that:

"One of the themes of new thinking is the idea that security policy should have political accommodation as a primary and persistent aim. The adverse effects of identifying security almost exclusively with military strength were evident throughout the cold war. This approach can be described as a strategic reductionism, that is, conceiving security in a technical and mechanistic way takes the politics out of strategy and reduces it to military

accounting" (Booth, 1991: p.16).

The major snag about these conceptualizations by different scholars/authors is the failure to embrace the importance of intelligence and political will that can be used and mustered to forestall and deal decisively with issues that threaten national security in the country especially herdsmen attacks on the farmers/host communities in Benue state.

National security may be understood from different perspectives. In the first place, it can be understood as the ability of the leadership of any country to secure and protect its territorial integrity from external invasion, and also ensuring that the country is secured internally from domestic insurgents/rebels who may want to create a state of insecurity by terrorizing the people for one reason or the other. From another perspective, governments must look beyond mere equipping and applying or misapplying defense and security forces in the search for national security. Rather, they should give more attention to those factors such as poverty, unemployment, hunger and starvation, low technological development, lack of social amenities, obnoxious laws and policies and abuse of human and people's rights that give rise to the urge to use or misuse defense and security forces (Udeh, Okoroafor and Ihezue, 2013).

However, as earlier mentioned, security in the contemporary world is human centered and no longer state centered. In other words, human security can be described as the security of individuals and communities. According to Annan (2000),

"Human security, in its broadest sense, embraces far more than the absence of violent conflict. It encompasses human rights, good governance, access to education and healthcare and ensuring that each individual has opportunities and choices to fulfill his or her potential. Every step in this direction is also a step towards reducing poverty, achieving economic growth and preventing conflict. Freedom from want, freedom from fear and the freedom of future generations to inherit a healthy environment – these are the inter-related building blocks of human and therefore national security" (Annan, 2000 p.1).

Theoretical Framework

The Governance Theory

Although, the word governance derives from the Greek verb *Kubernao* meaning to steer, but its occasional use in English which refer to the specific activity of ruling a country can be traced to early modern England, when the phrase 'governance of the realm' appeared in works by William Tyndale (1831) and in royal correspondence between James V of Scotland and Henry VIII of England (Letter of James, 1836). The first usage in connection with the institutional structures (as distinct from individual rule) is in Charles Plummer's the 'Governance of England' (an 1885 translation from a 15th century Latin work by John Fortescue), also known as the difference between an absolute and limited monarchy (Fortescue, 1885).

However, the currency of the term as used in a broader sense has been used in the 1990s by economists and political scientists, and disseminated by institutions such as the United Nations (UN), International Monetary Fund (IMF), and World Bank (Baker, 2017). The United Nations

Development Programme, in its 1997 policy Paper defines governance as

“The exercise of economic, political and administrative authority to manage a country’s affairs at all levels. It comprises the mechanisms, processes and institutions through which citizens and groups articulate their interests, exercise their legal rights, meet their obligations and mediate differences” (UNDP,1997p.3)

Governance varies, including public governance, global governance, non-profit governance, participatory governance, corporate governance, etc. The pillars of governance can be identified as follows: First, it “occurs at all tiers or levels of society, religious bodies, political associations, corporate organizations, schools, local, state and national governments and even the family” (Egboka,2013). Second, it is not only about processes, it also includes ends achieved – primarily to improve the lot of the citizenry. Third, it involves decision making, decision taking and implementation either by the citizens themselves, or on their behalf or for them. As a concept that focuses on how public institutions conduct public affairs and manage public, human and material resources (Egboka,2013), Other characteristics of governance include proper participation by the citizenry; openness and transparency; rule of law; inclusiveness and responsiveness to the needs of the people; accountability; enhancement of traditional institutions; consensus orientation through intensive grassroots orientation; economic empowerment; equitable distribution of resources; access to information on resource inflow and use; effectiveness and efficiency; strategic vision; etc. It involves probity and transparency erected on a foundation of honest relationship (King, 2006).

However, governance can be good or bad. World Bank has defined good governance as” epitomized by predictable, open and enlightened policy making, a bureaucracy imbued with a professional ethos; an executive arm of government accountable for its actions; and a strong civil society participating in public affairs; and all behaving under the rule of law”(World Bank, 1994). It is characterized by participation, consensus orientation, rule of law, transparency, accountability, responsiveness, effectiveness and efficiency; equity and inclusiveness.

Bad governance is the inability of a public institution to manage public affairs and public resources; failure of government to meet the needs of society while making the best use of all resources at their disposal (Midjkan, 2014). It is characterized by corruption, crime, no freedom of expression, abuse of human rights, high level of centralization, lack of transparency and accountability and lack of responsiveness. Others are insecurity of lives and property, economic stagnation, unemployment, poverty and hunger.

Consequently, bad governance which is a variant of governance provides the basis of justification of the variable political will which is not mustered by federal government to deal effectively with the herdsmen attacks, hence insecurity of lives and property in Benue State in particular and Nigeria in general. However, the theory of governance has been criticized as being questionable and uncertain. Besides, governance still does not and cannot explain change. In spite of the criticisms, the theory of governance still resonates and is widely used in the academic world today.

Causes of Fulani Herdsmen Attacks on Nigeria’s National Security

Some of the causes of attacks by Fulani herdsmen on the farmers/host communities may be attributed to the following:

a. Weather condition

The increasing desertification occasioned by drought and resulting in lack of green grass to feed their herds has forced herdsmen to migrate from the northern plains of the country downwards to the banks of the several rivers in the middle belt region and southern region, where the farmlands are not only rich in crops, but also grasses are most suitable for grazing their starving herds. According to Mohammed (2016),

"Generally, desertification affects eleven (11) northern states of Nigeria referred to as the frontline states, these include: Adamawa, Borno, Yobe, Jigawa, Kano, Katsina, Zamfara, Sokoto, Kebbi, Bauchi and Gombe. These states are agricultural producing areas and are affected by desert encroachment that is fast moving southwards"
(Mohammed, 2016 p.2)

Desertification is attributed to loss of the lands biological productivity in arid, semi arid and dry sub humid areas. The impact is significant in developing countries especially Africa which is the most affected because its economy is predominantly agrarian, rainfed and fundamentally depends on the vagaries of weather

Desertification in the northern region which forces herdsmen to migrate towards the middle belt and southern region has culminated in the conflict between the herdsmen and farmers because it has negatively affected the farmers crops and herders grazing sources, thereby making green lands more scarce and valuable to both. Buhaug, Gleditsch and Thelsen (2008), identified three potentially environmentally induced events; in resource scarcity, a rise in sea level and natural disasters such as drought, floods and desertification as capable of influencing security implications. In Benue State, there are many farmers who depend on farming

as a means of livelihood, and therefore when the herdsmen move their cattle for grazing on the farmlands and destroy their crops with impunity, prompting the farmers to react, the herdsmen will begin to kill them because they are heavily armed, while the farmers are not armed.

b. Absence of ranches or grazing land

The refusal by the real herdsmen who own the cattle to provide ranches has resulted in herdsmen moving their cattle from one place to another in search of food, and in the process their cattle stray into peoples' farmlands and destroy their crops. In civilized societies, such as America, Canada, Mexico etc; ranches are provided thereby preventing cattle from straying into peoples' farmlands. The inability to provide ranches by the cattle owners in Nigeria has led to constant conflict between the herdsmen and farmers, resulting in the loss of lives and property. In Benue State, Fulani herdsmen, kill farmers because they are heavily armed and graze their cattle on the farmlands of the farmers, who react because their crops are destroyed by the cattle herded by the herdsmen with utter disregard to law and human sympathy.

c. Loss of Cattle to thieves and hoodlums

Herders have alleged that farmer's plant crops on grazing routes steal and kill their cattle. On the other hand, farmers have accused the herders of allowing their cattle to feed on their crops, and destroy their farmlands. In Nigeria, people who steal cattle are called rustlers, and the act is called rustling. Siollun (2016), reported

"Boko Haram and Cattle Rustlers are acting as agent provocateurs in the conflict. Boko Haram get their meat from stolen cattle provided them by bandit cattle rustlers. The rustlers attack herders, kill them and steal their cattle. Herding communities often assume that resentful farmers are responsible and take misdirected

revenge against them"(Siollun, 2016.8).

d. Cattle Disease

According to Mortghare (2012), most common diseases of cattle are as follows:

i. Anthrax disease of cattle

Anthrax is a highly infectious and fatal disease of cattle, caused by a relatively large spore-forming rectangular shaped bacterium called *Bacillus anthracis*. Anthrax, which occurs on all the continents, causes acute mortality in ruminants. The bacteria produce extremely potent toxins which are responsible for the illness, causing a high mortality rate. The bacteria produce spores on contact with oxygen. Signs of the illness usually appear 3 to 7 days after the spores are swallowed or inhaled. Once signs are noticed in animals, they usually die within two days. Hoofed animals, such as deer, cattle, goats, and sheep, are the main animals affected by this disease. They usually get the disease by swallowing anthrax spores while grazing on pasture contaminated with anthrax spores. Inhaling the spores, which are odorless, colorless, and tasteless, may also cause infection in animals and people. Some symptoms of the disease are; difficulty in breathing, collapse and convulsions before death, which usually occurs over a period of 24 hours, and sudden death (often within 2 or 3 hours of being apparently normal) is by far the most common sign, etc.

ii. Black Quarter (Black-Leg)

It is an acute infectious and highly fatal, bacterial disease of cattle. Buffaloes, sheep and goats are also affected. Young cattle between 6 and 24 months of age, in good body condition are mostly affected. It is soil-borne infection which generally occurs during rainy season. Some symptoms of the disease include fever (106-108of), loss of appetite, depression and dullness; suspended rumination and difficult breathing (dyspnoea).recumbency(prostration) followed by death within 12-48hrs,etc.

iii. Foot and Mouth Disease

The foot and mouth disease is a highly communicable disease affecting cloven-footed animals. It is characterized by fever, formation of vesicles and blisters in the mouth, udder, teats and on the skin between the toes and above the hoofs. Animals recovered from the disease present a characteristically rough coat and deformation of the hoof. In India, the disease is widespread and assumes a position of importance in livestock industry. The disease spreads by direct contact or indirectly through infected water, manure, hay and pastures. It is also conveyed by cattle attendants. It is known to spread through recovered animals, field rats, porcupines and birds. The symptoms of this disease include fever with 104-1050F, lameness observed, vesicles appear in mouth and in the inter digital space.

iv. Rinder Pest

Rinder pest is the most destructive of the virus diseases of cloven-footed animals such as cattle, buffaloes, sheep, goats, pigs and wild ruminants. Its control was a major issue till recently all over the world. Organized efforts over half a century have brought about a total eradication of the disease in the Western Hemisphere. However, the disease still persists in the Asian countries. The virus is found especially in the saliva, discharge from eyes and nostrils, and in the urine and faeces. It is present in the circulating blood during the febrile stage and is later concentrated in different organs, especially in the spleen, lymph nodes and liver. The virus is usually spread by contaminated feed and water. The symptoms include rise in temperature up to 104-107 0 F, lacrimation and redness of eye, foul odour from mouth, etc.

v. Mastitis

Mastitis or inflammation of the mammary gland is the most common and the most expensive disease of dairy cattle throughout most of the world. Although, stress and physical injuries may cause inflammation of the gland, infection by invading bacteria or

other micro-organisms (fungi, yeasts and possibly viruses) is the primary cause of mastitis. Infections begin when micro-organisms penetrate the teat canal and multiply in the mammary gland.

vi. Footrot

Footrot is a common cause of lameness in cattle and occurs most frequently when cattle on pasture are forced to walk through mud to obtain water and feed. However, it may occur among cattle in paddocks as well, under apparently excellent conditions. Footrot is caused when a cut or scratch in the skin allows infection to penetrate between the claws or around the top of the hoof.

vii. Ringworm

Ringworm is the most common infectious skin disease affecting beef cattle. It is caused by a fungus, and is transmissible to man. Apparently, the disease appears as crusty grey patches usually in the region of the head and neck and particularly around the eyes. One major symptoms of the disease is the appearance of lesions.

viii. Milk Fever

Milk fever, also known as parturient hypocalcaemia and parturient paresis, is a disease which has assumed considerable importance with the development of heavy milking cows. The disease is caused by decrease in the levels of ionized calcium in the tissue fluids. In all adult cows, there is a fall in serum-calcium level with the onset of lactation at calving. The disease usually occurs in 5 to 10 year old cows, and is chiefly caused by a sudden decrease in blood-calcium level, generally within 48 hours after calving. The clinical symptoms develop usually in one to three days after calving. They are characterized by loss of appetite, constipation and restlessness, but there is no rise in temperature.

Methodology

The methodology is quantitative research, which places emphasis on the use of statistical data, and the use

of such data to test the hypothesis. The population of the study is 300 comprising 150 security personnel in charge of the operational units of the herdsmen, and the remaining 150 comprise community leaders, religious organizations (Christians and Muslims), farmers associations, women and youth associations, herdsmen association (MACBAN) and adult house hold (father and mother). The study adopted chi-square, which is a statistical technique used to test if an observed series of values vary significantly from what was expected. The formula is stated below:

$$x^2 = E (F0 - F0)^2$$

Where

E = Sum of

F0 =

Expected Frequency

F0 =

Observed

The statistical technique was employed for the study to determine the relationship that existed between the variables of herdsmen attacks and national security in Nigeria.

Data Analysis and Presentation

Of the 300 questionnaire administered to determine the implications of Herdsmen attacks on Nigeria national security, 300 respondents filled and returned their questionnaire. The questionnaire has only one section which investigated the implications of Herdsmen attacks on Nigeria national security. However, the following information were elicited from the respondents, presented and analyzed using the Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS).

Section A: Implications of the Herdsmen attacks on Nigeria national security

Table 1: The major weapon used by Herdsmen

	Frequency	%	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid AK-47 rifle	174	58.0	58.0	58.0
Dagger	97	32.3	32.3	90.3
Sword	18	6.0	6.0	96.3
Deadly chemicals	11	3.7	3.7	100.0
Total	300	100.0	100.0	

Source: Field Work, 2018

In table one, 58.0% the total respondents strongly agreed that AK-47 rifles were used by the herdsmen to kill the farmers /host communities. The use of dagger, sword and deadly chemicals recorded 32.3% 6.0% and 3.7% respectively.

Table 2: National security has been affected by herdsmen attacks.

	Frequency	%	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid Strongly Agree	222	74.0	74.0	74.0
Agree	56	18.7	18.7	92.7
Undecided	8	2.7	2.7	95.3
Disagree	9	3.0	3.0	98.3
Strongly Disagree	5	1.7	1.7	100.0
Total	300	100.0	100.0	

Source: Field Work, 2018

Here, 74.0% of the respondents strongly agreed that the national security, has badly been affected by herdsmen attacks, while 8% were undecided and 1.7%strongly disagreed.

Table 3: Herdsmen attacks have displaced people especially in Benue state.

	Frequency	%	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid Strongly Agree	213	71.0	71.0	71.0
Agree	80	26.7	26.7	97.7
Undecided	3	1.0	1.0	98.7
Disagree	1	.3	.3	99.0
Strongly Disagree	3	1.0	1.0	100.0
Total	300	100.0	100.0	

Source: Field Work, 2018

In the above table, 71.0% of the respondents observed that the herdsmen attacks have displaced people which may also have negative effect on the agricultural production in Benue state, 10% remained undecided while 3% disagreed.

Table 4: Herdsmen attacks will undermine the political stability of the country.

	Frequency	%	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid Strongly agree	191	63.7	63.7	63.7
Agree	85	28.3	28.3	92.0
Undecided	13	4.3	4.3	96.3
Disagree	8	2.7	2.7	99.0
Strongly Disagree	3	1.0	1.0	100.0
Total	300	100.0	100.0	

Source: Field Work, 2018

The implication of the figure illustrated in the table above is that 63.7% of the respondents strongly agreed that herdsmen attacks have negative effect on the political stability of the country, 4.3% were undecided while 2.7% disagreed.

Table 5: Unemployment has increased due to fear to invest and provide jobs for the teeming unemployed Nigerians especially in Benue state.

	Frequency	%	Valid %	Cumulative Percent
Valid Strongly agree	178	59.3	59.3	59.3
Agree	95	31.7	31.7	91.0
Undecided	9	3.0	3.0	94.0
Disagree	15	5.0	5.0	99.0
Strongly Disagree	3	1.0	1.0	100.0
Total	300	100.0	100.0	

Source: Field Work, 2018

In table 5, 59.3% of the participants were affirmative that unemployment increased as a result of herdsmen attacks which relatively affected investment to provide jobs for the teeming unemployed Nigerians due to fear. Meanwhile 3% of the respondents were undecided, 6.0% opposed this notion.

Table 6: Many people have lost their lives and property

	Frequency	%	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid Strongly agree	257	85.7	85.7	85.7
Agree	39	13.0	13.0	98.7
Undecided	1	.3	.3	99.0
Strongly Disagree	3	1.0	1.0	100.0
Total	300	100.0	100.0	

Source: Field Work, 2018

The study observed from table 6 above that 85.7% of the total respondents believed that

many people have lost their lives and property, 3% undecided while 1.0% refuted the impression.

H₀: there is no significant relationship between herdsmen attacks on national security.

H₁: there is a significant relationship between herdsmen attack on national security.

Decision rule: We shall reject the null hypothesis (H₀) if the p-value is less than or equal to alpha (α), otherwise we do not reject H₀.

Level of significance alpha (α) = 5% or 0.05

Conclusion: From table 4.1, Since the output of statistical packages for social sciences (SPSS) of chi-square test, the Pearson Chi-Square p-value = 0.642 is greater than Alpha(α) = 0.05, we do not reject the null hypothesis (H₀) and conclude that there is no significant relationship between herdsmen attack on national security

Table 7: Chi-Square Tests

	Value	Df	Asymp. Sig. (2-sided)
Pearson Chi-Square	9.706 ^a	12	.642
Likelihood Ratio	10.769	12	.549
Linear-by-Linear Association	.145	1	.703
N of Valid Cases	300		

Table 8: Summary of the Observed and Expected Frequencies for test of Hypothesis 1 with Percentages

			National security has badly been affected by herdsmen attack					Total
			Strongly Agree	Agree	Undecided	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	
What is the major weapon used by herdsmen for their attack?	AK-47 rifle	Count	136	25	4	5	4	174
		Expected Count	128.8	32.5	4.6	5.2	2.9	174.0
		% within What is the major weapon used by herdsmen for their attack?	78.2%	14.4%	2.3%	2.9%	2.3%	100.0%
Dagger		Count	67	22	4	3	1	97
		Expected Count	71.8	18.1	2.6	2.9	1.6	97.0
		% within What is the major weapon used by herdsmen for their attack?	69.1%	22.7%	4.1%	3.1%	1.0%	100.0%
Sword		Count	11	6	0	1	0	18
		Expected Count	13.3	3.4	.5	.5	.3	18.0
		% within What is the major weapon used by herdsmen for their attack?	61.1%	33.3%	0.0%	5.6%	0.0%	100.0%
Deadly chemicals		Count	8	3	0	0	0	11
		Expected Count	8.1	2.1	.3	.3	.2	11.0
		% within What is the major weapon used by herdsmen for their attack?	72.7%	27.3%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	100.0%
Total		Count	222	56	8	9	5	300
		Expected Count	222.0	56.0	8.0	9.0	5.0	300.0
		% within What is the major weapon used by herdsmen for their attack?	74.0%	18.7%	2.7%	3.0%	1.7%	100.0%

Conclusion based on percentage response: From table 4.2, the result of percentage responses for agreement is higher than disagreement and undecided, and this is in accordance with the chi-square test of there is no significant relationship between herdsmen attack on national security.

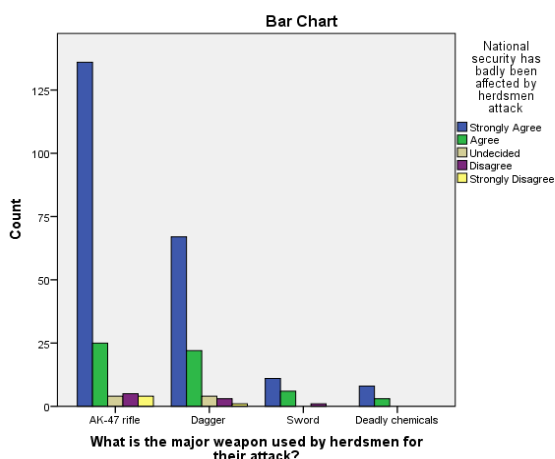


Fig. 1: Bar Chart representing the major weapon used by herdsmen for their attack

Results and Discussion

The observation of the study arising from the answer to the questions posed to the respondents showed unanimous and unbiased recognition that herdsmen attacks have negative implications on the Nigeria national security. For instance the majority of the respondents agreed that AK – 47 rifles were used mainly by the herdsmen to kill the farmers /host communities.

A corollary to the above was designed to understand and relate how the use of AK-47 rifles by the herdsmen to kill the farmers/host communities badly affected national security. Basically, 74% of the total participants are of the opinion that one of the dangers of herdsmen attacks was the possibility of food insecurity occasioned by the farmer's refusal to go to the farms for fear of being killed by the herdsmen. Besides as demonstrated in the table above,

about 63.7% of the target populations were of the opinion that with political instability in the country, unemployment will increase due to fear to invest and provide jobs for the teeming unemployed Nigerians especially in Benue state.

Thus, from the result of the table 4.2, the result of percentage responses for agreement is higher than disagreement and undecided which is in accordance with the chi-square test of there is no significant relationship between herdsmen attacks on national security. It will therefore be safer to conclude that the herdsmen attacks have implications on the Nigeria national security.

The Implications of Herdsmen Attacks on Nigeria National Security

Some of the implications of herdsmen attacks on Nigeria national security are as follows:

1. There will be food insecurity occasioned by farmer's inability to go to the farms for fear of being killed by the Fulani herdsmen.
2. Economic activities of the state will be grounded as a result of herdsmen and farmers conflict.
3. Unemployment will increase as a result of fear to invest in the state by both local and foreign investors.
4. Many people will be displaced from their homes due to herdsmen and farmers conflict
5. Herdsmen and farmers conflict has the capacity to undermine the political stability of the country.
6. Insecurity of lives and property in Benue state in particular, and Nigeria in general
7. Herdsmen and farmers conflict will worsen the already bad image of Nigeria as a terrorist country due to the violent activities of the insurgent group, Boko Haram in the north east geo- political zone of the country.

Conclusion

The study on herdsman attack on the farmers /host communities is expository. In the first place, it shows the inability to effectively use intelligence among the security agencies within and outside the country to check the menace. Besides, political will is not effectively mustered to address the issue of herders attacks on the farmers /host communities. Again, the attacks are attributed to some challenges such as weather, diseases, cattle rustling and absence of ranches by the owners of these cattle. Consequently, these conflicts between the herders and farmers have resulted in food insecurity, loss of lives and property, unemployment, displacement of people from their homes and grounding of economic activities, etc. However, the study is timely as it will inform policy action if the recommendations are considered by the federal government and other stakeholders.

Recommendations

1. There is need for effective intelligence gathering and sharing mechanism among the security agencies both within and outside the country.
2. The political leadership of the country should muster enough political will to deal decisively with the herdsman attacks without ethnic, cultural or religious sentiments.
3. There is need for effective surveillance on our borders to check and control criminals and hoodlums who infiltrate into the country and tinker with the security architecture.
4. Effective monitoring mechanism should be set up to check the proliferation of arms and ammunition used by these hoodlums against the farmers/host communities.
5. The law should be made to take its course on anybody or group caught with arms and ammunition unauthorized in the country, no matter whose ox is gored.
6. The owners of the cattle who run it as a private business should be made to provide ranches.
7. It is necessary to know the cattle owners so that the Federal Inland Revenue Service (FIRS), could collect the appropriate tax from them.
8. It is high time reliable statistics were generated that would provide necessary data for planners and researchers interested in livestock farming in Nigeria. Such data should be able to tell us who owns what breed of cattle and where?

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