

ASSESSING THE IMPACT OF DEFENCE BUDGET-FUNDED MILITARY OPERATIONS ON COUNTERTERRORISM IN NIGERIA: A LITERATURE REVIEW

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ABSTRACT

This study examines the effectiveness of military operations funded by defence budget in combating terrorism. It analysed the allocation of resources, strategic planning, and operational outcomes to assess the impact on counter terrorism efforts across Nigeria. Qualitative survey design was adopted for the study while thematic content analysis was used. The study was anchored on the Resource-Based Theory (RBT). This study concludes that terrorism/insurgencies bear both military and political goals. The study concluded that while the defence budget is significant to the security of lives and properties across the country, security funding should be redirected towards addressing the major sociological issues like youth unemployment, poverty, religious intolerance, poor governance, corruption and sundry that led to the spread of terror groups across the country. Hence, the study is premised that defence budget increment alone is not a viable solution to terrorism/insurgency in Nigeria but a collective approach that embodies major social, economic and political lapses in the country. It is in view of the foregoing, that this study recommends that while government increase defence budgets to burst improvement of the military capacity to contain terrorism/insurgency, there is the need to also funnel resources towards addressing specific sociological issues that weakened the institutional capacity of the Nigerian state to contain security breaches across the country.

Keywords: Defence, Defence Budget, Counter Terrorism

INTRODUCTION

Globally, national budget stands as the principal mechanism through which resources are distributed across various state sectors to achieve

developmental and security objectives. Among the key components of this annual financial blueprint is the defence budget, which falls under the Exclusive Legislative List. This budgetary allocation represents a significant proportion of government spending, reflecting its strategic importance in the national security architecture. Before Nigeria transitioned to civilian administration in 1999, military regimes placed immense priority on the defence budget. This focus was rooted in the intrinsic connection between the ruling military authorities and their statutory obligation to protect and defend the state against external threats (Osifo & Ahunanya, 2020). The historical precedent of heightened military spending ensured that defence remained a central element of governance under these regimes. However, with the return to democratic governance, a notable shift in fiscal priorities emerged. The democratic era brought with it a broader focus that extended beyond defence, emphasizing the need for economic rejuvenation and addressing the widespread poverty resulting from years of inequitable distribution and economic mismanagement. To achieve these goals, President Olusegun Obasanjo's administration introduced the National Economic Empowerment and Development Strategy (NEEDS) in 2003 (Nigerian National Planning Commission, 2004). This policy was aimed at restructuring the economy to encourage private sector participation and stimulate economic growth. The underlying assumption of this reform was that fostering economic prosperity would lead to social and political stability, which in turn would enhance general security (National Planning Commission, 2004). This perspective is

consistent with development theorists in the field of security studies who posit that economic development is foundational for societal stability and security. Consequently, by 2009, Nigeria was facing an alarming wave of terrorist activities, marked by the escalation of the Boko Haram insurgency. This group, which had begun as a religious movement advocating against Western education, evolved into a violent insurgency that targeted government institutions, civilians, and military installations. The severity of their attacks not only destabilized the northeastern region but also drew global attention, positioning Nigeria as a focal point in discussions on regional security (Onuoha, 2012). The situation further deteriorated over the years, culminating in a full-scale security crisis by 2021, when the intensity of terrorist activities reached unprecedented levels (Khalid, 2021).

However, in response to the growing threat of terrorism, which had far-reaching implications for national stability and regional security, Nigeria significantly ramped up its defence expenditure. Starting from 2012, successive administrations committed substantial resources to counterterrorism, emphasizing the need to protect the citizenry and safeguard national assets. The defence budget saw consistent annual increases, reflecting a strategic shift towards reinforcing military capabilities. By 2022, defence spending had surged to an estimated \$5.8 billion, illustrating the priority placed on military operations, procurement of advanced weaponry, personnel training, and collaborative efforts with regional allies, such as the Multinational Joint Task Force (MNJTF) (Lee,

2021). In spite of this considerable financial commitment, the effectiveness of these investments has been a subject of extensive debate. Reports have frequently pointed to systemic challenges within the military and governmental structures that have undermined the efficacy of counterterrorism initiatives. For several years since the emergence of the Boko-Haram defence budgets have continued to expand exponentially. The consistent increase in Nigeria's defence budget between 2012 and 2022 has highlighted the government's commitment to countering terrorism and ensuring national security. However, in spite the significant financial allocations, Nigeria has continued to face persistent and evolving security threats that disrupt peace and socio-economic stability (Aremu, 2024). This contradiction raises critical questions about the correlation between defence spending and the effectiveness of counterterrorism operations. One of the major issues impacting the effectiveness of these budgetary allocations is poor budget performance characterised by delays in the release of funds, corruption, mismanagement, and financial leakages. These systemic issues have severely undermined the attainment of collective security goals and the broader national aspirations of the Nigerian populace (Olaide et al., 2023). The defence sector, in particular, has been affected by these budgetary inefficiencies, which have hindered the consistent and effective implementation of counterterrorism strategies (Osewa, 2019; Adebajo, 2020). The frequent delays in the disbursement of allocated funds contribute to operational setbacks and reduce the responsiveness of military initiatives.

While increased defence budgets were intended to bolster the fight against terrorism, evidence suggests that the outcomes achieved in different years did not align proportionally with the levels of expenditure. There were significant instances where increased defence budgets did not translate into commensurate success in countering insurgent activities. This incongruity has raised concerns, particularly given allegations of gross misappropriation, embezzlement, and mismanagement of resources by top military officials and political figures. Such financial misconduct not only compromises the effectiveness of military campaigns but also dampens the morale of frontline officers engaged in counterterrorism operations (Osewa, 2019). The result is a weakened operational force that struggles to maintain momentum against agile and adaptable insurgent groups. Another critical point of concern is the lack of alignment between budgetary allocations and strategic military needs. While Nigeria's increased defence budget funded weapon acquisitions, training programs, and joint military operations, crucial areas such as intelligence gathering, surveillance, and community-based initiatives often remained underfunded (Adeyeye & Adedire, 2023). These gaps limited the capacity for preemptive measures and community cooperation, both of which are essential for sustainable counterinsurgency. The absence of a holistic strategy that integrates socio-economic solutions and community trust-building further emphasizes the limited impact of a predominantly military-centric approach (Ichimi, 2023; Emeka & Ogbuabor, 2024). The inefficiencies are compounded by weak inter-agency coordination and insufficient policy

coherence. Collaborative counterterrorism efforts with international partners, including the United States and regional bodies like the Multinational Joint Task Force (MNJTF), were often undermined by bureaucratic inertia and inconsistent policy implementation (Egonu et al., 2024). These factors impeded the smooth execution of joint operations and minimized the potential benefits of external support and partnerships. This research seeks to bridge the gap in understanding the dynamics between defence budget allocation and counterterrorism effectiveness in Nigeria. By analyzing the period from 2012 to 2022, this study aims to unravel the complexities that have hindered the expected impact of defence spending, identify systemic flaws within budget management, and explore potential strategies to optimize budget utilization for more effective counterterrorism. It is in view of the foregoing that this study has examined the impact of military operations funded by the defence budget on counterterrorism in Nigeria.

Methodology

The main objective is to examine the impact of military operations funded by the defence budget on counterterrorism in Nigeria. The study adopted the qualitative survey, literature was reviewed qualitatively, while thematic content analysis was used in analysing the secondary data.

Concept of Defence

The fundamental duty of any government is to protect and ensure the safety of its citizens at all times. Thomas Hobbes asserts that only the state possesses the means to guarantee security and prevent societal disorder, a role deemed central to a government's purpose (Eneje, 2022). Building on this, Eneje et al. (2022) argue that security is a dynamic state, encompassing the ability of a nation to safeguard its essential values and interests against threats. Security is founded on two critical pillars: maintaining socio-economic order amid internal and external threats, and supporting an international system that upholds core values and domestic stability (Eke & Uzoma, 2023). Security and defense imply a holistic approach, indicating that a territory should be safeguarded by armed forces and that national sovereignty is ensured by a democratic government, backed by the military, police, and citizens. This protection extends not only to defense against foreign threats but also to addressing internal challenges like unemployment, hunger, disease, homelessness, environmental degradation, and pollution (Achumba, et al, 2013).

Historically, security has centered on protecting people, making individual safety essential for true security. Eneje et al. (2022) emphasize that Nigeria's security framework should prioritize citizens as primary beneficiaries of security and developmental gains. Nigeria's security efforts, therefore, aim to strengthen government capacity in addressing both internal and external threats, combating crime and corruption, promoting growth, and enhancing the quality of life. Wilson (2014) identifies various facets of national security,

including political, economic, energy, homeland, cyber, human, and environmental security. Defence and security are generally associated with a state of safety, the protection of core values, and freedom from threats to these values. This concept reflects a nation's ability to preserve its developmental goals and uphold its essential interests (Uwubanmwun, & Osifo, 2016). In this study, the defence budget refers to the financial resources allocated by the Nigerian government to fund its defense and security sector, particularly to support military and counterterrorism operations. In this study, defence refers to the strategic actions, resources, and policies implemented by a nation to protect its sovereignty, safeguard its citizens, and maintain national security.

Defence Budget

A defence budget is a financial allocation set aside by a government to fund military and defense-related activities, including operational, personnel, equipment, research, and maintenance costs. It is a crucial component of a nation's defense policy and national security strategy (Chinn & Wassenhove, 2020). The budget reflects the government's commitment to safeguarding its sovereignty, maintaining military readiness, and addressing both domestic and international security challenges. The size and composition of a defense budget can vary significantly depending on a country's economic capacity, security priorities, and geopolitical considerations. Personnel costs represent a significant portion of most defence budgets. These costs include the salaries

and benefits for military personnel, both active-duty and reserve, along with civilian staff who support defense operations (Forte, 2007). This study adopted the conception of military budget by Chinn & Wassenhove (2020) as the working definition in this study.

Counterterrorism

Counterterrorism refers to the comprehensive set of actions, strategies, and measures adopted by governments, military forces, law enforcement agencies, and international organizations to prevent, respond to, and mitigate the impact of terrorism. It aims to eliminate or reduce the threat posed by terrorist organizations and individuals, ensuring the protection of national security, public safety, and global stability. Counterterrorism efforts are multifaceted and often involve a combination of intelligence, military operations, law enforcement actions, legal frameworks, diplomatic efforts, and community engagement. Central to counterterrorism is intelligence gathering, which involves identifying potential threats before they materialize. Intelligence agencies collect and analyze information on terrorist activities, plots, and the movements of individuals associated with terrorist organizations. The use of surveillance, data collection, and the monitoring of communication networks are common methods employed in this domain. Intelligence-sharing between countries and agencies is also vital, especially given that terrorism often transcends borders. This collaborative approach enhances the ability to detect and disrupt terrorist operations in a timely manner (Ranstorp, 2017). This study defines counterterrorism refers to the

strategic actions, military operations, and policies implemented by the Nigerian government and its military forces to prevent, combat, and respond to terrorist activities within the country.

Theoretical Framework: Resource-Based Theory (RBT)

The Resource-Based Theory (RBT) is a strategic management theory that examines how an organization's resources contribute to its performance and competitive advantage. Developed primarily through the works of scholars like Wernerfelt (1984) and Barney (1991), RBT suggests that organizations can achieve and sustain a competitive advantage if they possess valuable, rare, inimitable, and non-substitutable (VRIN) resources. These resources, which can include tangible assets, intangible assets, capabilities, and processes, are seen as central to the organization's ability to implement strategies effectively and respond to environmental challenges (Barney, 1991; Grant, 1991). In this study, RBT provides a valuable framework for analyzing how Nigeria's defence resources such as funding, military equipment, intelligence capabilities, and specialized personnel have been allocated and managed to counter terrorism. By focusing on resources within Nigeria's defence sector, RBT allows researchers to assess whether these resources meet VRIN criteria, contributing to effective counterterrorism efforts or identifying gaps in resource quality or allocation. For example, Nigeria's capacity for intelligence gathering or the availability of well-trained counterterrorism units could be evaluated as critical resources that impact the country's defense success against groups like Boko Haram and ISWAP.

The relevance of RBT to this study lies in its focus on internal resources as key drivers of strategic success. By applying RBT, researchers can examine how defense budget allocations influence the quality and capability of Nigeria's counterterrorism resources. This perspective is particularly pertinent given Nigeria's recurring challenges with resource mismanagement, corruption, and inefficiencies in defense spending, all of which can undermine the effectiveness of available resources in countering terrorism. Additionally, RBT can help identify where improvements in resource acquisition, maintenance, or deployment could maximize the effectiveness of Nigeria's defence budget in meeting counterterrorism objectives. However, by focusing on the strategic importance of resources, RBT underscores the need for Nigeria to optimize its defense assets to create a sustainable counterterrorism framework. It suggests that addressing internal weaknesses and building on existing strengths could enhance Nigeria's long-term security capabilities (Penrose, 1959; Barney, 1991). Therefore, RBT is relevant to this study as it provides a structured approach to evaluating the adequacy and utilization of Nigeria's defence budget in achieving counterterrorism goals.

The trends in Nigeria's defence budget between 2012 and 2022

The study by Olawuyi and Chukwuma (2022) examined the financial and structural challenges affecting pre-retirement training programs for military veterans in Nigeria. Conducted at the Nigerian Armed Forces Resettlement Centre in Lagos, it used qualitative interviews and surveys to evaluate

program efficacy. Findings highlighted that inadequate defense funding limited veterans' access to training, impacting their post-service economic reintegration. The study recommended that Nigeria increase its defence budget allocation to reintegration programs for military personnel. Research by Egonu et al. (2024) focused on Nigeria's financial commitment to managing insurgencies and armed conflicts, specifically through amnesty programs in the Northwest. Using a case analysis of government and military budget reports, the study found significant expenditures directed toward peace initiatives. While amnesty programs lowered immediate military costs, sustaining these peace efforts required ongoing funding, which impacted other critical defense allocations. Bello (2021) analyzed the socio-economic effects of Boko Haram's insurgency on defense spending and economic development in Northeast Nigeria. Employing a mixed-method approach of budget data analysis and interviews with policymakers, the study revealed that increased military spending in the region diverted resources from other economic development programs. This trend highlighted the budgetary challenges Nigeria faced between defense and socioeconomic priorities. Egwu (2023) traced how governance issues and corruption influenced Nigeria's defence budget. Through historical document analysis, the study reviewed defence budget reports and cases of corruption in the sector, finding that mismanagement and corruption reduced operational capacity and impacted critical defense funding. The study argued that transparency reforms are essential to optimize defense expenditure in Nigeria. A study by

Abdulwasaa and Kawale (2024) examined the relationship between defence spending, economic growth, and poverty in Nigeria, using econometric modeling to correlate defence budgets with GDP growth and poverty rates. The study found that increased defence spending to address security issues indirectly affected economic growth by diverting funds from other development sectors. High military expenditures in conflict zones strained Nigeria's budget, affecting poverty alleviation efforts. Fleurant and Quéau's (2016) study on defense spending, arms production, and transfers in Nigeria highlighted regional security needs and arms procurement as primary drivers of increased defense expenditure. Using comparative data analysis, the study found that Nigeria's defence budget grew significantly due to rising insurgency threats, with allocations directed toward strengthening national security and acquiring arms. Abbas and Xu (2024) explored the impact of defence expenditure on counterterrorism efforts in Nigeria. Through qualitative analysis of budgetary allocation trends and policy interviews, the study found that increased funding for counterterrorism was necessary, though inefficiencies in allocation limited effectiveness. The study recommended reallocation strategies for a more balanced long-term security approach. Olawuyi and Chukwuma's (2022) study investigated defence expenditure on veteran support programs. Using surveys and interviews with ex-military personnel, the research found that inadequate budget allocations for these programs hindered veterans' post-service reintegration. The study underscored the need for targeted funding within the defence budget to

address veterans' needs effectively. Kalu and Carre (2022) examined the impact of budgetary allocations to Nigeria's defence sector on economic development over an eight-year period. Using multivariate OLS analysis, cointegration analysis, and Granger causality tests, the study found that while N4.273 trillion was allocated to the military, Navy, and Air Force, the impact on economic development was insignificant. The study revealed that allocations to sectors like education, health, and agriculture positively influenced economic growth, while defence allocations had a negative effect. The authors recommended increasing and prioritizing budgets for defence, agriculture, and education, and sustaining high defense spending even after the insurgency is resolved. This review reveals several gaps, particularly concerning the nuanced effects of defence spending on broader socio-economic priorities and operational effectiveness.

Impact of military operations funded by the defence budget on counterterrorism in Nigeria

Abiodun, et al, (2020) aimed to assess the impact of defence budget allocation on counterterrorism success, with a focus on the Nigerian state's capacity to curb Boko Haram insurgency. The research, conducted in Nigeria, found that despite substantial investments, challenges such as corruption and mismanagement hindered effective military operations, impacting overall counterterrorism efforts (Abiodun et al., 2020).

Another study by Akinteye et al.(2024) delved into military strategies implemented in the northeastern region of Nigeria against Boko Haram,

examining the effects of U.S. Department of Defense training for Nigerian forces. Their findings suggest that while strategic training improved operational techniques, a consistent lack of resources and poor logistical planning often led to suboptimal results (Akinteye et al., 2024). **Also**, Duke (2019) focused on military logistics, investigating its importance for safeguarding national security and its role in supporting counterterrorism operations in Nigeria. Conducted within various Nigerian Armed Forces units, this study highlighted those inadequacies in logistical support, largely due to inefficient defence budgeting, reduced operational readiness, thus diminishing counterterrorism success (Duke, 2019). Similarly, Nosiri and Ibekwe's (2021) assessment of the Buhari government's counterterrorism response emphasized that while government initiatives increased spending, pervasive issues such as insufficient equipment and financial mismanagement impeded desired outcomes, particularly in the northeast, where Boko Haram's activities are concentrated (Nosiri & Ibekwe, 2021). The financial management practices of Nigeria's Armed Forces and their implications on counterterrorism were critically analyzed by Duke (2018). Conducted across major Nigerian military training facilities, this study aimed to determine how financial practices influenced counterterrorism effectiveness. Findings revealed that budgetary allocations were often inadequate and poorly managed, resulting in decreased military readiness, which compromised the efficacy of counterterrorism operations (Duke, 2018). Markovic (2021) focused on the specific challenge of terrorism

financing within Nigeria and Somalia, noting that despite Nigeria's counter-financing efforts, gaps in policy enforcement and transparency allowed terrorist funding to persist, undermining operational success (Markovic, 2021). Bowei's (2019) evaluation of counterterrorism strategies in Nigeria targeted various insurgency hotspots, finding that external control mechanisms, including financial oversight, influenced the efficacy of Nigerian forces. The research highlighted the destabilizing effect of inconsistent foreign funding and misappropriation within defense sectors, which negatively impacted military efficacy in counterterrorism (Bowei, 2019). Luqman (2023) explored Nigeria's ongoing struggle with Boko Haram in the northeast, attributing operational failures largely to corruption and inconsistent budget allocation. The findings illustrated that while Nigeria's defense budget had grown, internal inefficiencies continued to erode counterterrorism success (Luqman, 2023).

The major challenge affecting the success of defence budget in Nigeria

The challenges impeding the efficient use of defense resources in Nigeria highlights several critical issues such as corruption, inadequate logistics, poor budget management, and weak inter-agency coordination. Research across diverse case studies reveals consistent patterns, with various structural and operational factors collectively hindering Nigeria's ability to deploy resources effectively in response to both internal and external security threats. Kunmavo and Adeleke (2024) analyzed Nigerian counterterrorism

strategies and identified significant obstacles to efficient resource use, notably corruption and logistical inefficiencies. Conducted across military installations in northern Nigeria, their study found that these challenges create substantial delays and inefficiencies, weakening Nigeria's counterinsurgency capabilities (Kunmavo & Adeleke, 2024).

Similarly, Alli (2012) explored Nigeria's regional security policies and emphasized how inconsistent defense funding, coupled with inadequate policy frameworks, weakens national defence strategies, particularly in border security. **Also**, Ploch (2013) investigated broader security challenges, noting that bureaucratic inefficiencies and the lack of an integrated defense policy in Nigeria hinder optimal resource allocation. His research emphasizes that these challenges are aggravated by overlapping agency roles, which result in resource mismanagement and operational overlap. Anyadike and Nkechi (2013) focused on Nigeria's security challenges posed by Boko Haram, identifying that the defence budget allocations often fail to address the logistical needs of field operations. Their findings show that although funds are allocated, they rarely reach operational units effectively due to layers of administrative bottlenecks. Omede (2011) examined the impact of political instability on defence spending, finding that corruption in military procurement significantly hampers Nigeria's military readiness. His findings, derived from interviews with military personnel, suggest that a considerable portion of the budget is lost to corrupt practices, leading to insufficient equipment and morale issues within the armed forces. Ighomereho (2013)

further highlighted how defence budget mismanagement affects the business environment, as the misappropriation of resources leads to increased insecurity, which in turn discourages economic investment in affected regions.

Again, Awotayo et al., (2024) conducted a recent analysis of Nigeria's multiple security challenges, stressing that complex bureaucratic processes in the defence sector significantly impede resource mobilization. Their research, set in the context of Nigeria's recent insurgency responses, found that these administrative delays prevent timely responses to security threats. Reis, Oliha, and Osasona (2024) focused on cybersecurity and found that ineffective defense budget management limits Nigeria's capacity to handle new-age threats like cybercrime, which require specialized funding and resources that are often unavailable due to competing budgetary needs. The review on challenges impeding the efficient use of defence resources in Nigeria highlights critical issues such as corruption, logistical limitations, poor budget management, and weak inter-agency coordination.

Discussion

Although studies such as those by Olawuyi and Chukwuma (2022) and Egonu et al. (2024) provide insights into specific areas like veterans' programs and amnesty initiatives, there is limited exploration into how fluctuating defence budgets impact long-term sustainability and resource allocation across different military needs. Moreover, while researchers like Bello (2021) and

Abiodun et al. (2020) address the negative trade-offs between defence spending and socio-economic growth, comprehensive data on how these trade-offs vary regionally within Nigeria remain scarce. Similarly, studies by Egwu (2023) and Abdulwasaa and Kawale (2024) highlight governance issues, yet detailed analyses of how mismanagement affects operational efficiency across military branches are lacking. Finally, while studies have assessed short- and long-term economic impacts, as seen in Apanisile and Okunlola (2014) and Anyanwu et al. (2019), a holistic understanding of the cumulative effect of defence expenditure on Nigeria's overall security strategy, including aspects such as technology adoption, training, and infrastructure, has not been fully addressed. This literature gap underscores the need for comprehensive, longitudinal studies that integrate regional, governance, and strategic factors to assess the implications of Nigeria's defence expenditure trajectory more accurately.

This review presents several gaps, particularly in examining the intricate dynamics between budget allocations, operational efficacy, and sustainability. While numerous studies highlight issues like corruption, financial mismanagement, and inadequate logistical support (Luqman, 2023), there is a limited focus on how these issues vary across different regions within Nigeria and affect specific military divisions. Additionally, research such as Iwuoha (2019) explore foreign aid and training influences, but more extensive analysis is needed on how Nigeria can balance reliance on foreign assistance with the development of autonomous counterterrorism

capabilities. Furthermore, while studies by Onuoha et al. (2023) and Aina and Thompson (2024) underscore the importance of accountability in financial investments, there is a lack of in-depth evaluation on effective accountability frameworks that could enhance counterterrorism success. Finally, although works like Omeni (2017) discuss policy inconsistencies, they provide limited insights into systematic policy reforms and coordination mechanisms that could address underlying inefficiencies, optimize budget utilization, and improve strategic outcomes in the fight against insurgencies.

However, several gaps are apparent in the existing literature. First, while studies like those by Kunmavo and Adeleke (2024) and Benjamin and Gbenenye (2023) emphasize corruption and legal gaps, there is limited in-depth analysis of successful anti-corruption measures in comparable defense sectors worldwide that could inform Nigerian reforms. Additionally, while some studies discuss logistical inefficiencies, little research has specifically examined the effectiveness of potential technological advancements, such as enhanced tracking and resource management systems, in mitigating these logistical challenges. Furthermore, while works like Awotayo et al. (2024) and Reis et al. (2024) note the limitations in cybersecurity and new-age threats, there is insufficient focus on the interplay between cybersecurity needs and conventional military demands within the defense budget. Finally, although there are discussions on the need for balanced resource allocation, as noted by Brown (2019), few studies provide a concrete framework for integrating defense and civilian security spending to achieve holistic national security.

These gaps underscore a need for more comprehensive analyses that incorporate best practices, advanced technologies, and an integrative approach to optimize resource efficiency in Nigeria's defense sector.

Conclusion

The study concluded that while defence budget is significant to the security of lives and properties across the country, there is a disconnect between security funding and social and economic development because the more funding channel to defence the lesser the fund that would be directed to social development like education, health and infrastructural development which help reduce people's involvement in criminal activities that threatens national security in Nigeria. Hence, the study is premised that defence budget increment alone is not a viable solution to terrorism/insurgency in Nigeria but a collective approach that embodies major social, economic and political lapses in the country.

Recommendations

It is in view of the foregoing that this study recommends that government (national Assembly, Ministry of Finance) should reconsider prioritizing social-economic reforms to address demographic and environmental changes that influences security challenges in Nigeria before increasing defence budgets to burst improvement of the military capacity to contain terrorism/insurgency. This is given that non-kinetic measures of

counterinsurgency is gaining more acceptance than the use of force. Hence, this study owed that national resources should be redirected towards addressing specific sociological issues (youth unemployment, drug abuse, poverty, poor governance, religious intolerance, infrastructural decay and corruption) among other pressing challenges that weakened the institutional capacity to contain security breach across the country.

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General Assessment Report

1. This is a well written article and can be publish with minor correction
2. The abstract need to be rewrite to provide direction of the article
3. There is issues of structure and methodological gap that need to be clarify as suggested above
4. The objectives, research questions and conclusion don't fully align
5. Conclusion and recommendations should be separated
6. Some References are not found in the body of the work and some cited work are not in the reference list