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ECONOMIC DOWNTURN AND RISING INSECURITY IN NIGERIA: THE REVERSE CAUSALITY

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ABSTRACT
Successive economic recessions and rising cases of insecurity in Nigeria, particularly in the past two decades have formed topical issues of various policy discourses in Nigeria and diaspora. Poverty and its concomitant affect both rural and urban dwellers that are subject to the realities of the same economic situation. The endless disruption of people's means of livelihood, as well as the feeling of insecurity in one's native land has resulted in a seemingly hopeless situation, with enormous socio-economic implications. The objective of this paper is to identify the major factors responsible for persistent economic downturns and rising cases of insecurity, its effect on the sustainable development of the country, and the implication of not adopting a pragmatic approach to address the situation. The paper is aimed at establishing a "cause and effect" relationship between the recent economic downturn in Nigeria and the escalating cases of insecurity, and vice versa, with a view to finding a lasting solution to the twin problems. Data for this study were generated from both primary and secondary sources. Frustration/Aggression Theory was adopted as a framework for analysis. The findings of this paper show that ethnic politics, non-adherence to the merit criteria, and lack of sustainable economic policies, as well as its implementations, are partly responsible for the prevailing economic quagmire and the continued state of security/insecurity dilemma in the country. It recommends above all, the spirit of patriotism to national service, credible electoral process, strict adherence to the principle of meritocracy, as well as the articulation and implementation of suitable economic policies as a panacea to the current menace.

KEYWORDS: Economic Downturn, Security, Insecurity, Sustainable Development, Economic Stability

INTRODUCTION

At independence, Nigerians embraced a robust economy predominantly based on agriculturally related activities, with variations across various regions of the country. The strive to identify and consolidate on what seemed to be the comparative advantage of various regions, to a large extent, underscores the stable economy in the early years of the post-independence era. The discovery of large deposits of crude oil at Oloibiri, in the present day Bayelsa state of Nigeria, marked the dawn of a new era in the socio-economic history of the young sovereign state. The golden age of agriculture was however accompanied by the era of economic boom occasioned by the abrupt increase in the price of crude oil at the world market. A decline of which later culminated in oil glut. The austerity measure became the policy trust aimed at reducing the cost of governance. It was however short-lived as military direct involvement in state affairs changed the narrative. The age-long questionable electoral processes in Nigeria, and the inability of political elites to live up to their manifestoes, have significantly affected the socio-political and economic wellbeing of the country, thus constituting an impediment to its sustainable development.

Nwagbosa (2012) posits that the failure of successive administrations in Nigeria to address the challenges of poverty, unemployment and inequitable distribution of wealth among ethnic nationalities, is one of the major causes of insecurity in the country. With an overwhelming population of over Two Hundred Million citizens, and vast deposits on precious natural resources, the inability of the state to utilize these great potentials and endowments further affirms Achebe's assertion that:

> "There is nothing basically wrong with the Nigerian character. There is nothing wrong with the Nigerian land or climate or water or air or anything else. The Nigerian problem is the unwillingness or inability of its leaders to rise to the challenge of personal example which is the hallmark of true leadership. The trouble with Nigeria is simply and squarely a failure of leadership".

The ever-growing conflicting interests have degenerated into crisis and agitations from diverse groups. With the recent reports bothering on unemployment rate, coupled with the increased price of goods in the commodity market, a corresponding rise in cases of insecurity and petty crimes are not unanticipated. Adeleke (2013) observed that insecurity in Nigeria has led to the destruction of lives, properties and equipment, resulting in relocation and closing down of business.

From the foregoing, we can categorically assert investment in state security apparatus, to the neglect of the teaming population of roaming young Nigerians will result in futility. Hence, the rising insecurity in the country is closely linked to the inability of government to fulfill her part of the Social Contract. Conversely, while persistent economic downturn fuels insecurity, the

prevailing state of insecurity affects and distorts peoples' means of livelihood, hence, the reverse causality. The greatest effect of the persistent economic downturn and rising insecurity in recent times is that of Capital Flight and Brain Drain. The study seeks to identify the major factors responsible for persistent economic downturns and rising cases of insecurity in Nigeria, to determine the effect of persistent economic downturns and rising cases of insecurity on the sustainable development of the country and to suggest measures of curbing the problems, as well to forestall future occurrences.

STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

Nigeria, the most populous country in Africa, is perceived to be among the countries with the brightest prospects of economic development in the near future. However, economic growth should not be used synonymously with development, as a country can witness consistent economic growth without corresponding indices of sustainable development. This perhaps, is the case of Nigeria, as there is no "trickle-down effect" of the wealth of the nation on the lives of her citizens. With a population of over Two Hundred Million and rising, Nigeria is Africa's most populated country; and one of the most populated countries of the world, thus, making its governance difficult. The country is being splintered with over Two Hundred and Fifty ethnic groups, over Five Hundred and Twenty languages, a stark and sometimes violent Christian – Muslim divide, as well as a spatial Rural – Urban demographic bias.

International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD, 2007) discovered that despite Nigeria's huge resources and oil wealth, poverty is still rampant to the extent that the country is ranked one of the 20 poorest countries in the world. Supporting the above assertion, Andenrele (2014) maintained that, indeed, over 70 percent of the Nigerian population is classified as poor, with 35 percent living in abject poverty.

Aside the above mentioned disparities, the endemic corruption, inequality in level of income; rising poverty and periodic outbreak of diseases, all contribute to the challenge of governance. The quest of political power and politics of resource control, add to the already burning rage in the Nigerian polity. The growing poverty and its effect on majority of the population have further led to the impoverishment of the masses. The result of such situation is the development of underdevelopment of the Nigerian economy and the state at large. It should be noted at this juncture that social conflicts are inevitable outcomes of human actions and decisions; it is inherent in all human societies and has come to stay. However, the rising cases of insecurity are occasioned by the enduring economic crisis.

CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK

Economic downturn is by no means a new concept in the lexicon of social sciences and development studies as numerous scholars tend to

define it from their diverse backgrounds and perspectives. According to Mckinney and Scalia (2021), it refers to a significant economic decline experienced by a country. Generally speaking, economic recession is usually accompanied by a drop in the stock market, an increase in unemployment, and a decline in the housing market. Conventionally, a recession is less severe than a depression. The blame for a recession falls on the federal leadership and the entire administration. Economic downturn is an unpleasant part of the business cycle, characterized by a rash of business failures and often bank failures, slow and negative growth in production, and increased unemployment. The outcomes of economic downturns can adversely affect the national economy, leading to perceived stagnation.

Insecurity refers to the feeling of threat, uncertainty and inadequacy, based on fear and anxiety. It also implies lack of confidence, assurance or self-doubt. Udoh (2015) posits that it is a state of being subject to danger or injury. The existence of insecurity in Nigeria is evident in the emergence of several illegal armed groups, ethnic militia groups, religious fundamentalists and fanatics, the yet to be identified arms wielding sect (unknown gunmen), kidnappers and secessionists.

However, the political entity known as Nigeria is currently plagued with dramatic increase in violence, terrorism and other related cases of violence. The emergence and escalation of the persistent cases of violence is encouraged by the porous nature of our borders, proliferation of light arms and small weapons, militancy and the prevailing economic quagmire. Hence, economic downturns and rising insecurity depicts two-sides of the same coin, each leading to the other, and vice versa.

This paper, therefore, reviewed related literature under the following sub-thematic issues:

- Economic Downturns in Nigeria: Issues and Challenges
- Leadership Crisis, Corruption and the Challenge of Good Governance
- Farmers – Herders Conflicts and Food Security in Nigeria
- Abduction of Travellers, School Children and the Quest for Survival in a Dwindling Economy

ECONOMIC DOWNTURNS IN NIGERIA: ISSUES AND CHALLENGES

The rapidly growing inconsistency in our economic policies and the failure of state institutions to address the problem of abject poverty is more glaring in recent times than ever before. Among the major challenges facing the growth of the Nigerian economy are: epileptic power supply, rising insecurity, deplorable road network, inadequate rail lines to connect all the federating units, decline in food production, and poor budgetary implementation. Boarder closure, despite being part of the Trade Protectionist policy of the Buhari led administration, has taken

a toll on the well-being of Nigerians. Given the unprecedented demographic growth in Nigeria, the provision of a corresponding basic social infrastructure to meet the needs of the population should be the concern of leaders. An earlier prediction by the African Development Bank (ADB) states that the Nigerian economy will not make any significant improvement in the year 2020 and the preceding years, and cautioned that some sectors of the economy will likely remain and wallow in dire straits.

The implication of the above prediction is that the present quagmire of the Nigerian economy is not largely caused by the outbreak of the deadly pandemic, as many claim. Prior to the outbreak of the pandemic, the country had for long been trapped in severe economic mess, hence, the need for occasional borrowings which was never utilized to improve on the status quo.

More so, the most frightening aspect of the prediction by the African Development Bank is that in the coming years, the Nigerian economy will be plagued by low and stagnating growth, poverty, inflation and fluctuating income receipts. From all indications, the predictions are coming to pass in worse ways than expected. The onus lies on the policy makers, drivers of the Nigerian economy and leaders at all levels to change the narrative, with the support of well-meaning and patriotic Nigerians.

Furthermore, the fact that federal government spends over fifty percent (50%) of federally collected revenue on debt servicing, and yet, keeps borrowing, constitutes an impediment to the economic growth and sustainable development of the country.

Available figures from the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) show that:

- Nigeria's year-on-year inflation rose to 12.1% in January 2020
- On a month-on-month basis, average prices grew by 0.87% in January, a marginal increase from 0.85% recorded in December 2019
- Some of the major factors responsible for increase the average price level include:
- High cost of doing business
- Continued closure of the land borders
- Higher consumer demand
- Imported food inflation

Another major challenge facing the economic growth and sustainable development of Nigeria is that of the under-utilization of human resources. Nwafor, Ojiako, Okonkwo and Onyeulo, (2023), pointed out that there is a wide-range of resources at the disposal of any given organization. These include: time, machines and equipment, structures and finances, but human elements have been identified as the greatest resource available to any given organization Demographic composition depicts a double-edged sword. Population by its very nature constitutes a blessing if properly utilized or a curse if mismanaged. Onah (2010:162) quoting Barney (1995:50) opined that human resources include all the experiences, skills, judgments, abilities,

knowledge, contracts, risk-taking and wisdom of individuals and associates within a given place. Affirming the above assertion, Fredrick Harbison in his "Human Resources as the Wealth of Nations" observed that Human Resources, not capital, constitute the ultimate basis for the wealth of nations. Therefore, capital and natural resources are factors of production: human beings are the active agents who accumulate capital, exploit natural resources, build social, economic and political organizations, and advance the course of national development.

LEADERSHIP CRISIS, CORRUPTION AND THE CHALLENGE OF GOOD GOVERNANCE

It is a well-known fact that Nigeria is richly endowed with enormous resources to provide for the needs of her people, but corruption in public offices at all levels has made it impossible for public servants to focus on the provision of essential needs for the people – a situation Hazen and Horner (2007) described as "Paradox of Plenty".

Since independence in 1960, the political entity now known as Nigeria has continued to lack the most essential prerequisite for sustainable development – that of a patriotic, goal-driven, people-oriented and visionary leadership. The violent tussle for the acquisition, consolidation and use of political power both in Nigeria and in many other African Countries is staggering. Going by antecedents of past regimes and administrations in Nigeria, we can rightly conclude that it is not for the interest of the masses that political gladiators vie for elective positions. Egeonu (2018) posits that corruption among the leaders of Africa has reached superlative proportion, adding that no society survives unmitigated corruption. Nkata (2015) identified the seven challenges of leadership in Africa as:

- The policy of rewarding friends and punishing enemies
- Nepotism
- Blurred vision of leaders
- Competition for pre-eminence
- Corruption
- Dictatorship, and
- Failure to re-define goals

The pardoning of the purported repentant insurgents, contrary to the doctrine of the rule of law, amounts to injustice and gross abuse of power.

FARMERS – HERDERS CONFLICTS AND FOOD SECURITY IN NIGERIA

Farmers – Herders' conflicts also known as herdsmen terrorism revolves around land disputes for cattle grazing majorly between Muslim herders of Fulani extraction and Christian farmers across Nigeria, particularly in the North Central (Middle Belt) region of the country since the return of democracy in 1999. However, the recent developments show that it has metamorphosed into a deadly arms-wielding terrorist group, ranking fourth in the World by the Global

Terrorism Index ranking of World's Terrorist Groups. Their alleged activities include: grazing their flock on peoples' farmlands, slaughtering of farmers in cold blood right on their farmlands, molesting of women and girls along lonely paths, to mention but a few.

The conflicts between farmers and herders are largely linked to the inflow of cattle to graze on peoples' farmlands, thereby destroying their crops, labour and resources. The implication of such atrocious acts include: low yield, reduction in the market value of crops, food scarcity, increased price of food items in the commodity market and economic loss for the farmers. Braum (2007) maintained that over the coming decades, a changing climate, growing global population, rising food prices, and environmental stressors will have significant, yet, highly uncertain impacts on food security. The turn of the 21st witnessed an overwhelming increase in population which has grossly outgrown food production and supply.

Supporting this view, Bassey and Aniah (2012) contends that:

> "The impact of conflicts goes beyond psycho-social, economic, demographic, and includes environmental implications. They maintained that conflicts lead to bio-diversity loss, reduced agricultural productivity, produce environmental refugees and displaced people who overstretched the carrying capacity of the environment, causes poor sanitation and diseases that can be harmful to the environment".

Recently, farmers – herders clashes has spread across various regions in the country. Supporting this view, Ashara (2011) observed that Nigeria has a history of violent relations between farmers and herders, especially in the Northern part of the country, adding that all over the country, conflicts between crop farmers and herders have resulted in the death of persons, destruction of properties the displacement of many persons. In fleeing their homes for places of safety, most Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) rarely have access to life support and basic health care.

Available statistics from the Global Terrorism Index reveals that these conflicts resulted in over 800 deaths by 2015, a figure that has continued to increase rapidly in subsequent years. In May 2018, over 400 herdsmen attacked the villages of Lamurde, Bang, Bolk, Zumoso and Gon in Numan and Lamurde local councils of Adamawa State, killing 15 people. Despite the atrocities of this group, the Buhari led administration has consistently refused to proscribe it as a terrorist group; neither have members of this group been arrested.

The recent attacks is aimed at disrupting agricultural activities, leading to food scarcity and hike in the price of agricultural commodities. Sedimentary rural agrarian communities often constitute targets of such attacks owing to their vulnerability.

ABDUCTION OF TRAVELLERS, SCHOOL CHILDREN AND THE QUEST FOR SURVIVAL IN A DWINDLING ECONOMY

In most parts of the country, particularly in the North East, persistent hardship has forced some able-bodied youths to embrace crimes as a survival strategy. The recent cases of invasion of educational institutions, abduction of students and teachers, kidnapping of travellers, as well as demanding for mind blowing sums as ransom for the release of abducted victims appears to be the most lucrative business. This ugly development has greatly distorted academic activities in the affected parts of the country particularly in the Northern Nigeria, leading to increased number of out of school children, as well as increased the prevalence of street begging. The gruesome massacre of un-ransomed victims is a clear indication that the perpetrators of such abominable acts are up to no good. The extortionist activities of the security operatives deployed to various parts of the South East Nigeria, as against where there presence are actually needed, to rise up to their duty of suppressing external aggressions, as well as internal insurrections leaves one with the doubt relating to the expertise of our security system.

In 2018, unemployment rate in Nigeria was 22.6%, as against 10.6% in 2012. According to Bloomberg Report of 2021, unemployment rose to 33% in the fourth quarter of 2020, the second highest in on the global list. This rate rose to 33.3% in three months through December, according to a Report published by the National Bureau of Statistics. That is up to 27.1% in the second Quarter of 2020, the last period for which the Agency released Labour-Force Statistics, translating to 23.2 million people. Furthermore, available Statistics have shown that more than half of the Nigerian labour force is underemployed.

Notwithstanding the economic pressure caused by the increasing rate of unemployment, the kidnapping of school children for ransom by bandits constitutes only a part of the prevalent insecurity that threatens the collapse of the fragile Nigerian economy and fragmenting the country. Most recently, Nigerians all over the country are groaning under the scourge of Islamic terrorists, secessionists, armed robbers, ritualists and all manners of criminal elements. These problems need to be apprehended and tackled holistically, as captured by Dakuku Peterside, (Premium Times, June 21, 2021).

A United Kingdom based Reuters News Agency and Qatar based Al-Jazeera Television reported:

- The kidnap of 80 students and 5 teachers
- The killing of a policeman in the attack of Federal Government College Birnin Yauri, Kebbi State
- The kidnap of Chibok School Girls in 2014
- Massive abduction of Students in Dapchi, Yobe State
- The 2020 attack on Government Boys Science Secondary School in Kankara,

Kastina State

- The abduction of 27 students of Government Science School Kagaira, Niger State and 15 others on the 17th February, 2021
- The kidnap of 317 Female Students of Government Girls Secondary School, Jangede, Zamfara State.
- The abduction of about 150 School Children of Salihu Islamic School Regina, Rafi Local Government Area
- The abduction of 39 Students of Federal College of Forestry and Mechanization, Kastina in early February 2021
- The abduction of 20 Students and 3 Non-Academic Staff of Greenwood University in April 2021

According to Beland (2005) insecurity entails lack of protection from crime, being unsafe and lack of freedom from psychological harm. It also denotes being unprotected from emotional stress resulting from quality of assurance that an individual is accepted, has opportunities and choices to fulfill his or her own potentials, including freedom from fear.

Onime (2018) observed that Nigeria is currently bedeviled by a plethora of civil unrests and insecurities, including, but not limited to the following:

- Armed robbery
- Kidnappings and ritual killings
- High profile murder and political assassinations
- Herdsmen's disturbances and clashes with farmers
- Violent agitations for resource control, especially in Niger Delta of Nigeria
- Non-Violent agitations for self-determination as observed in South East Nigeria
- Terrorist attacks epitomized by Boko Haram in the North East Nigeria
- Ethnic and religious tensions
- Communal land disputes typified by Aguleri-Umuleri crisis in Anambra State
- Political/Post election Violence

Ndubuisi-Okolo and Anigbuogu (2019) observed that Nigeria which is perceived as the giant of Africa has witnessed unprecedented incidences of insecurity, ranging from the activities of Fulani Herdsmen, Boko Haram Insurgencies, Armed Robbery Attacks, Kidnappings, Political/Religious Crisis, Murder, Destruction of Oil Facilities by the Niger Delta Militants, Child Abduction/Trafficking etc. However, Ojiako, Okoye and Edokobi (2021) argued that, notwithstanding the recent turn of events, one can rightly assert that Civil Disobedience and Violent Demonstrations are unconventional features of the Nigerian polity.

THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

In our attempt to anchor this study in its proper perspective, there is need to adopt a suitable theory as a framework for analysis. Hence, the paper aligns with the Frustration/Aggression

Theory. This theory was propounded in 1939 and credited to the outcome of research conducted at the Yale University Institute of Human Relations, following the publication of a Monograph led by John Dollard, Leonard Doob, Neal Miller, O.H Mowrer and Robert Sears in 1939. Their celebrated book has tremendous effect in the interrogation and understanding of violence either at the personal level or an attack against the state. The theory states that "Aggression is a consequence of Frustration'. Put differently,

- The occurrence of an aggressive behaviour always presupposes the existence of frustration.
- The existence of frustration always leads to some form of aggression.

The major criticism of this theory is that frustrated individuals do not just act aggressively towards their perceived traducers but to everyone.

Again, it failed to explain why some out-groups are chosen to be scapegoats while others are not (Best, 2012). Among the basic tenets of the theory are……

- The denial of legitimate desire of an individual either directly or by the indirect consequence of how the society is structured, may lead to violence that will be directed at those he holds responsible or people who are either directly or indirectly connected to them.
- When expectations does not meet attainment, the tendency is for people to confront those they think are responsible for frustrating their ambition.
- Aggression is not just undertaken as a natural reaction or instinct as reality but individual or group reaction towards a perceived alienation and short changing.
- Frustration causes aggression, but when the source of frustration cannot be ascertained or challenged, the aggression gets displaced on an innocent target.

Hence, Afinotan and Ojakorotu (2009:193) assert that:

"When not arrested in time, leads to frustration, when it builds up, leads to the rising up of suppressed emotion of anger, which is often directed against the party considered to be the source of deprivation of satisfaction. The strong emotion finally finds an outlet through aggressive and invariably violent disposition towards the environment".

APPLICATION OF THE THEORY

The prevailing economic downturns in Nigeria affect virtually all aspects of human lives. The depreciation of our currency value which is made manifest by the exchange rates, has led to increased frustration on the part of the citizens, particularly the fixed salary earners whose monthly take home does not reflect the present economic realities. More so, the plight of unemployed population who despite not having reliable means of livelihood are faced with enormous expenses on daily basis leaves more to ponder on. In most parts of the country, a

proportionate fraction of citizens go to bed hungry, others without conducive homes, while some can hardly access medical attention. For such people, living below the poverty line becomes a routine caused by social exclusion.

GAP IN LITERATURE

Available literatures contain issues like effect of rising insecurity to sustainable development of Nigeria. However, they fail to adequately establish the link between persistent economic downturn and rising cases of insecurity, and vice versa, as it affect the sustainable development of Nigeria. This study, however, is intended to contribute to the efforts towards filling this gap.

RESEARCH DESIGN

Survey method was adopted for sourcing the appropriate data needed for formulating the research questions, research objectives and developing of the method to be used in data collection.

Qualitative data was adopted for this research. Since the study centered on Economic Downturn and Rising Insecurity in Nigeria, it enabled the researchers describe how growing insecurity impede economic stability and sustainable development in Nigeria as well as government's efforts to manage the situation.

METHOD AND SOURCES OF DATA COLLECTION

The data for this study were gathered from both primary and secondary sources. The primary data were obtained from interviews and focused group discussions, while the secondary data were obtained from newspapers, journals, conference proceedings, lecture materials and the internet.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION OF THE STUDY AREA

The present day Nigeria is a product of an expensive historical mistake born out of the insatiable quest for Africa's vast crude resources and administrative convenience. The amalgamation of the defunct Northern and Southern protectorates by the erstwhile colonial powers under the administration of Sir Fredrick Lord Lugard resulted in the present day Nigeria. The persistent crisis and cases of violence are rooted in the composition of the most populous Black Country in the world, and the Black Country with the highest number of ethnic groups and languages.

Presently, Nigeria is composed of six (6) geopolitical zones, thirty-six (36) states and seven hundred and seventy-four (774) local government areas, with a population density of over two hundred million (200,000,000) people.

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

The finding of this study shows that the failure of past and present administrations to articulate and implement favourable economic policies aimed at creating enabling environment for commercial ventures to thrive, non-adherence to the principle of meritocracy, as well as ethnic politics, are

responsible for the persistent economic downturns in Nigeria. In addition, the quest for survival amidst the dwindling economy has forced some able-bodied men and women to embrace crimes as the only available alternative for those who cannot make ends meet through legitimate means. The implication of their choice is renewed and rising insecurity on the lives and properties of citizens, with adverse effect to the economic growth and sustainable development of the country.

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

Nigeria had a strong, viable and potentially progressive economy until the emergence of political elites who have continued to allow their personal selfish ambition to precede national interests. Under-utilization of human resources for the development of the Nigerian economy affects the country's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and Per Capita Income. Aside not having stable power supply to facilitate the local production of home made goods, the inability of the relevant authorities to articulate and implement effective economic stabilization policies and programmes aimed at setting the Nigerian economy on the path of growth, has further compounded the already existing problem. Indeed, studies from other parts of the world have shown that economically stable countries are generally less violent and more secured than the impoverished ones.

From the foregoing, it is evident that the present administration is neither committed to address the challenges of persistent economic downturns nor to the fight against rising insecurity which constitute an impediment to the sustainable development of Nigeria.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Having established the nexus between Economic Downturn and Rising Insecurity in Nigeria, the paper posits the following recommendations:

There is need for government, through the relevant agencies, stakeholders and institutions to

- Articulate people oriented policies and programmes aimed at stimulating economic growth so as to resolve the current economic crisis, as well as avert future occurrences.
- Rise up to the task of securing the lives and properties of the citizens and residents as the fundamental responsibility of the government.
- Ensure severe punishments for insurgents and perpetrators of other related offences as a deterrent for others.
- Ensure fair and equal treatment to all, in compliance with the doctrine of Rule of Law.
- Ensure reliable and steady power supply to boost local production and storage of home-grown products.
- Encourage and support massive investment in commercial and mechanized agriculture to ensure food

availability and security for the ever-growing mal-nourished population.

- Create the enabling environment for young people to put their knowledge and skills to productive use by means of self-employment.

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