INSECURITY, A THREAT TO A SUSTAINABLE TOURISM DEVELOPMENT IN NIGERIA

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ABSTRACT

Tourism as well as recreational activities have contributed immensely to the socio-economic, cultural and political development of a nation. Incomes are generated, foreign exchange earnings are promoted as well as improving longevity of mankind, all these, through tourism activities. It is disheartening and saddening that the sector in Nigeria today, is confronted with insecurity which has adversely affected the sector. The study examines insecurity as a threat to a sustainable tourism development in Nigeria. It derives data from secondary sources and employs Merton's (1957) theory of anomie as a basis of its theoretical underpinnings. The study examines the contributions of tourism to development. It looks into some of the tourism potentials in Nigeria and also highlights ways through which insecurity has affected the sector. The study recommends ways to reduce insecurity in Nigeria so as to attain a sustainable tourism development. The study will be of great importance to researchers and policy makers.

Keywords: Insecurity, tourism, sustainable development and conceptualization.

1.1   GENERAL INTRODUCTION: MEANINGS AND CONCEPTS

Tourism could be defined as the sum of the phenomena and relationship arising from the travel and stay of non-residents, in so far as they do not lead to permanent residency and are not connected with any earning activity (Bryden, 1972). On the other hand, Wall. et. al. (1985) indicated that tourism involves the movement of people away from their temporary sojourn in other locations.

Kehinde (1990) in her contributions to the explanation, conceived tourism as involving five main characteristics viz: Tourism evolves from movement of people and study in various explanations. (b) Tourism involves two elements, the stay at the destination (c) the conditions in 'b' take place outside the tourist normal residence. The tourist activities differ from that of the resided and working population of the places through which tourist travels and stay. (d) the movement to destination is usually short-term with the intention to return within few days, weeks or months and (e) the destination visited are not visited for the purpose of taking up permanent residence or job. From the views of scholars cited above, it could be seen that tourism involves leaving one place of permanent abode to other tourist facilities centre or locations and keeping few or many bed-nights for the purpose of enjoyment.

1.2   IMPORTANCE OF TOURISM TO THE NIGERIAN ECONOMY

The socio-economic cultural and political contributions of tourism to the Nigerian economy cannot be over-emphasized. Tourism stimulus the exchange of educational, recreational and cultural values. According to

Holoway (1985), the growth of recreation and tourism have bridged the gaps of oceans and miles to foster understanding among people of varying reactions and cultures.

Tourism constitutes a method of developing and promoting certain poor or non industrialized regions, where traditional activities are on decline. The development of tourism provides an opportunity for a community to be developed. It accentuates the values of a society, which gives growing importance to leisure and relaxation activities that demand a high quality environment.

Moreover, with proper management, tourism ensures the long-term conservation of areas of outstanding natural beauty which have aesthetic and cultural values. For example, with tourism in Nigeria, the Kainji National Park, Borgu and Zurguma National Parks and Yankari Game reserve were best utilized. It helps to renew local architectural traditions on condition that regional peculiarities the ancestral heritage and the cultural environment are respected for example, tourism plays a prominent role in cultural sustainability of Osun Festival and Osogbo Argungun Festival in Argungun in Kebbi State.

Tourism attributes to the re birth of local arts and crafts and that of traditional cultural activities in a protected natural environmental setting. For example, beads and bangles making in Bida, dyeing, pottery and Calabash carvings in the Northern parts of Nigeria. In most of the favourable cases, tourism offers a way to revive the social and cultural life of the local government, thus, reinforcing the resident community, encouraging contacts within the country, a attracting, young people and favorable local activities.

Tourism provides job opportunities to the people in the environment thereby, reducing unemployment in the economy. It provides employment and income for those people working in the hotels, motels, holiday resorts, parks, gardens and other recreational and tourism centres.

The provision of physical infrastructures such as good roads, potable water, electricity, hotels accommodation, telecommunication, sporting activities, health facilities are other benefits tourism offers. For example, the rapid infrastructural development at such tourism centres in Obudu Cattle Ranch, Zoological gardens in Enugu and National museum in Port Harcourt are noted. Tourism has been an important medium for promoting international goodwill and friendship between Nigeria and other nations of the world. It is a cultural phenomenon, promoting the varied cultures and life styles, it helps to foster regional understanding, co-operation, social education among Nigerians and different regions of the world, especially in Africa.

However, despite the salient contributions of tourism to the national development, tourism in Nigeria as at present is being threatened with insecurity which if not tackled, could cripple down tourism development in the region.

1.3   TOURIST POTENTIALS IN NIGERIA

Nigeria is blessed with abundant tourist potentials which have contributed to socio-economic and political development. The essential and optimal components of tourism products are available. The essential components include transportation (conveying visitors) accommodation (providing shelter, security and comfort) and sustenance (food and beverages). On the other hand, the optional components are recreation facilities (swimming pools, tennis courts, indoors games, entertainment facilities (Theatre, cinema shows and science attractions, favourable climate and shopping facilities (Okpolo. et. al., 2008).

Such tourist potentials and attractions are classified within the six geo-political Zones in the country. These are: Zone one – North – Eastern Nigeria. This include such states as Borno, Yobe, Taraba, Adamawa and Bauchi

a)   Natural attractions

the natural attraction in this zones are lake chad sanctuary, Lake part, Lake Alau, Lake Njakira, Yankari National Parks, Lame Burra Game Reserve, Mambila Plateau, Hot spring at Lamale, Kamale Peaks of Mubi, Jangani Mountain range of Ganye, Zanda Hills, Maliki Dance of the Kanuri, Kukas Tomb of the Shehus, Lamido Palace at Yola, Keffin Madaki, History Moment, Shira rock, Legend snake at Guwo, Rabel fort at Dikwa, Shami-menwale Festival, Bade Fishing Festival, Kushi Festival, Pottery and Metal work, Calabash carving.

b)   North-Western zone (Kaduna, Katsina, Kano, Sokoto, Kebbi)

The tourist potentials in this zone include:

(a)   Natural Attractions: The River, Garden in Kaduna with its historical, bridge, Kusugu well in Daura, Buguadu/Rock Castle, Campaign ground at River Wudil, Wana Fabi and Kurugu Rock, Tigan Dam,

(b)   Cultural/Historical Attractions there are: Katsina City walls, Kano City Walls, Goborau market in Katsina, Van Awaki Camel Market. Durbar in Kano, Makama Museum, Kano Central Mosque, Argungun fishing festival, Sultan Palace (Sokoto), Usman Dan-Fodio Tomb,

(c)   North Central (Federal Capital, Plateau, Niger, Benue, Kogi Kwara)

i)   Natural Attractions in the area include, River Niger, River Benue, Kainji National Park, Gurara Falls, Shiroro Dam, Kainji Dam, Zuma Rock, Jos Plateau, Shere hills

ii)   Cultural/Historical Attractions

National Museum in Jos, National Zoological Garden, Jos, Bida glass, bead and bangles, Dyeing, Abuja pottery, International Airport (Abuja), Niger/Benue confluence zone at Lokoja, fishing festival at Katsina Ala, iron of Liberty Cenotaph Lokoja, Ajaokuta Steel Complex, Obajana Cement Complex, Jos Cultural Centre.

d)   South West Zone (Lagos-Oyo, Osun, Ondo, Ekiti and Ogun)

1.   Natural Attractions: These include. Badagry Beach, Bar Beach, Lagos, Tincan Park, Erin-Ijesa Waterfalls, Ikogosi Warm Spring, Ipole-Iloro Waterfalls, Olumo Rock, Lekki Beach, Idanre hills, Olosunta hills etc.

2.   Cultural/Historical Attractions: They are: Badargry Slave Trade Chain, Eyo Festivals, Tafawa Balewa Square, National Theatre Igammu, National Museum, Onikan, Osun-Osogbo Shrine, Owo Museum, the palace of the Obas, Agemo and Egungun Festivals.

e)   South Eastern Zone (Anambra, Enugu, Abia, Ebonyin and Imo States)

(i)   Natural Attraction in these area include: Agulu lake, Amaokpilla lake Udi hills, Coal Mines at Enugu, Agulu-Nanka Erosion, range of hills around Nsukka and Enugu, Oguta lake.

(ii)   Cultural and Historical Attractions, in the area include: Blacksmithing at Akwa and Nkwane wide range of local craft including pottery at Inyi, Achi and Awgbu Uzonyi cultural festival at Umuoji National Museum at Aba, Aba Central Market, Zoological Garden at Enugu, National War Museum at Umuahia

f)   South-South Zone (Edo, Delta, Akwa-Ibom, Rivers, Bayelsa and Cross River State.

(i)   Natural Attractions in these zones include: The wonder trees at Ikot-Ekpene, River Niger Holiday resort at Patani, River Niger Bridge at Asaba, Obudu Cattle Ranch, Oil tours of Sapele, Ugheli and Warri Oil refinery at Alasa-Eleme, Oil Museum at Oloibiri, Agbokin Water falls near Ikom, Alissa Beach etc. is cultural Historical Attractions in the zone are: Oron Museum, the Mask market at Ikot-Ekpene, King Jaja of Opobo's Grave, Grave of Mary Slessor in Calabar, Isaac Boro Park, National Museum in port at Brass and Bonny etc.

1.4   THEORETICAL BACKGROUND AND LITERATURE REVIEW

Merton's theory of Anomie is applied to this study. According to anomie's theory postulated by Merton (1957), social inequality leads to perception of anomie. To resolve the goals –means conflict and relieve their sense of strain, some people innovate by stealing or extorting money, others resort into drugs and alcohol, others rebel by joinery revolutionary groups and still others get involved in ritualist behaviour by joining cults.

He used the concept of anomie to fit, social, economic and cultural conditions found in modern U.S. society. He found that two elements of culture interact to produce potentially anomic conditions: culturally defined goals and socially approved means for obtaining them.

Merton argued, legitimate means to acquire wealth are stratified across class and status lines. Those with little formal education and few economic resources soon find that they are derived the ability to legally acquire wealth the pre-eminent success symbol. When socially mandated goals are uniform throughout society and access to legitimate means is board by class and status, the resulting strain produces anomie among those who are locked out of the legitimate opportunity structure. Consequently they developed criminal or delinquent solutions to the problem of attaining goals.

Merton's (1957) opined that social goals are essential for man's survival and each person has his or her concept of the goals of society and the means at his or her disposal to attain them. He expressed relationship between social goals, the means for getting them, and the individual actors. He suggested five modes of adaptation to the desired social goals the adaptation are:

Conformity: This occurs when individuals both embrace conventional social goals and also have the means at their disposal to attain, them. The conformist desire wealth and success and can obtain them through education and a high paying job.

Innovation: innovation occurs when an individual accepts the goals of society but rejects or is incapable of attaining them through legitimate means. Many people desire materials goods and luxuries but lack of financial ability to attain them, the resulting conflict forces them to adopt innovative solution to their dilemma. They steal, sell drug, or exort money.

If successful, innovation can have serious, long term social consequences. Criminal success helps convince other-wise law-abiding people that innovation means work better and faster than conventional ones. The prosperous drug dealers expensive car and flashy clothes give out the message that "crime pays".

Ritualism: Ritualism are less concerned about accumulating wealth and instead given pleasure from practicing traditional ceremonies regardless of whether they have a real purpose of goal.

Retreatism: Retreatists reject both the goals and the means of society. Merton (1957) suggested that people who adjust in this fashion are "in the society but not of it". Included in this category are: psycholics, psychoneurotic, tramps, chronic autists, pariahs, outcasts, outcasts, vagrants, vagabonds, chronic drunkards and

drug addicts. Because such people are morally on otherwise incapable of using both legitimate and illegitimate means, they attempt to escape their lack of success by withdrawing either mentally or physically.

Rebellion: This involves substituting an alternative set of goal and means for conventional ones. Revolutionaries who wish to promote radical change in the existing social structure and call for alternative lifestyles, goals and beliefs are engaging in rebellion. It may be a reaction to a corrupt and hated government or an effort to create alternative opportunities and lifestyles within the existing system.

This theory is very relevant to Nigeria context especially, as applicable to insecurity and mostly, tourism development. Most of the violence that have erupted in most of the areas of tourist potentials according to Idris (2011), could be traced to the poverty as well as illiteracy level of the Boko Haram sect which constitute a threat to sustainable tourism development in the North-Eastern Nigeria could be argued that if the leadership had lived up to its responsibilities by providing the basic amenities of life like: education, health, housing, employment for entrepreneurship, the sect would have died a, natural death rather than being rebellious in the contemporary time.

1.5   INSECURITY AND TOURISM IN NIGERIA

Insecurity in all its ramifications is a state of violence, anarchy, absence of peace and a state of disorderliness. It is saddening and disheartening that Nigeria may have joined the list of infamy among the committee of nations, as her emboldened hate gang unleashed gruesome suicide bombs in most of the cities and community in the country where precious life, edifies and properties worth millions of naira are destroyed. Church, University Campuses and other tourist attraction centres are not spared.

Insecurity in Nigeria has a multi-dimensional outlook, but all have adverse or negative consequences on tourist development. For example, it manifests inform of frequent social misdemeanors such as armed-robbery, social unrest, ritual killing, kidnapping, environmental decentralization problems, inter-ethnic/religious and intra-ethnic disputes, political and electoral violence, frequent Boko Haram bombing and terrorism. Sometimes, one begins to ask whether the spate of violence in the Nigeria, especially bombing in some parts of the country has led to many asking whether security and intelligence gathering have broken down in that part of the country.

Crimes, violent acts and civil unrest that impede national security and socio-economic and political development (tourism inclusive) are in abundance in Nigeria. There are some that are committed or occurred without proper documentation.

It is noteworthy that apart the conventional crimes of armed-robbery, murder, assault and so on, Nigeria has been on the global map since 1980, Kidnapping drug trafficking, advanced free fraud (419), human trafficking, money laundering, have been particularly identified with Nigerian transnational criminal syndicates or network (Dambazzau, 2007). Dambazzau (2007), maintained that crime has been identified as the most potent threats to National Security. It becomes a threat because it poses danger to the security of the nation. Crime is a threat to National Security because its impact is felt on all aspects of human activity such as economic, food, health, environmental, personal, political and social.

Lagi (2005) traced the historical antecedent of some crises in Nigeria from 1945-2004. He recalled the following civil interest in Nigeria. These are: the Jos riot in 1945; Kano riot of 1953, the TIV uprising of 1950-1960-1964, violence in Western Region 1962, Ethnic massacres within the Nigerian army which proceeded the

civil war 1967-1970, Maitassine, 1980, Ife/Modakeke 1981, Fugge crisis Kano, 1982, TIV/Jukun conflict 1990, Reinhard Bonke crisis, 1991, Zagon Kataf crisis, 1992, Mangul Bokkos, 1992-1995, Ugep/Idomi War 1992, Akaluka incidence (Kano) 1994, Tafawa Balewa crisis 1995, Jos ethno religious crisis 2001.

Between 2001 to date, several ethnic and ethno-religious conflicts have occurred in Nigeria. For instance, the Ovadama and Nko (Cross River) war in 2009 in Maduguri, the Boko Haram crisis in 2009 and Jos ethno-religious crisis in 2010. It is pertinent to note that reasonable numbers of our tourist products are found in these states and communities. For example, Plateau State with Jos as its state headquarters is one of the thirty six states in the Federal Republic of Nigeria that has tourism potentials ranging from beautiful scenes, spectacular rock formations, waterfalls, lakes, game reserve, zoological gardens, wild life park and Museum among others. This explain why Plateau State has been identified as the "Nigerian Tourism Haven" (Plateau State Tourism Board, 2009)

Regrettably, the recurrent ethnic and ethno religious crises have turned Plateau State, Nigeria, the foremost tourist haven into the home of unrest, hate and devils sanctuary where tourists must shy away (this has a negative impact on tourism development of both the region and Nigeria as a whole.

However, the frequent satanic bombing by the Boko Haram sect in most of the Nigeria cities is equally another threat to sustainable tourism development. Boko Haram activities, looking into its activities since it started 2009 could best be described as "act of terrorism". Its devilish and cruel activities have been felt in the major cities such as Maduguri, Kaduna, Minna, Suleja and even the Federal Capital centre-Abuja. Only in Abuja, the Federal Capital in the last two months, the police headquarters as well as the United Nations buildings were not spared. In this devilish act, precious and innocent citizens lost their life apart from the properties worth several millions of Naira that were lost.

Palpable fear now gripped the nation's capital and several cities in the northern part of the country in the last few months, because of the spate of bomb that have been exploding and killing people. The fear has become so rife that in Abuja today, many people think before attending functions at the Eagle square and other public places. For example, even if attendance to the square for any inauguration of President Goodluck Jonathan had not been restricted to "strictly by invitation, many would not have bothered to go there for fear of bomb exploding during the ceremony (Babalola, et. al., 2011)

The 50th Anniversary twin-bombing explosion near the square and other such happenings around the country, especially in the northern part of the country have made many to be wary of public places. The widespread killings and bomb explosions have driven people away from most public place such as gardens, drinking joints, and the popular mammy markets in most of the Army barracks. For example in Bauchi Military barrack, beefing-up security in most military barracks across the country while, the authority have been taking steps to review the laws that established such markets may be repealed.

The major reason why the spate of violence and insecurity have persisted in the country may be as a result of insensitivity on the side of the government to give the issue of security a priority. Some analysts on the other hard, opined that poverty and illiteracy were main the reasons the sect gained prominence in the country. They argued that, if the leadership had lived up to its responsibilities by providing, the basic amenities of the like education, health, housing employment or enabling environment for entrepreneurship, the sect would have died a natural death.

It was reported that on many occasions, security reports made available to government on the activities of the sect were not acted upon. In addition, the corruptible nature in the country paved ways insecurity to persist. Corruption has been a major cankerworm that has eaten deeply to the fabric of the nation. It affects nearly all the sectors of economy including judiciary. It is noteworthy that since the beginning of the violence and insecurity in the country, nobody or group of people has ever be arrested and prosecuted. The perpetrators of these evil acts have never been brought to book!

1.6   WAYS OF SUSTAINING TOURISM DEVELOPMENT IN NIGERIA

Since tourism has the potential to exercise vast influence on promotion of interaction between and among nations coupled with the fact that boosting the image of areas where located, it will also have a positive impact on economic viability of such areas and hence, promotes both regional and national development. It must be well protected from being suffered any set back, consequentially, these suggestions are recommended, the issue of security especially must be given a priority attention. In this regard, all hands must be on deck. Government must provide adequate security to every nook and corner so that the life and properties (tourism inclusive) in any location could be adequately secured.

In this regards, the citizens have great roles to play in the areas of maintenance of peace and security. This is because, rapid development in all ramification is abound to occur in an atmosphere of peace. People should not be afraid to give the law enforcement agencies the necessary information so as to curtail the activities of these social miscreants now emerging in the country.

Adequate and pragmatic provision of infrastructural facilities by the government should be pursued. Necessary amenities such as electricity, potable water, better health facilities as well as provision of employment be given necessary attention. Corruption which has eaten deeply to the fabric of a nation must be fought to a barest minimum. Good governance must the watchword. Government at all levels, must be made accountable while judiciary sector must be adequately revived. Judges must not be partial and must be ready to discharge their duties without fear or favour.

In addition, the law enforcement agencies: such as the police the civil defence as well the security services such as the Army, Navy, Air force, Custom and Immigration services be geared up to live up to their expectation. They should be better equipped to tackle the activities of violence insecurities, and other form of social unrest in the land. Above all, the orientation of people in the country should be changed. There should be better ways of resolving conflicts without resulting to violence and consequently, destruction of life and properties (tourism potentials inclusive)

CONCLUSION

This study has highlighted the contributions of tourism to both regional, national and global development taking Nigeria as a case study, and has recognized one of the major challenges the sector suffers which is insecurity, and this has manifested in various social unrests, such as: violence, kidnapping, armed-robbery, ritual killings free fraud, murder as well as bombing of some of the tourism potentials. The negative effects of insecurity on sustainable tourism development could not be over-emphasized. Hence, the study condemns all forms of insecurity as they are tantamount to the tourism development in Nigeria and suggests that, must be fought to a barest minimum to enhance sustainable tourism development.

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