

## **Development Administration and Administrative Development Interventions: Addressing Insecurity in Nigeria**

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### ***Abstract***

*The article is about the transition from the traditional public administration to development administration and administrative development to address the high level of insecurity in Nigeria. Currently the entire geo – political zones in Nigeria is bedeviled with insecurity which has impacted negatively on the image and economy of the country. The article made it clear that development administration and administrative development if properly introduced in public administrative system can address the myriads of insecurity issues since some of the causes of insecurity stem from the way the government is managing the affairs of the country. The article posited that promotion of peace and security, economic stability, confronting the sponsors of insecurity without compromise and using security bureaucrats to fight insecurity are keys to resolving security issues in Nigeria.*

**Keywords:** *Development Administration, Administrative Development, Insecurity, Intervention*

### **1.1 Introduction**

Development administration is a departure from the traditional public administration that is limited to following laid down rules and regulations without innovation. The traditional approach towards administration has been limited to the scope and premise, the basic of which was fixated and adherence to laid down rules and hierarchy. In essence, it has limited the role of administration to that of the conventional fire fighter or overseer of law and order in the comfort of laid down principles. Though nothing is actually wrong with this approach, but with the complexity and sophistication of trends in the society, there is need for a clear shift and innovation in administration. This is the essence of development administration and administrative development. Administration is a dynamic concept embracing the political, economic, social and administrative changes in the society (Kayode and Ashepo, 2022). For Weidner (1962) defined development administration as action-oriented, goal-oriented and administrative system. It is the process of guiding organizations to achieve progressive political, economic and social objectives that are authoritatively determined by the state (Kayode and Ashepo, 2022). Development administration is complete state backed administration to address issues responsible for the backwardness of the society, such as insecurity and other social problems values into addressing societal problems. Development administration triggers innovative values into addressing societal problems. It embraces the array of new functions assumed by developing countries that embarked on the path of modernization and industrialization (Riggs, 1976). Though there are diverse definitions to the meaning of development administration. The definition of development administration is about projects, programs, policies and ideas which are focused on the development of a nation with the point of view of socio-economic and socio-political development of the society in the general conducted by talented and skillful bureaucrats. The key variables in this definition are projects, programs,

policies, ideas and bureaucrats. The Nigerian government can decide to come out with innovative programs on how to fight insecurity that is bedeviling the entire country. As it stands today, to contend with insecurity in Nigeria there is need for massive innovation and scheduled programs considering how insecurity has caused serious devastation to the economy.

Insecurity in Nigeria has become a social problem that affects almost all the facet of Nigerian society. According to Ubi and Benard (2025) insecurity has become a social problem in Nigeria with the entire geopolitical zone engulfed in insecurity. Communal conflict has been very common in the African societies and the result of these conflicts is bloody calamity in the aspect of destruction of lives, property, livelihoods and hindrance to economic development (Omini and Friday, 2021). Communal crisis is visible in the Nigerian societies thereby escalating the state of insecurity in rural communities. This is where development administration and administrative development are needed to reduce or end the massive scale of insecurity in Nigeria. Insecurity is one of the reasons why some Nigerians have migrated out of Nigeria. These are Nigerians with requisite competence and skills migrating out of the country for their dear lives.

For Omini and Umahi (2024) posited that bad governance which led to poverty and insecurity are responsibly for young Nigerians and Africans migrating to Europe and America for better living condition. This article seeks to find solution to the state of insecurity using both development administration and administrative development tools.

## **1.2 Conceptual review of development administration**

Development administration is concerned with projects, programs, policies and ideas which are focused on the development of a nation, with the point of view of socio-economic and socio-political development in Nigeria conducted by talented and skilled bureaucrats. According to Adamu (2001) development administration can be viewed as the system of administration adopted by the underdeveloped or developing countries who have added the responsibility of transforming their national, poor and backward societies to become part of the modern world economic order. This definition is borne out of the development of a backward society which insecurity in Nigeria is taken and must be addressed using the methodologies of development administration. For Collins (1993) as cited in Uyo (2008) maintained that development administration is concerned with the achievement of change under conditions where change is difficult. Etim- James & Omini (2024) stated that development administration promotes the use of technology for administrative development

Fred (1971) defines the concept of development administration as an organized effort to carryout programs or projects by those involve to serve developmental objectives notably socio-economic development. This definition is directed towards the development of a primitive society tilted towards development using the appropriate machineries of development administration. Weldner (1962) defined development administration as action oriented, goal oriented administrative system. The main cruise of development administration is societal change and one of the change the Nigerian society is looking up to is to end the current spate of insecurity. The platform of development administration is the massive transformation of the society for the betterment of the people.

For Shradha (2015) development administration is a dynamic concept which brings about socio-economic and politico-economic changes in the society. Aiming towards development, it serves for change, growth, progress and overall development in every sphere of a country.

## **1.3 Conceptual review of administrative development**

Administrative development refers to the proliferation and expansion of the bureaucratic organization as the main instrument for programme implementation. Bureaucracy is an important instrument for policy implementation. Administrative development is enmeshed in political parties who contest election in order to manage the resources of the country if they win and get

into office. There are also interest groups, legislature, judiciary, electorates all have important role to play in the political development of the country including finding lasting solution to insecurity (Palombra, 1963).

Administrative development is one of the important matters in developing countries, effective administrative apparatus that contributes in preparing plans, then putting them into practice, carrying out follow-up work on implementing plans and amending them if implementation condition so require (Riad, 2023). According to Raid (2023) administrative development is defined as the process that seeks to improve and advance the level of administrative work, by depending on modern mechanisms that rely on it in controlling and organizing work and intensifying efforts in order to address problems and obstacles. Administrative development is also viewed as a pattern that aims to invest well in administration very effectively in order to achieve the desired goals. Administrative development is in the business of combating crises that confront establishments such as financial crises. The process of administrative development is a comprehensive development as the strategy applied by administrative development.

For Zainab (2020) the term administrative development reflects in the modern writings of public administration as partial result of the development attempts that are currently taking place in the countries of Asia, Africa and Latin America. This is the term that expresses the efforts made by these countries in addressing the administrative problem they face in an attempt to accelerate their agricultural, industrial, educational and social progress, through the development of regulations, administrative systems and bureaucratic practices to achieve massive progress (Zainab, 2020).

The hallmark of administrative development is addressing social problems such as insecurity, social vices and problems militating against the progress of the society. Administrative development deals with bureaucratic structures, institutions and professionals with expertise in order to address myriads of problems. Administrative development adapts to positive change in the society.

### **1.3 Theoretical framework**

#### **Administrative Management Theory.**

The administrative management theory was adopted for proper explanation of the article. The theory concentrates more on the management of an entire organization. The theory emphasizes on a scholar chain where communication takes place from the highest to the lowest level of authority. Thus, superiors in an organization are to become primary decision makers (Tomplains, 2005). The major contributors to this theory were Henri Fayol, Lather Gulick and Max Weber.

The theory focuses more on how to interact with and manage employees. The theory advocates for a formalized administrative structure, the delegation of power and the division of labour. Henri Fayol who was major proponent of this theory observe work stoppage that he judged to be management failure. (Henri, 2019). Fayol proposed the fourteen principles of management which are division of work, authority, discipline, unity of command, unity of direction and subordination of individual interest to the general interest. Other are remuneration, centralization, scalar chain, order, equity, and Esprit de Corps. Although majority of these management principles continues to be useful in recent times. Fayol's most significant contribution to the field of management theory is the identification of the duties of management. In recent times the fourteen principles of management are modified to six principles which are planning, organizing, staffing, leading, controlling and motivating.

The administrative management theory emphasized on management principles to properly deliver on the mandate given in an organization. In the aspect of basis of the management is federal government that controls the machineries of government and the security architecture in Nigeria. Development administration is about programs, projects and policies which are focused on developing a nation, while administrative development has to do with

structures and professionals that would implement what relates to development administration. This article is on development administration and administrative development intervention in addressing the state of insecurity in Nigeria. Following the administrative management theory, the federal government of Nigeria manages the resources of the country and control the entire security architecture of the country with the inclusion of administrative theory through the six modified principles of planning, organizing, staffing, leading, controlling and motivating.

The current state of insecurity has impacted negatively on the political and economic atmosphere of the country, the federal government using the tools of staffing and motivation through the recategorization of the command and proper coordination of duties in all the security agencies can help to address the current state of insecurity affecting Nigeria.

#### **1.4 Trends in development administration and the state of insecurity in Nigeria**

Development administration as an academic discipline emerged in the west in the beginning of 1960's in the era of state-led development. The impetus for the study can be traced to Dahl's 1947 article where public administration was criticized for its inability to develop a comparative framework (Robert, 1947). The emergence of former colonies including Nigeria into independent nations, abundance of research funding with the Comparative Administration Group (CAG), financial and technical assistance under United State Agency for International Development (USAID) Programme and all these led to the popularization of development administration as a mechanism for the attainment of socio-economic progress and nation-building in third world countries. In the wake of Covid 19 in Nigeria, the government of Nigeria applied the principles of development administration and administrative development to curtail the spread of the virus (Omini & Ofre, 2021). Behavioral scientists that were used to work on the psychology of the people of Nigeria to adhere to Covid 19 protocol was an act of administrative development. The introduction of development administration is to address factors militating against socio-economic progress including addressing the state of insecurity in third world countries including Nigeria.

Development administration is an action-oriented administration charged with the onus of responding to the needs of the country. Nigeria attained full scale independence in 1960. Nigerian is made up of six geo-political zones and multifarious ethnic groups. Currently the country is bedeviled with massive scale of insecurity. According to Ubi and Benard (2025) rural unemployment contributed to the high level of insecurity in rural areas in Nigeria. Communal conflict is also much common in Nigerian and African societies and the result of these conflicts is bloody calamity in the destruction of lives, property, livelihood and hindrance to economic development (Omini and Friday, 2021). The relegation of merit system and the politicization of job placement have escalated crime and insecurity that has made the country un conducive for economic prosperity which has also triggered young Nigerians migrating to other developed countries for peace and greener pastures (Omini and Umahi, 2024). The neglect of the local government system to practice full blown autonomy has further deepen insecurity at the local communities where herders and farmers clashes have become more common.

In Nigeria currently the entire six geopolitical zones are bedeviled with high level of insecurity. The north central of Nigeria is faced with consistent farmers and herders' clashes that have resulted in the destruction of lives, properties and farm products. According to Ubi & Bernard (2025) insecurity has become a social problem in Nigeria with the entire geo-political zones engulfed in insecurity. For Usman (2023) posited in a research paper titled "Impact of insecurity on food production in Igabi Local Government Area of Kaduna State" maintained that kidnaping, banditry, communal clashes, cattle rustling and other insurgent activities are factors responsible for the decline in food production, food shortage and high food prices because farmers cannot access their farms for fear of being attacked. According to Nigeria security Tracker (2023) armed groups have killed more than 128 farmers and kidnapped 37 others across Nigeria between January and June, 2023.

In the North-Eastern states of Nigeria have witnessed the consistent activities of Boko Haram terrorists' organization and insurgencies resulting in the loss of many lives including that of security personnel. In recent times Boko Haram have started attacking military cantonments in North East. This terrorist group have been consistent with numerous attacks for more than two decades. North – West is not left out with new terrorist groups emerging with greater treats to lives, livelihoods and properties.

In the South-South geopolitical zones, oil theft, is more rampant in the Niger Delta region where crude oil is explored. The high level of oil theft has impacted negatively in the economy of Nigeria with the failure of the country to meet up with OPEC quota of crude oil production in the global market. Beside oil theft, kidnapping has become a socio-problem. Hardly a day passes without incident of kidnapping, armed robbery attacks, ritual killing or cultism. While in the South East, the activities of the Indigenous People of Biafra (IPOB) have paralyzed social and comic activities in the region. The proscribed group have made it mandatory that every Monday is sit at home with over hundred percent compliance. This sit at home has paralyzed economic activities with many business men and women relocating to other states outside the South – East to enable them continue with their businesses.

The South West is not left out in this malady of insecurity. In Ondo State in 2023, armed men attacked a Catholic church on a Sunday and killed many worshippers. There have been repeated clashes of farmers and herders with more lives and farm products been destroyed. With the incessant insecurity the states in the South Western region established the Amotekun security outfit to combat all forms of insecurity in the region since the conventional security outfits have failed woefully to contend with incessant crime.

Despite the huge budgetary allocation to fight insecurity, the malaise has been on the increase with more Nigerians living in fear. In many occasions the United State of America had warned its citizens travelling to Nigeria to be vigilant considering the state of insecurity. Similarly, the British government in most cases had restricted its citizens travelling to Nigeria not to visit some states that are insecurity prone. Insecurity is draining the country's resources. Money that would have been invested in other sectors of the economy are allocated to fight insecurity. Insecurity in Nigeria has impacted negatively in both rural and urban areas. Insecurity in Nigeria is responsible for food insecurity, unemployment and other negative impact on the political and economic system of the society.

On this note development administration that has to do with projects, policies, programmes and purpose can help to mitigate the high level of insecurity. Through the development administration and administrative development, the government in collaboration with the private interests can map-out programs and policies on how to contend with the current state of insecurity in Nigeria and probably beyond. In the twilight to reconstruct Africa after the first and second world-war, scholars of public administration had to introduced development administration patterned after African model to reconstruct and rebuild Africa with flourishing political and economic activities.

### **1.5 Using the tools of development administration and administrative development to fight insecurity in Nigeria**

Development administration and administrative development is primarily concerned with the various strategies adopted to achieve accelerated national development, mostly in developing countries like Nigeria (Kayode and Ashepo, 2022). Development administration is a dynamic concept that embraces the political, economic, social and administrative change in the society. For Weidner (1962) development administration is an action – oriented, goal – oriented administrative system. It is a process of guiding organizations to achieve progressive political, economic and social objectives that are authoritatively determined by the state. According to Riggs (1976) development administration embraces the array of new functions assumed by developing countries that embarked on the path of modernization and industrialization.

Development administration and administrative development when utilized by the machineries of the state can contend with the state of insecurity currently bedeviling Nigeria.

Using the tools of development administration to promote peace and security would contribute to mitigating insecurity in the society. Peace and security are considered all over the world as avenue for national development. There cannot be national development where peace and security are threatened. The government of Nigeria can use the tools of development administration to carry out balance infrastructural development, develop a culture of ethnic blindness and meritocracy in all ramifications. This will give the people a sense of belonging and patriotism. The justice system should be on the basis of merit and punished those who deserved punishment. The electoral system which has to do with political leader emerging must be based on the highest level of transparency and any political figure found wanton irrespective of tribe or class in the society must face the full wrath of the law. These are factors that can enhance peace and security for national development. Peace and security are inevitable variables that motivate political and socio-economic development globally (Nenger, 2022). These tools are also known to be agents of sustainable growth and development due to their significant role. To buttress these facts, Omeriyang et al (2015) posited that peace and security has been acknowledged all over the world as basic conditions necessary for sustainable national development and transformation. Peace and security measure have shown the usual consensus among scholars that there is a clear linkage between failures in governance, democratization and sustainable development on the hand and insecurity and violent conflict on the other hand (Otive, 2010).

To promote peace and security has to do with good governance and high regards to the rule of law. Nigerians often take to violence when they discovered that the government is biased against some tribes, this can trigger hostilities on the tribe not favor. For instance, tribal communal conflict has caused the destruction of lives and properties in Nigeria. The government must use its machineries of development administration and administrative development to enhance peace and security. According to Ubi and Ofem (2023) Nigerian youths can thrive in any environment where meritocracy leads. Development administration and administrative development promotes merit system that contribute massively to human capital development.

Prudent management of the resources of the country is another development administration and administrative development tools to confront insecurity. Mismanagement of the country's resources overtime had made Nigeria not to trust on the leadership of the country, rather tend to sabotage the overall interest of the country. For instance, oil theft in Niger Delta is the direct response of the mismanagement of the oil resources that is meant to benefit the entire country. Oil theft and destruction of infrastructure are all issues of insecurity. On this note, prudent management of the nation's resources by administrative managers would contribute into minimizing insecurity targeted at the resources of the country. Transparency and accountability on the country's resources are essential ingredient of good governance which is a panacea for peace.

Economic stability can help to fight insecurity in Nigeria. The government of Nigeria can create conducive atmosphere for a stable economy where investors can have the confidence to invest in such economy. More investment in the economy means more jobs, when youths are able to secure employment after graduation from school, insecurity would be reduced by the nearest minimum. Some young people who take to crime is the clear result of unemployment and poverty. The economy can be stable thorough the machineries of development administration and administrative development. Sincerity on the part of the government to push for meritocracy in the enthronement of stable economy. Economic stability can be developed by having favorable exchange rate, favorable balance of trade, strong currency and conducive atmosphere for businesses to thrive. When businesses thrive, people are engaged and this would go a long way into minimizing insecurity.

Confronting insecurity headlong without comprise through development administration and administrative development. In Nigeria insecurity escalated beyond proportion because of compromise from the government, security organizations and the public. There were cases where

military personnel were attacked and killed due to sabotage and leaking of vital information. There are instances where terrorists were protected and shielded by communities in Northern Nigeria because of religion and ethnicity. The government of Nigeria should utilize the tools of development administration that has to do with projects, policies, programs and purpose to destroy all the indices of insecurity in Nigeria. Insecurity is taking a different dimension with a shift to rural communities. Insecurity in the rural areas in Nigeria is responsible for rural unemployment and negative impact food security. Therefore, proper utilization of budgetary allocation on security. Only professionals should be allowed to handle funds meant to fight insecurity, this is where administrative development come to play. Only security bureaucrats should be at the forefront of fighting insecurity in order to avoid corruption, mismanagement of funds and sabotage.

Nigeria deserves to be free from this protracted insecurity that has negative impact on the image of the country. Security needs to be secured with all resolute alacrity in order to build the confidence of investors and the economy.

### **1.6 Conclusion**

This article is on development administration and administrative development with the aim to address the state of insecurity in Nigeria. Proper basic conceptual definition of what both variables mean and how they can contribute in addressing the state of insecurity that is bedeviling the entire country. Development administration and administrative has the capacity and machineries to address insecurity in Nigeria.

### **1.7 Recommendations**

The Nigerian government should be professional in all its policy decision when it comes to addressing insecurity. Development administration and administrative development can do justice in fighting insecurity. Sincere and committed approach to insecurity is key to fighting insecurity in the entire Nigeria. Proper utilization of budgetary allocation cannot be undermined. Funds meant to fight insecurity should be used for such purpose.

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