



The Effect of Kidnapping on the Economic Development of Northern Senatorial District of Adamawa State

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Abstract

Kidnapping is one among various security challenges confronting the study area which is not connected only to high rate of unemployment, poverty as investments are folding up as while as lucrative nature of the criminal act due to ransom payment. The upsurge in kidnapping of recent indicates government failure to provide conducive and enabling environment for businesses to thrive. The study use quantitative research design with two hundred and eighty four (284) participants involved. This study provides evidence that kidnapping has effect on economic development of the study area. Structured and open-ended questionnaire tagged EKEDEQ was administered to the sample size which was determine using Krejcie and Morgan sample size table ratio and the responses was analyzed using stata software to run correlation and regression analysis. The paper adopted Queer Ladder of Social Mobility Theory (QLT) propounded by an American sociologist as its theoretical framework. The theory states that organize crime flourish in a society where it is a means to socio-economic progression and accumulation of wealth, where hard work and legitimate means of acquiring wealth has been relegated to the background. It is relevant to the study considering the upsurge in kidnapping of recent in the study area and Nigeria as a whole whereby government seems to be handicap in curtailing the phenomenon and brings the perpetrators to book to serve as deterrent to others who might be contemplating of indulging in the crime. The correlation results show that there is significant relationship between kidnapping and investment opportunity, government expenditure, employment opportunity and farming activities at $p\text{-value}=0.0000$, $r\text{-value}=0.5249$, $p\text{-value}=0.0000$, $r\text{-value}=0.2731$, $p\text{-value}=0.0000$, $r\text{-value}=0.5968$, and $p\text{-value}=0.0000$, $r\text{-value}=0.2731$ respectively. So also, the regression analysis reveals that kidnapping has positive effects on investment opportunity, government expenditure, employment opportunity and farming activities at $t\text{-value}=11.32$, $p\text{-value}=0.000$, $\beta\text{-value at } .33$, $t\text{-value}=4.75$, $p\text{-value}=0.000$, $\beta\text{-value}=.243$, $t\text{-value}=12.45$, $p\text{-value}=0.000$, $\beta\text{-value}=.515$ and $t\text{-value}=4.75$, $p\text{-value}=0.000$, $\beta\text{-value}=.243$ respectively. Both the correlation and regression analysis leads to the rejection of all the four (4) hypotheses and acceptance of alternate hypotheses. This reaffirmed that there cannot be economic development where insecurity thrive.

Keywords: Kidnapping, Effect, Development, Economic Development, Government Expenditure

Introduction

The primary justification for government is to protect life and properties of people. Thomas Hobbes as one of the philosophers in his work titled Leviathan describes a world of unrelenting insecurity without a government to protect people from each other and from foreign foes. In Nigeria, the 1999 constitution (as amended 2004) in chapter two section 14, sub-section 2(b) states that 'the security and welfare of the people shall be the primary purpose of government'. This cardinal responsibility over the decades seems to have been relegated to the background due to recurrent

and sustained insecurity (kidnapping inclusive) ravaging the entire country (Akanbi, 2022). Kidnapping is a universal phenomenon that poses a challenge to humanity, but the degree or rather chance for a person to fall victim depends on the society, especially the nature of the social structures which include the security apparatus, moral fibre of people in such an environment among other factors.

Kidnapping is an old social malady and as old as man in organized societies. The Christian Bible avails us the first recorded case of kidnapping at the world level. Although, the Bible did not give us a clear case of kidnapping incidence with their

specific victims, yet the Old Testament recorded that “anyone who kidnaps another and either sells him or still has him when he is caught must be put to death’ (Exodus 21:16). From this narration in Exodus, a book which comprise of diverse elements originating from various sources which ranges from the 8th until the 2nd century BC (Douglas, 1982). It is however signifying that the act of abduction must have been a well-known occurrence in Biblical era that necessitated the enactment of such legislation.

Apart from the Biblical account as recorded in Exodus 21:16, kidnapping re-emerged in 1874 when a four-year-old Charlie Ross from Philadelphia was kidnapped and a ransom of 20,000 US Dollars requested (Oliver, Colin & Damon, 1993). This incident came as a major surprise to many as they could not conceive of any clear cut reason why a baby would be abducted. As time goes on, the poverty of the depression era increased the spate of kidnapping at that time. Many people began to engage in kidnapping as a means of survival with little or no recourse to the repercussion of their actions. This pinpoints to the economic basis and foundation of the crime. Oliver *et al* (1993) has it that in the year 1932 abduction for ransom had become a big ‘money crime’ taking its place beside the liquor vices and drug traffic business.

In the continental level, Africa was not left out as kidnapping and slave trade are two sides of a coin with the difference emanating from who the abducted persons are sold to. While the slave traders sold their victims to foreigner in often faraway lands, kidnappers sold theirs to their own people for negotiated prices. (Umukoro, 2010). By and large, kidnapping experience in Africa is as old as slavery itself. Slavery cannot flourish without first take hostage of the victim which is against his fundamental human right.

The nation Nigeria as we know it today was not in existence at the time of slave trade, but the various people that form part of the geo-political enclave now referred to as Nigeria were fully involved in the sad experience either as agents or victims of slavery. The social system of some large empires in Africa, Nigeria inclusive, accommodated slavery as part of property owned by the wealthy especially royal homes. The first act of kidnapping in Nigeria started 2006 when the militants of the Niger Delta took total hostage of expatriates to protest the inequality in the region (Ijediogor, 2010). According to the militants, Nigeria is built at the expense of the region which serves as a source of steady profit for the whole country. This was meant to draw the attention of local and international communities to the underdevelopment, environmental degradation and plight of the inhabitants of the area (Ijediogor, 2010).

Ijediogor (2010) observed that the basic objectives of the kidnappers of foreign oil workers were identifiable because at the beginning ransom were hardly demanded and rarely paid since it was not geared towards economic gains but as a means to drive home their point on the struggle for the region.

The situation in the country has change entirely has the motivating factor seems to be economic, since more often than not the kidnappers usually put a price tag on the victim which family or any other person willing to paid must provide else the unthinkable may befall the kidnapped. Akanbi (2022) has lamented that no meaningful progress can be recorded until the nation is rid of kidnapping and other organized crimes. With reference to the study area, kidnapping for ransom is a new phenomenon. What was being regarded as kidnapping then was in the form of kidnapping for marriage were young male

take hostage of a lady whose parents are not in support of their union usually to an undisclosed location until marital obligations are fulfilled. But of recent, the narrative has change as both locals and foreigners are involved due to high rate of financial returns or monetary incentives derivable from the illegal activity. This phenomenon has consequences on investment opportunity and folding up existing businesses in the study area.

The continuous rise in insecurity (kidnapping) and deterioration in the economic development in Nigeria as a whole and the study area in particular call for a concern among well-meaning Nigerians of recent. These two hydraheaded problems (kidnapping and economic underdevelopment) still remain the greatest challenges facing nations all over the world (Akanbi, 2022). There is an inverse relationship between the two as when the former increases the later has definitely experiences misfortune in terms of severity and intensity. Serene and conducive environment guaranteed and attract both foreign and domestic investors (Ibrahim & Ahmad, 2020).

Recent reports about kidnapping activities in Northern Adamawa State have it that some lecturers of the Adamawa State University (ADSU) and Federal Polytechnic, Mubi, among other prominent personalities were kidnapped. Some regain their freedom having paid some ransom while others were killed despite payment of ransom (Akanbi, 2022). This is an existential threat not just to life but also the economic development of Adamawa state. The phenomenon is gathering momentum and adjudged as the fastest and lucrative means of making money due to ransom payment. Ngwama (2014) states that the widening scale of kidnapping in Nigeria is a cause for concern as everybody is affected by it directly or indirectly, highway, schools, homes,

markets, churches, mosques, hostels, night clubs, wedding reception etc. are all susceptible to kidnapping. It means that no any part of the country is immune from activities of kidnappers. Adamawa northern senatorial District being the economic base of the state due its proximity to Cameroon Republic, Chad, and Central African Republic seems to be prone to kidnapping activities in the state. Akanbi (2022) lamented that apart from the slowdown in investment flow, statistics shows that several multi-national firms are making their exit from Nigeria over security-related issues. Data from the Nigerian Investment Promotion Commission (NIPC) for the first quarter of the year 2022 showed Nigeria is losing its attraction to promoters of foreign direct investment. The NIPC (2022) first quarter report reveals that the value of investment announcements was \$8.41billion. This is a 69 per cent or \$2.58billion lower than what was announced in the first quarter of 2021 (NIPC, 2022).

The above figures show a downtrend in the investment inflow and the resolved of both local and foreign investors to invest in the country due to insecurity. Economic development as a term is commonly associated with concepts like industrialization and modernization; where advancement is a key characteristic of the concepts' foundation. Kidnapping is a global phenomenon which has been of great challenge to every government of affected countries. In Nigeria of recent, kidnapping has assumed an alarming dimension which has received wide spread condemnations from well-meaning people of Nigeria and even the international community (Ibrahim & Ahmad, 2020). Before now, it was common in the southern part of the country due to activities of oil companies and presence of expatriates, but now very popular in the northern parts of the country. This upsurge, many believe could pose serious threat to the economic development of the nation (Uzorma & Nwanegbo-Ben,

2014). The implication of this phenomenon by expert is that development cannot thrive where there is high incidence of insecurity, civil unrest, terror threats, endemic corruption and ongoing abductions of people. Combating this ugly threat continue to pose serious challenge due to high economic and financial returns accruing to it (Asuquo, 2009). The crime has continued to contribute to the climate of insecurity in the six geo-political regions in the country.

The border nature of the study area has made it volatile to kidnapping incidences or contributed in no small measure to the upsurge of kidnapping activity in the area. According to Dodo (2010) the security agencies stationed to manned the borders are overwhelmed due to vast expand of land to be patrolled, inadequate sophisticated equipment to track down the criminals, inadequate of relevant information to the security agents by citizens on where and when kidnapping incidents are taking place among others exacerbate the ugly situation. It is against this backdrop that this study intent to look into the effect of recent rise in kidnapping activities on the economic development of Adamawa state northern senatorial district.

Statement of the Problem

The phenomenon of kidnapping seems to have assumed an alarming dimension leading to loss of lives and properties in the northern senatorial district of Adamawa State. This appears to have some implications on the economic development of the study area. The rising effects of kidnapping seem to have also affected the ease of doing business in the country in general and the study area in particular, as World Bank Annual Ratings (2019) ranked Nigeria 131 among 190 countries. This ranking has put Nigeria among the comity of nations with high security risk and ease of doing business. In spite of measures put forward by the

governments at all levels to combat the monster, the incidence of kidnapping seems to be on the increase going by the reports of kidnapping on the national dailies and security agencies (Akanbi (2022). If this trend continues unabated, the negative effects will be alarming which according to Ibrahim and Ahmad (2020) may include among other economic underdevelopment, mistrust among people, psychological trauma by the victim, driving away both foreign and domestic investors. Investors and farming activities seems to have been in a downward trend of recent which might be attributed as result of increase in kidnapping. So also state government assistance towards security agencies of recent years seems to have contributed in no small way in putting a pressure on the already lean resources for developmental purposes.

Considering various strategies put in place and the resources committed to bring an end to insecurity which seems to be unavailing, one is left to ask the following questions. Why in spite of huge budgetary allocations and the complimentary effort by state government and other stakeholders towards security agencies over the years, the spate of kidnapping in the study area appears to be worsening. Could it be as a result of bad governance, corruption and non-transparent procurement activities, poor leadership and lack of defense strategies among others? These and other questions will be answer as the study unfolds itself. It is against this backdrop that this study intent to look into impact of recent rise in kidnapping activities on the economic development of Adamawa state northern senatorial district with the sole aim of proffering a lasting solution.

Research Questions

The research sought to answer the following questions;

- i. What effect do kidnapping has on economic development in Adamawa State Northern Senatorial District?
- ii. To what extent has kidnapping contributed to the rising government expenditure as a result of assistance rendered to the security agencies in Adamawa Northern Senatorial District?

Objectives of the Study

The broad objective of this study is to examine the effect of upsurge in kidnapping on the economic development in Adamawa State Northern Senatorial District. The specific objectives are to:

- i. examines the effect of kidnapping on economic development in Adamawa State Northern Senatorial District.
- ii. ascertain the extent to which kidnapping has contributed in rising government expenditure as a result of assistance rendered to the security agencies in Adamawa Northern Senatorial District.

Statement of Research Hypothesis

To examine the effect of kidnapping on economic development in Adamawa State Northern Senatorial District, the following hypothesis were formulated and tested.

- i That kidnapping has no significant effect on economic development in Adamawa Northern Senatorial District.
- ii. That kidnapping has no any effect on rising government expenditure of recent due to assistance render to security agencies in Adamawa State Northern Senatorial District

Significance of the study

This study has both theoretical and empirical significance. Theoretically, the study provides a general survey on the nature and resultant consequences of kidnapping on economic development. The study will be of relevance to students, community

leaders, Policy makers, security agencies and security experts to improve their knowledge on this subject matter especially in aspect of prevention and intervention strategies at all levels in the process of control and reduction. Also, the study will strengthen existing theory and serves as a reference material in the field of criminology, criminal justice and stimulate further researches on this and related topics or similar fields. Furthermore, the outcome of the study will be of significance to the field of public administration in terms of formulating and implementing policies that seek to address the menace at both federal and state level.

Empirically, the outcome of this study will contribute in no small measure in understanding the effect of kidnapping on economic development and the rationale behind sudden rise in kidnapping especially in study area. This work will also help in understanding the psychological and emotional effects of kidnapping on the victims and how it can be managed in Adamawa State and Nigeria as a whole.

This research is also important in trying to review and proffer practical solutions to the government, Non-Governmental

Organizations and the citizenry on how to curb the menace of kidnapping not only in Adamawa State but the Nigerian nation as a whole in order to ensure a harmonious and peaceful society.

Finally, findings of this research will serve to strengthened synergy between Nigeria government and other nations in providing pragmatic antidotes to fighting kidnapping considering its effect on international trade and relations.

Scope and limitations of the Study

The focus of this study is to examine the effect of kidnapping on the economic development of Northern Senatorial District of Adamawa State. The study covers the period of 2018 and 2022. The justification

for this time frame is that these are periods the incidence of kidnapping activities has surge in the study area. This study will be looking at economic development from the perspectives of investment opportunity, employment opportunity, increasing government expenditure and farming activities. The choice of these dimensions of economic development was inform due to nature of activities undertaking in the study area. These dimensions of economic development cannot be realised in an atmosphere of insecurity. The inability of the victims to be identify and administered questionnaire pose a challenge in getting first-hand information about their experience while in captivity.

Concept of Kidnapping

Kidnapping has now become a generic word both in public and private discourse going by its prevalence in the country. Literarily, the word which has become notorious, putrid and nauseating in the ears of virtually everyone is derived from "kid" meaning child and "nap" which means to snatch. Okoli and Agada (2014) pointed out that kidnapping now appears to be an emerging concern in Nigeria though it is not a new phenomenon. It is as old as the word itself. But the motive may vary from country to country. Since 1673 the unfriendly word has been used to the practice of stealing of children for use as servants or labourers in the American colonies. So, it has come to mean any illegal capture or detention of a person or people against their will, regardless of age. The kidnappers, who can be very erratic, have been found to engage in the criminality for several complex motives ranging from unemployment, idleness, vengeance, rituals, monetary gains and political reasons (Ibrahim & Ahmad, 2020).

Similarly, Inyang and Abraham (2013) defined it as “the forcible seizure, taking away and unlawful detention of a person against his/her will. It is a common law offence and the key part is that it is

unwanted act on the part of the victim”. Another definition is offered by Fage and Alabi (2017p.289) who conceived kidnapping as “forceful or fraudulent abduction of an individual or a group of individuals for reasons ranging from economic, political and religious to struggle for self-determination”. From the foregoing, the definition of kidnapping has no one best way to describe it, but it is clear that for an act to be deemed kidnapping, it shall involve coercive movement of a victim from one place to another, detention or seizure of that person be it a child or an adult. The only difference may be the motive behind abduction.

Stemming from the foregoing definitions, one can safely describe kidnapping as the forceful and fraudulent abduction of a person for a ransom or other criminal intention. This implies that while political and economic factors can instigate kidnapping, the economic reason is the most common predisposing factor of the phenomenon.

The Concept of Development and Economic Development

For proper understanding of the concept of economic development, it is pertinent to dissect the meaning of development. Development like any concept in social sciences does not have a water tight definition. Development in a lay man's perception means growth and changes of society, i.e. quantitative increase of economic activities and social services provided to people by the government and private sectors. Todaro and Smith (2020) sees development as a multi-dimensional sided process involving changes in structures, institutions and attitudes, as well as the acceleration of economic growth, the reduction of inequality and eradication of hunger and poverty in a given society. Thus, development involves positive changes in the institution, structures and functions of the society in terms of social, political,

economic, cultural and technological dimensions.

Economic development according to Todaro and Smith (2020) refers to the generation of wealth that is found in the benefit and advancement of society. It is not only found in isolated development projects, but in the general advancing of the economy with respect to factors like education, resource availability and living standards. Thus, economic development pertains to the build out of education systems, recreational parks and public safety infrastructure. The importance of economic development lies in the wellbeing of the population which encompasses security issues that deals with protection of lives and properties. The concept of development is a key factor in the decision-making process of sovereign authorities when designing policies. A country's economic growth and development are measured by the national economic output and improved quality of life compared to the previous year or another time period.

For real economic development to take place in any society, private sector investment is very important, especially in free market economies (consumer-centric economies). In free market economies, the projects and expansions that private enterprises deem necessary play a key role in the general growth of the whole economy. The private ownership of property and production factors leads to the shrinking influence of the government in production process. This can only be possible in a safe and serene environment. The moment a nation is economically sound; its citizens should become wealthier and thus should be able to escape poverty traps that compel young people into kidnapping.

The nexus between Kidnapping and Economic Development

The 2030 agenda for sustainable development among others recognizes the

need to promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development. The inclusion of the issues related to 'peaceful societies' (SDG16) in the 2030 Agenda for sustainable development has been an important step in enhancing the peace and development nexus. In emerging literature – political, industrial and academic alike – there is a seeming consensus that “security” and “development” are in some way interrelated and interconnected. At the core of the nexus lies the assumption that, as former UN secretary-general Kofi Annan once stated, “development and security are inextricably linked” (Stern & Öjendal, 2010, p.5). Underdevelopment not only directly threatens the security of people but also contributes to the indirect formation of a fertile breeding ground for other threats, including kidnapping. Development is a multi-dimensional explanation which can be group within the scope of social, economic and political accounts. The evidence to support the claim that there is an inverse relationship between kidnapping and economic development (the greater the incidence of kidnapping, the less the economic development) is evident and much, as countries who find themselves involved in one security issue or the other frequently show regress rather than progress in economic indicators previously stated (Uyang, Omono & Abanbeshie, 2019).

There is clear empirical evidence on the existence of a vicious cycle with economic underdevelopment being instrumental to the outbreak of security challenges and in turn insecurity having incredible costs on economic development. Conversely, there should be no reason as to why a virtuous cycle should not exist, with high levels of security leading to economic development and economic development further promoting security (Onime, 2018). In spite of concerted efforts by government, cooperate bodies and well-meaning individuals to curb the menace, it has remains unabated and elusive in the society.

Oiwenvbiugie and Iyamu (2011) decried the high level of incessant kidnapping issues in Nigeria that scared away many potential foreign investors and illustrious Nigerians who reside in abroad who would have been willing to come home to invest in businesses. Ujah and Eboh (2006) cited in Angela and Dominic (2019, p.77) reported a study by World Bank on investment climate in nine African countries which revealed that 36% of business operators in Nigeria perceived insecurity as a major constraint to investment.

The northern senatorial district holds brighter prospects for tourist development in the state. The Mandara Mountains which lies in the north-eastern part of the state along the Cameroon border, sukur kingdom popularly referred as sukur cultural heritage is a UNESCO World Heritage Site located in Madagali local government area are the most known tourist attractions in the area. Insecurity is a risk factor which business owners and managers fear and avoid by relocating their businesses elsewhere. When people's security are guaranteed, it gives them the freedom both physically and mentally to get on with the business of building their lives without fear of molestation or violent death.

Effect of Kidnapping on Economic Development

The effect of kidnapping on the economic development of the study area will be treated under the following sub-headings:

Effect of Kidnapping on Investment Opportunity

An investment opportunity according to Mc callum (2019) is any situation where you have the option of purchasing something that has a chance to gain value in the future. So an investment opportunity offers the option of making a purchase or trade of something that has the potential of increasing in value. In sum, it means anything tangible or intangible that is offered

for sale, sold or traded based wholly or in part. Given credence to the effect kidnapping has on investment opportunity, Adegbami (2013) noted that insecurity has led to the destruction of business and properties, equipments, relocation and closing down of businesses. Many businessmen have been abducted whereby huge ransoms were paid from their business finances and some even lost their lives in the process. Kidnapping is one of typologies of crime and its effect can create economic and investment uncertainties. The implication is that there is lack of incentives on the part of investors to invest in places that are perceived as unsafe, hence an increase in capital flight.

Manufacturing businesses depend largely on the availability and regular supply of raw materials for production. Kidnapping activity has cut off the supply of such raw materials jeopardizing production activities and affecting marketing of finished products. There is also an increase in security spending as most business organisations operating in Nigeria and the study area spend a lot in maintaining private security outfits (Nwagboso, 2012 cited in Ogadimma, 2017, p.23).

It has been reported that Nigeria account for 80% of capital flight in West Africa as people are relocating to other parts of the country in search of security(UN,2020). Wilbina (2021) reported that "businesses are closing down particularly in the study area which is the economic base of the state due to security glitches and kidnapping for ransom". Furthermore, she stated that government of the state has order the closure of 30 boarding schools due to incidence of kidnapping in the area. Therefore, if kidnapping remains unchecked, the ultimate outcomes would include deepened poverty precipitated by closure of investments whose owners are affected or threatened by the increasing criminal act (Adeyemi, 2010 p.15). In fact,

kidnapping has constituted a salient factor to be considered in risk analysis before any prospective investors can venture into setting up business in the unstable environs. Already, existing investment seems to have grossly affected with abandonment of materials and machines which lay waste and suffers spoil or decay. Feasibility studies, plans and proposals simply dwindle into nothing as the absence of peace and security has hampered projects executions. These have consequences for economic development.

Kidnapping and its Effect on Employment Opportunity

Employment opportunity refers to job openings; it constitutes a vehicle to provide work for any person in any industry. Employment underpins the economic output of a nation and enables people to support themselves, their families and their communities. It is also connected to physical and mental health and is a key factor in overall wellbeing. According to Adagba et al (2012) cited in Ogadimma (2017, p. 22) unemployment/poverty among Nigerian youths is a major cause of insecurity especially kidnapping and violent crimes in Nigeria. Youth's unemployment has contributed to the rising cases of violent conflict in Nigeria (Wajim, 2020, p.95). Employment is a very important element in a high population country like Nigeria. The goal to attain employment opportunities is Nations like Nigeria where unemployment an important one in many developing and underemployment are a major factor that causes poverty (Sodipe & Ogunrinola 2011 cited in Wajim, 2020, p.95).

The former Inspector General of Police, Sir Mike Okiro, disclosed that 15 billion have been paid as ransom to kidnappers between 2006 and 2009 (Kyrian, 2009 cited in Wajim, 2020, p.98). The large sum of money spent as ransom payment could affect any state economy drastically, as it could have been used for meaningful

development. The upsurge in kidnapping incidence especially the foreign expatriates has affected the nation and the state negatively in attracting both domestic and international investors. Some companies have either folded up or relocated to other parts of this country or outside the shores of Nigeria leading to unemployment occasioned by loss of jobs (Adagba et al (2012). The resultant effect is that more people are lured into crime as the saying goes; an idle mind is the devils workshop.

Kidnapping and Farming Activities

One of the pre-occupation in the study area is farming or agricultural activities. Farming system is an integrated set of activities that farmers perform in their farms under their resources and circumstances to maximize the productivity and net farm income on a sustainable basis. Not only are farming activities incapable of being carried out under an insecure environment, domestic agricultural production is stifled, farming communities are displaced and access to regional market is blocked (Beetseth, Abubakar and Nongo, 2021). As a result of rise and frequent incidence of kidnapping, both peasants and commercial farmers are scare of going to their respective farms. This has created artificial scarcity of food items and raw materials leading to skyrocketing of prices of commodities and shortage in supply of raw materials to existing industries.

Effect of Kidnapping on Rising Government Expenditure

The protection of people and property from danger is critical for the functioning of markets and the incentives to invest and innovate. This explains why many countries around the world wish and work to maintain peace and security within and beyond their borders (Amana et al, 2020).

Recently, the legislature, Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) and security stakeholders have expressed worries as

defense budgets in the last seven years rose above N8 trillion despite the declining impact of such budgetary votes (Ezemenaka, 2018). From 2015 to date security budgets have been on the increase just as total national budgets increased. In 2015, when the national budget was N4.405 trillion, the total budget for the security sector was N988, 892,506,442. In 2016, when the budget rose to N6.06 trillion, the security sector got N1.07 trillion, just as it got a total of N1.15 trillion in 2017 when the budget rose to N7.44 trillion. In 2018, the budget was N9.12 trillion while the security sector got a total vote of N1.35 trillion. And in 2019 and 2020, the budget was N8.92 trillion and N10.59 trillion, while security got N1.4 trillion and N1.8 trillion respectively. In the N13.59 trillion 2021 budget, defence and security got N1.96 trillion with another N722.53 billion about to be added through the supplementary budget. Nigeria's military budget is greater than the combined armed forces spending of the rest of West Africa (The Guardian, 21 June 2021). In spite of finances allocated to the security agencies, experts expressed worry that the security architecture is seemingly becoming vulnerable to attacks.

The CSOs are of the view that unless the Federal Government takes steps to monitor and ensure that budgets approved and released for security and defence are utilised as approved, Nigerians would never feel the impact of such budgets. The Executive Director, Civil Society Legislative Advocacy

Centre (CISLAC) Rafsanjani (2021) lamented that it is unfortunate that the spate of insecurity in the polity has continued to worsen in spite of huge budgetary allocations to the sector over the years. He argued that sound financial management of monies allocated to the defence sector remains key to the security of life and property in Nigeria. He however stated that "Our work reveals that despite huge spending or expenditures on military operations over the years, security remains

deteriorating" as a result of bad governance, corruption and non-transparent procurement activities, poor leadership and lack of defence strategies among others.

Empirical Review

Stewart (2004) analysed the effect of conflict and insecurity on development for twenty five countries between 1960 – 1995 and found out that economic growth was affected, agricultural sector was badly hit, exports were negative, production fell, there was a shift from international to domestic markets, imports went up dominated by military expenditure and essential consumption of goods, usually leading to a shortage of foreign exchange for economic inputs., consumption per head fell, government revenue as a share of GDP mostly fell and foreign and private investments including government investment fell. The study concludes that conflict and insecurity has an effect on development generally.

Similarly, Uchenna (2014) conducted a research on kidnapping in the south-eastern states of contemporary Nigeria: an empirical investigation into the social and demographic characteristics of offenders. The study empirically investigate salient social and demographic characteristics as determinants of kidnapping in the study area using inmates detained on the grounds of kidnapping as a unit of analysis. The study adopted a cross-sectional research design. A specific non-probability sampling technique known as the „respondent-driven-sampling" was used in selecting a sample of 86 from a total population of 123 inmates in prisons. Data collected from in-depth oral interview were analyzed using thematic analysis. The study revealed that certain social and demographic characteristics such as age, occupation, gender, social backgrounds, marital status, and the like are responsible for kidnapping in Nigeria; kidnapping enterprise is dominated by men in their youthful age; and

weak/lack of strong religious attachment exerts undue pressure on some people, thereby luring them into kidnapping. The study recommends that youth empowerment should be vigorously pursued and earnestly considered in the national development plans; conscientious efforts should be made by all levels of Government in Nigeria to combat social inequality and exclusion; and provision of social security for the teeming unemployed youths and the disadvantaged in the country pending when they will be gainfully employed.

Theoretical Framework

Several theories have been put forward to explain kidnapping as a unwanted phenomenon both within and without the Nigerian context. Constructs such as social disorganization theory associated with Chicago school of sociology spearheaded by Thomas and Znaniecki (2003), this paper adopts the Queer Ladder of social mobility Theory (QLT) as its analytical framework. The queer ladder theory was influenced by an American sociologist, Daniel Bell (19192011), who coined the idea of 'queer ladder' in an attempt to explain the instrumental essence of organized crime as a desperate means of economic empowerment and social climbing. This theoretical perspective has since fertilized into a popular theoretical framework widely used in contemporary crime studies.

Tenets of the Theory

The basic assumptions of Queer Ladder of social mobility Theory (QLT) can be highlighted thus:

- i. Organized or systematic crime is an instrumental attitude or behavior; it is a means to an end.
- ii. It is an instrument or means of social climbing and/or socio-economic advancement

- iii. It is a means to accumulate wealth and build power (Mallory, 2007; Okoli & Orinya, 2013).

Always associated with this theory is the notion that organized crime thrives in contexts where the government's capacity to dictate, sanction and deter crime is poor; where public corruption is endemic; and where prospects for legitimate livelihood opportunities are slim (Nwoye, 2000; Lyman, 2007; Okoli & Orinya, 2013). Under these circumstances, the incentive to indulge in crime is high, while deterrence from criminal living is low. In other words, the benefits of committing a crime surpass the costs and/or risks. This creates ample pretext and motivation for criminal impunity and franchise (Okoli & Orinya, 2013). Therefore, a necessary consequence of this trend is prevalence in crime rate and a state of insecurity (Okoli & Orinya, 2013).

Application of the Theory

The implication of the theory for the study is that outlaws or illegal demeanor like kidnapping thrives well in an incoherent society. Adopting Queer Ladder of social mobility Theory (QLT) as a theoretical framework of analysis in this paper would enable one to come to terms with the preponderance of organized crime and sundry acts of criminality in Nigeria. In this regard, it is to be observed that the phenomenon of kidnapping in Nigeria has been driven by criminal pursuit for economic aggregation in an environment that more or less tolerates crime. This has been exacerbated by the continuing socioeconomic malaise and concomitant livelihood crisis in the country. The apparent lethargy (indifference) of relevant government agencies to ensure efficient punishment of crime in Nigeria has all the more complicated and accentuated the problem. Necessary fallout of this is prevalence of criminal impunity. The idea of 'ladder' in QLT denotes untoward pattern of social mobility. In effect, those who take to

systematic crime, such as kidnapping, do so as a desperate means of social climbing (mobility). The adoption of the theory for the purpose of this discourse is informed by its logical utility in providing insights into the socio-political foundations of organized crime, prominent among which is kidnapping in developing nations like Nigeria in general and the study area in particular.

Research Procedures

This section presents the discussion on the research methodology of the study, the subjects, sampling technique, research instruments, procedure of data gathering and statistical treatment that will be used for accurate data analysis and interpretation.

Research Design

The research design adopted in this study was quantitative in nature which employs survey method to inquire into the impact of increase in kidnapping on economic development in Adamawa state northern senatorial district. Closed-ended questions were formulated and administered through the instrumentality of questionnaire to the respondents in the study area. The selection of the sample for the study was done through purposive sampling technique. The eight areas selected were: Lokuwa, Shuware, Araham-Kunu, Wuro Patuje, kolere, sabon Gari, Gilpalma and lamorde. The population of the entire Adamawa state northern senatorial district based on National Population Commission (NPC, 2022) projection was put at 1,051,700. A total of three hundred and eighty-four (384) respondents participated in the study. Forty-eight (48) respondents were selected purposively from each cluster which formed the total of three hundred and eighty-four (384) in all. The choice of primary data was influenced by the nature of the phenomenon under study. Secondly, secondary data was sourced through books, journals, newspapers, conference seminars,

thesis, dissertations, internet, and magazines. Secondary data allows for the examination of existing data to produce new and more detailed information.

The sample size was statistically determined based on Krejcie and Morgan (1970) sample size table ratio. They came up with a table for determining sample size for a given population for easy reference. At 95% degree of confidence level or 0.05% margin of error, the required sample size of population size within the range of 1,000,000 to 300,000,000 is 384. It is based on that, this study picked three hundred and eighty-four (384) respondents to infer from.

Sources and Method of Data Collection

The sources of this paper were both primary and secondary. The primary sources were majorly through the instrumentality of structured questionnaire. Secondary sources entail the use of both published, unpublished works and textbooks gotten from the school library, the internet and any relevant documents. The study adopted a structured questionnaire as the instrument for data gathering. The structured questionnaire is called Effect of Kidnapping on Economic Development Questionnaire (EKEDEQ).

The instrument consists of two sections, namely section A and B. Section A comprises of the demographic characteristics of the respondents. Section B of the instrument comprises of items developed based on each of the research objectives. The questions were structured in a closed-ended format using the five (5) point likert scale response categories. This requires the respondents to either Strongly Agree (SA=5), Agree (A=4), Undecided (UD=3), Disagree (D=2), and Strongly Disagree (SD=1). The instrument of data collection was in line with the objectives of the study and the stated hypotheses.

Method of Data Presentation and Analysis

Multivariate Regression and correlation Analysis was used to analyze data obtained from the field using stata software version 13 as an analytical tool to test four (4) hypothetical statements early stated. Three hundred and eighty-four (384) questionnaires were distributed to the respondents and two hundred and eightytwo

(282) questionnaires were able to retrieve and that form the basis for data analysis. Since the percentage of returned questionnaires are up to 72% and the percentage of the unreturned questionnaires were 28% which can be ascribed to some factors beyond the researcher. Therefore, the data are valid and useful because the rate of return is more than half, thus inferences can be drawn from.

Table 2: Correlation Analysis

```
. pwcorr Kidnapping Investment_Opportunity Government_Expenditure Employment_Opportunity
Farming_Activities , sig star(5)
```

	Kidnap~g Invest~y Govern~e Employ~y Farmin~s
Kidnapping	1.0000
Investment~y	0.5249* 1.0000
Governme~e	0.0000 0.2731* 0.6727* 1.0000
Employment~y	0.0000 0.0000 0.5968* 0.9923* 0.6319* 1.0000
Farming_Ac~s	0.0000 0.0000 0.0000 0.2731* 0.6727* 1.0000* 0.6319* 1.0000

The correlation analysis was carried out to established relationship between independent variable (IV) and dependent variable (DV) of the study area. In the course of doing that, four (4) hypotheses were

stated to test the extent to which kidnapping (IV) affect economic development which was considered in four (4) dimensions (investment opportunity, employment opportunity, government

expenditure/revenue and farming activities) as dependent variable (DV). The table above shows that there is a significant positive relationship among the study variables.

Specifically, kidnapping is significantly positively correlated with investment opportunity at (p. value = 0.0000, rvalue=0.5249). Kidnapping was also found to be significantly positively correlated with government expenditure at (p-value= 0.0000, r-value= 0.2731).

Consistently, the correlation analysis shows a significant relationship between

Table3:Regression Analysis

```
. mvreg Investment_Opportunity Government_Expenditure Employment_Opportunity Farming_Activities = Kidnapping
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Equation	Obs	Parms	RMSE	"R-sq"	F	P
Investment~y	282	2	2.245857	0.2755	106.4895	0.0000
Government~e	282	2	3.071456	0.0746	22.56251	0.0000
Employment~y	282	2	2.395684	0.3562	154.9331	0.0000
Farming_Ac~s	282	2	3.071456	0.0746	22.56251	0.0000

	Coef. Std. Err. t P> t [95% Conf. Interval]
Investment_Opportunity Kidnapping	.3971155 .0384728 10.32 0.000 .3212828 .4727482
_cons	3.308142 1.345843 2.46 0.015 .6588872 5.957397
Government_Expenditure Kidnapping	.2499251 .0526158 4.75 0.000

kidnapping as independent variable and employment opportunity as dependent variable at (p-value= 0.0000, r-value= 0.5968). Finally, the table shows that kidnapping has significantly and positively correlated with farming activities at (p value =0.0000, r-value= 0.2731)

By implication, the independent variable (kidnapping) has a significant positive effect on economic development which is the dependent variable (DV). This was in consonant with the study conducted by Godwin, Jeremiah and Vesta (2022)

¹ .000, beta value at .510). Lastly, relationship between kidnapping and farming activities were found to be significant and positively related at (t value=4.75, p value=0.000, beta value at .249). Therefore, the explanatory power of kidnapping on investment opportunity was 39%; on government expenditure/revenue was 24%, on employment opportunity was 51% and lastly on farming activities was 24%.

	.1463523 .3534978
_cons	7.442324 1.840588 4.04 0.000 3.819178 11.06547
Employment_Opportunity Kidnapping	.5108267 .0410394 12.45 0.000 .4300417 .5916117
_cons	3.750799 1.435628 2.61 0.009 .9248054 6.576793
Farming_Activities Kidnapping	.2499251 .0526158 4.75 0.000 .1463523 .3534978
_cons	7.442324 1.840588 4.04 0.000 3.819178 11.06547

The multivariate analysis using STATA software was conducted for the study to establish the extent of the relationship between the study variables. Table 3 above reveals that all study variables were significantly and positively related. Specifically, kidnapping was found to affect investment opportunity at (t value= 10.32, p value= 0.000, beta value at .397, while kidnapping has significant effect on government expenditure at (t value=4.75, p value= 0.000, beta value at =.249). Additionally, significant positive effect of kidnapping on employment opportunity were found at (t value=12.45, p value=

Findings and Discussion

Test of hypothesis one

That kidnapping has no significant effect on economic development in Adamawa Northern Senatorial District. This hypothesis uses three dimensions such as investment opportunity, employment opportunity and farming activities to test the effect of kidnapping on economic development of the study area. Going by correlation analysis result in the table 2 above, kidnapping is significantly positively correlated with investment opportunity at (p-value = 0.0000, r- value=0.5249). So also, the regression analysis in table 3 reveals that kidnapping was found to affect investment opportunity at (t-value= 10.32, p-value= 0.000, beta value at .39. From the foregoing, the null hypothesis which states that kidnapping has no significant effect on investment opportunity in Adamawa

Northern Senatorial District was rejected and accepted the alternate hypothesis which states that kidnapping has significant effect on investment opportunity in Adamawa Northern Senatorial District. The study found that kidnapping has effect on investment opportunity. The outcome of this paper corroborated with Rony and Gustavo (2006) study who found out that kidnapping has effect not only on investment opportunities of firms that sell in local markets, but also the investment of firms that sell in foreign markets. The results are consistent with the hypothesis that investors are reluctant to invest when their freedom and life are at risk.

That kidnapping does not posed any significant challenge in attracting investors to create employment opportunities in Adamawa Northern Senatorial District. The correlation result in table 3.2 shows a significant relationship between kidnapping as independent variable and employment opportunity as dependent variable at (pvalue= 0.0000, r-value= 0.5968). Additionally, the regression analysis in table 3.3 depicts that there is significant positive effect of kidnapping on employment opportunity which were found at (tvalue=12.45, p-value= 0.000, beta value at .510). The results therefore lead to the rejection of the null hypothesis which states that kidnapping does not posed any significant challenge in attracting potential investors to create employment opportunities in Adamawa Northern

Senatorial District. The rejection of the null hypothesis leads us to accept the alternate hypothesis which states that kidnapping do posed a significant challenge in attracting potential investors to create employment opportunities in Adamawa Northern Senatorial District. The findings of this paper was in tandem with study carry out by Daniele and Marani(2011) which showed that organized crime such as kidnapping were disincentives to investment in the southern region of Italy. This by

implication means that very little employment opportunity will be available for teeming population who are willing to work but could not due to unattractiveness of the place to investors to invest and the foldingup of existing business creating unemployment deficit.

That kidnapping has not any significant effect on farming activities in Adamawa State Northern Senatorial District. Finally, the correlation results show that kidnapping has significantly and positively correlated with farming activities at (p-value =0.0000, r-value= 0.2731). While regression analysis shows that relationship between kidnapping and farming activities were found to be significant and positively related at (t value=4.75, p-value=0.000, beta value at .249).

Both results lead to the rejection of null hypothesis which says that kidnapping has not any significant effect on farming activities in Adamawa State Northern Senatorial District and accept the alternate hypothesis which states that kidnapping has significant effect on farming activities in Adamawa State Northern Senatorial District. The findings of this study agreed with the result of research conducted by Beetseth, Abubakar and Nongo (2021) on the effect of herdsmen, banditry and kidnapping activities on food security in Nigeria.

Adamawa Northern Senatorial District has arable vast land for farming activities. Farming being the predominant occupation in the study area has been put to a standstill. As an agrarian society commercial activities in the area revolve around agricultural products. Farmers within this area find it difficult to go to their farms leading to food insecurity and a probable unprecedented hike in the prices of farm produce in the markets. Displacement of farmers has led to the reduction in agricultural output and the income of farmers considerably creating food scarcity in the study area. Traders also for fear of

becoming the next victims have decided to sort for alternative options. All these seem to have affected the economy of the area.

Test of hypothesis two

That kidnapping has no any effect on rising government expenditure of recent due to assistance render to security agencies in Adamawa State Northern Senatorial District. Kidnapping was also found to be significantly positively correlated with government revenue/expenditure at ($p\text{-value} = 0.0000$, $r\text{-value} = 0.2731$). While regression results reveals that kidnapping has significant effect on government expenditure at ($t\text{-value} = 4.75$, $p\text{-value} = 0.000$, $\beta\text{-value} = 0.249$). Both correlation and regression analysis leads to the rejection of null hypothesis which states that kidnapping has no contributed to the rising government expenditure of recent due to assistance render to security agencies in Adamawa State Northern Senatorial District and accept the alternate hypothesis that kidnapping has contributed to the rising government expenditure of recent due to assistance render to security agencies in Adamawa State Northern Senatorial District. In fact, kidnapping as done more harm than good since it provides people with a rear opportunity to trigger progress aimed at remaking, reclaiming and reordering our lost generations in the society (Godwin, Jeremiah, and Vesta, 2022).

Money mapped out for developmental projects to ameliorate the sufferings of the people was diverted into private purses in name of security votes which cannot be accounted for (Shabu, 2022). Hardly would a month pass by without reported incident of criminality mostly kidnapping. Workers of Adamawa State University (ADSU), School of Health Technology and Federal Polytechnic Mubi all in the study area are soft target. Thus, academic activities in these institutions are steadily on the decline people no longer feel safe coming to the area for studies. This fear was heightened when some

staff with the aforementioned institutions was kidnapped and ransom was paid for their released. Hence, state government continue commitment of scarce resources to complement the efforts of federal government in safeguarding lives and properties in the area.

Conclusion

The study was able to establish that kidnapping has an effect on economic development and it has become endemic not only in the study area but in Nigerian as a nation. The phenomenon is fast becoming a lucrative business due to high monetary return on the criminal act. In spite of government effort and resource committed to thwart the surge in kidnapping it has continued nonstop. The proliferation of kidnapping of recent contributed to the decline in economic activities in the study area as while as the rise in unemployment and fragile atmosphere for business undertaking to flourish.

High cost of food items and rise in government expenditure accentuate why poverty hold sway among the populace giving room for nefarious act like kidnapping to sprout. To mitigate rising incidence of kidnapping in the study area, government has to be deliberate in creating enabling and conducive environment for both domestic and foreign investors to engaged their resources thereby creating employment opportunities to lower incidence and severity of poverty in the area.

Recommendations

This study made the following recommendations in order to address the effect of kidnapping on economic development in northern senatorial district of Adamawa state. The recommendations will task both official and non-official stakeholders in devising

various measures toward fighting kidnapping. The recommendations are:

- i. The Nigerian Government should come up with poverty alleviation programmes and create a window for employment opportunities targeting youths who are mostly involved in abductions and kidnappings out of economic frustration to make ends meet. This is achievable through balancing of government expenditure on security matters and proper channeling of colossal amount of money usually tagged as security votes at all levels of government to provide infrastructures that will boost businesses especially tourism since the study area is one of the UNESCO tourist attraction area. This will go a long way in engaging the youths in legal productive endeavors that will add value to development in the study area thereby dispelling any thought of engaging in evil act like kidnapping
- ii. To effectively combat kidnapping government should also fight insurgency because the various insurgent groups in the neighboring states are all resorting to kidnapping of innocent people in their efforts to further their causes and also collect ransom to finance their nefarious activities. The unsafe atmosphere has led to folding-up of existing businesses and repelling of prospective investors that could have serve as an antidote to unemployment problem.
- iii. There should be synergy between foreign government's security agencies and Nigeria security agencies stationed at the border to collaborate in combating kidnapping. This can be done through the formation of International Joint Task Force (IJTF) and sharing of intelligent report regarding the activities of kidnappers. Kidnapping especially in the study area is a transnational crime usually involving movement in and out of the country due to its border nature and proximity to other countries.
- iv. All states of federation should be mandated to enact and pass a law that prescribes death penalty for both kidnappers and the persons who aided kidnapping. This might serve as deterrence for those already involved and those willing to engage in the act.
- v. Government should train and re-train security personnel on anti-kidnapping programmes and how to identify victims of kidnapping and be able to take them from the kidnappers without them being hurt. Provision of modern and sophisticated equipments to repel or tract any incidence of kidnapping can be of help in that direction.
- vi. The law enforcement agencies (especially Nigeria Immigration Service) that are saddled with the responsibility of controlling illegal entry and exit of people should intensify surveillance and up and doing on the fight against kidnapping. This can be possible if the personnel are patriotic to the Nigeria government and eschew all forms of corruption by allowing

unauthorized persons into and outside the country. Reward and recognition should be given to patriotic, committed and dedicative personnel in the course of discharging their duties.

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