OPEN ACCESS JOURNALS

Article

Security Administration and Good Governance in Nigeria's Fourth Republic: An Empirical Analysis of Democratic Stability and Citizen Trust

Udu Moses Ogechi, PhD[1], Ndaage, Barikuma Lazarus, PhD[2]

1. Nigeria Police Training School, Ikeja, Lagos
2. Department of Political Science, Ignatius Ajuru University of Education, Port Harcourt, Rivers State
* Correspondence: osmosisu@yahoo.com, ndaagebarikuma@gmail.com

Abstract: This study examines the impact of security challenges on good governance and democratic consolidation in Nigeria's Fourth Republic. The country has faced persistent security crises, including insurgencies, ethnic violence, and internal conflicts, undermining governance and the consolidation of democracy. The primary aim of the study is to assess how these security challenges contribute to the erosion of governance quality and weaken public trust in democratic institutions. The study adopted a qualitative methodology, drawing on secondary sources such as textbooks, journal publications, and government reports, and employing content analysis to interpret the data. The theoretical framework combined good governance theory and social trust theory, highlighting the essential relationship between security, governance, and citizen trust. the study found that security challenges in Nigeria, especially insurgencies and ethnic violence, have significantly impacted governance by diverting resources from essential public services to security concerns. Furthermore, poor governance practices, such as corruption and lack of accountability, have compounded security issues, eroding public trust in government institutions. This loss of trust has led to political apathy, further hindering democratic participation. The study concludes that the persistent security issues in Nigeria's Fourth Republic pose a significant threat to democratic consolidation. For democracy to thrive, the government must effectively address security challenges, ensure good governance, and restore public trust. Recommendations include strengthening security institutions by improving training and resource allocation, promoting good governance practices to combat corruption and inefficiency, and fostering citizen engagement and trust through transparent and inclusive policies. These measures will not only address the current security crises but also create a stable foundation for Nigeria's democratic consolidation.

Keywords: Security challenges, good governance, democratic consolidation, Nigeria, citizen trust, governance reform.

1. Introduction

Security management is no longer a technical necessity, but a proactive command centre of digital guardianship that is integrated into modern governance. It coordinates a coordinated dance between policy frameworks, technological infrastructures, and alert human supervision, thus protecting critical systems against ongoing cyber threats. With governments and institutions adopting digital platforms in their daily activities, the scope of security administration has grown to include sustained surveillance, resilient response systems, and intelligent threat anticipation systems [1].

The Fourth Republic of Nigeria, which came into power in 1999, was a turning point in the country as it shifted to democratic governance after decades of military rule. It was received with hopefulness since most Nigerians anticipated political stability, economic prosperity and an end to autocratic rule. However, even with its long-standing democratic

system, the pursuit of good governance in the Fourth Republic of Nigeria has been marred with challenges [2]. Corruption, poor electoral practices and inefficient institutions have been a constant challenge to leadership and have hindered the provision of promised benefits to the citizens [3]. Despite some political trends in the country, including the improvement of civil and political rights, the reality has often proven to be different, and the governance has been characterized by insecurity, poverty, and inequality. These problems have undermined the trust of the people and weakened the credibility of the democratic institutions making good governance a far-fetched dream. In addition, the accumulation of power in a small group of elites has limited the democratic principles of accountability and transparency [4]. The solution to these governance gaps requires a paradigm shift in leadership, with a new dedication to democratic values and a more inclusive and open political culture.

The stability of democracy depends greatly on the trust that citizens have on the governing institutions [5]. It is this trust that forms the foundation of a working democracy, as citizens are convinced of the validity and effectiveness of their leaders and political institutions. Without this trust, even the well established democratic systems can collapse. Political scandals, economic instability, and perceived corruption have undermined the trust of citizens in the context of recent global trends [6]. With the decline in political trust, the participation of citizens in the democratic process, including voting and civic participation, decreases. To ensure that democracies are healthy, trust should be fostered by ensuring that there is transparency in governance, policy implementation and the assurance that the political leaders are serving the best interests of the people. However, a study by Mauk shows that the assessment of democratic performance by citizens, especially in younger democracies, is a major determinant of their political trust [7]. This association proves that the quality of democracy is a decisive factor in maintaining trust and consequently political stability. The greater the perception of the citizens that their democratic institutions are operating well, the higher the chances that they will trust such systems even during times of difficulty [8].

The Fourth Republic of Nigeria, which came into power in 1999, was a historic shift of decades of military rule to democratic governance. The citizens were full of optimism, and they expected democracy to bring about the required reforms, economic development, and political stability. However, more than 20 years later, the nation still faces serious problems in achieving these dreams[9]. The issue of security administration and good governance are still relevant as the system is still plagued by the problems of corruption, poor infrastructure, political instability and insecurity. Nigeria has not completely gotten out of the shadow of the military rule even after the formal restoration of democracy, as it continues to play a role in the political and security environment [10]. This contradiction is reflected in the continued involvement of the military in the internal security operations, especially when the police force is not fully operational . The use of the military to solve civilian problems such as ethnic conflicts, insurgencies, and other security challenges further undermines the confidence of the citizens in institutions that are mandated to protect their rights and freedoms [11]. The scenario highlights the intricate nature of the relationship between security administration and governance in the Fourth Republic of Nigeria.

Democratic stability is closely associated with the trust of citizens in political institutions. In Nigeria, such trust is still fragile because of the poor performance of elected officials who have not fulfilled their promise of good governance . The lack of accountability in government offices and the high level of corruption also undermine the trust of citizens in government institutions [12] . In this regard, the inability of security agencies to deal with the security challenges facing the country has complicated the governance problems, making it difficult to entrench the democratic system [13]. Despite the regular elections, the quality of governance, which includes the rule of law, delivery of security, and facilitation of socio-economic development, has been elusive. In order to

attain good governance and ensure democratic stability, there is a need to curb the shortcomings in the security administration of Nigeria and enhance accountability systems in the political system. This paper aims to empirically examine the connection between security administration, democratic stability and citizen trust in the Fourth Republic of Nigeria [14].

Statement of the Problem

Since the establishment of the fourth republic in Nigeria in 1999, the issue of security has been a constant challenge to democratic governance that has affected the stability and effectiveness of democratic institutions in the country [15]. The democratic system has not been able to keep order and trust of the people even after the military rule was overtaken by civilian rule. The major issues, which include corruption, economic inequality, and political instability, have been a thorn in the flesh of the governance structure in Nigeria, which has resulted in a situation where people are disillusioned with their government [16]. These problems have impeded the development of democratic stability despite the fact that the country has experienced some degree of political participation. In addition, the ongoing insecurity, such as the Boko Haram insurgency, farmer-herder violence, and other violence-related issues, has increased the level of fear and reduced the confidence of citizens in the ability of the state to maintain peace and order [17]. These issues are indicative of a more fundamental issue, which is that security institutions are not keeping up with the demands of a contemporary democratic state, leading to a loss of popular trust [18]. These governance problems are persistent, which underscores a greater systemic failure that hinders the democratic consolidation of Nigeria. The Fourth Republic has been described as a leadership that is inefficient and unaccountable. Leaders have been unable to balance the expectations of the citizens with the reality of governance, often failing to deal with the basic problems of poverty, unemployment, and infrastructural degradation [19]. The fact that the police have been performing poorly in their duties has led to the continued use of the military to provide internal security, which has cast doubt on the real nature of democracy in Nigeria. Can a democracy still be considered to be functional when its security organs are militarized and regularly used to handle normal civil issues? Is it possible to have a stable democracy in a country that has a history of not being able to offer basic security and governance? These rhetorical questions highlight the importance of dealing with these problems [20]. The democratic process in Nigeria seems to have stalled despite the frequent elections, and this is mainly because the state has failed to address the security and governance issues that have continued to bedevil its institutions. It is against this backdrop that this study was undertaken to examine the Security Administration and Good Governance in Nigeria's Fourth Republic: An Empirical Analysis of Democratic Stability and Citizen Trust. Specifically, the study seeks to:

1. Examine the impact of security administration on democratic stability in Nigeria's Fourth Republic.
2. Assess the relationship between good governance practices and the level of citizen trust in Nigeria's Fourth Republic.
3. Examine the role of security challenges in undermining good governance and democratic consolidation in Nigeria.

Theoretical Underpinning

The paper is based on two theoretical models of good governance, which were developed by William R. F. King and Social Trust Theory, which was initially formulated by Fukuyama. The Good Governance Theory states that good governance, which includes transparency, accountability, and the rule of law, is central to achieving a stable democracy [21]. In this perspective, governance goes beyond administrative efficiency to the ethical management of the resources and institutions of the people. The theory presupposes that the quality of governance has a direct impact on the citizen trust and the stability of the polity in general. This point of view is especially relevant in the context of

the Fourth Republic of Nigeria, where security issues and inefficiency of the government are still a significant problem; corruption, absence of accountability, and unclear decision-making processes can seriously undermine the trust of the population in the governmental institutions, thus disrupting the democratic process [22]. The Good Governance Theory, thus, provides a useful approach to the analysis of the nexus of good governance and the effectiveness of the security administration in Nigeria, with a particular focus on the establishment of the environment where citizens feel safe and empowered to engage in the democratic processes.

The Social Trust Theory, which was put forward by Fukuyama , is a key element in explaining the way in which the trust of the citizens in the political institutions forms the basis of the democratic stability. According to the theory, the state and its people must trust each other to have a successful democracy where they have to work together and take collective action to address the challenges facing the society [23]. The loss of trust in the government in Nigeria, which is being eroded by corruption, insecurity, and inefficiency in governance, is a menace to the democracy itself. The theory argues that citizens who have trust in their government are more likely to participate in political processes and promote democratic institutions. This theoretical prism is therefore essential in explaining the influence of the way the government manages security and governance matters on the trust of the people [24]. Using this approach to the Fourth Republic in Nigeria, the paper sheds light on the mutual dependence between the trust in governance and democratic stability, particularly in the context of security threats that erode the trust of citizens in the protective power of the state.

The combination of the Theory of Good Governance and the Social Trust Theory provides a complete framework of the analysis of the interdependence of security administration, the quality of governance, and citizen trust in Nigeria [25]. Although Good Governance Theory is focused on the mechanisms and practices that are necessary to promote effective and ethical governance, Social Trust Theory provides a lens through which the perception of the population about governmental actions and the resulting effect on democratic stability can be viewed. These theories are complementary in the context of the Fourth Republic of Nigeria [26]. Good security management, such as that, is not only a question of operational capacity but also of perception. The citizens trust the government when they feel that security measures are transparent, accountable, and sincerely protecting their rights. Therefore, the relationship between the quality of governance and citizen trust is dynamic and is at the center of understanding the mechanics of democratic stability in Nigeria [27]. These theoretical understandings are critical in informing policies that may guide the leadership of Nigeria towards a more secure and participatory democracy thus making the Fourth Republic more resilient.

2. Materials and Methods

The article takes a qualitative approach to examine the connection between security administration, good governance, and democratic stability in the Fourth Republic of Nigeria. The study provides a holistic picture of the modern governance and citizen confidence by obtaining information on secondary sources, such as textbooks, journal articles, newspapers, governmental publications, and foreign news sources. These sources are invaluable in terms of the issues that face the democratic institutions, security systems, and governance systems in Nigeria. The information was then analyzed using content analysis, which allowed exploring the trends and patterns that define political stability and trust of the population in Nigeria. This study employed a qualitative research approach to investigate the interrelationship between security administration, good governance, and democratic stability in Nigeria's Fourth Republic. The qualitative design was considered most appropriate, as it allows for an in-depth exploration of social, political, and administrative phenomena within their real-life contexts. This approach enabled the researcher to obtain detailed and descriptive information that reflects the complexities and dynamics of governance and public trust in Nigeria. The study adopted

a descriptive and exploratory qualitative design, focusing on understanding the patterns, perceptions, and institutional factors shaping the relationship between governance, security administration, and democracy. Rather than relying on numerical data, this design emphasized the interpretation of existing knowledge and experiences documented in various scholarly and official sources. The main goal was to identify recurring themes, challenges, and implications that influence the performance and credibility of democratic institutions in Nigeria.

3. Results and Discussion

Impact of security administration on democratic stability in Nigeria's Fourth Republic.

The role of security administration in the democratic stability of the fourth republic of Nigeria is a very complicated and important question that has a lot of implications on the political situation of the country. Security is a crucial role of any state especially in a democratic state where the protection of the rights and freedoms of the citizens is the foundation of governance [28]. In the Nigerian case, the effectiveness of its security agencies, including the military, the police, and other law-enforcement bodies, is at the center of the stability of the democratic system. Nigerian government has been facing a myriad of security issues including insurgencies, banditry, ethnic violence, and terrorism since the restoration of civilian rule in 1999, which has put democratic institutions to the test [29]. The irony, as witnessed in Nigeria, is that, although the country is a democratic state, it has been grappling with the issue of providing security to its citizens hence influencing the legitimacy and stability of its democracy.

The effectiveness of security institutions in Nigeria is directly associated with the level of trust that people have in democratic processes [30]. The failure of security forces to defend citizens or the perception that they are involved in corruption and human-rights violations destroys the confidence of the population in the government, undermining democratic institutions [31]. The military has been summoned on numerous occasions to help in the internal security operations as witnessed in the Fourth Republic of Nigeria, which should be the prerogative of civilian police forces. This dependence is due to the fact that the Nigerian Police Force is often overstretched to deal with the prevalence of ethnic militancy, religious fanaticism, electoral violence, and other types of civil unrest Applicable Laws in Engaging Non-State Actors in Counter-Insurgency Operations: With Particular Reference to Nigeria [32] As an example, the military has been used to deal with the long-running Boko Haram insurgency in the North-East, frequent farmer-herder conflicts in different parts of the country, and militancy in the Niger Delta, where civilian deaths have unfortunately been a result of interventions. Other notable events are military intervention in conflicts with Shiite factions in Zaria and Abuja, the crackdown on separatist movements like IPOB in the South East and the highly publicised EndSARS shooting at Lekki Toll Gate, which led to the deaths of people and international criticism [33]. The training of the military to use maximum force and perceiving opposition as an enemy to be crushed is not always appropriate in civil contexts, and it is concerning that human-rights violations and the loss of democratic values may occur. Although this over-dependence on the military is essential in some situations, it has also brought about the issue of militarisation of governance, thus compromising the principles of democracy, including civilian control of the military and the rule of law [34]. The use of the army in the internal security operations is perceived as a stabilising factor and a menace to democratic governance since it tends to circumvent the civilian checks and balances.

Furthermore, the underfunding, insufficient training, and resources are some of the problems that undermine the overall performance of security institutions in Nigeria, which have led to the increasing insecurity in the country. The failure of the Nigerian government to protect its borders, curb terrorism and control internal conflicts have dire effects on democratic stability. It causes a general disappointment in democratic rule, as people start doubting the ability of their leaders to offer basic security which is one of the most basic elements of governance [35]. As an example, the long-standing Boko Haram insurgency in the North-East has not only resulted in massive displacement and loss of life, with thousands of people killed since 2009, but also a serious undermining of the

confidence of the population in the capacity of the state to defend its people and its territory, which is a major challenge to national security and the sustainability of democracy [36]. Likewise, the ongoing farmer-herder conflicts in different parts of the country have resulted in an increase in violence, many deaths, and a large-scale displacement of the population, which is usually explained by the absence of effective government policies and poor institutions in addressing such conflicts [37]. Moreover, widespread banditry, ransom kidnapping, and school attacks have a catastrophic impact on citizens, which highlights the perceived ineffectiveness of the government and motivates many to turn to vigilante groups to protect themselves. This, combined with the reported cases of police misconduct, abuse, and predatory policing, contributes to the widespread lack of trust in law enforcement and the criminal justice system as a whole, which further weakens the trust of the citizens in the democratic institutions and their ability to provide security and justice [38]. These complex security issues directly erode the social contract between the state and the citizens, undermining the principles of democratic legitimacy and stability. Insecurity does not only weaken the rule of law but also promotes the spread of violence and militancy, which further destabilises the country.

Relationship between good governance practices and the level of citizen trust in Nigeria's Fourth Republic

The nexus between good governance practices and the level of citizen confidence is central to the understanding of the larger outlines of democratic resilience in the Fourth Republic of Nigeria. Governance is the foundation of any polity, which provides the structures and policies that define the well-being of the people. Corruption, lack of accountability and poor leadership are endemic problems in Nigeria that have undermined the principles of strong democratic institutions. Confidence in the state is closely connected with its ability to meet the promises in terms of security, economic growth, and fair governance [39]. Corruption, especially in government offices, is a very powerful challenge to citizen trust, with far-reaching consequences to the democratic process. In the event that citizens feel that their leaders are corrupt, they become disillusioned with the democratic process, which discourages them to participate in politics actively [40]. This is eminent in Nigeria where even after a series of anti-corruption campaigns, there is no substantial improvement in governance and the confidence in democratic frameworks is dwindling. The fact that the so-called elite capture syndrome is common in the country, where the influential actors often sabotage anti-corruption institutions like the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission and the Independent Corrupt Practices and Other Related Offences Commission, thus hindering high-profile prosecution [41]. The very nature of the criminal justice system, which fails to deliver timely and decisive justice to illegal actions, tends to allow the people in authority to commit crimes with impunity.

The common phenomenon that is observed by the general population is the instances where high-ranking political leaders, despite being accused of engaging in gross corruption, seem to get away with it due to their status. As an example, those who have been found with pending corruption cases are reportedly seen to have their dossiers placed into abeyance after rejoining the ruling All Progressives Congress, which is an example of politicisation of anti-corruption efforts and selective prosecution [42]. This lack of political goodwill to prosecute powerful people actively protects the corrupt, allowing them to challenge audit reports despite having no basis. The judicial system is also perceived as a system of weaknesses and corruption that allow criminals to evade justice, which further undermines the trust of the population. The perception of the ability of powerful politicians to evade accountability using their positions and networks has been enhanced by high-profile financial scandals, including the N24 billion Police Pension Scam or the Malabo oil deal involving a former Attorney General.

Accountability of leaders and institutions is also a significant factor that determines the effectiveness of governance in Nigeria. Responsibility ensures that the officials are held accountable to the citizens on their actions and decisions, which promotes transparency and equity. However, the lack of accountability in the political system of Nigeria is a long-term issue. Political leaders are evading accountability on a regular basis,

and the institutions that are meant to limit executive authority, i.e., the judiciary and legislature, have been accused of ineffectiveness and corruption [43]. This has created a situation where people are not interested in the political process and they do not see much motivation in taking part. Once the systems that are supposed to promote accountability are undermined, the trust in the government is lost, and the result is political apathy and a loss of interest in democracy. As an illustration, the Nigerian judicial system, even though constitutionally independent, is often accused of bias and corruption in its decisions [44]. This systemic risk creates a deep sense of societal belief that justice is not administered without bias, especially where high-profile people are concerned. Combined with the so-called elite capture syndrome that compromises the performance of anti-corruption agencies, the result is a lack of high-profile convictions of illegal actions . The case of pending corruption cases being put on abeyance after alignment with the ruling party is an excellent example of how accountability mechanisms can be undermined. The failure to promptly and efficiently penalize criminal activities by the authorities, usually because of the perceived weaknesses of the judiciary, strengthens the disillusionment of the population. This continued inability to administer justice undermines citizen confidence in democratic institutions, fosters a profound lack of trust in the rule of law, and eventually reduces citizen participation. As a result, citizens are becoming more and more disillusioned with their participation in a system that they view as inherently corrupt and unfair, and this cycle of unproductive governance, corruption, and lack of accountability continues to erode the democratic integrity of Nigeria [45].

Another critical issue that determines the relationship between governance and citizen trust in Nigeria is leadership effectiveness. Effective leadership is essential in leading the country through crises and effective implementation of policies. Nevertheless, the Nigerian leadership has often been described as inefficient, mismanaged and lacking in commitment to solve the most urgent problems in the country. These leadership weaknesses have led to a rift between the government and the people, undermining the confidence in political institutions. As an example, the inability to deliver on economic development promises, coupled with the continued unemployment, poverty, and insecurity, have further undermined the faith of the Nigerian people in their leaders. Without strong, responsible, and open leadership, the environment that allows the development of citizen trust is not present. This loss of trust impacts on democratic participation because citizens are less likely to participate in elections or support political processes that are seen to be corrupt or ineffective. The democracy of Nigeria will keep struggling with the lack of trust and participation of citizens as long as the leadership of the country is stuck in personal and partisan interests [46].

To conclude, the connection between good governance practices and citizen trust in the Fourth Republic of Nigeria is complex and fraught with difficulties. The relationship between the state and the citizens has been severely affected by governance issues such as corruption, poor accountability, and poor leadership. To achieve democracy in Nigeria, there must be a firm dedication to transparency, accountability and responsiveness. Unless the government addresses these issues, the trust of the citizens in democratic institutions will continue to decline, and the democratic participation will be muted. Thus, the Nigerian leadership should strive to develop a political environment that is marked by integrity and accountability because this is the only way to regain trust and make the democratic processes in the country stable [47].

Role of security challenges in undermining good governance and democratic consolidation in Nigeria.

Security issues in Nigeria have been a thorn in the flesh and a major hindrance to the unification of democracy and good governance. The country has been grappling with different types of insecurity since the restoration of civilian rule in 1999, including insurgencies, including the Boko Haram terrorism in the North East, ethnic and resource-based conflicts, especially in the Niger Delta region. The implications of these security challenges on the governance system are far-reaching, as the state is no longer able to defend its citizens and ensure democratic stability. Security is the foundation of any democracy because it guarantees the safety of life and property, which are the main pillars of maintaining trust of citizens in democratic institutions. The inability to effectively tackle

the issue of security in the Nigerian context has contributed to the loss of this trust, which undermines the confidence of the population in democratic institutions and prevents the democratic consolidation process. In particular, the spread of armed banditry, kidnapping, and communal conflicts further destabilise the areas, causing internal displacement and interfering with economic operations.

Insurgency especially the Boko Haram insurgency in the North East and the Niger Delta militancy in the South-South is one of the major security challenges facing Nigeria. These groups have not only led to loss of life and displacement but also an atmosphere of fear and instability, which greatly undermines the process of democracy. The more the insurgencies and armed conflicts, the more the government is concerned with military interventions at the expense of dealing with key governance challenges like poverty reduction, healthcare and education. This security interest has led to the diversion of resources in areas of governance that are critical and undermined democratic institutions that are supposed to promote political participation, accountability, and transparency. As an illustration, excessive reliance on military force to deal with internal conflicts, especially in the Niger Delta, has resulted in increased militarisation of governance and less civilian control over the security forces, which is a major challenge to the democratic principle of civilian supremacy over the military. Moreover, the ongoing insecurity, including rampant banditry, kidnapping, and ethno-religious violence, directly affects the ability of the state to provide basic services and safeguard its citizens, which is one of the fundamental principles of good governance. This widespread insecurity also limits the electoral process and the integrity of the democratic process because violence and threats discourage citizens to participate in political activities and destroy trust in the electoral results. The fact that the government cannot ensure the security of its people in conflict-prone areas only increases the lack of trust in the governmental institutions, which may result in social unrest and secession demands [48].

Failure by the Nigerian government to properly deal with these security challenges has led to a general disillusionment among the people. When security agencies fail to secure the citizens against violent groups, and when corruption in the security agencies is rampant, the citizens lose confidence in their leaders and government institutions. The inability to offer proper security, especially in rural and conflict zones, has a direct impact on the involvement of citizens in the democratic processes. When citizens are not safe or they are of the opinion that their government is not able to protect them, their readiness to participate in political activities, including voting or participating in discussions, reduces considerably. Moreover, the absence of security contributes to political instability, which creates the atmosphere of distrust to the institutions of the state and weakens the process of democratic consolidation. These security issues in the long run lead to the undermining of governance structures, which cannot allow the development of a strong leadership that can unify the democracy of Nigeria.

4. Conclusion

To sum up, this paper has indicated that there is a strong correlation between security issues, good governance, and democratic consolidation in the Fourth Republic of Nigeria. The discussion has shown that the continued security crises, especially insurgencies, ethnic violence, and internal conflicts have not only weakened the quality of governance but also led to the weakness of the democratic system in the country. The security dilemmas that Nigeria is experiencing such as the Boko Haram insurgency in the North East and the Niger Delta militancy have been major sources of instability as they have impeded the consolidation of democracy by undermining the trust of the people in the institutions of government. The further militarisation of the internal security activities and the inability to effectively deal with these security issues has compromised the democratic process and eroded the trust of the citizens in their leaders. This has reduced the level of citizen involvement in the democratic processes, making the process of democratic consolidation even more difficult.

The paper also emphasized the role of bad governance, which is typified by corruption, inefficiency, and accountability, in worsening these security issues. The failure

of the Nigerian government to offer good security to its people has not only destabilised the political environment but has also brought about a sense of disillusionment and political apathy.

Recommendations

According to the identified findings and conclusion, the following recommendations were made:

1. Enhance Security Institutions: The Nigerian government must focus on enhancing its security institutions through investment in improved training, modern equipment and strategic leadership.
2. Good Governance Practices: Nigeria needs to adopt transparent, accountable, and inclusive governance to solve the problems that are the causes of insecurity. Public trust will be enhanced by good governance practices, including proper management of the public resources, combating corruption, and the rule of law.
3. Promote Citizen Engagement and Trust: The government must embark on a mission to restore the confidence of the citizens in the democratic institutions by engaging the citizens in social dialogues and policy changes that will address the socio-economic grievances.

REFERENCES

[1] K. Q. Abayomi, "Public trust and state management of the COVID-19 pandemic in Nigeria," Frontiers in Political Science, vol. 6, 2024. [Online]. Available: https://doi.org/10.3389/fpos.2024.1334827

[2] S. A. Abdullahi and Y. A. Manu, "Democracy leadership and good governance in Nigeria's Fourth Republic," World Academy of Science, Engineering and Technology, International Journal of Humanities and Social Sciences, vol. 4, 2017. [Online]. Available: https://consensus.app/papers/democracy-leadership-and-good-governance-in-nigerias-manu/d06141b8a6055bb393049587ffdc934d

[3] T. O. Adefisoye and O. O. Ariyo, "Military deployment in internal security operations and civil-military relations in a democracy: The Nigerian experience," European Journal of Political Science Studies, 2019. [Online]. Available: https://doi.org/10.46827/ejpss.v0i0.538

[4] T. K. Adekunle, B. Phd, and H. Nwaechefu, "Corruption and bias among judges in Nigeria as recorded in 2018 and 2019: A dash of hope of the common man," Journal of Law Policy and Globalization, 2019. [Online]. Available: https://doi.org/10.7176/jlpg/82-02

[5] A. B. Adeosun, "Democracy and democratic consolidation in Nigerian Fourth Republic: Issues and challenges," IOSR Journal of Humanities and Social Science, vol. 19, no. 1, pp. 5–10, 2014.

[6] D. E. Agbiboa, "The ongoing campaign of terror in Nigeria: Boko Haram versus the state," Stability: International Journal of Security and Development, vol. 2, no. 3, p. 52, 2013. [Online]. Available: https://doi.org/10.5334/sta.cl

[7] O. M. Akinlabi, "Police-citizen relations in Nigeria," in Palgrave's Critical Policing Studies, Springer International Publishing, 2022. [Online]. Available: https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-030-92919-0

[8] E. O. Alemika, "Corruption, governance performance and political trust in Nigeria," African Journal of Political Science, 2004.

[9] M. B. Aleyomi, "Nigeria's image crisis: Drivers, efforts, and prospects," African Identities, vol. 18, pp. 217–232, 2020.

[10] "Applicable laws in engaging non-state actors in counter-insurgency operations: With particular reference to Nigeria," SSRN Electronic Journal, 2014. [Online]. Available: https://doi.org/10.2139/ssrn.2546906

[11] H. Born, Reviving Security Sector Reform in Transition States: Lessons Learned from Indonesia and Nigeria. Springer, 2013.

[12] A. Dambazau, "Nigeria's security challenges and the crisis of political development in North Africa," Nigeria's Journal of Political Science and Development Studies, vol. 1, no. 1, pp. 45–60, 2014.

[13] V. Das, "Judicial corruption: The case of Nigeria," Journal of Financial Crime, vol. 25, no. 4, p. 926, 2018. [Online]. Available: https://doi.org/10.1108/jfc-02-2017-0011

[14] A. Dawson and I. L. Krakoff, "Political trust and democracy: The critical citizens thesis re-examined," Democratization, vol. 31, pp. 90–112, 2023.

[15] A. U. Egye, "Democracy and national security challenges in Nigeria: 1999–2017," International Journal of Scientific and Education Research, vol. 2, no. 6, pp. 134–140, 2019.

[16] A. Ejiogu, C. Ejiogu, and A. Ambituuni, "The dark side of transparency: Does the Nigeria Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative help or hinder accountability and corruption control?" The British Accounting Review, vol. 51, no. 5, p. 100811, 2018. [Online]. Available: https://doi.org/10.1016/j.bar.2018.10.004

[17] C. Enyiazu, O. Madueke, and C. C. Mbaegbu, "Civil military relations in a post-colonial state: An interrogation of Nigeria's military internal operations," Open Journal of Political Science, vol. 12, no. 2, p. 162, 2022. [Online]. Available: https://doi.org/10.4236/ojps.2022.122010

[18] O. Fadare, C. Srinivasan, and G. Zanello, "Livestock diversification mitigates the impact of farmer-herder conflicts on animal-source foods consumption in Nigeria," Food Policy, vol. 122, p. 102586, 2023.

[19] D. P. Fisayo, N. D. Nte, A. A. Adejoke, and O. R. Ayoola, "Elite capture syndrome and anti-corruption control in Nigeria: The Economic and Financial Crimes Commission and the Independent Corrupt Practices Commission in perspective," International Journal of Business Humanities Education and Social Sciences (IJBHES), vol. 5, no. 2, p. 144, 2023.

[20] F. Fukuyama, Trust: The Social Virtues and the Creation of Prosperity. Free Press, 1995.

[21] B. Igbinovia, S. S. Akpan, F. O. Mbagwu, U. I. Mohammad, and D. Umoru, "Asymmetric responses of manufacturing sector to changes in exchange rates and bank credits: Developing country evidence," BRICS Journal of Economics, vol. 6, no. 2, p. 139, 2025.

[22] Y. D. Izom, M. H. Joel, and L. Noma, "Security challenges and the survival of democracy in Nigeria: An assessment of Niger East Senatorial District, Niger State," International Journal of Research and Innovation in Social Science, p. 2052, 2024.

[23] C. Ji and J. Jiang, "The primacy of performance for regime support: Evidence from a global dataset," Public Choice: Public Goods eJournal, 2020.

[24] W. R. F. King, Good Governance and Development: Globalization and the State. University Press, 1995.

[25] E. V. Kubanov, "Theoretical approaches to the conceptual-categorical apparatus of cybersecurity in the system of public administration," Public Administration Aspects, 2018.

[26] Y. Laiatu, A. M. Ibrahim, K. O. Fatai, and G. O. Fadare, "Issues and challenges of people-driven anti-corruption campaign: An analysis of Independent Corrupt Practices and Other Related Offences Commission in Nigeria," Zenodo (CERN European Organization for Nuclear Research), 2023. [Online]. Available: https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.7827452

[27] T. Lawal and S. Oriola, "Nigerian state, leadership deficiency, and the challenges of good governance in the Fourth Republic," African Journal of Politics and Administrative Studies, vol. 16, no. 1, p. 21, 2023.

[28] S. B. Lugard, "Judicial corruption as a self-inflicted impediment to the independence of the judiciary in Nigeria," KAS African Law Study Library, vol. 4, no. 3, p. 310, 2017.

[29] G. C. Malasowe, "State and security crises in Nigeria's Fourth Republic (1999–2015): A paradox of democracy," Research on Humanities and Social Sciences, 2016.

[30] M. Mauk, "Quality of democracy makes a difference, but not for everyone: How political interest, education, and conceptions of democracy condition the relationship between democratic quality and political trust," Frontiers in Political Science, 2021.

[31] J. Momodu, "The Nigerian army and internal security operations in the Fourth Republic," Internal Security Management in Nigeria, 2019.

[32] I. B. Namo, L. Agwadu, and W. T. Amakoromo, "Governance, corruption, and underdevelopment in Nigeria's Fourth Republic," African Journal of Humanities and Contemporary Education Research, 2024.

[33] A. Nwozor, J. S. Olanrewaju, S. Oshewolo, and M. Ake, "Is Nigeria really fighting to win the anti-corruption war?" Journal of Financial Crime, vol. 27, no. 2, p. 601, 2020.

[34] U. S. Ogbo and S. A. Avidime, "Assessing democratic governance in the Nigerian Fourth Republic, 1999–2014," European Scientific Journal, vol. 12, no. 29, pp. 142–142, 2016.

[35] C. O. Okafor, U. C. Chienweze, H. S. Abu, and N. R. Umoh, "Democracy and perceived public confidence in the judiciary: Roles of socio-economy and gender," African Research Review, vol. 14, no. 1, p. 155, 2020.

[36] S. O. Olisah, "Cognitive restructuring: A panacea for good governance and national security in Nigeria," International Journal of Security and Governance, vol. 6, no. 3, pp. 25–40, 2020.

[37] O. A. Oluyemi, "The military dimension of Niger Delta crisis and its implications on Nigeria national security," SAGE Open, vol. 10, no. 2, 2020. [Online]. Available: https://doi.org/10.1177/2158244020922895

[38] M. Omilusi, "Justice for the rich, judgment for the poor: 'Elite immunity', rampant impunity and the administration of criminal justice in Nigeria," Revista Brasileira de Estudos Africanos, vol. 4, no. 7, 2019.

[39] S. M. Omodia and M. Aliu, "Governance and threats to national security in emerging democracies: A focus on the Nigerian Fourth Republic," Research on Humanities and Social Sciences, vol. 3, no. 36, pp. 36–42, 2013.

[40] E. O. Oni, O. T. Faluyi, L. O. Asumu, and A. A. Olutola, "Security challenges and election administration in Nigeria's Fourth Republic," Frontiers in Political Science, vol. 7, 2025. [Online]. Available: https://doi.org/10.3389/fpos.2025.1458303

[41] U. R. Onyebuchi, "Public accountability in Nigeria's Fourth Republic: An overview," IOSR Journal of Humanities and Social Science, vol. 2, no. 8, pp. 8–12, 2012.

[42] A. A. Oyekanmi and M. O. Rosenje, "Challenges and prospects of national security, legitimacy, and democratic sustenance in Nigeria's Fourth Republic," Journal of Government and Political Issues, vol. 2, no. 2, 2022.

[43] C. Solanes, "Complete issue: Journal of Conflictology volume 5, issue 1," Journal of Conflictology, vol. 5, no. 1, 2014.

[44] D. F. A. Tiwa, "Institutional distrust trap: An analysis of the effect of public distrust in the Nigeria Police Force," Policing & Society, vol. 34, no. 8, p. 846, 2024.

[45] B. Ugochukwu, "The pathology of judicialization: Politics, corruption and the courts in Nigeria," The Law and Development Review, vol. 4, no. 3, 2011.

[46] U. Ukiwo, "Democracy consolidation in Nigeria: Ethnic conflicts, security challenges, and governance," African Political Science Review, vol. 13, no. 2, pp. 112–123, 2003.

[47] M. Yousaf, F. Ihsan, and A. Ellahi, "Exploring the impact of good governance on citizens' trust in Pakistan," Government Information Quarterly, vol. 33, pp. 200–209, 2016.

[48] F. Zuo, J. Rhee, M. Park, and G. Qian, "Designing a security system administration course for cybersecurity with a companion project," ArXiv, 2023.