

Economic Stability, Sustainable Development, and the Security Intelligence Challenges in Kaduna State, Nigeria

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ABSTRACT

This article examines the issues of economic stability, sustainable development, and security intelligence challenges in Kaduna State from 2022 to 2024, with a specific focus on the Zaria Local Government area. The study utilised conflict theory as its theoretical framework and employed purposive and stratified sampling methods. A combination of questionnaires and in-depth interviews was conducted. A total of eighty-six respondents from various Nigerian security intelligence agencies, including the CID, NIA, SSS, and DMI, were selected. Key findings include the role of security intelligence in mitigating security threats in Kaduna State; however, poor coordination was identified as the primary barrier to the practical application of security intelligence in the state. Additional obstacles highlighted were a lack of resources, corruption, and inadequate training. The study suggests providing socially sufficient social amenities and developmental initiatives to help individuals avoid vulnerable situations that could lead to conflict and insecurity. It emphasises the need for Federal, State, and Local governments to prioritise specific programs and projects aimed at job creation and fostering entrepreneurship among the youth. National security agencies and relevant stakeholders should improve their capabilities for intelligence gathering, sharing, detection, and investigation. Furthermore, National Orientation Agencies, relevant organisations, and NGOs should consistently promote awareness and educate the population on the importance of peaceful coexistence, respect, tolerance, and diversity. Lastly, ongoing training and capacity development for all national security personnel should focus on security intelligence and the strategies employed by contemporary organised criminal activities.

1.1 INTRODUCTION

Kaduna State is located in northwestern Nigeria and is abundant in cultural heritage and natural resources. It plays a crucial role in the country's socio-economic and political framework. The state is renowned for its diverse ethnic and religious composition, as well as its strategic importance in Nigeria's development. Despite its potential, the state faces considerable historical, socio-political, economic, and security challenges. Over time, these challenges have led to a complex crisis marked by growing insecurity and developmental deficiencies.

The State has been facing various forms of insecurity, including ethno-religious conflicts. Some of the most notable crises include the 1987 Kafanchan ethno-religious conflict between Muslims and Christians, the 1992 Zangon-Kataf clashes between the minority Hausa/Fulani Muslims and the majority Atyap Christians, and the 2000 Kaduna Shari'ah crisis. More recently, the state has begun to encounter other insecurity issues, such as banditry, kidnapping, and cattle rustling, particularly in the local governments of Birnin-Gwari, Zaria, Igabi, Chikun, and Kachia. The security crisis in the state has significantly impeded economic growth and development. Known for its agricultural capabilities and rich natural resources, the state has witnessed a decline in productivity due

to constant threats of violence. Farmers often face difficulties accessing their lands for farming, resulting in food insecurity and a loss of livelihoods (Magaji et al., 2022). Many businesses have shut down or relocated to safer regions, resulting in decreased economic activity. The decline in investor confidence has also stifled development. The state's infrastructure is severely lacking, characterised by poorly maintained roads, limited access to healthcare, and inadequate educational facilities. These developmental gaps, combined with elevated poverty and unemployment levels, have enforced a continuous cycle of underdevelopment (Enaberue et al., 2024). According to Otu et al. (2022), North-Western Nigeria, which encompasses Kaduna State, remains one of the least developed areas in the nation, despite its abundant natural and human resources. The primary objective of this study is to investigate the challenges of economic growth and security intelligence in Kaduna State, Nigeria.

2.0 LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1 Conceptual Review

2.1.1 Economic Stability

Economic stability is a complex concept that has been described in various ways by different scholars. Here are three modern interpretations:

Todaro and Smith (2020) describe economic stability as a state in which an economy maintains steady output growth and low, consistent inflation, enabling individuals and families to plan their financial futures with confidence. In areas affected by conflict, such as Borno State, economic stability is closely tied to the reliability of income sources, the functionality of markets, and access to financial services.

The International Monetary Fund (IMF, 2022) defines economic stability as the absence of excessive volatility in key macroeconomic indicators, including GDP growth, inflation, employment, and external balances. This viewpoint underscores the necessity of institutional frameworks and policies capable of withstanding shocks—including those triggered by conflict or insecurity—and offering resilience to vulnerable groups, particularly women in informal work (Ahmed et al, 2024).

Amartya Sen (1999) conceptualises economic stability not merely as a macroeconomic state but as the ability of individuals to access the necessary resources and opportunities for leading fulfilling lives. For women in conflict zones, this means having reliable access to productive assets, markets, capital, and institutional protections that allow them to restore their livelihoods and achieve lasting well-being.

In the context of this research, economic stability includes not only national or regional metrics but also wider dimensions of economic well-being. It emphasises women's capacity to sustain their livelihoods, secure household income, and rebound from economic shocks arising from conflict (Magaji & Aliyu, 2007). For these women, stability signifies access to dependable income-generating opportunities, functioning markets, essential services, and safeguards against exploitative and violent situations (Muhammed et al, 2025).

2.1.2 Livelihood Resilience

Livelihood resilience refers to an individual or community's ability to preserve and recover their livelihoods in the face of external shocks, such as conflict, climate change, or economic downturns (Yakubu et al., 2025). Béné et al. (2014) define it as the capacity to absorb, adapt, and transform in response to adverse conditions while sustaining or enhancing well-being.

For women in conflict-impacted areas, livelihood resilience refers to their ability to adapt and modify strategies—such as transitioning from agriculture to small-scale trading—and utilise scarce resources (e.g., aid, skills, community networks) to meet household needs (Abiola et al., 2025). Additionally, it encompasses their ability to access psychosocial support, engage in community rebuilding, and influence the decisions that impact their recovery (Magaji, Musa, & Abdullahi, 2024). Enhancing livelihood resilience involves not only economic inputs but also social, institutional, and psychological support systems.

These conceptual definitions provide a foundation for understanding how insecurity impacts women's livelihoods in Borno State, informing the analysis presented in this study.

2.1.3 Security Intelligence

Al-Ghamdi et al. (2023) define security intelligence as the proactive gathering, analysis, and sharing of information to foresee and mitigate security threats, particularly in the digital sphere. They explain that this approach will assist organisations and institutions in effectively preparing for and countering cyber threats by evaluating vulnerabilities and observing suspicious behaviours. Their conceptualisation focuses on the digital aspects of security intelligence activities, overlooking other facets.

Additionally, Homeland Security Intelligence Reports (2023) views security intelligence as the integration of open-source intelligence and other covertly gathered information to identify, evaluate, and respond to possible threats. This method supports a thorough understanding of risks to national security, productivity, and infrastructure (Magaji & Musa, 2024). This definition focuses on all threats to the national security of sovereign nations.

Thomas's (2022) interpretation of security intelligence aligns with the conceptualisation of the Homeland Security Intelligence Report (2023). Thomas emphasises that security intelligence involves analysing national and organisational security threats through assessments informed by data. This involves examining external factors and possible disruptions while suggesting proactive

strategies to safeguard assets. Maryland (2020) described security intelligence in intelligence-led policing as a methodical process of collecting and analysing information to aid law enforcement in preventing crime and combating terrorism. It stresses the importance of collaborative sharing of intelligence among local, state, and federal organisations. Al-Muhaisen et al. (2019) approached security intelligence from the angle of cybersecurity threat intelligence, defining it as a systematic method for accumulating, processing, and assessing cyber-related information to anticipate and avert unauthorised access or cyberattacks. Therefore, security intelligence encompasses the collection of information about security to protect a nation and its citizens against various security threats.

Mhlanga (2022) characterised sustainable development as "development that satisfies the needs of today without hindering the ability of future generations to fulfil their own needs." This aligns with the Brundtland Report while highlighting the dual focus on meeting current demands and ensuring equity for future generations. Biermann et al. (2022) consider sustainable development as a multifaceted process requiring governance at global, national, and subnational levels. It combines policies and institutional frameworks to ensure economic, social, and environmental sustainability (Magaji et al., 2025). According to Hickmann et al. (2024), the definition of sustainable development highlights it as a transformative journey that aims to balance environmental stewardship, social fairness, and economic advancement. They emphasise the importance of integrating governance and policy to achieve the systemic changes necessary for realising the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Ukaga et al. (2023) view sustainable development as a holistic framework promoting economic progress, environmental conservation, and social inclusivity. It also involves stakeholder engagement, ensuring diverse communities can contribute to and benefit from sustainability initiatives (Ologbonori et al., 2025). According to the United Nations (2023), sustainable development regarding the SDGs is articulated as a call to action aimed at eradicating poverty, safeguarding the planet, and ensuring peace and prosperity for all. The emphasis is on developing equitable systems that enhance resilience and adaptability in response to global challenges. From the definitions provided, sustainable development can be interpreted as any action aimed at maintaining and improving the living standards for individuals within society.

Usman et al. (2023) investigate the role of counselling in enhancing security frameworks in Nigeria. It describes counselling as the application of mental health, psychological, and human development principles through cognitive, emotional, behavioural, and systematic intervention strategies. The significance of counselling in nation-building is highlighted, particularly in its contribution to the advancement and security of the nation. The contemporary notion of national security encompasses various dimensions, including social, economic, cultural, political, environmental, and technological aspects. Various security challenges in Nigeria, such as ritualistic kidnapping, terrorism, banditry, religious strife, and conflicts between farmers and herders, are examined, focusing on the connections with religious differences. The origins of insecurity are linked to factors like porous borders, the marginalisation of minority groups, a weak security apparatus, corruption, and external influences. Counselling is suggested as a potential approach to mitigating these security issues. The paper discusses the implications of counselling, especially for individuals experiencing depressive disorders and post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) resulting from incidents related to insecurity. It is recommended that counselling centres be established to support individuals affected by these conditions, including security personnel and those who have engaged in criminal behaviour. The importance of empathy in counselling is also emphasised, as it is identified as a critical technique employed by counsellors to address their clients' emotional needs. The vital role of security in fostering economic development, political stability, and inter-ethnic and inter-religious harmony is underscored, highlighting the growing significance of counselling services in achieving these objectives. Several suggestions are presented to address the security issues facing Nigeria. These suggestions include offering adequate training for security personnel, establishing skill acquisition centres to create job opportunities for young people, enhancing border control protocols, ensuring transparent financial oversight of security budgets, increasing the number of trained counsellors, and providing job opportunities for counsellors in various communities nationwide. The study highlights the importance of counselling in establishing a more secure framework in Nigeria. By addressing mental health concerns, promoting empathy, and offering support to those affected by insecurity, counselling can play a vital role in fostering national stability and security. The proposed recommendations aim to enhance security measures while fostering a favourable environment for the effective delivery of counselling services.

Magaji, Kari, Abbas, and Jafaru (2024) explored the relationship and theoretical viewpoints regarding insecurity and sustainable development. Their research aimed to analyse the perspectives, opinions, and thoughts of scholars, analysts, and institutions regarding these concepts, thereby establishing a connection between them. They reviewed a range of empirical studies and modern sociological theories to clarify and interpret the relationship between insecurity and sustainable development. The findings revealed a correlation between insecurity and sustainable development, indicating that insecurity has a detrimental impact on developmental progress. Therefore, they concluded that the relationship between insecurity and sustainable development is significant and should not be overlooked. Their investigation focused on the connection between insecurity and sustainable development, rather than on the challenges of security intelligence related to sustainable development.

Imaobong's (2022) research identifies security as a catalyst for national development. He stressed that sustainable development is unattainable without peace and security in any country. The enforcement of peace and the provision of adequate security require a concerted effort by diverse entities, including government and civil society, at the community, national, and international levels, to

address the root causes of violence and ensure individuals are free from the fear of humiliation, conflict, and war. Consequently, this paper emphasises that peace and security are essential for sustainable national development in Nigeria. His work primarily focused on how security can enhance national development in Nigeria, without exploring the role of security intelligence and sustainable development in contributing to economic growth and advancement in Kaduna State.

2.4 Theoretical Framework

2.4.1 Conflict Theory

This theory posits that society is inherently marked by conflict among different groups, which catalyses social change. In the context of banditry, kidnapping, and Boko Haram activities, the conflict instigated by these groups can be viewed as a reflection of broader social and economic disparities in the region. The violence and displacement caused by these groups may have intensified these tensions, prompting individuals to seek refuge across borders (Marx & Engels, 1848; Dahrendorf, 1959). Thus, this work is firmly rooted in conflict theory.

3.0 METHODOLOGY

This study employed two survey methods: distributing questionnaires to the respondents and conducting in-depth interviews. Kaduna State is situated in northern Nigeria and was established on May 27, 1967, during the military regime of General Yakubu Gowon. The state was formed from the former northern region and is named after the River Kaduna, which flows through the capital city (Jafaru, 2024). During the colonial era, Kaduna city was the administrative centre of the Northern Protectorate. After Nigeria's independence, it continued to serve as a key administrative hub in the northern region (Jafaru, 2011). According to the National Population Commission (NPC, 2024), the state has a total population of 6,113,503. The state lies in the northern section of Nigeria's high grasslands, characterised by Sudan Savannah vegetation, consisting of scattered trees, shrubs, and grasses (Jafaru, Magaji, and Musa: 2024). The scope of this research is limited to local governments in Zaria.

The population for this study consists of intelligent operatives within Nigeria's formal security agencies, including members from the State Security Service (SSS), the Criminal Investigation Department (CID), the National Intelligence Agency (NIA), and the Department of Military Intelligence (DMI). A total of 86 individuals were selected from these departments. Specifically, 24 individuals were chosen from the SSS, two from the NIA, 56 from the CID, and four from the DMI. This selection was based on the officers' engagement in intelligence gathering in the impacted region of Kaduna State, Nigeria, as well as their readiness and capability to partake in the study. The second category of the population included individuals from the affected area in Kaduna State, Nigeria, who were 18 years or older at the time of this research. Both purposive and stratified sampling methods were used in this study.

The initial tool employed for data collection was a questionnaire, followed by in-depth interviews as the second method. This research utilised both quantitative and qualitative analysis techniques. The former involves a narrative review of the interviews without implementing statistical measures, whereas the latter incorporates statistical methods such as percentages, frequency tables, and inferential statistics.

4.0 DATA ANALYSIS

This section outlines the data analysis and discussions surrounding the findings. The questionnaires are categorised into two groups for this study. The first group is distributed to the intelligence units of Nigeria's security agencies, including the State Security Service (SSS), the Nigeria Intelligence Agency (NIA), and the Department of Military Intelligence (DMI). In contrast, the second group consists of respondents from the general public in northwestern Nigeria, all of whom are 18 years of age or older.

Table 4.1: Demographic Characteristics of the Respondents from Security Intelligence Officers (NIA, SSS, CID, and DMI)

Serial Number	Items	Frequency	Percentage
1	Age	2	2.3
	26-30	4	5
	31-35	11	12.8
	36-40	20	23.3
	41-45	22	25.6
	46-50	27	31.
	Total	86	100
2	Religion		
	Islam	57	66.28
	Christian	28	32.56
	Traditional	1	1.16

	Total	86	100
3	Service		
	SSS	24	27.91
	NIA	2	2.33
	CID	56	65.12
	DMI	4	4.65
	Total	86	100
4	Cadre		
	Senior	77	89.53
	Junior	9	10.47
	Total	86	100

Source: Survey, 2024

Table 4.1 displays the frequency of respondents in different age groups, with a significant number concentrated in the 41–50 age range. The table further indicates the predominance of Islam among respondents, followed by Christianity, and a minimal representation of Traditional beliefs. Again, the table highlights that most respondents belong to the CID, with smaller contributions from SSS, DMI, and NIA. Furthermore, the table shows that most respondents are senior cadre personnel compared to junior cadre personnel. The table reveals several vital demographic characteristics of the respondents. Firstly, most respondents were relatively experienced security personnel, with 69.9% falling within the age range of 31 to 50 years old. Secondly, the respondents' religious composition was predominantly Muslim, accounting for 66.28%, followed by Christians at 32.56%, and a small percentage adhering to traditional religions. Thirdly, regarding service affiliation, the Criminal Investigation Department (CID) had the highest representation, with 65.12% of respondents belonging to this service. Lastly, most respondents (89.53%) were senior cadre officers, suggesting that the survey primarily targeted experienced personnel within the security intelligence sector.

Table 4.2: Responses on the Role of Security Intelligence in Preventing and Mitigating Security Threats in Kaduna State, Nigeria

Serial Number	Items	Frequency	Percentage
1	Strongly Agree	47	54.65
2	Agree	32	37.21
	Neutral	2	2.33
3	Strongly Disagree	5	5.81
4	Disagree	0	0
5	Total	86	100

Source: Survey, 2024

Table 4.1.1: Responses on the Role of Security Intelligence in Preventing and Mitigating Security Threats in Kaduna State, Nigeria. Most respondents, 54.65%, strongly agree, and 37.21% agree that security intelligence plays a role in preventing and mitigating threats in Kaduna State, Nigeria. This indicates that 91.86% of respondents have a positive perception of the role of security intelligence in Kaduna State, Nigeria. Only 2.33% of respondents are neutral, indicating that very few participants are indifferent about the effectiveness of security intelligence. 5.81% strongly disagree, and no respondents outright disagree. This suggests minimal opposition to the view that security intelligence has a role in addressing security issues.

One of the implications of these findings is a positive Outlook on security intelligence among the respondents, as the overwhelming agreement (91.86%) highlights that most individuals believe security intelligence is pivotal in tackling security threats in Kaduna State, Nigeria. This perception may suggest trust in the potential or effectiveness of security intelligence systems, despite the State's ongoing challenges.

Again, the small percentage of strong disagreement (5.81%) indicates that dissatisfaction with the effectiveness of security intelligence is not widespread. However, it should still be addressed to build broader confidence in the system. Also, the low neutrality rate (2.33%) suggests most respondents have explicit opinions, which could indicate the topic's relevance and direct impact on the respondents' lives.

Table 4.1.2: Responses on the Security Intelligence and Improvement of Security in Kaduna State, Nigeria

Serial Number	Items	Frequency	Percentage
1	Yes	73	84.88
2	No	3	3.49
3	Maybe	10	11.63
4	Total	86	100

Source: Survey, 2024

Table 4.1.2 indicates that most respondents (84.88%) agree that security intelligence has contributed to improving security in the State. This shows widespread recognition of its importance. The overwhelming majority supporting its effectiveness suggests that security intelligence efforts are perceived positively. This can be a foundation for further investments and improvements in this area. A tiny fraction of respondents (3.49%) believe that security intelligence has not improved security. This could point to scepticism or dissatisfaction in specific areas. The minority (3.49%) who disagree may represent areas or demographics where security efforts are less effective. Understanding their concerns could provide targeted solutions.

Also, a notable proportion of respondents (11.63%) are unsure about the effectiveness of security intelligence, suggesting either a lack of awareness or inconsistent results. The "Maybe" responses indicate a lack of clarity or tangible evidence of results in some communities. This may reflect poor communication or insufficient reach of security measures.

Table 4.1.3: Responses to the Main Challenges Hindering Effective Use of Security Intelligence in Kaduna State, Nigeria (This question may require multiple answers)

Serial Number	Items	Frequency	Percentage
1	Lack of Resources	48	55.8
2	Poor Coordination	50	50.1
3	Corruption	48	55.8
4	Insufficient Training	43	50
	Others	19	22.1
5	Total	202	233.8

Source: Survey, 2024

Table 4.1.3 highlights the challenges hindering the effective utilisation of security intelligence in Kaduna State, Nigeria. The table reveals that both Lack of Resources and Corruption rank equally high, with 48 occurrences (55.8%) each. These elements represent critical obstacles, pointing to systemic problems such as insufficient funding, personnel, vital tools, and unethical practices within the framework.

In addition, Poor Coordination is also prominent, with 50 responses (50.1%). This indicates inefficiencies in communication or collaboration among those involved in intelligence operations.

Moreover, 43 respondents (50%) pointed out the issue of insufficient training. This highlights deficiencies in professional growth, technical expertise, or capacity-building initiatives, which are essential for practical intelligence work.

As a result, the "Others" category, which recorded 19 occurrences (22.1%), likely includes a variety of less significant yet noteworthy issues that are not explicitly outlined in the main categories.

The high percentages in each category stem from the nature of the question, which accommodates multiple responses. Participants were able to select various options, resulting in a cumulative total of 233.8%, compared to the expected 100%. This underscores the complex nature of the issue at hand.

The data underscores that the efficiency of security intelligence in Kaduna State, Nigeria, is obstructed by a complicated interplay of challenges, including:

Resource limitations and corruption are structural challenges that require immediate attention.

Poor coordination and inadequate training highlight operational and capacity-related shortcomings.

The relatively large share of "Others" implies that additional, perhaps contextual or localised, factors merit further exploration.

Another barrier to the effective execution of security intelligence in northwestern Nigeria is a lack of understanding, as noted by a participant in an interview:

"... The people in the State lack awareness of how intelligence operations are conducted. Consequently, the impact on social cohesion and trust in Kaduna State is minimal."

In response to this, one participant stated:

“Sufficient funding will guarantee the availability of necessary equipment and personnel training for efficient information gathering and dissemination, which will contribute to effective security intelligence implementation in Kaduna State, Nigeria.”

Another interviewee proposed the following:

“Decentralisation of intelligence collection: Empower local intelligence units to function independently while aligning with national frameworks. Community involvement: Establish grassroots intelligence networks that encompass local leaders, vigilante groups, and civil society organisations. Immediate communication: Invest in advanced technology for quick data sharing and real-time monitoring. Capacity enhancement: Educate intelligence personnel on the nuances of local cultures, languages, and conflict dynamics. Feedback systems: Establish avenues for communities to report threats without fear of retaliation or retribution.

This will facilitate the practical application of security intelligence in Kaduna State, Nigeria.

Furthermore, the interviewee suggested:

“There is a necessity for strong policies to ensure appropriate collaboration and communication between security agencies in the region. There should be a conscious effort to encourage citizens to provide timely information to intelligence agencies to assist in addressing security threats proactively.”

Another participant discussed policies that could successfully implement security intelligence in Kaduna State, Nigeria. According to him, these policies include:

“Economic empowerment initiatives: Tackle fundamental issues like unemployment and poverty through vocational training and entrepreneurship programs. Border security improvements: Fortify porous borders to restrict the influx of arms and illicit activities. Conflict early warning systems: Develop frameworks to predict and prevent conflicts before they escalate. Amnesty programs: Provide de-radicalisation and reintegration chances for repentant criminals or insurgents.”

Consequently, one interviewee revealed that the challenges related to security intelligence have adversely affected the region in the following ways:

“Disruption of agriculture: Insecurity forces farmers to abandon fields, reducing food production. Decline in investments: Businesses avoid conflict-prone areas, leading to a loss of job opportunities. Infrastructure decay: Frequent attacks target critical infrastructure, including roads and markets. Migration: Skilled individuals migrate to safer regions, causing a brain drain. Tourism decline: Potential income from tourism is lost due to safety concerns”.

Table 4.1.4: Responses on Economic Growth, Sustainable Development, and Security Intelligence in Kaduna State, Nigeria.

Serial Number	Items	Frequency	Percentage
1	Yes	75	87.21
2	No	5	5.81
3	Not Sure	6	6.98
	Total	86	100

Source: Survey, 2024

Table 4.1.4 displays the perspectives of respondents concerning economic growth and enhanced security intelligence in Kaduna State, Nigeria, as part of initiatives aimed at achieving sustainable development. A substantial majority of participants (75 out of 86) believe that the current efforts are yielding positive outcomes. This suggests that most stakeholders or participants perceive the ongoing initiatives as effective or promising in mitigating conflict and enhancing security intelligence. A small number of respondents (5 individuals) express disagreement regarding the efficacy of the existing efforts. This may reflect dissatisfaction or scepticism about the strategies implemented, potentially due to localised failures or unmet expectations. A small yet significant proportion of respondents (6 out of 86) remain uncertain about the impact of these initiatives. This suggests a lack of clarity or information regarding the outcomes of security and conflict-resolution measures. The data, with the most positive responses at 87.21%, implies that the majority have confidence in the ability of current initiatives to foster sustainable development through enhanced security intelligence. Nonetheless, the study allows for improvement; despite the overall positivity, the combined 12.79% (negative and uncertain responses) indicates areas that require attention. Addressing these issues may necessitate:

Enhanced communication and transparency regarding security measures, broader community engagement to ensure inclusivity, addressing localised problems where efforts may not yet be practical, and initiatives that result in concrete long-term solutions to promote sustainable development in Kaduna State, Nigeria, must be maintained. High approval rates should be sustained through ongoing evaluation and adaptation of strategies. The table signifies a generally optimistic perspective on the current efforts in conflict resolution and security in Kaduna State, Nigeria. However, the presence of dissent and uncertainty underscores the importance of continuous improvement and enhanced communication in aligning all stakeholders towards a shared vision of sustainable development.

5.0 CONCLUSION

This research examined the challenges associated with economic growth, sustainable development, and security intelligence in Kaduna State, Nigeria. The review of pertinent literature encompasses a conceptual overview of the concepts of security intelligence and sustainable development, an empirical review aligned with the study's objectives, and a theoretical foundation grounded in conflict theory, which underpins the research. The study employed a survey research design, utilising a questionnaire and key informant interviews; primary data were gathered from the State Security Service (SSS), Criminal Investigation Department (CID), National Intelligence Agency (NIA), and the Department of Military Intelligence (DMI), with stratified and purposive sampling methods used to select participants. As a result, the collected data were analysed both quantitatively and qualitatively using descriptive statistics and content analysis.

First, the findings indicated that security intelligence plays a significant role in addressing security challenges. Security intelligence is crucial in managing security issues in Kaduna State, Nigeria. This suggests a belief in the potential effectiveness of security intelligence systems despite facing challenges. Secondly, the results highlighted the efficacy of security intelligence efforts, reinforcing the positive relationship between security intelligence and sustainable development in the study area. Peace and security are essential components of human relationships and interactions, intrinsic to all societies. Therefore, the human pursuit of peace, order, and stability in security is a persistent topic in any community. This is due to the importance of harmonious coexistence in achieving sustainable development objectives, which cannot be overstated. A brief examination of Kaduna State, Nigeria, shows that nearly all states have faced some level of insecurity. Conflicts arise at various dimensions, including interpersonal, intra-group, inter-group, intra-regional, and inter-regional, presenting as ethnic conflicts, religious disputes, communal clashes, and more intricate conflicts involving multiple identities, such as ethno-regional, ethnoreligious, and ethnocultural conflicts.

RECOMMENDATIONS

In light of the findings, the following recommendations are proposed:

The provision of socially adequate social amenities (hospitals, schools, recreational facilities) and development projects (construction of roads, markets, and other essential infrastructures) for the people. This should help prevent individuals from falling into vulnerable situations that expose them to conflicts and insecurity.

A prioritisation by the Federal, State and Local governments of special schemes and projects to create jobs and promote entrepreneurship among youths.

National security agencies and other stakeholders need to enhance their intelligence gathering, sharing, detection, and investigative capabilities.

National Orientation Agencies, related agencies, and non-governmental organisations should continually create necessary awareness and sensitise people to the need for peaceful coexistence, respect, tolerance, and appreciation of diversity.

Continuously train and build the capacity of all national security agents on security intelligence and the modus operandi of modern organised criminal activities.

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