



THE IMPLICATIONS OF POLITICAL THUGGERY ON SOCIO-ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL DEVELOPMENT OF MAIDUGURI, BORNO STATE, NIGERIA

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ABSTRACT

Over the years the activities of thugs have been legitimized and powerfully backed by the political class and unfortunately in Maiduguri most of these thugs have metamorphosed to Boko Haram. This study is, therefore, meant to examine the implications of political thuggery on socio-economic and political development of Maiduguri capital city of Borno State. To achieve the above, both primary and secondary data were used. In the case of the primary data, 690 copies of questionnaire were administered to ward heads, youth leaders, women leaders, politicians, security officials and political thugs. Focus Group Discussions and interviews were also held with some thugs, community leaders and politicians aimed at complementing the responses from the questionnaire. The findings reveal that poverty, high rate of unemployment, high rate of illiteracy among the youth and families having more children that cannot be catered for by their income are responsible for the increasing number of thugs in the State. As a result these children have no good education, no proper home training, and no food to eat and even shelter. These conditions they found themselves make them more vulnerable to be hired as thugs to rig elections, to kill and to engage in other social vices in the society. Similarly, thuggery in Maiduguri has caused mass exodus of people out of Maiduguri city to look for safer places because of the fear of death. It has also created fear among community members, lack of trust and psychological instability. The findings further revealed that bread winners of many families lost their lives, houses and properties worth millions of naira were destroyed and many people became refugees especially in London Ciki and Kellari wards of Maiduguri city. At Budum Market and Dalla ward, shops, business centers, properties and cars were destroyed worth millions of naira. The study recommended among others that Nigerian Government should employ the services of external team consist of people like Nelson Mandela to go round the country to score politicians for the positions of President, Governors, State and National Assembly members on the basis of what they have done for their people. Any one that scored less than 70% should be disqualified from contesting.

Similarly, election campaigns should be prohibited in Nigeria and National Assembly should pass a law prohibiting second term for all elective positions.

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1. INTRODUCTION

Political thuggery and electoral manipulations have become so prevalent in democratic dispensations in Nigeria. The social, political and economic powers of those involved have made it both national and international concern. These categories of people who possess these powers are the ruling elite or the potential ruling elite and their activities have been institutionalized to the point of subverting the constitution for their selfish and economic gains. Subscribing to this assertion, [Gboyega \(2004\)](#) observed that political godfathers are by design placed above the laws of the land including the constitution.

They and their thugs can carry arms without hindrance. They are entitled to Police escorts and are immune to the crime of abduction, harassment and maiming. Most of these thugs are recruited and trained for various political purposes such as intimidation, harassment, violence, assassination, rigging etc.

Some of them are placed on regular salaries, with allowances accompanying their remuneration. Similarly, some of them are employed as special advisers, special assistants and personal assistants while those who do not fit in for the aforementioned positions are made contractors to the government at Federal, State or Local Government Areas.

Most of these thugs were used to rig elections in 1999, 2003, 2007 and 2011 general elections in Nigeria, especially in Borno State, where most of the elections were monitored and conducted by political thugs under the cover of INEC's ad-hoc staff.

Infact, the officers who were officially assigned to do the job were overpowered by these political thugs through pointing out gun to them, causing crisis and violence in the voting venues. These thugs forced electorates to vote against their wishes. The party representatives at the polling booths were threatened to compromise, and INEC officials were forced to change election results in favour of a particular party.

Masses who want to participate in politics found it very difficult to penetrate the electoral environment because of money politics. Therefore, rather than being democratized, the Nigerian state has largely been militarized by the struggle for power amongst the various contending groups in the polity. The civil disturbances, rise of ethnic militias and politically motivated killings of opponents are pointers to increasing militarism of the Nigeria state, which has further affected socio-economic and political development of the state.

These thugs have several names in different places such as in Lagos we have Oduwa Peoples Congress (OPC) or popularly the Area Boys, in the Niger Delta we have Egbesu boys, in Calabar we have Bakassi Boys, Bauchi has Sara-suka (cut and stab), Yankalare in Gombe, Yan daba (Jungle boys) in Kano and Ecomog in Borno. The current development in Maiduguri city has revealed that most of these thugs have metamorphosed to Boko Haram and their activities have

reached an alarming level which is compromising socio-economic and political development in the State.

2. STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

Over the years the activities of thugs in Nigeria have been recognized and powerfully backed by the political class. Thus, it has gone beyond what is known or seen in the first, second or the aborted third republic as [Nda-Isaiah \(2004\)](#) observed that thuggery has even gone beyond that of the second republic. The trade is no longer for the rag-tag hoodlums that it used to be. Today, thuggery has been given new garb of legitimacy by the political class. The presence of energetic (but aggressive) youths can be noticed in the name of body guards.

Unfortunately physical realities have shown that violent activities are carried out while political activities like campaigns/elections are going on. The teeming youths who are supposed to have been harnessed or trained towards nation building are used (misused rather) by politicians particularly those in power (and the opposition) to harass and intimidate the opposition including the innocent citizens and at worse maim and kill under the influence of drugs and political power. Thus, their precious energy is misused in destabilizing the society.

The major problem is that instead of stopping such activities it is often regarded as normal way of politics and those in power often provide the platform upon which ugly political thuggery is committed.

Indeed, over the years the dominant class or simply the elites have failed to leave up to expectation in most part of this country of which Borno is a component of the greater entity with particular reference to curtailing the activities of thugs.

The citizens are gradually losing confidence in the leadership of Borno State since it fail to stop the activities of the thugs in destroying lives, properties and commercial areas. Thus, the questions of good governance, socio-economic and political development are being compromised.

2.1. Objectives of the Study

The objectives of this paper are to:

- (i) Identify the socio-economic and political factors that facilitate thuggery in Maiduguri city
- (ii) Examine the implications of thuggery on socio-economic and political development of Maiduguri
- (iii) Identify various ways of addressing the activities of thugs in the study area

3. LITERATURE REVIEW

The genesis of thugs in Borno State dates back to the first republic politics between NEPU (Northern Elements Progressive Union) and NPC (Northern Peoples Congress) whose problematic scenario begun at Kano.

Their view is congruent with the scholarly work of [Abba \(2004\)](#). In that politics, the victory of NEPU at the primaries into the Northern Region House of Assembly in 1951 where they won 19 out of 26 seats in Kano city i.e 10 out of 17 in the main Kano city and all 9 seats in the waje (outside) area had indeed frightened the British colonial powers who see NEPU as reformist party which was a direct opposition of the NPC whose membership made up of chiefs and emirs who

also controlled the Native Authority who were also allowed to exercise autocratic power against their enemies and those of the colonial government.

With this attitude of the senior colonial officers in Kano Province and indeed the most senior British Resident in Northern Nigeria, the stage was set for persecution of NEPU, its members, supporters and leaders. The British Colonial Government mobilized the machinery of the Kano Native Authority made up of the traditional institution, police, judiciary and prison and transformed them into instrument of repression and violence against the adherent of NEPU.

A gangster group called Jam'iyyar Mahaukata (crazy men's party) was created to deal with anyone associated with NEPU by moving from house-to-house and street to street to fish out, attack and molest them squarely. This therefore, set a stage for another wave of violent attacks on the opposition parties in the northern region, especially the NEPU. They continued and spread this to all opposition parties in the region (Abba, 2004).

Thus, the NEPU in Borno and their opponent NPC whose strong members like the late Sir Kashim, Mallam Garba Abba Satomi witnessed a great unrest in Borno politics whose consequences was burning of some political figures' houses like that of Basharu Dreba amongst others. It was that politics which extended to the second republic which witnessed GNPP (Great Nigerian Peoples Party) and NPN (National Party of Nigeria) as dominant parties in Borno. That politics was so marred because of the hot political game between those parties.

Mallam Garba Abba Satomi of the GNPP and their members/supporters and late MATawalli Kazalla Borko of the NPN engaged in burning of houses, for example, in Mafoni and other villages surrounding the metropolis, including poisoning of wells in the remote areas. That scenario was terrible that it led the GNPP leader late Ibrahim Waziri to call for "politics without bitterness" (Isa, 2008). The current wave of thuggery started blowing during the SDP (Social Democratic Party) & NRC (National Republican Convention) era of the aborted third republic.

During the electioneering campaign former governor Maina Ma'aji (Now senator representing Borno North under the ANPP platform) went to Bama for a rally as SDP candidate and they were threatened by the opposition but a group of youth supporting SDP protected them and hence they were named 'ECOMOG' simply because it had coincided with the military peace keeping force operating at Liberia to stop the massacre). It is clear that thugs came into such a strong and formidable force because of the continuous growth of youth's groups which were redundant and unemployed.

Thus in the year 1999 when the military handed over power to politicians, the thugs have, 'become well 'organized". Each and every political party, or candidate has a group of thugs guarding him/her and in turn they enjoy financial benefits and protection from the law (Isa, 2008).

3.1. Political Thuggery

The Oxford Dictionary of Current English (1998), defined thuggery as violent act or behaviour by ruffians. It is observed that thuggery has relationship with violence activities. Thuggery is an act which is associated with stealing, killing, rudeness, hooliganism, touting, intimidation and harassment.

It is a behaviour that contradicts peace, harmony and co-existence among groups. Political thuggery is an illegitimate and violent means of seeking political power with a view to subverting

national opinion for parochial ends through self imposition (Howell, 2004). Therefore, political thuggery is simply the criminalisation of politics. When politics is criminalized, it is left in the hands of ruffians, thugs and hooligans, because the good people are scared away. In fact, contemporary events, across the country have clearly demonstrated that Nigerian politics has been hijacked by political thugs (Asiegbu, 2011).

The politicians recruit the youths comprising of men as their thugs and touts. These thugs compelled innocent people to vote against their wishes. The party agents at the polling booths were threatened to compromise, and INEC officials were forced to do what they would not have done ordinarily.

3.2. Violence

Violence is defined as "the illegitimate and unauthorized use of force to effect decisions against the will or desires of others" (Wolff, 1969). Karl (1968) posits that violence, particularly political violence, represents a disturbance to the political equilibrium system. According to Gurr (1970), political violence refers to all collective attacks within a political community against the political regime, its actors including competing political groups as well as incumbents – or its policies. From the foregoing, one can observe that there is a correlative relationship between the two concepts. As a matter of fact, they are complementary. The end-product of thuggery is violence. Violence is the means through which thugs achieve their aims.

3.3. Threat

Threat according to the Oxford Advanced Learners Dictionary is: A statement in which you tell somebody that you will punish or harm them, especially if they do not do what you want. It is also the possibility of trouble, danger or disaster and lastly it can also mean a person or thing that is likely to cause trouble, danger, etc.

Going by the above meaning of threat, it can be clearly seen that thuggery itself is a major source of threat to the security of a state or country. Importantly it should be noted that security or provision of it is the responsibility of responsive and responsible leadership which is one of the major qualities of good governance. Be that as it may, dastard activities of politicians particularly hiring of thugs threaten the security and well being of the citizens.

When the intra-ruling class competition for power assumes a zero - sum level as Buluma (1989) says, it usually tends to threaten the survival of the government in office: Whenever such things occur it makes governance difficult if not impossible a situation which Ake (1994) calls "governmental instability." Absence of peace and security disempowers the citizens thereby leaving them hopeless and cheated.

Such a condition is an indication that the elites run the state in their own interest. The citizens will lose confidence in the leadership when it fails to shoulder the very burden they are assigned to carry out. Thus, the question of good governance becomes long standing and problematic. Hence chaos will set in and the state will be insecure to live and also the possibility of military take over unfolds (Esew, 2003).

3.4. Group that constitute Thugs

The group of gangs of all the political parties is made up of (thugs and thuggess who are) disorganized drug addicts, aggressive, rough and dangerous youth who are either school dropouts, boys and girls from broken homes or societal outcasts who are willing and able to cause trouble and spill blood. They know no bounds-arid obey no law.

It is a reality that thugs are dangerous and they are seen freely disobeying law but one surprising and unfortunate case is the fact that no political party agreed that they have thugs but whenever trouble is caused by one of them, and the culprit are netted by the police, politicians set them free. They simply put that its hoodlums that disturb the public not their youth members.

3.5. Objects used by the Thugs

The objects used by the thugs in carrying out their ugly activities are items like: guns, knives, woods, sticks, cutlasses, den guns, swords and axe. Others includes bronze knives, antelope horn, shoulder blade of camel, sharpened bone, bronze needles, machetes, hockey sticks, triangular rings, bow and arrows and charms (which include talisman and metal protection concoctions) (Isa, 2008).

3.6. General Activities of thugs in Borno State

The general activities of the thugs include going to the cinema to watch: American, Chinese and Indian movies, football matches like UEFA and Champions League and many more. They spend time at their party branches, or those rest houses built for them watching lewd films, using the television and VCD/DVD player or the cable satellite and they have power generating sets, tape recorders and CD player for musical entertainment.

Breaking of shops and stealing people's property either to buy drugs or weapons and of course for luxury is also core of their activity. They are also known for raping innocent girls or those thuggess amongst them. All these they do when they are free i.e after elections or when election activities are lesser. Similarly, their activity during electioneering proper is the continuous touring of places for campaign and rallies along their political pay masters which is not free from intimidation of people and other social vices that undermines freedom and security.

3.7. Causes of political thuggery and violence in Borno State

The majority of youth in Borno State are jobless, illiterates, with no means of livelihood, they are impoverished, and being paid easily to manipulate election results. The political elite capitalize on this weakness and recruit the youth who not only constitute the pillar of society but also the most vulnerable to the self-inflicted poverty, as their thugs and touts to perpetrate violence. Secondly, politics for personal gain – this has becomes a common feature in Nigerian politics. This is a situation in which an individual tries to hold on to power for personal gains. In an attempt to hang on to power, leaders often create a regime of violence, repression and bloodshed (Asiegbu, 2011).

They organize political thugs, hooligans and scavengers to sing their praises, intimidate opponents and kill them if they become intransigent. The unnecessary and uncoordinated urge to control, dominate and amass wealth for their family and friends informs the emergence of political thugs to be used to win election by all means.

Thirdly, Prebendal politics –in Nigeria, politics is conceived as an investment. The politicians, having invested huge amount of money on campaigns and other political activities, coupled with the existing system of winner takes all, would want to win at all cost (Jega and Wakili, 2002). In view of the above, the need to employ the use of thugs and touts to manipulate and rig elections becomes necessary, especially when such politicians are not popular candidates (Abba, 2004). Fourthly, refusal to accept electoral defeat in good faith is also a fertile factor that can breed thuggery and trigger violence in politics. And finally, Absence of good governance and low political culture are also contributive factors to the menace of thuggery and violence. Similarly, hunger, marginalization, incapacitation, intolerance, domination, and apathy etc can also cause political violence.

4. METHODOLOGY

4.1. The Study Area

Maiduguri is the capital city of Borno State. It is located at the Northeastern corner of Nigeria on latitude 11° 51' North and longitude 13° 05' east. It covers a total area of 543sq. km, which makes it the largest city in the North-Eastern region of Nigeria.

For administrative convenience, the city of Maiduguri is made up of two Local Government areas, Maiduguri Metropolitan and Jere Local Government areas, four districts and 23 ward units namely- Bulabulin, Fezzan, Shehuri South, Maisandari , Shehuri North, Lamisula, Mafoni, Gamboru, GwangeI, GwangeII, GwangeIII, Hausari, Limanti,BoloriI , BoloriII, Khaddamari, Old Maiduguri, Mairi, Dala, Galtimari, Gomari airport, Aiau, and Gongulon

4.2. Sources of Data

The sources of data for this research comprised of both primary and secondary sources. The secondary source of data consisted of books, reports, paper presentations, Newspapers, magazines, journals, seminar papers, and internet facilities.

The primary sources include information obtained from interviews and administration of questionnaires to 23 wards of Maiduguri. Interviews were held with village heads, youth leaders, security officials and thugs. Participatory rapid appraisal method based on the technique of focus group discussion was also conducted in some selected wards of the metropolis.

4.3.Population, Sampling Technique and Sample Size

The population of the study consists of Village heads, Youth Leaders, Women leaders, politicians, security officials and thugs. Maiduguri city was divided into 23 wards and thirty respondents were purposively selected from each wards amounting to six hundred and ninety respondents as the sample size

4.4. Administrations of Instruments

Six hundred and ninety copies of questionnaire were administered among ward heads, youth leaders, women leaders, politicians, security officials and political thugs using purposive sampling technique in these twenty-three wards. The retrieved questionnaires that were duly filled and valid were 624, which were used for data analysis.

4.5. Methods of Data Analysis

The data obtained through the methods discussed above were qualitatively analyzed with the aid of frequency distribution table and simple percentages.

4.6. Data Analysis and Discussion of Results

The analysis is based on 624 respondents and is organized around the objectives of the study.

Table-1. The socio-economic and political factors that encourages thuggery in Maiduguri city

S/N	Factors	Respondents	Percentage
1	-Cultural lag & moral decay -Broken homes -Lack of proper training& upbringing of children -Not being brother's keeper	83	13.3
2	-Poverty being on increase every day -High rate of unemployment among the youth -Families having more children that cannot be catered For by their income -High illiteracy rate among the youth	204	32.7
3	-The spirit of the end-time -Lack of fear of God Almighty -Religious intolerance	60	9.6
4	-Lack of good governance -Poor service delivery -Fraud, corruption & embezzlement of state resources	162	26
5	-Political intolerance among politicians & parties -Politics of do-or-die affair-winning elections by all means -Lack of patriotism among the politicians	94	15
6	-Poorest nature of Borno State borders -Corrupt nature of security personnel -Lack of confidence of community members towards security personnel to reveal the thugs	21	3.4
Total		624	100

Source: Fieldwork September, 2011

Table 1 shows the socio-economic and political factors that are facilitating and encouraging thuggery in Maiduguri the capital city of Borno State. From the responses, it is clear that the majority of the respondents (32.7%) attributed the problem to poverty, high rate of unemployment, high rate of illiteracy among the youth and families having more children that cannot be catered for by their income.

As a result these children have no good education, no proper home training, no food to eat and even shelter. These conditions they found themselves make them more vulnerable to be hired as thugs to rig elections, to kill and to engage in other social vices in the society. Followed by lack of good governance, poor service delivery and mismanagement of state resources by 26%.

Table-2. Social implications of thuggery in the study area

Implications	Respondents	Percentage
-Creates more widows& orphans in the community	20	3.2
-Cases of rape, sicknesses & diseases like hypertension		
-Breakdown of marriages, separation of families		
- Creates fear among community members	159	25.5
-Creates lack of trust among community members		
-Brought about psychological instability		
-Mass exodus of people out of Maiduguri metropolis	234	37.5
-Lost of lives & bread winners of families		
-Abandoned children, the sick & the aged		
-Brought about religious intolerance	81	13
-Burning &destruction of places of worship		
-Dividing community members along religious lines		
-Increase social vices in the community	130	20.8
-Criminality on the increase		
Total	624	100

Source: Fieldwork September, 2011

From table 2, majority of the respondents (37.5%) said that the social implication of thuggery in Maiduguri has caused mass exodus of people out of Maiduguri city to look for safer places because of the fear of death.

It has also created fear among community members, lack of trust and psychological instability supported by 25.5% of the respondents attributed to absence of good governance and poor management of Borno state resources is responsible in promoting thugs in the state.

Table-3. Political implications of thuggery in Maiduguri

Implications	Respondents	Percentage
-Manipulation of election results	241	38.6
-Forcing people to vote for candidates against their choice		
-Using threat & assault against political opponents & electorates		
- Assassination & killing of political opponents & electorates	121	26
-Rampant political killings under the disguise of Boko Haram		
-Destruction & burning of political party offices		
-Brought incompetence leadership	162	19.4
-Brought unpopular candidates into power		
-Masses are being alienated from having access to electoral positions		
-Threat to democratization in Nigeria	35	5.6
-Political intolerance		
-increase apathy towards voting		
-Post-election violence	65	10.4
-Voting without choosing		
-No confidence in election results		
Total	624	100

Source: Fieldwork September, 2011

Majority of the respondents (38.6%) from table 3 shows that the political implications of thuggery in Maiduguri is manipulation of election results, forcing people to vote for candidates against their choice through the use of threat and assault.

Followed by rampant killings and destruction of properties under the disguise of Boko Haram supported by 26% of the respondents.

Table-4. Economic implications of thuggery in the study area

Areas of Bomb explosion	Implications	Respondents	
			%
Dalla	-Lives were lost, houses & properties worth millions of naira were destroyed	115	18.4
Budum Market	-Shops being burnt & destroyed -Properties worth millions of naira got burnt -Many lives were lost, Cars got burnt & houses	121	19.4
Wulari	-Commercial places & properties worth millions of naira were destroyed -Many lives were lost, many people lost their jobs as a result of destruction of their business areas	69	11.1
London Ciki/ Kellari	-Many lives were lost, resulted to mass exodus of people from the area -Many people became refugees -Houses & properties worth millions of naira were destroyed -Bread winners of many families lost their lives	135	21.6
State lowcost	-People selling GSM accessories lost their shops -Lives were lost, mass exodus of people to another areas for refuge -Houses & properties worth millions of naira were destroyed	51	8.2
Custom House	-Custom House affected, windows & glasses destroyed -Lives were lost, Cars got burnt -Houses & properties worth millions of naira were Destroyed	46	7.4
Bulunkutu Round about	-Late Governor Mala Kachalla`s House affected -Lives were lost -Houses & properties worth millions of naira were destroyed	42	6.7
Airport Area	-Lives were lost & properties destroyed	22	3.5
Baga Road	-People selling GSM accessories lost their shops -Lives were lost, people selling their houses at cheaper -Properties worth millions were destroyed	23	3.7
Total		624	100

Source: Fieldwork September, 2011

Table 4 shows that 21.6% of the respondents said that bread winners of many families lost their lives, houses and properties worth millions of naira were destroyed and many people became refugees especially in London Ciki and Kellari wards of Maiduguri city. Similarly, at Budum

Market and Dalla ward the respondents said that shops, business centers, properties and cars were destroyed worth millions of naira supported by 19.4% and 18.4% respectively.

Table-5. Educational institution & commercial implications of thuggery

Implications	Respondents	Percentage
-University of Maiduguri & Federal Govt College closed down indefinitely because of security challenge posed by thugs that metamorphosed to Boko Haram	271	43.5
-Private & Public secondary schools closed down in the metropolis -Educational institutions generally came to a stand still -Many students of University of Maiduguri are transferring to other universities		
-Commercial activities paralyzed - Banks closed down for one week -Shops & markets closed down for weeks	213	34.1
-Local, regional, national & international commercial Offices relocate/shifted to other parts of the country -Many lost their jobs as many commercial offices relocate To other parts of the country	140	22.4
Total	624	100

Source: Fieldwork September, 2011

From table 5 it is clear that the security challenge pose by the thugs that some metamorphosed to Boko Haram has resulted to the closure of many educational and commercial institutions for some weeks in the metropolis supported by 43.5% of the respondents.

Similarly, commercial activities were paralyzed, banks closed down for one week, shops and markets closed down for weeks, as well as local, regional, national and international commercial offices relocated to other parts of the country which caused many people to lost their jobs claimed by 34.1% and 22.4% of the respondents respectively.

Table-6. Ways of addressing thuggery in Borno State

Ways	Respondents	%
1 Laws should be passed stating the maximum number of children every household should have, to be fully implemented not minding emotions, traditions, culture, values & religion	62	10
2 Serious surveillance around our borders to control influx of criminals & small arms proliferation	40	6.4
3 Capital punishment should be passed into law against those that engages in corruption, embezzlement & mismanagement	59	9.4
4 National Assembly should pass a law prohibiting second term For all elective positions	71	11.4
5 Laws should be passed against politicians that uses thugs by disqualifying them from holding any public offices	45	7.2
6 Religious leaders should preach peace, religious tolerance & fear of God to their followers	21	3.4
7 Inter-religious dialogue among religious leaders should be a Continuous affair	24	3.8
8 Election campaigns should be prohibited in Nigeria; external team should be Mandated to go round to score contesting politicians on the basis of what they Have done for their people. Any one scored below 70% should be disqualified From contesting.	122	19.6

9	External team consist of people like Nelson Mandela from other countries Should be mandated to score politicians for the positions of Presidents, Governors, House of Assembly & National Assembly members on the basis of what they have done for their people. Any one that scored less Than 70% should be disqualified from contesting.	145	23.2
10	Poverty alleviation programmes should be pursued with all sincerity	35	5.6
Total		624	100

Source: Fieldwork September, 2011

From table 6, majority of the respondents (23.2%) suggested ways of addressing thuggery in the State by employing the services of external team consist of people like Nelson Mandela to go round the country to score politicians for the positions of President, Governors, State and National Assembly members on the basis of what they have done for their people.

Any one that scored less than 70% should be disqualified from contesting. Similarly, election campaigns should be prohibited in Nigeria, National Assembly should pass a law prohibiting second term for all elective positions and laws should be passed stating the maximum number of children every household should have, stated by 19.6%, 11.4% and 10% of the respondents.

5. DISCUSSION OF RESULTS

The findings of this study show that most of these thugs have metamorphosed to Boko Haram which is hindering the socio-economic and political development of Borno State. Their activities has created more widows, orphans, sicknesses like hypertension and resulted to mass exodus of people out of Maiduguri metropolis. Table 5 revealed that commercial activities, educational institutions and bank operations came to a standstill for some couple of days, which is causing high dimension of poverty and social vices.

University of Maiduguri and Federal Government College among others were closed down indefinitely as a result of insecurity posed by thugs. Infact most local, regional, national and international commercial offices have relocated out of Maiduguri to other parts of the country rendering many people jobless. Table 4 revealed that lives and properties worth millions of naira were lost from the activities of thugs in the State.

6. RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Our elected officials should enforce due process in governance and together with the executive arm should give more freedom and strength institutions like the EFCC and the ICPC to step on any corrupt government official without interference.
2. Government should discourage the politics of "do-or-die" and bitterness should be discouraged at all government levels through mass enlightenment campaigns, conferences and seminars. The youths should be enlightened, employed and be prosecuted if found wanting. Security agents should be well equipped, motivated and checked to avoid double dealing or short change. Drug dealers and abusers must be arrested and arraigned before the law.
3. NAFDAG should seriously increase surveillance of medicine stores to ensure that

dangerous drugs are not marketed. The NDLEA with the SSS and the police should double their effort in identifying and wiping out of places where thugs and hoodlums deal and abuse drugs. Religious leaders should endeavor to use religion in enlightening the society of the do and don'ts of divine laws and should avoid taking interest and sides in politics; this can be facilitated through the national inter religious affairs. Traditional institution should not be used by governments or politicians as campaign tools in achieving political goals.

4. Serious surveillance around our borders to control influx of criminals and small arms proliferation should be a continuous exercise, especially Borno State borders.

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