

Promotion of National Development Through National Unity and Security: A Study of Ebonyi State, Nigeria

Mary Chinelo Ubabudu

Department of Business Administration
Airforce Institute of Technology Kaduna, Nigeria

Prof. Ahmed Adam

Provost, National Defence College Abuja, Nigeria

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Abstract: *This study is a descriptive survey research design conducted on the promotion of national development through national unity and security in Ebonyi State, Nigeria. The population of the study were 850 stakeholders in Ebonyi State. 350 stakeholders were selected using the purposive sampling technique. A validated questionnaire titled Practices Utilized for Promoting National Unity and Enhancing Security in Ebonyi State (PUPNUESES) was used for data collection. Two research questions were analysed using descriptive statistical methods. The study revealed that in promoting development, 84% of the stakeholders frequently apply national unity practices while 71% use security-enhancing practices. The researchers concluded that the attainment of national development is contingent upon the inclusion of all components or strategies aimed at augmenting national cohesion and safety. The researchers recommended that the residents of the state should be driven by the yearning to promote oneness through steady campaigns and sensitization via all available media.*

Keywords: national development, national unity, security, Ebonyi state.

INTRODUCTION

Globally and across diverse nations, there seems to be one major goal that stakeholders of each nation clamor for, and this priority target is simply referred to as ‘national development’. Development at the national level has to do with planned and strategic changes in different spheres of the nation, and as such that is expected to trigger improvements in the general well-being of the society at large. Zakari (2019), buttressed that within the framework of a national setting, national development can imply the strategic,

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systematic, gradual, or radical transformation of a nation from the state of national irrelevance, inconsequential, inactiveness, redundancy, degradation, slumber, nothingness, non-progression, belatedness, and retardation to the desired state-of-the-art relevance, growth, and advancement in strategic national sectors. To accept that development has occurred, there has to be some noticeable drift from some perceived bad way of life to better ways of life. It is in recognition of the fact that development, in the context of national goals, could be seen as positive changes in different aspects of society that Zakari (2019) therefore viewed development as the state of change, expansion, progression, growth, advancement and transformation from one stage, level, status quo or paradigm to another. This connotes that development could be seen as a way of moving away from unpleasant experiences towards pleasant experiences, for individuals, establishments, and the entire section of society.

National development is the establishment of a viable and buoyant national economy, the establishment of a just and egalitarian society, the enthronement of equality and social justice, and the building of a unified and integrated society where the different ethics, religious and geo-political identities develop a collective sense of imagination that they are one (Adeyera cited in Igbogo, 2015). Throwing more light into the meaning of national development, Oghuvbu and Chidozie (2018) posited that it involves the total transformation of society making humanity the focus of the development drive and seeking to develop man's potentialities in a total sense. It includes reduction of poverty, wealth creation, equitable distribution of wealth, functional education, ensuring nutrition and health facilities, housing and auxiliary services, social security, and welfare to all citizens of nations. Therefore, national development in this context means a comprehensive shift in both the individual and the society, manifested in ways like nourishing food, productive work, generation of wealth, and dismantling power structures while staying within the ambit of such frameworks as social justice, equity, equality, and dignity. For instance, national development includes the following areas; economic development, political development, religious and social development, techno-digital development, development in agriculture, development in climate resources, development in security architecture, and health development.

Considering that there is a strong link between national growth and development, the question of what makes development possible often arises. Many factors contribute to the growth and subsequent development, including but not limited to national unity, guaranteed security, and peace, research and innovations, high-quality and functional education, and provision of social amenities such as clean drinking water, good roads, hospitals, schools, efficient use of productive capacities, a just and stable political system, and a just and equitable justice system, according to some scholars' responses (Obanikoro, 2014, Oghuvbu & Chidozie, 2018, Umaru & Usman, 2015., and Aragbaye, John, & Akande, 2023). Therefore, national growth is achievable in the short run and national development is the consistency of national growth over time. This demonstrates the necessity of making conscious efforts to fully utilize the potential of the aforementioned variables in order to achieve national development, particularly national unity and security, which are the focus of this study.

National unity could mean national cohesion, national integration, unity in diversity, one-person voice, nation-building, and social solidarity. It could mean the process of ensuring that people or citizenry accept

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to live together and tolerate each other, while mutually gaining from their differences. In line with this, Umaru and Usman (2015) emphasized that national unity is the result of a series of initiatives implemented by a state, its representative, or an institution, guided by respect for the distinctive customs and cultural heritage of ethnic groups living in the same polity. The ultimate goal is to harmonize all interests through dialogue and representation and to address potential sources of division and conflict by utilizing the tools of fairness, justice, and equity in the distribution of resources, opportunities, and responsibilities. This ensures the stability, longevity, and prosperity of the polity for as long as its residents choose to stay in it. Similarly, Aragbaye, John, and Akande (2023) claimed that national unity is a necessary element of any nation's stability and development. For this reason, it is impossible to overestimate the significance of fostering national unity as it not only guarantees peaceful coexistence among Nigerians but also promotes social cohesion, economic growth, and political stability in the nation. As a result, advancing national unity entails bridging gaps between various populations, tolerating cultural diversity, encouraging candid communication and teamwork, and establishing a setting where everyone is respected and heard.

To promote national unity, in the context of this study requires that stakeholders in Ebonyi State, are sensitized, engaged, and involved in the quest for national development through policies that strengthen national unity and security. Ebonyi State is situated in South East of Nigeria, between latitudes 5 0 50'0" N and 6 0 40'0" E and longitudes 7 0 28'0" E and 8 0 25'0" E. It is part of the Cross River Plains and the Ebonyi (Aboine) River Basin. The state, which has 2,880,700 inhabitants and a landmass of about 5,670 km³, is endowed with abundant natural mineral resources that must be properly exploited. This is corroborated by research that asserts the state's mineral riches have not been fully utilized. If these resources had been utilized to their utmost capacity, the state's GDP would have increased, perhaps boosting the state's economy to that of an independent, self-sufficient economy (Onwe-Moses; Ozumba & Chijiuka 2020). Nevertheless, the main objective of this research is to determine how national security architecture and national unity contribute to the national development of Ebonyi State's indigenous people. This is what ultimately led to a study tour of the state on November 5–11, 2023, by Team 2 participants of the National Defence College, Abuja along with their direct staff, research fellow, and supporting staff.

In the framework of this study, stakeholders in Ebonyi State and the country at large must implement pertinent practices that enable every resident, regardless of background, to go about legitimate activities and operations without interferences and molestations in order to build national unity. It could entail constructing places of worship for all denominations; extending hospitality to individuals from various racial and national backgrounds; and making sure locals are fairly and equally able to take advantage of all available opportunities (jobs, education, businesses, empowerment, skill-acquisition programs) and so on. This might help to implant a sense of belonging, appreciation, and value in the people, and consequently deprive them of opportunities to venture into criminality and other security threats.

Stakeholders in Ebonyi State, during the interactive sessions of the study tour of the State by the delegates of the National Defence College Abuja on 5th through 11th November 2023 lamented that despite making huge efforts at ensuring national unity and security for national development, notably through the establishment of Christian Ecumenical Centre and Central Mosque for Muslims; sponsoring cyber and

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other security and surveillance training for the youths; engaging the citizenry in skill acquisition and empowerment programs, as well as the development of the ALGON House, where all 36 states of Nigeria have their official offices, the State cannot boast of having their indigenes well represented and positioned in the various security agencies, including but are not limited to Army, Navy, Airforce, Police, Immigration, Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC), Civil Defence, Department of State Services (DSS) and Custom. According to the stakeholders, it is not fair, as it contradicts the essence of the national unity and security which Nigeria is clamoring for, to aid in the pursuit of national development. They observed that denials can lead to disturbances, agitations, and attacks that could undermine national cohesion and impede progress toward national development.

In order to prevent the foregoing, the study investigated methods for advancing national development via national unity and security, using Ebonyi State as a case study, by analyzing the strategies they employ in pertinent circumstances. This is relevant and important since a nation's greatest asset is its national security, which unites all other resources to promote sustainable growth. Most importantly, Ebonyi State serves as a case study for this research because no previous studies have examined this particular area of promoting national development via national unity and security.

Two research questions were answered in the study:

1. How often are national unity practices for promoting national development applied in Ebonyi State?
2. How often are security-enhancing practices for promoting national development applied in Ebonyi State?

LITERATURE AND THEORETICAL UNDERPINNING

Concept of Security

Security is the concept that comes to mind whenever there is peace, harmony, stability, and the absence of attacks and criminalities. Security could mean the protection, prevention, preservation, conservation, precaution, and safety of all the elements that bring about the development and advancement of a nation. In the same vein, Zakari (2019), considered security as the protection from any form of negative threat, embarrassment, and challenges; prevention from any type of harm and calamity; preserved to retain its originality, essence, and relevance; conserved from any form of unwelcome intrusion, destruction, and deterioration for assured elongation of lifespan and existence; placed under a state of precaution to avoid unnecessary distraction and disintegration into nothingness and irrelevance; and be safeguarded for assured safety, orderliness, and availability. Zakari further argued that security protection per se includes prevention, preservation, conservation, precaution, and safety of whatever is believed to be worthy of preservation. This is often targeted at ensuring an unconditional existence, relevance, and availability of whatever is considered valuable. Another definition of security is the operations involved in defending a nation, a structure, or people from harm. It can also refer to civil-military integration logistics assistance

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against anything that might happen in the future. Fundamentally, security needs to be associated with the existence of resources, contentment, safety, and peace of mind as well as the lack of crises and risks to human life, among other things (Bonner, 2016). Even though the attempts at ensuring the security of life and properties are assigned to security operatives and agencies, such as the Army, the Police, etcetera, everyone has to take responsibility for protecting and preserving whatever is valuable to them in order to promote development.

In line with this, the Africa Center for Strategic Studies (2021) advocated that creating a realistic vision for transforming and transparently managing security resources makes way for the development of the African continent. This could be achieved by putting to good use relevant security-enhancing practices, including campaigns for collaborations and synergy in security-related matters; effective and timely deployment and engagement of security personnel; steady sensitization of the citizenry on security and surveillance; gainfully engaging the citizenry in productive ventures, etcetera.

However, the security situation in Nigeria seems to be pathetic, as some states have become a killing field, where reports on unlawful acts, such as banditry, terror attacks, unlawful sit-at-home and hoodlums' attacks, unhealthy agitations, militancy, herdsmen butchery, kidnapping, robbery, cybercrimes, and internet fraud have become the order of the day and have taken precedence that, one begins to worry about development. This is based on the perception that the presence of anti-security elements, such as the aforementioned, could kill development. This is evident in Otto and Ukpere (2012) and Oghuvbu and Chidozie's (2018) observation that Boko Haram aggression has severe effects on national development in Nigeria especially in the North East because it has reduced the inflow of foreign direct investment. This was supported by Igbogo (2015), who reported that cases of violence like ethnic crises, vandalism of pipes and electrical poles, armed robberies, kidnapping, and others that cannot be mentioned, have hindered the development of some infrastructures and foreign investment. Also, lamenting the effect of insecurity on development, Otto and Ukpere (2012), argued that in Nigeria, apart from the millions of people who had been killed in the course of one security breach or another, sources of livelihood were destroyed, families got disintegrated and social infrastructure was disrupted. In collaboration with this, Njoku and Nwachukwu (2015) looked into how Nigeria's economy was impacted by Boko Haram's intervention in the country's security. The online questionnaire that provided the data for this study was analyzed using the Analysis of Variance (ANOVA) method. The outcome demonstrated that the Boko Haram sect in Nigeria was primarily motivated by ideology and funding, that the group's misfortune constitutes a serious threat to Nigeria's economy, and that the military is the most effective means of combating the group's threat in Nigeria.

National development is endangered by a lack of security, just as it is influenced by divisiveness inside any given nation. Ikegbu, Enyimba, and Ogelenya (2018), in a similar vein, claimed that no country dealing with the issue of divisiveness is likely to make significant progress. It makes sense that in 2022, President Xi Jinping proposed the Global Security Initiative (GSI), which called on nations to respond to the rapidly shifting global environment in a spirit of unity and tackle the intricate and interconnected

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security challenges in a win-win manner. About 80 nations and regional organizations have embraced the initiative.

Conceptual Framework

This, through a schematic representation, explains the perceived functional interplay of relevant concepts of the topic.

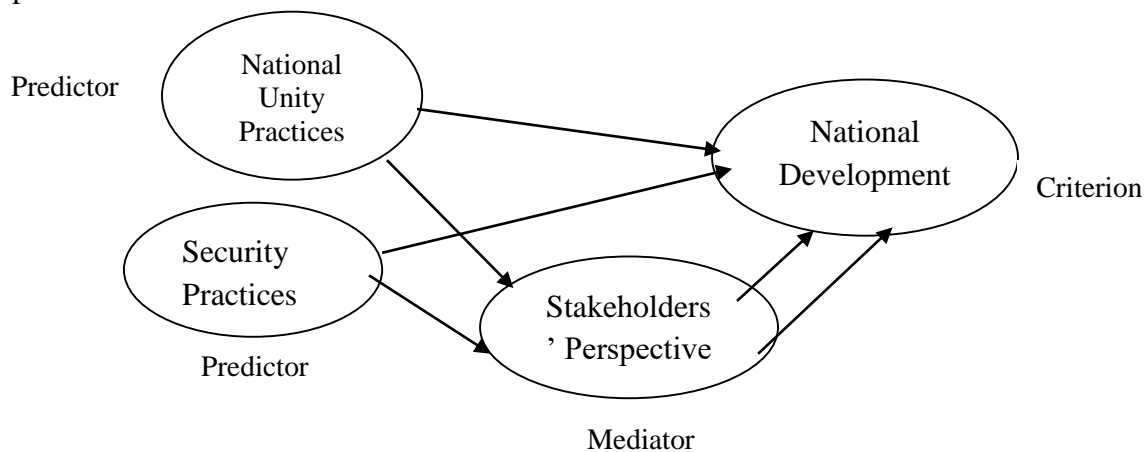


Figure 1: Schema showing how national unity and security could influence national development

In Figure 1, national unity practices and security practices represent the predictor (independent) variables; national development represents the criterion (dependent) variables while the perception and opinion of stakeholders of Ebonyi State represent the mediating variable. In this scenario, if the stakeholders effectively deploy or apply relevant national unity and security measures in the course of administering their various areas of jurisdiction, the perception is that such would promote and bring about development of Ebonyi State in particular, and development at the national level. At this junction, it is important to point out that without the mediators or stakeholders, who operationally put to work any available national unity and security strategies, development might become elusive of the society.

METHODOLOGY

A descriptive survey research design was adopted for the study. This kind of design is suitable when a researcher intends to empirically investigate an issue with the view of ascertaining, interpreting, and describing the opinions of a targeted population on the matter being examined (Tanny, 2018)). The design was considered appropriate for the study because it sought to ascertain the average perception of stakeholders in Ebonyi State views concerning promoting national development through national unity and security. The target population was 850 Stakeholders of Ebonyi State, including the Governor, Deputy Governor, Secretary to the State Government, Commissioners, LG Chairmen, Traditional Rulers, Security Personnel, Vice Chancellors, Political Assistants on Special Duty, Youths' Leaders, and Heads of other

Publication of the European Centre for Research Training and Development-UK toured government establishments. 350 stakeholders were selected using a purposive sampling technique to respond to the instruments of the study. Two research questions guided the study. A validated questionnaire titled: ‘Practices Utilized for Promoting National Unity and Enhancing Security in Ebonyi State (PUPNUESES)’ and an oral Interview were used to collect relevant data for the study. The instrument were examined and approved by three experts, and finally, the questionnaire was subjected to reliability testing through the Cronbach Alpha technique. This yielded 0.89 as the coefficient and was deemed satisfactory. The researchers in the company of three other research assistants, collected relevant data. Descriptive statistical tools, including Mean, Tables, Pie Charts, and Simple Percentages were utilized for the data analysis and presentation.

Results and Findings

Research Question 1: How often are national unity practices for promoting national development applied in Ebony State?

S/N	I. Deploy the following practices that enhance national unity in a bid to promote development:	Stakeholders	Percentage	
		(n=350) Mean	% Often Used	% Not Often Used
1.	Ensuring that all residents, irrespective of state of origin, practice their chosen religion without undue interference	3.98	99.5	0.5
2.	Ensuring that all residents, irrespective of state of origin, dress the way that is suited to their culture	3.77	94.3	5.7
3.	Ensuring that all residents, irrespective of state of origin, feel free to express themselves in the language they are comfortable with, without being ridiculed	3.67	91.8	8.2
4.	Ensuring that all residents, irrespective of state of origin, organize and practice their unique cultural activities without being molested	3.90	97.5	2.5
5.	Hosting and entertaining all residents, irrespective of state of origin, during cultural festivals of the State and Localities	3.80	95	5
6	Ensuring fairness in allocation, licensing, and approval of land and business premises to all the residents, irrespective of state of origin	3.09	77.3	22.7

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7	Ensuring that all the residents, irrespective of state of origin, are fairly offered job opportunities	2.77	69.3	30.7
8	Making sure that every empowerment program is fairly accessible to all the residents, irrespective of state of origin	2.72	68	32
9	Ensuring that all the residents, irrespective of state of origin, pay relevant bills (taxes and fees) without favoritism	2.69	67.3	32.7
10	Ensuring that all residents, irrespective of state of origin, practice their chosen religion without undue interference	3.08	77	23
Cluster Mean/Percentage		3.35	83.8	16.2

Table 1: Mean rating of stakeholders on the frequency of application of national unity practices for promoting national development in Ebony State.

In Table 1 above, it was revealed that the Mean ratings of respondents with regard to the application of national unity practices for promoting national development in Ebony State are very high. Looking at the table carefully, revealed that each individual practice had a mean rating that is greater than 2.5, just as the cluster 3.35 is too. This implied that most of the stakeholders acknowledged applying the national unity practices to promote development frequently.

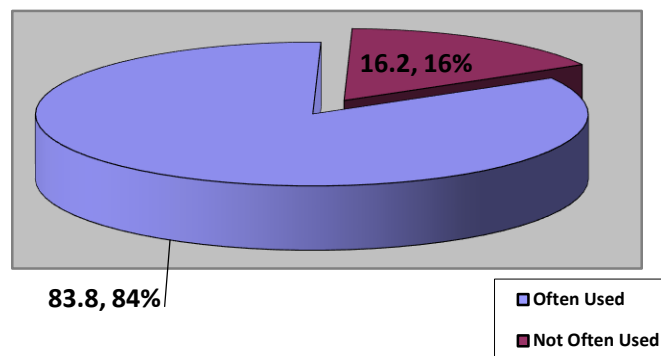


Figure 2: Cumulative Percentage of Application of National Unity Practices for Development in Ebony State

In further interpreting the results, Figure 2 above, revealed that approximately 84% of the stakeholders in Ebony State acknowledged that they frequently apply national unity practices in promoting development, but only approximately 16% of them acknowledged that they do not apply it frequently.

Research Question 2: How often are security-enhancing practices for promoting national development applied in Ebony State?

S/N	I. Deploy the following practices that enhance security in a bid to promote development:	Respondents (n=350)	Percentage		
		Mean	% Often Used	% Often Used	Not
11.	Sponsoring the selected citizenry, especially the youths for cyber security and related trainings, within and outside the state	2.90	72.5	27.5	
12.	Sensitizing the citizenry, especially the youths against instigating in communal clashes	2.89	72.3	27.7	
13.	Establishing the right synergy with stakeholders in the neighboring states and communities within, for fair management of boundary-related issues	2.55	63.8	36.2	
14.	Empowering the citizenry with transport facilities, such as Buses, Cars, Tricycles (Keke), Bicycles, etc., to enable them to earn a living and shun crimes	2.77	69.3	30.7	
15.	Organizing workshops and seminars of security and surveillance for security agencies and selected citizens	3.00	75	25	
16.	Ensuring that all categories of security personnel are strategically deployed at relevant locations within the state	3.06	76.5	23.5	
17.	Timely and immediate deployment of special security squad to the scenes of security threats, such as robbery, unknown men attacks, herdsmen/farmers clashes, etc	3.01	75.3	24.7	
18.	Ensuring immediate deployment of relevant personnel to accident and hazardous emergencies, such as fire outbreaks, accidents, etc	3.10	77.5	22.5	
19.	Ensuring the safety of lives, food, and water to the citizenry. For instance, the building of the popular Edda bridge, building of the Airport, refining and making the water from	2.53	63.3	36.7	

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	Salt Lake safe, steadily available, usable, and accessible to every resident through the States' Water Resource Board			
20	Sponsoring and engaging the citizenry, especially the youths in different entrepreneurial programs to enhance livelihood and shun crime	2.67	66.8	33.2
	Cluster Mean/Percentage	2.85	71.3	28.7

Table 2: Mean rating of stakeholders on the frequency of application of security-enhancing practices for promoting national development in Ebony State.

Table 2 shows that on average, stakeholders in Ebony State rated the application of security-enhancing practices for promoting national development very high. As could be seen from the table, each questionnaire item had a mean rating that was greater than 2.5. Also, the cluster of 2.85 is greater than 2.5, which is a positive sign that the respondents often apply relevant security-enhancing practices to promote development in the state and Nigeria at large. In furtherance to the result in Table 2, the cumulative percentage of application of the practices is depicted in Fig. 3.

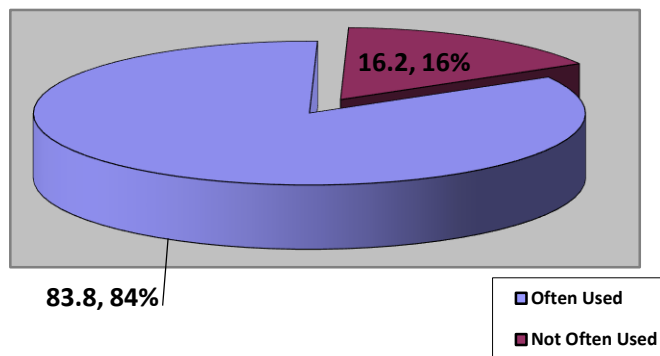


Figure 3: Cumulative Percentage of Application of Security Practices for Development in Ebony State

Figure 3 above throws more light on the results. A closer examination of the figure shows that approximately 71% of the stakeholders in Ebony State acknowledged that they often use all the security-enhancing practices in promoting development, while approximately 29% of them acknowledged not to be applying it frequently. However, land communal crises between Ebony state and her neighboring towns like Enugu, Benue -Igalala, Abia, Cross River and Ogoja axis and so on cannot be ruled out despite their having security meetings, neighborhood watch, and vigilante amongst others. Ebony State has a lot of

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unresolved communal crises that the National Boundary Adjustment Commission needs to revisit in order to make the place more secure, safe, and peaceful.

Discussion

The study reported frequency of application of national unity practices, such as ensuring that all residents, irrespective of state of origin, practice their chosen religion without undue interferences; dress the way that is suited to their culture; feel free to express themselves in the language they are comfortable with, without being ridiculed; organize and practice their unique cultural activities without being molested; gets fairly treated in the allocation of state amenities such as renting and owning shops at the shopping mall, licensing and approval of land and business; are hosted and entertained during inter-state cultural festivals/Carnivals of the State and Localities and New Yam festivals; encourage inter-tribal marriages and sports competitions, are fairly offered job opportunities in their Ebony Universities and hospitals, Ebony State quarry stone cluster, Ezeilo water scheme, Enyimba mining industry (lead and Zinc), rice cluster mill companies in the three senatorial zones (Ebony North; Ebony South Zone and Ebony Central zones) like the Iboko rice company, fairly pay relevant bills (taxes and fees) without reservations; practice their chosen religion without undue interferences, attend schools without any discrimination as can be seen in John Carri secondary school in Ebony State that is a mixture of Muslims and Christian and making sure that every empowerment program is fairly accessible to all the residents of the state. Some of the stakeholders further revealed in oral interviews that the state has the Ebony State of ART Mall where indigenes can own a shop likewise those from other states, even though indigenes pay N1,500 per square meter for a shop, in contrast to this, the non-indigenes pay N2,000 per square meters, showing a relatively fair treatment.

Additionally, the state government launched a five-billion-naira youth empowerment program, and five hundred youths have been given two million naira to start their businesses. The Governor of the State, RT. Hon. Builder Ogbonna Nwifuru, is mandated by the People's Charter of Needs to reach and communicate with his citizens. Furthermore, young Ebonyians, make up the bulk of his government, and they oversee an inclusive system of government that allows them to learn about their problems and devise solutions.

Again, students in tertiary institutions are not left out in this gesture for they are being provided with scholarships, bursary awards, and cash gifts to enable them to continue with their education. Also, the presence of the Christian Ecumenical Centre and Central Mosque for Muslims, as well as the ALGON House, where all 36 states of Nigeria have their official offices, etc., are measures put in place to promote national unity for national development.

To keep promoting national unity for development, Aragbaye, John, and Akande (2023) reported that the importance of promoting national unity cannot be overstated, since it not only ensures peaceful coexistence among Nigerians, but also fosters social cohesion, economic growth, and political stability in the country. Supporting this, Umaru and Usman (2015) averred that national unity is made possible when ethnic groups within a political setting maintain unity by coming together to reach consensus, social

Publication of the European Centre for Research Training and Development-UK structure, and function in society which brings about social order. This means that it serves as a building bridge between diverse communities, fostering open dialogue and collaboration, and establishing a welcoming atmosphere for everybody. Similarly, Ikegbu, Enyimba, and Ogelenya (2018) argued that no tremendous progress is likely to be recorded by any nation-state faced with the problem of disunity, hence all efforts should be made and sustained bearing national development in mind.

The study also reported that security for national development could be enhanced by frequently sponsoring the selected citizenry security-related trainings; sensitization of the citizenry against instigating communal clashes; collaborating with stakeholders in the neighbouring states and communities within on matters of security; empowering the citizenry with self-employment measures; strategic deployment of security operatives to relevant locations, during and after breach of security; deployment of relevant personnel to accident and hazardous emergencies, and ensuring safety of food and water for citizenry. In similar reports, Oghuvbu and Chidozie (2018), argued that Boko Haram aggression has severe effects on national development in Nigeria, especially in the North East which has reduced the inflow of foreign direct investment. This means a setback in the development of such affected areas. This corroborates the assertion of Otto and Ukpere (2012) which is the reality that, in Nigeria today especially since the advent of the present democratic dispensation, new forms of violent crimes have become common; these include kidnapping (actually adult or privileged people's napping) for ransom, pipeline vandalization, Boko Haram bombings, rape, political violence and more.

On the other hand, the Africa Center for Strategic Studies (2021), advocated that creating a realistic vision for transforming and transparently managing security resources makes way for the development of the African continent. This could be interpreted to mean that the steady application of certain realistic security measures, might just be all that the African society especially Nigeria needs to move, developmentally. Lamenting on the effect of insecurity on development too, Igbogo (2015); and Otto and Ukpere (2012) reported that apart from the millions of people who had been killed in the course of one security breach, the cases of violence like ethnic crises, vandalism of pipes and electrical poles, armed robberies, kidnapping and others that cannot be mentioned, have hindered development.

Implication to Research and Practice

This study has contributed to the debate on the promotion of national development through national peace and security especially in Ebony State of Nigeria which was understudied. The research work was conducted in Ebony State which is rare in literature. To the best of the researcher's knowledge, previous studies on this subject matter did not consider national development in the areas of unity and security at Ebony State.

The following recommendations were put forward concerning the findings of the study:

1. All the stakeholders in the Ebony State and beyond should strategically and effectively continue to deploy the practices that enhance national unity for development, within and outside of the state. They should also welcome other measures that may not have been reported in this study, bearing

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in mind that flexibility, innovativeness, resourcefulness, and further search for feasible enhancers of national unity would be helpful. All the residents of the state should be driven by the yearning to promote oneness through steady campaigns and sensitization via all available media, including but not limited to: Television Stations, Radio Stations, all Social Media handles, Conferences/Seminars, and Workshops.

2. The Ebonyi State's plentiful mineral resource deposits are more than twenty-one, including those in the zinc, metals, limestone, copper ore, fluorite, iron ore sand, chalcopyrite, granite and lead industries, marble ore, laterites, cross lake, saltwater lake, stone clusters, brimstone, and Nkalagu Limestone, Amasiri Sandstone, and Afikpo Sandstone amongst others should be effectively and judiciously tapped and utilized. This could entail partnering with philanthropists and other stakeholders to collaborate on memorandums of understanding (MOUs) in order to rejuvenate the industry, create more jobs, reduce waste, and promote and boost real national development in the state of Ebonyi. Furthermore, it is important to maintain the cleanliness of the lake saltwater area and to prevent people from excreting nearby, which could contaminate and endanger the lake and the lives of the people.
3. The people of Ebonyi State should be adequately informed about government recruitment, selection, and placement (RSP) processes of qualified candidates, including the requirements for positions in the armed forces or tri-services such as Army, Navy, Air Force and elsewhere, in order to prevent them from feeling excluded or left behind, which will undermine the positive effects of democracy.
4. Everyone should bear in mind that security is an issue that needs the attention of all. Stakeholders should re-examine how effective the security practices being adopted have been, to enable them to improve, as there are still some elements of insecurity in Ebony State and across. Understandably, creating and actively engaging the citizenry in the available job and empowerment programs will improve the security situation in the state. The distribution of opportunities should be fairly and equitably done, to avoid some sections developing and nursing grudges and resentment, to the point of seeing crime as a veritable option to carry out their agitations. There should be routine and regular training and sensitization of the citizenry through every available medium on practical measures to adopt in dealing with different kinds of security threats.
5. Correct border adjustments are also necessary to prevent inter-tribal conflicts, communal clashes and communal conflicts that jeopardize the region's security and unity and hinder the advancement of the country.

Conclusion

In line with the findings, the study concludes that national development relies on all the elements or measures for enhancing national unity and security to be attainable. The more united and peaceful a nation

Publication of the European Centre for Research Training and Development-UK is, the more feasible and achievable the elements of national development become. If the Ebonyi State in particular, and Nigeria are to achieve and sustain national development, they must, as a matter of necessity continue to effectively and judiciously apply all the available and accessible practices that promote national unity and assured security, harmony, peace, and tolerance. The strategies must remain practical-oriented, and not paper policies. In all, with the direction Ebonyi State is heading, other states in Nigeria and the nation at large have to emulate such commendable practices for peace, unity, and development.

Further Research

In this study, the researchers has laid some ground work by exploring the promotion of national development through national unity and security in Ebony State, Nigeria. Further studies on this subject matter are expected to be more detailed than this current study and should also aim at creating more objectives and developing more research questions and hypotheses that will further reveal how national development could be promoted through national unity and security in Ebony State, Nigeria. Again, further studies can make use of different statistical analytical tools to further estimate the correlation between national development and national unity and security in Ebonyi State, Nigeria.

In addition, it is suggested for future research work to be conducted on wider geographical location by examining this subject matter in other states or zones in Nigeria and in other countries of the world and also go further to draw differences and similarities among the other states, zones and nations understudied as the case may be. Such further studies could be done with the aim of establishing the effect of zonal, national and global economic differences in promoting national development through national unity and security. It is expected that this could help in resolving some theoretical underpinnings of the results obtained in this study.

It is possible that the outcome of this study can also be made more robust if future research work in this area will widen the scope of the study by specifying some models that will incorporate more dependent and independent variables and by increasing the study population and sample size.

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