

## Governing the Security Space in Nigeria: Providing Security Policy

Since the practice in Nigeria did not constitute security owing to the fact that it represents the defence practice of the armed forces, it is necessary to provide for security. In providing for security, it is necessary to have a policy or legislation that answer the questions what is security, whose security, what is security issue and how security can be achieved. I argued that the responsibility of the governance type in place since 1999 included providing the country with a security policy. I also argued that the practice in place did not constitute security hence it has not been able to provide security for most Nigerians.

Indeed as I noted in the previous submissions (see [adoyionoja.org](http://adoyionoja.org)) there was no difference in the perspective of the armed forces (military) and the civil elected on security. Nigerians knew the perspective of the armed forces on security. After seventeen years in power, it is about time the elected civil authority give Nigerians their perspective on security. While the base for the armed forces perspective on security is their defence role in the Constitution. The base for the civil elected authority is their governance role as contained in Chapter II or Fundamental Objectives and Directive Principles of State Policy of the Constitution. Section 13 to 21 clearly provide for this governance role.

The central issue in the advocacy for security policy is governance. The focus of security policy should be on security governance and governance of security. Security governance entails processes and procedures while governance of security entails the utilisation of human and material resources in order to secure the lives of most Nigerians.

Of the legislatures and executives elected into power, who is better suited to provide a security policy for Nigeria? I am of the view that the legislatures are better suited since their role is to legislate or provide policy framework. As I argued the policy should answer four questions. Of these questions, the legislature should address the first three questions of policy. They are: What is security? Whose security? What is a security issue (s)?

I am also of the view that the provisions in the policy framework should differ from those of the western world in view of Nigeria's propensity to imitate. It was imitation that created the prevailing reality in Nigeria. It is important that the western model serves as guide only. Their security enabling environment is different. This is because their history, experience and reality differ. I had advocated for the construction of security based on Nigeria's history, experience and reality (HER).

The implication of security policy for Nigeria is two folds. The first is that it will streamline security away from the view of one institution i.e. the armed forces to what it should be within the context of the governance role of elected representatives. In this

instance, the policy will delineate security from defence. I used the metaphor of umbrella to describe security. To this extent, every other issue including defence will be accommodated inside the umbrella. The second implication is on scholarship and scholars. At the moment, there is no map for any engagement on security as a field of study in tertiary institutions. With a framework that answers the questions what is security, whose security, what is security issue and how security can be achieved (more of the last point in the next submission: *Governing the Security Space in Nigeria: Providing Security Strategy*), the policy set the direction or guide for academic exploration and discourse on security in Nigeria. The absence of security policy currently hampers scholarship as academics rely on external input in their intervention in theories, concepts, issues etc around security. Their discourses will reference the policy and hold the government accountable.

As the legislature deals with the first three questions of policy, the last question how security can be achieved or strategy should be the responsibility of the executive.