

Youth Restiveness and Insecurity in Jalingo Metropolis

¹Isa Mohammed

¹Department of Political Science and International Relations, Taraba State University,
Jalingo

Abstract

The resurgence of youth violence within Jalingo metropolis is alarming and complicated. This paper examined the dynamics, nature and effects of youth violence on Jalingo metropolis and Taraba State at large. The sources of data collection used in this study are both primary and secondary. The method of data collection is qualitative through the synthesis of security agencies reports and government committee reports on youth restiveness. The theoretical framework adopted for the study is social identity theory which described the identity of a person or group as the sense of who they are based on their group membership(s) in society. This informs the classification of their identity into in-group and out-group categorization. The study found that there are three major types of youth groups in Jalingo metropolis; violent youth gangs, political thugs and criminal youth groups. However, the remote and immediate causes of the youth violence include; drug abuse, illiteracy, poverty, high rate of unemployment, competition over girls, influx of migrants and political competition. The study recommends that to curb the menace of youth restiveness in Jalingo and the State at large, the family value system must be reformed for proper upbringing of children, government should make laws banning all illegal youth groups, and also initiate both short and long term economic empowerment programmes for the youths.

Keywords: Resurgence, Social Identity, Sub-culture, Violence, Youth Restiveness

Introduction

Since the return to civil rule in 1999 most of the federating states in Nigeria have had or faced one form of youth violent groups ranging from; Area Boys in Lagos and ‘Yan Daba in Kano, Kalare in Gombe and Ecomog in Borno, Sara Suka in Bauchi and ‘Yan Shila in Adamawa etc. These have been the manifestation of youth restiveness across Nigeria. The impacts of the political and harsh socio-economic conditions on the state generates crisis of rising expectations that gave birth to this dangerous social reality. Human Rights Watch

estimated that over 15,000 youths were killed in violent youth clashes since Nigeria's transitioned to democracy in 1999 (Human Rights Watch, 2012).

In Taraba State, there have been changes in the dynamics of youth restiveness since the creation of the state in 1991. The activities of "*Bani-Isra'ila or Ba Kuskure Boys*" was popular in Jalingo and some part of the state from 2003-2007 during political campaigns. Most of the youth problems emanates from political and criminal activities that leads to disorderliness and instability particularly within Jalingo metropolis.

Consequently, in early 2017 there was serious security concern in Jalingo metropolis due to the increase in magnitude and frequency of violent youth groups who are referred to as "Youth Base or Base Boys". It all started as a result of competition over girls (Suzeey of Red Mafia Group Dorawa was kidnapped for gang rape by Mayo-Gwoi youth gang), and territorial control especially between "*Barade Boys*" (Sabon Layi) and "*Mayo-Gwoi Boys*" groups. The situation degenerates to other areas of the metropolis like Tudun Wada and Sabon Gari which resulted into security and social unrest (Jalingo Local Government, 2018).

This paper is divided into six sections. Section one covers conceptual clarification, while section two deals with theoretical framework. In section three, the methodology is highlighted. Section four examines briefly the typologies of violent youth groups in Jalingo metropolis, Section five presents some secondary data on the emergence and activities of the base boys and their political implications to the state, while section six delves into the causes and state response to the dynamics of the contemporary youth restiveness.

Conceptual clarification

In this paper, for the purpose of clarity and technicality some concepts needs to be clarified in order to show their contextual connotation and applications.

Youth restiveness: It is the extreme form of deviant behavior among the youth which is socially un-acceptable in any society. Youth restiveness involves the combination of

actions, behaviors and attitudes exhibited by the youths which are socially un-acceptable and unwholesome in the society (Igbo and Ikpa, 2013). The worsening socio-economic condition of Nigeria and Taraba state in particular creates youth restiveness. Restive condition among the youth generates and complicates youth problems which invariably breeds violence and insecurity. The condition of the restive youths creates a dimension that affects the societal wellbeing in general.

Elegbeleye (2005) opined that youth restiveness is a sustained protestation embarked upon to enforce desired outcome from a constituted authority by an organized body of youths. The condition of restiveness is marked by violence, disruption of lawful activities and devaluation of moral character among the youths. Hence, the rise in the cases of rape, kidnapping, street brawling, and killings among the youth groups. Thus, the base boys exhibit the above mentioned illegal and immoral behaviors.

Base groups: In our own contents the name “Base Group” derived from youths that share common interests, at times illegal or otherwise. The group membership consists of some age group of 15-35 years old (Jalingo Local Government, 2018). The base boys activities is directly link to the insecurity situation in Jalingo metropolis since early 2017.

It is the general name given to groups that are formed from age group and neighborhood identity. There have been rise in the number of these groups in Jalingo metropolis. It is estimated that there are over 50 different identified groups that were formed for one reason or another. The reason for the rise in the number of the groups are rivalry, territoriality and rumors of vengeance attacks.

The most common method of violence is the “*Shara*” known as an indiscriminate act of unleashing violence on whoever is found at the time and at the scene of clashes. The *shara* is done anytime of the day or night depending on the target at hand. The flash points of *shara* by the base boys are; Tudun wada, Jalingo main market, Sabon layi, Mayo-gwoi and Nasarawo/NTA etc. However, it is usually caused by rivalry clash among the groups

than by the community. The base boys usually clash with the vigilante and security forces during their operations.

Political thuggery: According to Howell (2004) 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. Political thuggery is simply a criminalization of politics for selfish end by political actors and their supporters in the political system.

In Nigeria, desperate politicians form and armed youth gang and militias for the purpose of political violence to acquire political power. This phenomenon is a common feature in the Nigerian electoral process especially since the return to democracy in 1999. The reason for the rampant cases of political thuggery in Nigerian politics is connected to money politics and the do or die political culture in the Nigerian electoral process.

God-father politics engenders political violence and encourage political thuggery. The youth are tools of realizing the political goal of the God-fathers through intimidation of opponents, snatching of ballot boxes during elections and the manipulation of the electoral process. In Jalingo metropolis, the large number of the jobless youths serves as a catalyst to the phenomenon of political thuggery (Mohammed, 2018). The link of the political thugs to the Base boys is that some of the ex- political thug's guide and train them on how to perpetrate the act of violence. Presently, the Base boys are not political thugs but are connected since they all cause social unrest.

Theoretical framework

The framework adopted in this study is the Social Identity Theory (SIT). According to Tajfel social identity is a person's sense of who they are based on their group membership(s). Hence, he defined "identity" as "Individual's knowledge that he belongs to a certain social group with some emotions and value of significance of his membership (Tajfel, 1979, 66-67 cited in Ya'u, 2000).

Moreover, Tajfel (1979) proposed that the groups (e.g. social class, family, football team etc) which people belong to were an important source of pride and self-esteem. Groups give us a sense of social identity; a sense of belonging to the social world. The society or world is divided into “them” and “us” based through a process of social categorization. It leads to the formation of the “in-group” and “out-group” categorization in society.

Tajfel and Turner (1986) further proposed that there are three mental processes in evaluating others as “us” or “them” categorization which are; social categorization (how we categorized objects in order to understand them), social identification (we adopt the identity of the group we belong to), and social comparison (we compare our group with other group(s)). Some of the basic general assumptions of the social identity theory are:

1. Individuals strive to maintain or enhance their self-esteem: They strive for a positive self-concept.
2. Social groups or categories and the membership of them are associated with the positive or negative value connotations. Hence, social identity may be positive or negative according to the evaluations (which tends to be socially consensual, either within or across groups) of those groups that contribute to an individual’s social identity.
3. The evaluation of one’s social group is determined with reference to other specific social groups through social comparisons in terms of value-laden attributes and characteristics. Positively discrepant comparison between in-group and out-group produce high prestige; negatively discrepant comparisons between in-group and out-group result in low esteem.

However, some of the weaknesses of the social identity theory (STI) are; it concentrates more on group behavior rather than individual roles in a group. The explanatory power of the SIT is more than its predictive power on the interpersonal and intergroup relations in

society. Nevertheless, the theory helps in understanding individual and group sentiment, loyalty, sacrifice and hatred as a function of a given identity.

Tajfel and Turner (1979; 1986) posits that social identity theory attempts to explain intergroup solidarity and discrimination which favors in-group that people belonged and contrary to the other group. This can be understood through shared history, values, solidarity and differentiation among social groups in society.

The phenomenon of “*Base Boys or Sara-Suka*” can be situated within the purview of identity crisis experienced by adolescents (banding) in various wards, streets and neighborhood (‘*Yan Unguwa or Makwabta*) within the Jalingo metropolis. The situation culminated into violence and insecurity (in-group against out-group).

Hence, “Base Boys Identity” within Jalingo metropolis is a social group that generates social problem. This identity crisis and conflict presupposes certain attitudes and attributes of delinquency that differ from accepted behaviors in the society in general (societal values). This is what sociologist called “sub-culture”. It is on this that among the base groups, solidarity and violence are permanent predisposition of these groups. The three ways for expressing their consciousness and grievances to the society are; inter-group violence, vengeance attacks and survival instincts. This explains their existence, operation, manifestation and negative impacts on society.

Methodology

This study used qualitative descriptive data analysis. However, both the primary and secondary sources of data were used to complement each other for validity purpose in the study. Hence, un-structured interview, direct observations, content analysis of government documents and security agencies reports were used. The data collected were analyzed between February and September 2018.

Typologies of violent youth groups in Jalingo

In this context the youth gang groups is a social categorization in society. This is evident in the nature and dynamics of the transformation of the groups. The trajectories are based on the prevailing harsh socio-economic and political situation in the State. Presently, there are three major types of youth violent groups based on identity categorization as follows:

- 1) Violent youth gangs (*Base boys or Sara-Suka*)
- 2) Political thugs (*‘Yan Bangan Siyasa*)
- 3) Criminal youth groups (*Barayi*)

However, the gangsterism taking place in Jalingo is been carried out by the violent youth groups through inter-group rivalry clashes amongst them. While the two other groups operate in the shadow of the first violent groups. In fact, the phenomenon all started with youth banding otherwise known as neighborhoods, age group and social solidarity activities known as the base boys.

There are different aspects of the new emerging development on youth restiveness within the metropolis. Table 1 shows the emerging group identity known as Base boys that sprang up since early 2017.

Table 1: Names of some identified youth groups within Jalingo metropolis 2017-2018

SN	Name of group (base)	Location in the metropolis
1	Star Boys	Muhammad Nya school Jalingo
2	Oga Solo	Turaki “B” clinic Sabon Gari by Oga Solo mini market Jalingo
3	Channels Wicked	Adj. Jauro Musa Abba Tukur House Sabo Gari Jalingo
4	Wicked Banana	Muhammad Tukur Primary School Jalingo
5	Do or not	Govt. Tech. School, Best Centre Jalingo
6	Black Shadow	Maijidda Plaza Nasarawo Jalingo
7	Do	Nyabu Kaka Jalingo
8	Majidadi kwono	Gadan Bobboji, Jalingo

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9	Wicked Boys	Karofi Bridge Jalingo
10	One Mafia	Kogin Sarki Jalingo
11	Golden Shadow	Kogin Sarki Jalingo
12	Alanta	RCCN Sabon Gari Jalingo
13	Champion	Saminaka Junction Jalingo
14	Strong Pion	Nukkai Bridge Jalingo
15	Kona Rolly Boys	Road Block Round about Jalingo
16	Ataka	Opp. Hassan Pri. School Jalingo
17	Asubba	Before Peacock College Jalingo
18	D. Apple	Behind FMC Jalingo
19	Black Tiger	Jalingo Main Market
20	20 Battalion	Before Rubby Classy School Nasarawo Jalingo
21	Black Shadow	NTA Behind Maijidda Plaza
22	To Go Emergency	Investment Quarters Magami Jalingo
23	Kaka Mafia	Yabun Kaka Jalingo
24	Respectable	Sabon Gari Jalingo
25	Expendable	Water Board Magami Jalingo
26	V.B.L.M	Water Board Magami Jalingo
27	Wicked Axe	Behind Magami Cemenry by Nurul-Islam Jalingo
28	G. Shirt	Beside Mayo Gwoi Mosque
29	Red Mafia	Dorawa Jalingo
30	Wicked Lion	Mayo- Gwoi Bus stop
31	Jakiri	Unguan Sarkin Noma Jalingo
32	Manu Spark	Nasarawo Jalingo
33	Idi Shedan	Behind Sabon Gari Mosque Jalingo
34	Snipers	Magami Gindin Mangoro
35	Expensive	Kogin Dutse Sabon Gari Jalingo
36	Untouchable	Behind Primary Board Jalingo
37	Strong Boys	NNPC Mega Station OPP. A. A. Kassa Jalingo
38	Red Kusa	Mayo-Gwoi Jalingo
39	Black Ninjas	Unguan Fulani Jalingo
40	Red Devil	ANCOPSS
41	Exclusive	ANCOPSS
42	Roggoets	ANCOPSS
43	Gaga Fighters	ANCOPSS
44	Jardose	ANCOPSS
45	Black Diamond	ANCOPSS
46	River Base	ANCOPSS

47	Aways Fighters	ANCOPSS
48	One Man Squad	ANCOPSS
49	33 Boys	ANCOPSS
50	10-10	ANCOPSS
51	Sara-Dole	ANCOPSS
52	Zaman lafiya	ANCOPSS
53	Black Axe	ANCOPSS

Source:Adapted from Jalingo Local Government Report, 2018.

The Table above shows some of the various existing youth groups identified and generally classified as “Base Boys” who engages in harassment, intimidation, kidnapping, violence, rape, intra and inter group clashes within Jalingo metropolis. These groups are found everywhere within the metropolis, on the streets, joints, neighborhoods, and wards. The groups are usually formed according to age grade and fraternity. The number of these groups is increasing as they represent identity of persons and of the area they are formed to protect and defend themselves. In the event of clashes, they use small and light weapons (SALW) such as; cutlasses, daggers, swords, machetes, guns and stones to injure, maim, shoot or kill any perceived opponent. These emerging youth groups are different in their communications, actions and even in dressing. They carefully dress in colors like; red, black or white to show identity for easy identification and power.

Within the metropolis there are flash points where violence is perpetrated by the Base Boys due to the population and cosmopolitan nature of the inhabitants of these areas like; Mayo -Gwoi, Sabon Layi/Manga, Jalingo main market and Abuja phase I and II. The clashes usually happen on the main street which attract public attention and cause traffic jam within the metropolis. Moreover, it affects business activities, social activities and relaxations of the residents in the town. Most of the crisis in these areas are group rivalry and vengeance

Table 2: Jalingo Metropolis Records of Youth Related Violence 2017-2018

Death caused by Youth Violence 2017	Number of Youth	Causes of Youth Violence in Jalingo Metropolis 2017	Strategies Embark upon by the Police to curb youth violence
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	Arrested year 2017		
Five (5) cases	Forty Two (42)	Most of the violence is caused as a result of drug addict and belonging to cultist fraternity group, or being sponsored by selfish sect of people	1. Constant raid of their hideout 2. Stationing of Police at all the strategic areas 3. Arresting and prosecution of suspects
Death caused by Youth Violence 2018	Number of Youth Arrested year 2018	Causes of Youth Violence in Jalingo Metropolis 2018	Strategies Embark upon by the Police to curb youth violence
Six (6) cases	Two hundred and Twenty four (224)	Most of the violence is caused as a result of drug addict and belonging to cultist fraternity group, or being sponsored by selfish sect of people	1. Constant raid of their hideout 2. Stationing of Police at all the strategic areas 3. Arresting and prosecution of suspects

Source: Taraba Police Command Jalingo, 2018

The State Police Command Criminal Intelligence and Investigation Department (SCIID) has been vigorously monitoring, patrolling, raiding, arresting and arraigning suspects of youth gangs and criminal activities within the metropolis in courts. The above records show effort of the Command to curb the escalating spate of youth gangsterism in the State capital, Jalingo. The Police records also have shown that there were incidences of deaths even though, it does not include those convicted, injured but only of reported cases.

Table 3: Identified points of sale of illicit drugs in Jalingo metropolis 2017-2018

SN	Location
1	Forest
2	Dorawa
3	Sabon Layi adjacent First Bank Market Road

4	Mayo Gwoi Bus Stop
5	Road Block Round About
6	In-front of Jalingo Main Motor Park
7	Nukkai Bridge
8	Mile Six Market
9	Kogin Sarki
10	Kogin Malam Garba
11	Otta Farm Yabun Kaka
12	Maijidda Plaza Nasarawo
13	Sabon Gari Mobile Base
14	Ramin Tipper
15	Mafindi Primary School
16	La-Mangoro Turaki "A" Ward
17	Behind A.A.Kassa Mayo Gwoi
18	Jankada River
19	Opposite Nguroje House Jalingo
20	Abdullahi Chemist Mayo-Gwoi
21	Behind Green Beach Resort
22	Bakin Rijiyar Dunu Guest in Sabon Layi
23	Behind A.A Rano Filling Station Opposite Best Centre
24	Gate 2 Jalingo Main Market
25	River side Old Magami
26	Chemist Owners Yelwan Abbare
27	Chemist Owners Jalingo
28	Medicine Owners (Basket) Jalingo
29	Magami GDSS
30	Scrap Dealers (Babban Bola)
31	Old Post Office (Tashan Lau)
32	New Salejo Shopping Complex opposite Unity Bank Jalingo
33	Sambisa Safni Quarters Jalingo

Source: Adopted Jalingo local government report, 2018

There are many points of sale of illicit drugs within Jalingo but according to the NDLEA Taraba State Command record, these are the most prominent ones. The places capture the main city center and its environs. The striking revelations of the survey is that most of these places are in the open and operates day and night even though few of the places operates at night. Drug hawkers are seen around advertising their products openly. Hence, very few

points operate in the hidden except a coded area for a particular gangs or specifically meant for a neighborhood or ward. Some of the illicit drugs on sell in these areas are; codeine, marijuana, benalyn, alabukun, tramadol, cocaine, formalin, etc.

Political implications of the violent youth groups

The existence as well as the activities of the violent youth groups within Jalingo metropolis would have great impact on the conduct of the forthcoming 2019 general elections both locally and nationally in different ways. First, the politicians may use the base boys for political recruitment to serve as political thugs during elections which is an illegal political participation. Secondly, the base boys may be use as vote canvassers or may voluntarily serve as volunteers which will promote peaceful conduct of the elections in Taraba State. Thirdly, it will add tension and suspicion in the electoral process which will undoubtedly overheat the polity.

Causes of contemporary youth restiveness

This paper sought to examine the negative impacts of youth restiveness to the socio-economic development of Jalingo metropolis during the period under review 2017-2018. One major findings of this study is the existence of new youth gangs that called themselves “Base Boys” which were not in existence within the metropolis in the recent past. The groups that exist and unleash terror were the political thugs and criminal gangs which operate with different aim and targets before the emergence of the Base boys. The criminal group activities were popular 1995-1999 while the political thug’s activities became more pronounced in 2003-2007 within the Jalingo metropolis.

There have been both remote and immediate causes to the youth restiveness in Jalingo metropolis. These remote causes happen to be; rural/urban migration, unemployment, illiteracy and political thuggery. On the other hand, the immediate causes are;

poor parental upbringing, drug abuse, rivalry over girls, influx of migrants, high number of school drop outs and poverty.

The socio-economic implications of the problem are huge. On several occasions as a result of violent clashes hotels, shops, tricycles and cars were burnt and the Jalingo main market which happens to be the largest center of economics activities in the metropolis was closed down at different times. These properties lost to the clashes were worth millions of naira. Politically, the inter group rivalry may turn into violence between opposing groups who belong to different parties. Many innocent people have lost their lives in such clashes in the past, while their families are still seeking justice over their killed relations.

First, political thuggery is usually targeted at political opponents and happens during electioneering campaigns and political activities. Secondly, criminal youth groups are everyday occurrence but not usually violent or attracts public attention as the Base boys operates of recent. Thirdly, the Base boys is a different phenomenon of youth gangs belonging to fraternity of cultists that operate during the day and night within the metropolis and cause security threat and total breakdown of law and order (Taraba Police Command, 2018). This is a new development that is not known before in Jalingo metropolis but becomes popular since 2017 till date. The Base boys pelted and injured the Taraba State Commissioner of Police Mr. David Akinremi on 16 July, 2018 while trying to calm a situation of clashes amongst the groups in the metropolis. The aim and activities of this category of youth group rivalry clashes with other youth group is usually over women, gambling and on general social issues in the youth space. It was discovered that most of the public and private schools including the tertiary institutions within the Metropolis have one form or another of youth gangs as reported by All Nigerian Confederation of Principals of Secondary Schools (ANCOPSS) to the Youth Restiveness Investigation Committee of Jalingo Local Government in early 2018.

The external factors that contributed to the worsening situation of youth restiveness is the influx of migrants from crisis prone areas within and outside the State. For instance, large number of refugees and internally displaced persons from Wukari, Gembu, Ibi, Lau, and Takum have contributed to the youth space delinquent behaviors. Moreover, victims of crisis in neighboring states of Benue, Plateau, Adamawa, Nasarawa and even Boko Haram victims from Borno and Yobe States formed a substantial number of youths within the Jalingo Metropolis. The population growth of Jalingo is not commensurate to economic activities, growth and development which will undoubtedly breeds crime and violence.

It is discovered that there was increase in number of school drop outs within Jalingo education zone. The cause of this negative development is the increase in school fees by almost all tertiary institutions and private schools like; Taraba State University Jalingo, College of Education Zing, Peacock College of Education Jalingo, College of Agriculture Jalingo, Albaz Academy, Raddai Academy Jalingo, Iqra Academy Jalingo, Yagai Academy Jalingo, Eagle Academy Jalingo, Magami Government Day Jalingo, Government Science School Jalingo etc (Jalingo Local Government Report, 2018). The implication of this development to the youth population is dropping out of school which will translate into idleness and joblessness that trigger social problems and violence in the metropolis.

Consequently, substance abuse and addiction is considered a major cause of the rise in youth restiveness in Jalingo. According to United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) in Nigeria over 40% of the youths are involved in drug abuse out of which 69% is Tramadol and 21% Codeine (UNODC, 2018). The northern part of Nigeria has the highest cases of rampant drug abuse. The wife of Taraba State Governor, Her Excellency Barrister Anna Darius Dickson Ishaku founder of the Hope Afresh Foundation, an NGO in the state said that a survey found that one out of five in a household is involved in drug abuse among the youth in Taraba State.

The social behavior of these youth groups can be classified as a deviant behavior which is a consequence of urban coalition thesis of urban poor and generational crisis that mostly affects the youths which corroborates with the studies of Area Boys in Lagos (Momoh, 2000). Jalingo metropolis is fast growing and there is increase in population and economic activities which ultimately generates multiculturalism and coalition. There are over 53 of these groups and 33 points of sale of illicit drugs spread across Jalingo town. The Base boys use tricycle otherwise known as Keke Napep to operate, attack and escape from the scene of crime within the metropolis. The Keke Napep was introduced after the banned on the use of motor cycles in the State in 2012 to arrest the growing influx of migrants, refugees and victims of Boko Haram coming into the city from neighboring North-eastern States (Taraba State Government, 2012). According to Taraba State Commercial Tricycle/Motorcycle Association of Nigeria (TASCOTMAN) there are over 1000 tricycles within the metropolis with over 6,761 registered members in Jalingo alone and 174,000 in the 16 LGAs and two Development Areas of the State (Jalingo Local Government Report, 2018).

An 18-man Committee was set-up on 21st February, 2018 to investigate youth restiveness and drug abuse in Jalingo. On 26th February, 2018, the committee was inaugurated and later submitted its report on 15th May, 2018. After conducting 20 formal meetings and 17 public hearings to obtain both oral and written submissions from the critical stakeholders of the youth groups, community leaders, NGOs and associations, Christian Association of Nigeria (CAN) and Muslim Council, TASCOTMAN, Amalgamated Commercial Motorcycle Owners (ACOMORAN), ANCOPSS, Traditional rulers etc. The Jalingo Local Government Council Committee Report has identified inter-group rivalry, consumption of illicit drugs, lack of good parental upbringing, rumor mongering, peer group influence, population explosion, and selfishness of leaders and high cost of education as reasons for the increase in the rate of crime in the metropolis. This goes to confirm the argument in this paper that there are various reasons that causes the

menace of youth violence which are; rivalry over women, drug abuse and influx of migrants (Jalingo Local Government Report, 2018). The findings reveal that the youth violence is more rampant in Jalingo I areas of Mayo-Gwoi, Barade/Sabon Layi and Jalingo main market and its environs.

State response to youth restiveness

The Taraba State government has made several efforts to deal with the increasing challenges of youth restiveness. After the 2007 general elections all violent youth activities were banned in Taraba state especially in Jalingo the State capital under the administration of Pharm. Danbaba Danfulani Suntai, the Executive Governor of Taraba State (2007-2015). A task force was put in place to arrest anybody or group in the name of political thuggery. This was aimed at maintaining law and order in the State at large.

The Taraba state government had executed some youth empowerment programmes aimed at reducing unemployment rate in the state. In 2016, the State government trained 100 youths in different agri-business and skills acquisition on modern agriculture in Israel. Moreover, over 100 youth were appointed into different political offices as special assistants to the governor. Similarly, in 2017 over 3000 teachers were recruited under the Taraba State Teachers Rescue Scheme (Rescue Teachers). Moreover, there are 3,168 youths that are beneficiaries of N-power in the State. However, despite these policy interventions the rate of violence did not reduce partly for the fact that there is large population and non-formally educated youth problem (Taraba State Government, 2018).

Therefore, the nature and dynamics of the youth restiveness in Jalingo is concomitant with the socio-economic and political condition of the state and country at large. According to Brookings Institution (2018) presently, Nigeria has the highest number of poor people in the world with over 87 million of its people living on \$1.90 per day which widens inequality gap. Society exist from within not outside and social issues are definitely the reflections of the existing challenges of the society. This recent youth gangsterism had

caused loss of lives and destruction of properties worth millions of naira in the metropolis. Presently, there is no government rehabilitation center in Jalingo, the only one provided by Her Excellency Barr. Anna Darius Dickson Ishaku cannot accommodate the number of victims of drug addiction across the State.

Conclusion

This paper attempted to investigate the phenomenon of youth restiveness within Jalingo metropolis which poses serious security threat to lives and properties of residents of the area. The problem is a social identity crisis triggered by socio-economic factors. These factors are both push and pull factors that contributed to the manifestation and escalation of the social problem. Moreover, the problem as a result of its social nature has triggered social unrest that affects both the economic and political spheres of the metropolis negatively. It is discovered that those who form the substantial part of the Base boys are within the ages of 15-35, burning with youthful exuberance. The problem is not the youth problem but the attitude of the community to the problem. Either we build schools to accommodate the youths or build prisons to keep them after committing crimes in the society.

The Base boys phenomenon is a combination of many factors which created the rightful atmosphere for its manifestation in the form of; formation of cultist fraternities, inter-group rivalry, consumption of illicit drugs, lack of parental upbringing, rumor mongering, peer group influence, population explosion, influx of migrants, and selfishness of leaders and high cost of education as responsible for the negative transformation of the youths. The era of political thuggery in Taraba State and Jalingo metropolis in particular started in 2003-2007 and the subsequent post-election violence in 2011. The formation and transformation of the Base boys in the metropolis in 2017-2018 which is very close to 2019 poses imminent danger to the conduct of free, fair and credible elections in Taraba State. It is pertinent to note that those who engage in the violence are children of the poor.

What is yet to be defined is whether or not these groups (Base boys) which are not originally politically motivated will transform into political thugs that will be used by the political class in the state. The greatest danger of this phenomenon is the future of the youths and how the insecurity in the city will scare away potential investors for the economic development of the State. It is worthy to note that both Jalingo Local Government and Muri Emirate Council have taken bold steps in curbing the spread of the phenomenon of youth restiveness within the Jalingo metropolis through community policing and the strategies of direct interaction with the youths which is yielding positive results.

Recommendations

In order to curb the menace of youth restiveness and insecurity within Jalingo metropolis the following recommendations are made;

- i. Proper parental upbringing through reforming the family value system.
- ii. Taraba State House of Assembly should make law banning all illegal youth groups.
- iii. Initiation of empowerment/skill acquisition programmes.
- iv. Ban on sales of illegal drugs.
- v. Joint and constant patrol by security agencies.
- vi. Sensitization programmes on drug abuse.
- vii. Free education at both primary and secondary levels.
- viii. There should be youth inclusion in politics and governance.
- ix. Creation of youth rehabilitation center by government/recreational facilities.
- x. Compulsory drug test for political appointment, admissions and employments.

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Oral interviews

SN	NAME	AGE	SEX	OCCUPATION	PLACE OF INTERVIEW	DATE OF INTERVIEW
1.	Abba A. Jalingo	33	M	Teacher	Tudun Wada	18/09/18
2.	Jafaru Adamu	40	M	Trader	Mayo-Gwoi	20/08/18
3.	Blessing Ali	25	F	Student	Sabon Gari	26/05/18
4.	Peter George	35	M	Politician	Mile six	5/06/18
5.	Mairo Haruna	50	F	House wife	Sabon Layi	12/07/18
6.	Abdul Auta	31	M	Civil Servant	Anguwan Gadi	21/07/18