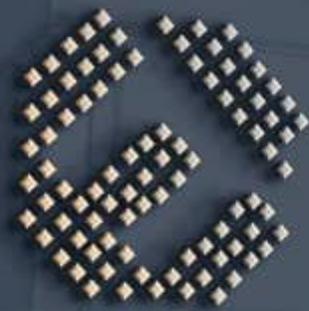


ORGANIZED **CRIME** FACTS

- **BAYELSA STATE**



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For a state submerged in poverty (Paul I. Adujie), despite contributing over 30% to the nation's oil and gas, it is not surprising that crime is almost synonymous with its name, with piracy, cult clashes and kidnap-for-ransom topping the list. Recall that many elites, including Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu, in his speech at the 14 town hall meeting in December 2020, stated that one of the primary root cause of insurgency is poverty. According to him, it is easier to prevent crime than to curb it because the problem with insecurity solution is not to solve it through its symptoms but rather to cure its root causes. Therefore, for a state whose residents dwell in poverty, there is no gainsaying that crime will thrive and take deep-seated roots in its haven.

With a little below 3million people, Bayelsa produces between 30-40% of Nigeria's oil and gas. In addition to the petroleum sector, the state has an extensive commercial fishing industry and produces oil palm, raffia palm, rubber, and coconut. Nevertheless, despite being part of the source of the nation's oil reserve, the state records an incessant and unabated spike in oil theft and pipeline vandalism, piracy, inter-communal/land conflict abductions, cult violence and attacks on energy infrastructure occurring majorly around Nembe, Southern Ijaw and the capital of Yenegoa.

Lending to proximity to the waters, Bayelsa state has trended over the years for its pivotal role in insecurity, falling below the Niger Delta regional average in reported incidents of insecurity per capita for the first time in early 2013. Recall that

on June 15, 2013, Nigerian dailies reported that thousands of cult group members met with political leaders as part of Gov. Dickson's Restoration Agenda to renounce criminality and work towards peace, but this did not eliminate the spate of crimes in the state as nibbling insecurity is not through cutting down the stem or branches; but by uprooting the roots.

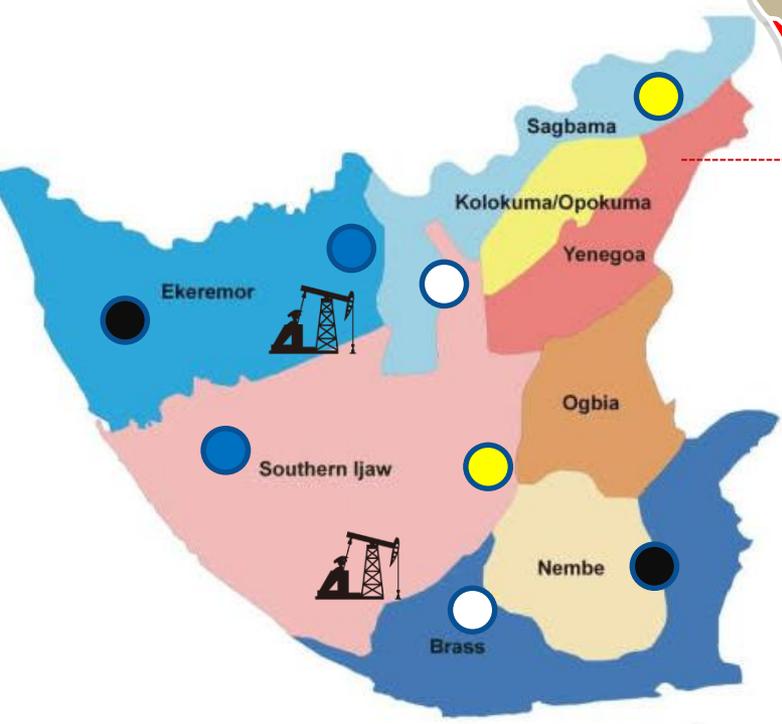
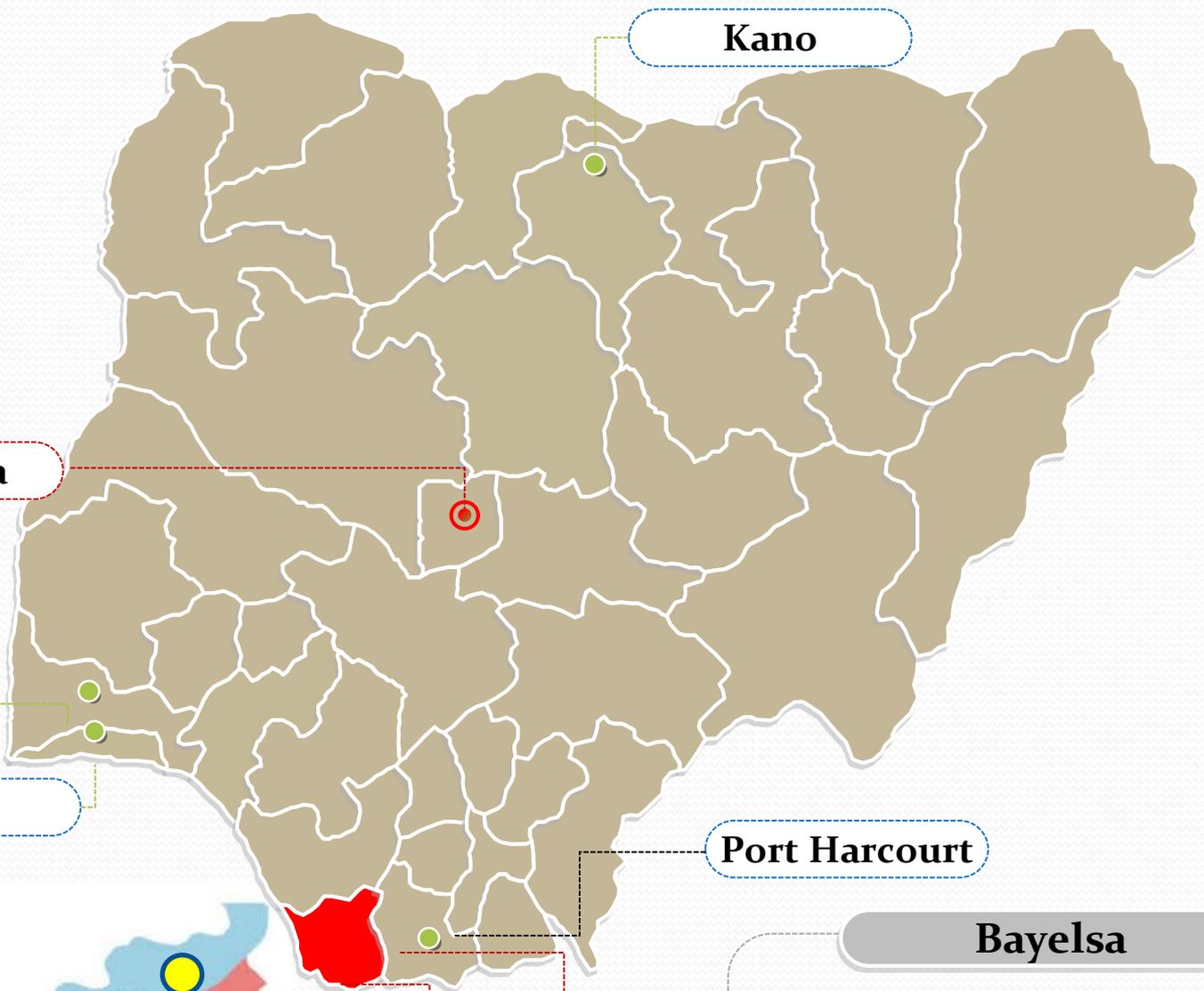
While speaking on Sunday, January 10, 2021, during the interdenominational service to mark the 2021 Armed Forces Remembrance Day at the King of Glory Chapel, Government House, Bayelsa State Governor Douye Diri attributed insecurity to injustice and lack of equity in the country. According to him, "much of the insurrection, the violence, and the conflicts in Nigeria today are avoidable if only we respect justice and equity".

In aligning with the Governor's statement, Chinua Achebe's statement vividly comes to mind, "the problem with Nigeria is leadership". Justice and equity extend to accountability and good governance, as expected from our leaders. However, the reverse is the case, as Nigeria political stalwarts and power elites are engrossed in stiff-necked pilfering of public funds, unabated corruption, contempt for the rule of law and disregard for the value of human lives and properties, according to Kayode Egbetokun. Justice and equity further extend to upholding national law in all fairness to all regions of the nation without fear or favour.



Legend

- Capital
- Major cities



Bayelsa

Legend

- 30-40% Nigeria's Oil And Gas
- Oil Palm
- Raffia Palm
- Rubber
- Coconut



Recall that in December, Global Risk Intelligence partner Dryad Maritime called to the Federal Government to honour its pledge of warding off insecurity in the waterways. This reminder came on the heels of incessant piracy attacks carried out in the waterways, even with warnings. The Baltic and International Maritime Council has urged the government to show commitment towards its cause of ridding the Gulf of Guinea of piracy by prosecuting pirates under the country's new law as a firm commitment towards upholding justice and equity. The stand-alone law implementation, signed by the current dispensation, provides penalties upon conviction for maritime crimes, restitution of violated maritime assets to owners, and forfeiture of proceeds from maritime crime to government, either eradicates piracy activities or go a long way in minimizing piracy activities.

Justice and equity further extend to fair play by not treating a segment of insecurity with levity in one region of the country, and in another dimension, prosecute perpetrators of the same crime in the opposite region. Justice and equity come in when the same law is applicable for the same crime irrespective of the area of the country involved. If a blanket amnesty approval is to apply in justice and fairness, the same law should apply to all manner of banditry irrespective of the region. Some kidnapers from a particular region should not be prosecuted and jailed, while others enjoy round table discussion and amnesty. Inequitable justice would only enhance crime in the region where prosecution and jail term applies as a means to degenerate crime to a

crescendo where even lawmakers would find the nation a habitable nightmare. This is because, in addition to the citizens bearing the brunt, even the elites and political stalwarts would be unable to inhabit their places of residences, as sleep eludes all and sundry alike. After all, the same crime perpetrators will want to escalate their jurisdiction crime activities to get the same round table recognition and blanket amnesty approval.

3,326 Nigerians killed in 2020

Gombe	1	Ekiti	16	Edo	70
Kebbi	3	Ogun	22	Kogi	72
Enugu	5	Anambra	28	Adamawa	76
Jigawa	9	FCT	32	Delta	103
Kano	10	Ebonyi	38	Sokoto	119
Osun	11	Nasarawa	38	Plateau	123
Imo	11	Ondo	39	Niger	135
Yobe	12	Bayelsa	42	Taraba	145
Abia	13	Oyo	42	Benue	156
Kwara	14	Cross River	49	Zamfara	219
Bauchi	15	Lagos	56	Katsina	375
Akwa Ibom	16	Rivers	57	Kaduna	489
TOTAL		3,326		Borno	665



Justice and equity also incorporate treating and prosecuting as criminal elements, both the perpetrators of crime and their political supporters. As crime and insecurity is merely a reflection of the people in power. A typical African adage has it that the child learns to speak and walk by watching the parents and those around him. For a child emulates those surrounding him. The same applies to crime and insecurity. Therefore why insecurity and crime represent a reprisal attack from the citizens and inhabitants of a location, who are looking up to their ruling class role models, emulate them in perpetrating similar atrocities, but under different names. Recall that during the presentation of a report by the Policy Advocacy Committee of Niger Delta Dialogue, the Governor further stated that many politicians patronize criminal elements to perpetrate electoral malpractice and thereby constitute one of the major causes of insecurity.

Hence, he called on the political class to desist from psychologically and emotionally traumatizing individuals by equipping them with hard drugs and ammunition for self-aggrandizement. While recommending a jail term of a minimum of 10 years to serve as a deterrent to others, he said the trend had constituted most of the state's criminal activities. Therefore, while supporting Mr Tony Isenah, Chairman of the Policy Advocacy Committee of Niger Delta Dialogue, who gave an assurance that they were working in conjunction with the European Union through a detailed study into insecurity in the states within the Niger Delta to nibble it in the bud. There is a need to uphold justice and equity as the lasting solution to the rising kidnap for ransom, unabated piracy attacks and other violent crimes committed in the state and execute viable and laudable projects as a means to eradicate poverty.



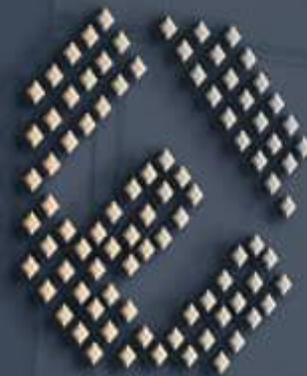
ABOUT US

Eons Intelligence is a strategic intelligence and advisory group which specializes in bespoke analysis of crime, political, economic risk and opportunities in Nigeria.

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