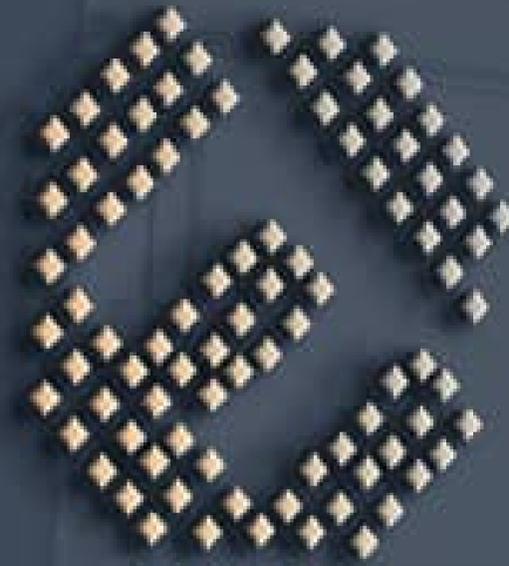


NIGERIA SECURITY INDEX



NOVEMBER, 2020



EONS INTELLIGENCE

Timeless Insight

- **GEOPOLITICAL INTELLIGENCE**
- **MARITIME INTELLIGENCE**
- **BREAKING NEWS**
- **CRIME INTELLIGENCE**
- **SPECIAL INVESTIGATION**
- **INCIDENT ALERT SYSTEM**

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REPORT OVERVIEW

- EDUCATION INTELLIGENCE
- SECURITY INTELLIGENCE
- FOOD INTELLIGENCE
- ECONOMIC INTELLIGENCE
- INFRASTRUCTURE INTELLIGENCE
- COMMUNICATION INTELLIGENCE
- ACCOUNTABILITY
- ADVISORY



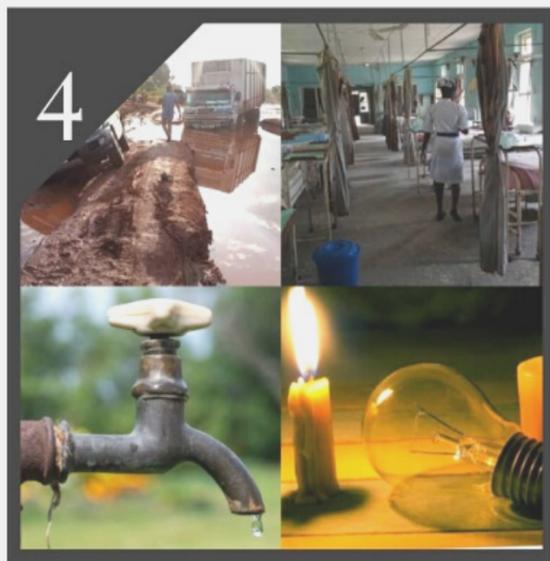
Insecurity



Recession



Educational Decadence



Infrastructural Decay



PREAMBLE

Eons Intelligence is committed to providing monthly informed Nigerian Security Intelligence reports to our esteemed rapidly expanding team of global readers on threat assessments and other related security issues so as to remain ahead of developments, efficiently plan and project for business strategies while ensuring the safety of their staff and properties at all times. This edition used major incidents that occurred between November 1 to November 30, 2020, to analyze the current situation in the country.

The overall focus of EONS INTELLIGENCE is the entire country; however, areas projected are considered to be the locations where the threat of such attacks predominantly occurred. Kindly note that advisory relies on available, confirmed and reliable information at the time of writing.



No express or implied guarantee against risk is given in respect of judgment made or to changes or any unforeseen escalation of notable factors affecting such judgment as information is sufficient enough to draw generalizations as to make accurate decisions, but may not be detailed enough to give exact figures.

Therefore, EONS INTELLIGENCE will not accept any liability thereof with respect to omissions or error of statistics that may have the capability to abrogate any figures herein presented. Research carried out is sufficient enough to present a clear trend of events to enable consumers to make valid deductions; but abridged as to present a flexible, rich and quick overview of the Nigeria Security Index at a glance.

Our website <https://eonsintelligence.com> is equipped with detailed, up to date breakdown of daily events.



GENERAL

BACKGROUND

Security breaches are dangerous lapses that can prove to be difficult-to-manage nightmares for governing bodies while drastically lowering the confidence of the common man towards the security of the nation. Breaches in security also can cost millions of Naira, resulting in direct business losses, loss of intellectual property and business intelligence, the loss of customer trust, and reputation. The understanding and focus of security analysis have progressed considerably over the past few decades around the globe. The initial methods focused on a management system based on handling security challenges after a breach has occurred, while the current ones are risk-driven and business outcome-focused methodology of foreseeing potential issues and preventing breakdown of law and order in advance so as to guide against preventable losses.



The presumed aim of the recent method is to curb issues related to security even before they are actually born; in order to promote healthy, safe and completely-controlled security businesses. The aftermath of the volatile End-SARS protest of October 2020 has allegedly resulted in damages exceeding N1.3trillion. SARS, its enforcement and public outrage against the same is not restricted to the financial consequence - the security effect is vast. The protest incidents caused a degenerating and deteriorating security situation which has gradually deprived Nigeria of prospective investments and economic growth. It has also encouraged the demand for massive investments in security intelligence reports.

This report suggests the urgent need for 'plan up-front and prevent' strategy, rather than dealing with the fallout caused by lack of plan.



Our approach to security allows our clients not only to anticipate and address potential security breaches but also leverage business opportunities and facilitate Return On Investment (ROI) estimations for security. It is crucial to analyze all factors to achieve a safe and effective security services for the country. Some of the factors include the role of education, economic recession, infrastructural decay, Accountability and communication of fake news.



EDUCATION INTELLIGENCE

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Is ASUU strike an annual ceremony in Nigeria?
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'Education and economic development go pari passu because they control the quality of the future, for tomorrow belongs to those who prepare for it today' (Malcolm X). Developed countries like the United Kingdom and the United States of America have ascribed education as the foundation of a nation's economic and social wellbeing, hence constituting the pivotal key to increasing economic efficiency and social consistency. Benjamin Franklin has attributed education as an investment in knowledge whose eternal dividends are capable of sustaining the economic growth of any nation in and out of season.

Countries that have boosted and revamped their educational system annually receive a flood of international students who deplete their nation's resources through the capital flight when they pay for education in countries other than their own. Furthermore, such international students, at the end of their academic sojourn and quest for knowledge, in appreciation to the country that supported their academic career constitute loyal instruments used by these foreign countries to help transform the poor and middle class by utilizing these graduates to increase the overall productivity and intellectual flexibility of their labor force.





DR ONYEMA OGBUAGU

Thus, we see the likes of Dr. Onyema Ogbuagu, a Nigerian and product of the University of Calabar blazing trails in countries that value education. According to Nelson Mandela, education is the most powerful weapon to change the world. It is not hard to imagine if the Nigerian educational system was favorable enough for Dr. Ogbuagu to further his career in order to produce the COVID-19 vaccine. This would have had a considerable positive effect on the Nigerian economy.





**Children
of
politicians
enjoy
uninterrupted
education
abroad**



Education can assist countries to remain highly competitive in a digital world where the rate of technological advancement changes and methods of production grow to become more sustainable. This is only possibly through basic education of the youth. One, therefore, can ponder upon if a strike organized by the Academic Staff Union of Universities (ASUU) is an annual Nigerian ceremony used to disrupt the school curriculum. This question becomes pertinent as the analysis of the ASUU strike in the last ten years shows an average of at least two months lost annually to a period of hopeless waiting time by the students; an idle period for the lecturers and loss of revenue to the nation.



ASUU STRIKE TIMELINE

The Academic Staff Union of Universities (ASUU) has been on strike for an estimated **25** months between 2010 and 2020

IS ASUU STRIKE A NIGERIAN ANNUAL CEREMONY



5 months Strike action started in **July 2010** and ended in **January 2011**



2 months Strike action started in **December 2011** and ended in **January 2012**



5 months Strike action started in **July 2013** and ended in **December 2013**



1 month Strike action started in **August 2017** and ended in **September 2017**



3 months Strike action started in **November 2018** and ended in **February 2019**



9 months Strike action started in **March 2020** till date

NIGERIAN EDUCATIONAL ROT

The literal meaning of the biblical analogy “Can anything good ever come out of Israel” vividly comes to mind when one visualizes the Nigerian educational system.

Can education in Nigerian public universities still qualify to bear the label? Nigerian universities have become synonymous with the words “ASUU strike” with the belief that members of ASUU are rigid personnel that prohibit progressive education in Nigeria. Is ASUU the problem of Nigerian universities?

ASUU is a body vested with the task of ensuring the impartation of quality and affordable public education on the average Nigerian comparable to education attained in any part of the world.



Therefore, for this body to demand the Federal Government implement the extant agreements aimed at developing Nigeria's education sector is not out of place, for as food, shelter, and clothing constitute a sine qua non of every child from their parent, so also is the demands of ASUU from Federal Government.

According to ASUU Chairman, Professor Ogunyemi, ASUU is struggling to ensure that the children of the poor, who cannot afford the prohibitive cost paid in private universities or do not have opportunities to study outside Nigeria, get quality and affordable education.

This will only happen when the government addresses the rot and decay in public universities and adequately funds them. 'In continuation of promoting a generational sequence of educational rot, the Federal Government adopts a calculated attack on the body through the Accountant-General of the Federation (AGF) who illegally seized all the deducted union check-off dues of ASUU members as a means of using hunger as a weapon of war to suppress progress' - according to the zonal coordinator of ASUU, Theophilus Lagi, at a news conference in Gwagwalada, Abuja.



He further reiterated that despite the agitations with comprehensive and indefinite strikes to compel the federal government to address core demands of the union; it has, however, not shown any commitment or willingness to address the issues.

The Federal Government's lackadaisical attitude and dragging-foot in meeting up with its obligations to the educational sector are not only evident in the meagre amount annually allocated to education but in its handling of conflicts regarding lecturers and students' issues.

The decline in the nation's educational framework is so bad that the upper class and political leaders have their children sent to prestigious Universities abroad where they enjoy uninterrupted quality education. Nigerian leaders ignore the unbridled decay overwhelming the country's educational system, leaving the youths to grapple with a substandard education.



ADVISORY

Over and above meeting the extant agreement of ASUU as a prerequisite towards eradicating Nigeria's educational problem, there is the urgent need to implement policies banning all political leaders in office from sending their children or ward outside the shores of the country for educational benefit. This law would form the inaugural basis that would elicit a total turnaround in the attention given to the sector from budget to staff welfare. The educational environment of every nation is its best weapon to surmount the most resistant problem. If the above assertion is true, then there is an urgent need to revive the education system to eliminate the problem of terrorism, which has become an enigma threatening the very foundation of the nation



SECURITY INTELLIGENCE

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Sounds of gunshots have become “sweet daily lyrics” every Nigerian should be accustomed to.

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Compounding the fall of good education is the grave issue that the country is ravaged by inhumane acts of terror. Potential students are either left demotivated to pursue basic education or are dragged by militant outfits to join them. The aggravating security situation in Nigeria has degenerated terribly with incessant attacks and killings from Islamic insurgents, bandits, and militants. 'Under the regime of President Muhammadu Buhari life has lost its value' – Northern Elders Forum cried out following the gruesome killings in the north. A confirmatory affirmative of the Northern Elders assertion can be inferred from the statement made by Vice President Yemi Osinbajo when he stated that: "There has become the urgent need to review the seeming non-functional conventional means of dealing with the nation's security issues". He further emphasized the vital call for the government to beef up local intelligence and community policing all over the federation.



Mike Ejiofor, a former Director-General of the Department of Security Service (DSS), in describing the upsurge of insecurity in the country, urged the government to change their modus operandi of handling insecurity in the nation as 'no one is safe in the country'. The implication of this statement was made clear when he stated that if the deplorable security menace plaguing the nation can result in the death of a traditional ruler of the Southwest, then even the political leaders may not also be spared if measures are not put in place to address this situation urgently. Hence, the Nigerian security system has become a symbol that bears the label of security apparatus, but of itself, cannot safeguard even its staff, let alone the citizens, business, and property of the nation.



INSURGENCY, KIDNAPPING & BANDITRY

It was found that the lack of police checkpoints on major roads added with the police force's fear of riots of protestors' attacks have led to an increase in criminal activities. Criminals reportedly seized the opportunity of lack of security to conduct more robberies and kidnappings. Insurgency, kidnapping and banditry have become the culture of the nation where no class of Nigerian citizens, or ethnic groups or demography is spared of brutal killings across the country, particularly in the North. The images of gruesome murders are gory and disheartening. The last thing on the minds of parents is their child's education. The first thing is to keep their child alive and well.

RAPE

Nigeria experienced a flurry of rape incidents during the COVID-19 lockdown and have continued to plague fear in citizens for months even after restriction of movement was lifted in the country. The peak of this awry situation has reached a point where even newborn babies are not spared of this dastardly act.

While most victims are slaughtered to bury evidence, survivors have been left in a state of eternal fear, emotional, and psychological trauma. This is because either the victim is stigmatized for speaking out or she is criticized as orchestrating the rape incident.



ARMED ROBBERY, CULT CLASHES & ONLINE FRAUD

'To say the nation is under siege will be an understatement'. The statement is credited to Kayode Fayemi, the Nigeria Governors' Forum (NGF) Chairman who admitted that the Nigerian 'military is overwhelmed'. He further suggested - "Our military is no longer in a position to single-handedly tackle this menace (insurgency) effectively". Governor Fayemi made the statement in Maiduguri when the NGF paid a visit to Governor, Babagana Umara Zulum to condole with the government and people of Borno State over an attack conducted by Boko Haram insurgents. Fayemi's declaration leaves an eerie feeling which has left the citizens asking: Have things fallen apart to the extent that the center can no longer hold? To add grievance, the Boko Haram insurgency has left thousands displaced from their homes, youths unemployed as business establishments close down every month. Youths have resorted to armed robbery and hacking accounts to make a quick buck. Such petty groups of thieves have often ended up causing minor to major cult clashes. When countries face decades of home-grown insurgent attacks, it takes a long time to ensure that every individual gets food and shelter. Many retired teachers feel that poor budget allocation may not be given to education in comparison to security and shelter-building over the next decade.



FOOD INTELLIGENCE

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Improved security, an
antidote to food
inadequacy.

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Food insecurity has elicited an unprecedented, outrageous hike in the prices of basic home essentials. Even in areas of Nigeria that are considered relatively safe from insurgents, parents are hardly able to afford two meals to their children. In such a situation, education affordability is out of question. The government's move to close the nation's land border to encourage local farmers to produce food for the nation has been impeded by insecurity. Farmers are forced to flee from their farms for fear of Boko Haram and bandit attacks.

"The recent unfortunate slaying of our farmers in Borno State portends disaster for our food system in that the farmers are now very scared to go to their farms to do dry season farming" - the All Farmers Association of Nigeria, AFAN said as regards the killing of more than 70 farmers who were harvesting their crops in Zarbamari village, Borno State.

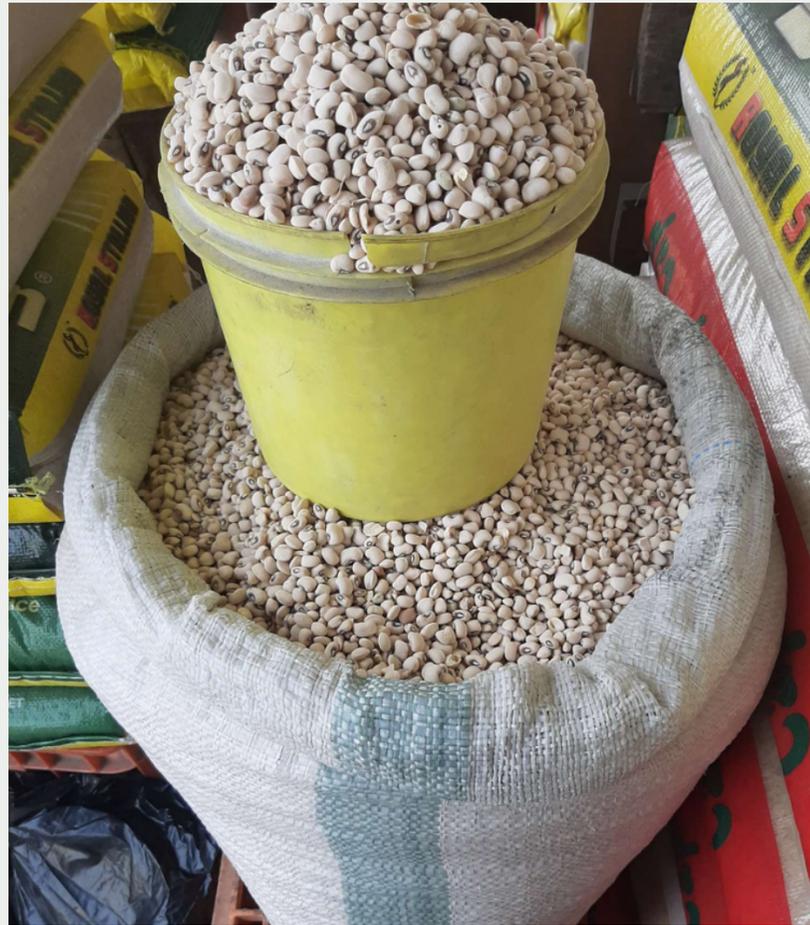
In an interview with Bloomberg, Kabir Ibrahim, the president of AFAN stated that the country's food stocks have declined to less than 30,000 metric tons - a fraction of what the country of about 200 million people requires. With bandits forcing farmers to pay before they can harvest their crops or risk being killed or kidnapped, the problem of food insecurity will continue to persist until the insecurity in the land is totally eradicated.



HIKE IN PRICES OF CONSUMABLE GOODS



Bags of rice



Bag of white beans



kegs of Vegetable oil

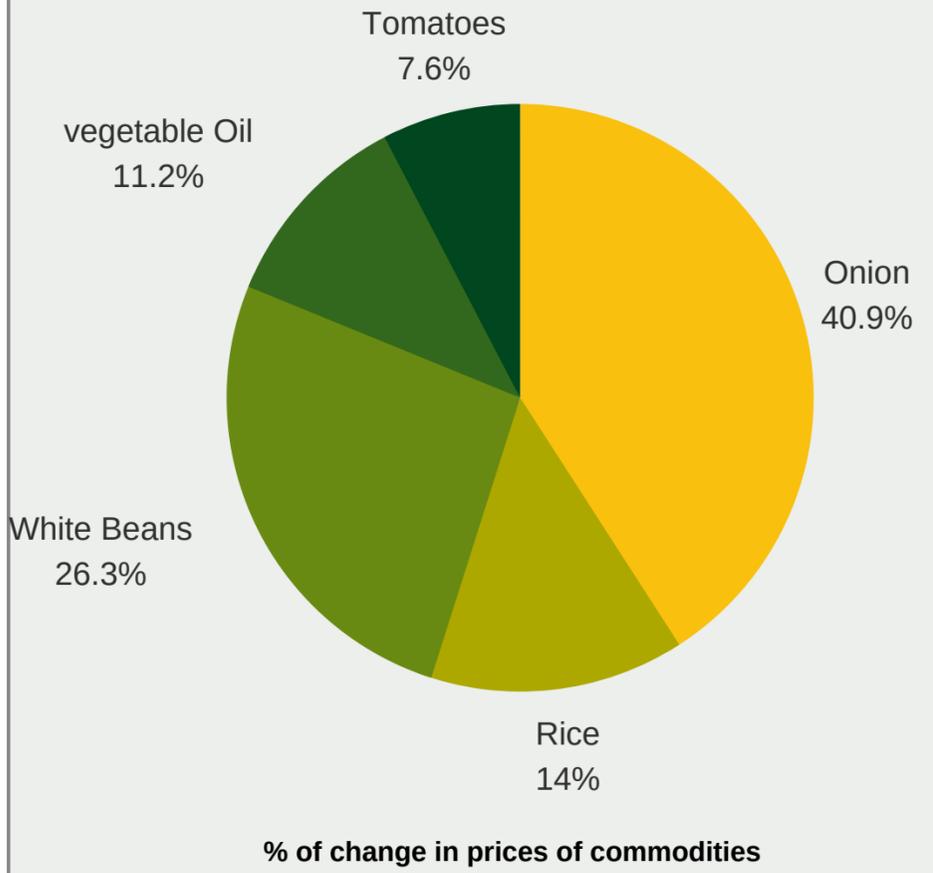
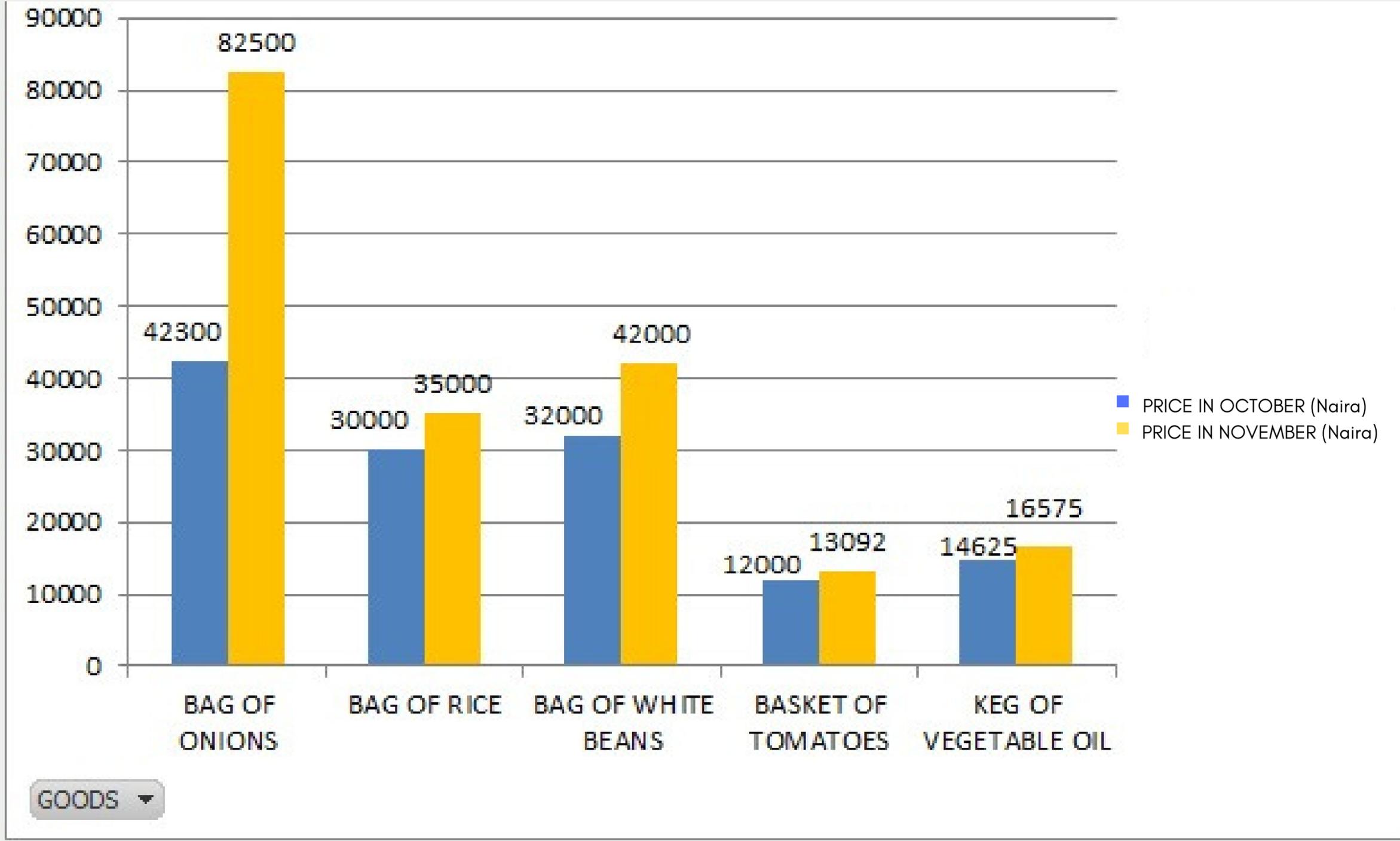


Basket of tomatoes



Bags of Onions





ECONOMIC INTELLIGENCE



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A depreciating economy
without wedge suffers
bottomless fall
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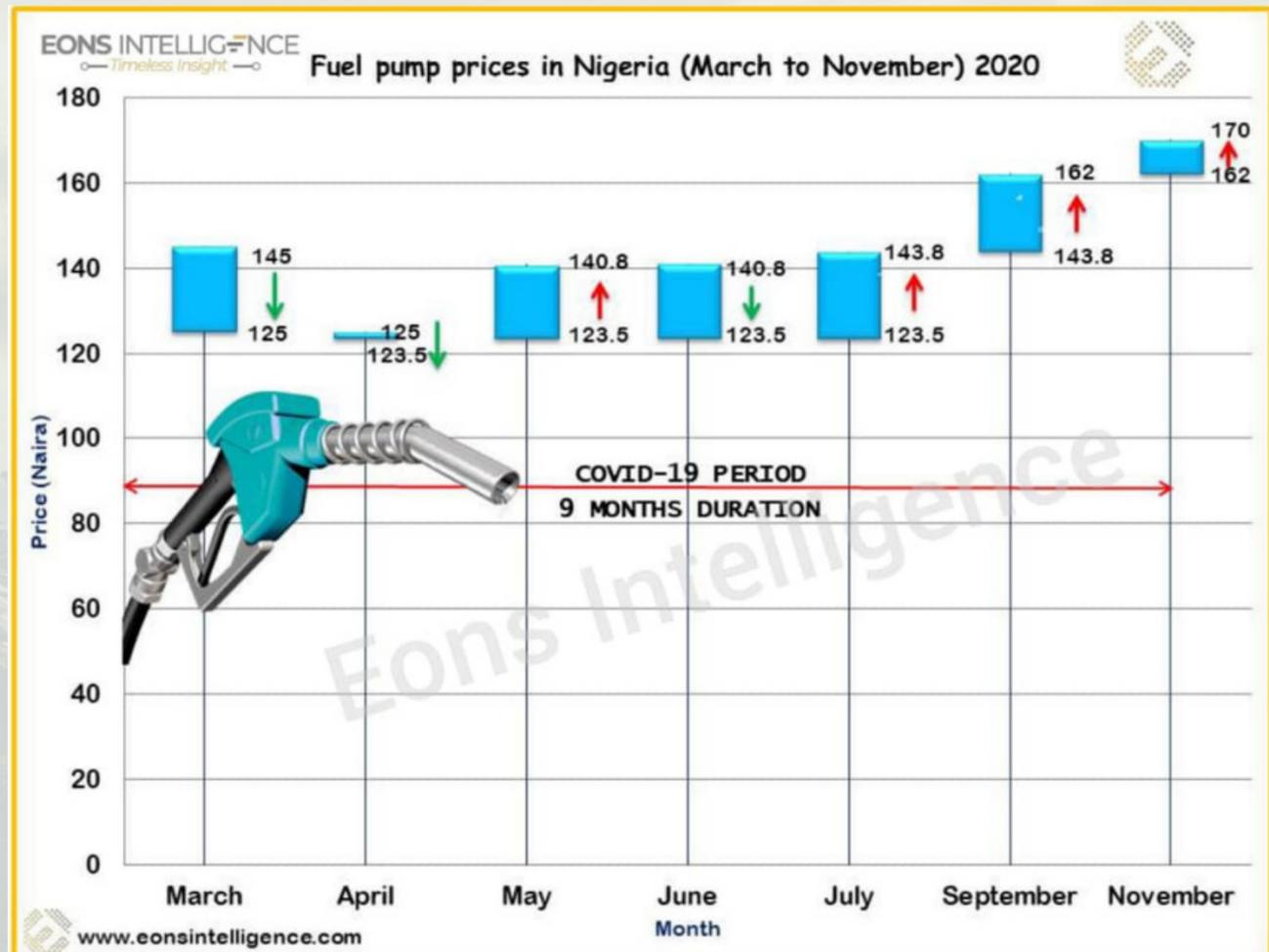


Like it did all over the globe, an economic recession swept over Nigeria in 2020. Economic experts reported a fall by more than two quarters in 2020 compared to 2016 owing to a fall in oil prices due to the COVID -19 pandemic. Unemployment rose during the coronavirus lockdown and unemployed frustrated youth who participated in the protests against SARS had another strong reason for expressing displeasure. In total, the value of the Naira fell drastically – about \$1 to #500. Many families are yet to recover from this staggering economic situation and citizens are left to bear the brunt of the recessionary effects of a deteriorating economy.

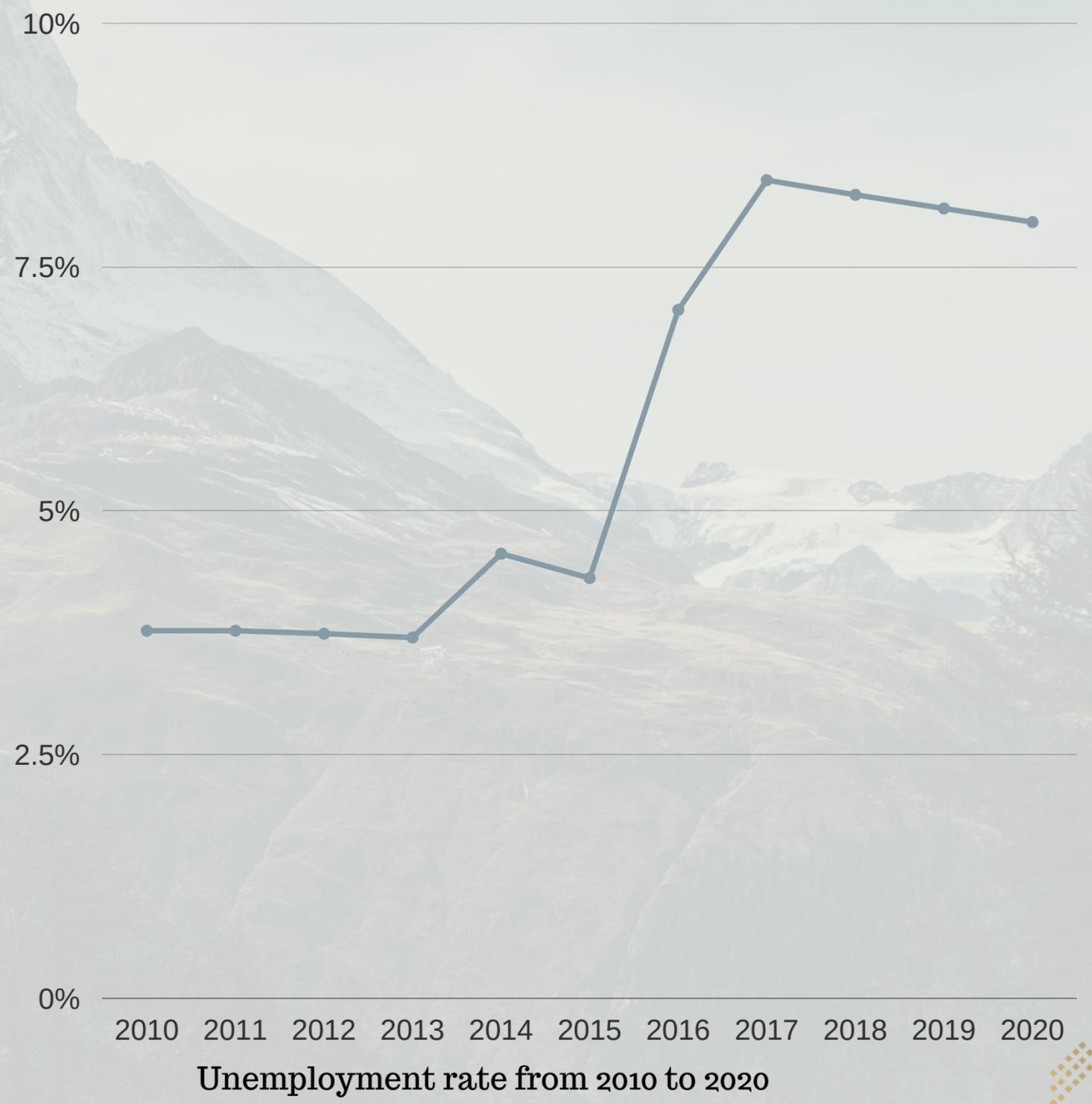
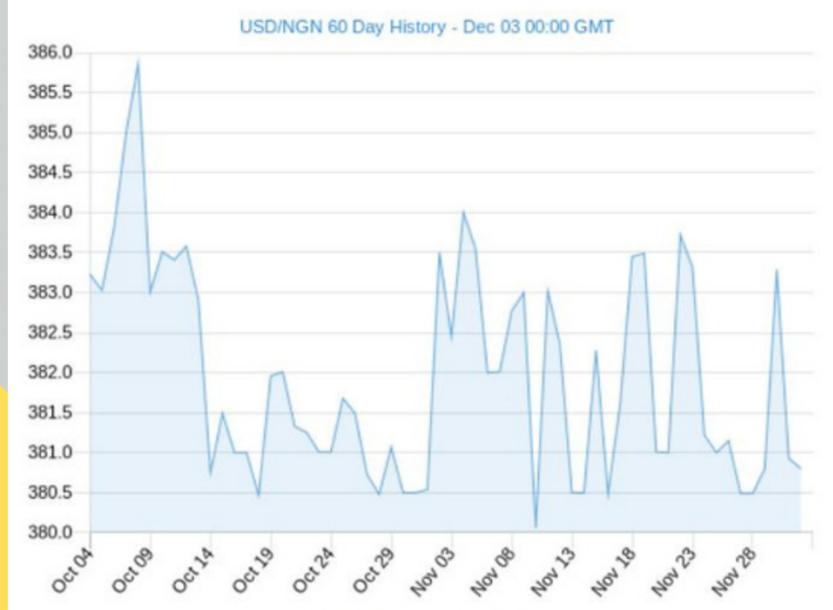
Nigeria's real Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth is projected to rise to 3.3% in 2021, however, there seems to be no respite that the attendant improvement will result in overall improvement in the Country. This is because the resultant effect is predicated on the country implementing the Economic Recovery and Growth Plan (ERGP) developed by President Buhari's Administration in 2017, which emphasizes economic diversification.



ECONOMIC INSECURITY



USD NGN Historical Charts



Source: Statista



INFRASTRUCTURE INTELLIGENCE



Lack of maintenance culture and corruption have left many national structures wallowing in decay and underutilization.



Nigeria has a fairly extensive infrastructural network. However, despite the huge allocation of funds towards infrastructure in the country, the apparent lack of maintenance culture and corruption have left many national structures wallowing in decay and underutilization. Major road networks across the country are begging for Federal and state government attention, causing heavy traffic and sometimes avoidable loss of lives. The rot in Nigeria's health sector was pushed to the fore by the Coronavirus pandemic. The COVID-19 virus, though curbed in Nigeria, exposed the inadequacies of the nation's public health system. The virus has also taken a toll financially on citizens. For example, the government requires that a PCR COVID-19 test be done 120 hours before departure. Also, passengers are required to register and pay 39,900 Naira via the online portal for a PCR retest in Nigeria to occur seven days after arrival. Upon payment, a QR code is received confirming payment for a retest. Any passenger that is unable to complete the payment online will be allowed to board the flight if they have a valid COVID-19 negative PCR result.

The passenger will be required to pay 50,000 Naira for the test on arrival at the airport in Nigeria. It is noteworthy that only about 5 states are included on the portal to conduct a retest. Passengers are advised to select clinics located in Abuja (The Federal Capital Territory) if their destination states are not included in the retest locations. Once selected, a representative from the clinic is sent to conduct the PCR test at the address provided by the passenger on the 7th day of arrival. Unfortunately, several reports from travellers alleged that no representative came to conduct the retest as stipulated on the NCDC website.

Thankfully, the nation's recorded casualty figures were minimal but the psychological effect the lockdown had on the citizens is widely believed to have contributed to the EndSARS protest as a lot of people were forced to stay home hungry without prompt support from the government.



For citizens who had loved ones and/or business partners trapped outside the country due to the shutting of airspace, reports received after the re-opening of international air travels indicate that Nigerian government officials have not been able to ensure that laid down systems and processes are monitored and maintained. The biggest hit to infrastructure collapse has been schools and colleges, as many of them were utilized as COVID camps or as shelter units against bandits and insurgents. Many educationists feel that it may take years to restore the poorly maintained educational institutions to come back to their previous state, leave alone improve and/or expand them.

Constant shortage in power supply in Nigeria has posed another major constraint to the economic development of the Country.

The power deprivation in Nigeria may be classified into three major folds of abysmal power supply, affordability of energy supply and the urgent need for reduction of toxic emissions.

The power shortage has further increased the cost incurred by the commercial and industrial sectors as they become heavily reliant on self-generated power. The resultant costs are transferred to the already impoverished masses. To remedy this power issue, there is the need for the joint effort of the centralized and decentralized power systems to actualize cheap, uninterrupted power supply which would translate into an ecologically friendly environment and reduced cost of doing business.



COMMUNICATION INTELLIGENCE

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The rise of fake news and proliferation of doctored narratives, a threat to national security.

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**FAKE
NEWS**



The End-SARS protests went underway early in October 2020 in Nigeria demanding executive decisions from the government to abolish the Special Anti-Robbery Squad (SARS). SARS was set up in 1992 with the aim to curb small crimes like robbery, vehicle theft, kidnapping, etc. across the country by giving special powers to the squad officers. Initially, the squad was expected to work covertly. The first incidence of SARS operating unlawfully and targeting innocent people was as early as 1996. Incidents about innocent individuals being targeted, major crimes being overlooked at a price and disappearance of citizens kept rising. SARS became controversial for its links to illegal killings, collection of extortion money from large and small businesses, torture of illegally arrested individuals and forcing them to own up to uncommitted criminal acts, framing of innocents, blackmail of people with detected unlawful activities, the kidnapping of individuals to raise ransom money from affluent families, armed robbery, invasion of residences and business establishments, women and child rape, among other brutal actions.

To make the situation worse, bribery in SARS officials has seen staggering growth in 2019 with reports showing a 33% increase between 2018 and 2019. In December 2019, a Nigerian truck driver was shot dead by a policeman for refusing to pay a bribe of 50 Naira (\$0.13) at a tollbooth. However, over the years, Nigerian citizens, activists, leaders and organizations - both within the country and elsewhere have voiced their displeasure over the brutal acts of the squad officers. During October 2020, some protestors flooded the streets of Nigeria against SARS, while others took to social media using #EndSARS. What has been one of the reasons behind the protests turning nasty were hordes of fake messages getting circulated? The lack of knowledge behind these online posts was responsible for the rapid and rampant misinformation across the country and the world. Many of the emotionally disturbing posts that found traction online were soon researched by experts and found to be fake news.



It was found that real images from the protests were used along with false captions attached; while in others, images downloaded from across the world were circulated as ones of SARS actions. People calling out these posts also received a lot of backlash.

A viral picture of Ugwu, a Nigerian woman grabbing on to a Nigerian flag and sitting on top of a statue underwent a snowball effect as it made its way through some online platforms – false stories were added as captions; claims about her losing a family member to SARS brutality, and about them being dumped into a well. When her spokesperson was contacted by researchers, he disputed the claims immediately, saying she participated in the 2018 EndSARS protests, and that she has brothers but none of them were killed.

Another online post stated that the police legally cannot fire at a person holding the Nigerian flag. After contacting an officer of the Nigerian police force, it was found that no such practices were exercised by the policemen. Fake news was a prime factor towards the protests gathering steam. Such incorrect information tends to spark mass outrage like wildfire. It also tends to shift the focus away from the truth.

The reasons behind the angst about SARS took a back step and the outrage itself was highlighted. However, what needs to be understood is that though multiple reasons formed the basis for the End-SARS protests, who or what gets the ownership.



ACCOUNTABILITY

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Accountability breeds
response-ability

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2.240	
2.080	
2.640	
2.890	
2.820	
2.750	
2.170	
2.440	
2.800	



Right from individual citizens to news reporters, right from human rights activists to organizations like Amnesty International have been, for years, reporting acts of excess by SARS; in vain. The End-SARS movement brought international attention since 2017, while the Nigerian Government showed lackluster sincerity when it comes to ending police brutality and lending ear to the EndSARS movement.

A heart-wrenching story surfaced post-midnight on October 21st - Victor Ibanga, a 27-year-old Nigerian protestor was shot dead at the Lekki toll gate. After interviews, it was found from eyewitnesses that Victor was a peaceful protestor.

Owing to the lack of accountability from the government, the army denied any involvement with the case, describing the incidents as "fake news", even after Victor's sister; Elisha confirmed the identity of the body. Other eyewitnesses and protestors at the scene reported that dozens of people were killed or injured by the Nigerian military.

The government and the army have massively downplayed the entire sobering event. The Civil Society Legislative Advocacy Centre (CISLAC) and many other organizations from Nigeria's civil society demanded immediate police reforms. As a response, the President passed the Police Act 2020 bill in September 2020.



However, severe protests forced further changes. On October 4, 2020, Muhammed Adamu, the Inspector General of Police made a public statement that SARS and other tactical squads would stop certain operations, including traffic checks, immediately. On October 11, Adamu dismantled SARS. On October 22, 2020, Nigerian President Muhammadu Buhari confirmed in an address that SARS had been dismantled. He also promised that certain accusations would be investigated and if found correct, such members would be prosecuted.

However, the future needs a complete investigation into allegations against SARS, against its members, against certain extreme security agencies and against the growing resentment towards government systems that prompted the common man to raise his voice. The future needs all stakeholders involved in the safety and security of the nation to be accountable for their plans, actions, implementation and correctional strategies.



ADVISORY

Summarized analysis of the major causes of insecurity in the nation boils down to hunger of the Nigerian masses. This has been exhibited in the diverse orchestrated protests throughout the federation, a spike in armed robbery and online fraud as well as an increased rate of accidents.

Furthermore, an objective reflection of the increased insecurity for the month indicates the government on their impulsive reactions of using state machinery to intimidate the masses who dare make bold demands for better governance or criticize their inefficiency. This is visible in the no-flight incident, incessant arrests, and freezing of accounts of the conveners of the #ENDSARS protests.

The attendant reactions that have always visited the government's impulsive response have been that of animosity and increased contempt for bad governance capable of degenerating into anarchy in the nation.



Based on the above-summarized implications and the rising spike of insecurity in the nation, especially as witnessed in the month of November 2020, Eons Intelligence, therefore, advises as follows:

- There is the urgent need to change and upgrade the security architecture of the nation.
- As pertains to insurgency and Boko Haram, states should be allowed the jurisdiction to empower and handle their security issues, as the centralized method seems to yield no tangible result.
- The educational situation now poses an emergency that needs to be urgently addressed and resolved. Speculations are rife that idleness and hunger is the major cause of some robbery incidents in line with the saying that an idle mind is the devil's workshop. If the students are academically and gainfully engaged with lectures and exams, there would be no time to gather and organize for a breakdown of law and order.



- There is a need for constant training and upgrade of the security personnel intermittently. This will educate and equip the security personnel of the strategies adopted by perpetrators of insecurity in the like of cult clashes, one million boys and others to better assist them to efficiently manage the situation accordingly.
- This will also minimize loss of lives occasioned in regular gun duel between the security personnel and perpetrators of mayhem in the nation.
- Nigeria should genuinely open up and collaborate with the International Countries to put an end to this mayhem.
- Dialogue should be embraced more often, peaceful protests encouraged with security personnel in place to guide the protests and the voice of the masses given unbiased attention without anyone subjected to torment and torture.
- Nigeria should diversify its revenue base, increasing the budget for improved agriculture and crop production, encouraging and boosting manufacturing firms and minimizing non-essential expenses, especially on foreign medical trips as a means of achieving an improved and sustained economic growth.



ABOUT US

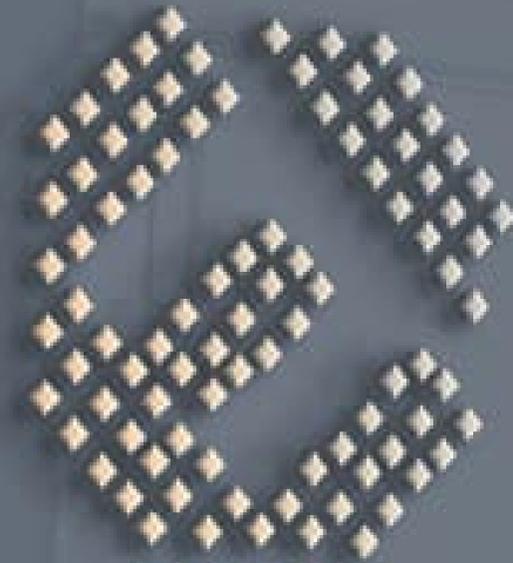
Eons Intelligence is a strategic intelligence and advisory group which specializes in bespoke analysis of crime, political, economic risk and opportunities in Nigeria.

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