



ETHNIC CONFLICTS AND SOCIO-ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN NASARAWA SOUTH SENATORIAL ZONE 2001-2022

Audu Likita Emmanuel

Department of Political Science, Nasarawa State University, Keffi

Adadu A., PhD

Department of Political Science, Nasarawa State University, Keffi

Mohammed B. Bello, PhD

Department of Political Science, Nasarawa State University, Keffi

Shuaibu Umar Abdul, PhD

Department of Political Science, Nasarawa State University, Keffi

Abstract

The study focuses on ethnic conflict and the socio-economic development in Nasarawa South Senatorial Zone of Nasarawa State 2001-2022. The study examine the extent of ethnic conflict on the socio-economic development of Nasarawa South and further looked at the impact and effect of the conflict on the socio-economic development and as well on the lives of the citizens in Nasarawa South. The reasons for the persistence of ethnic conflict in Nasarawa South were also looked at. And the effort made by government and Communities toward mitigating the conflicts were also identified. Relevant literature was reviewed in line with the objective of the study. The adopted the mixed research design method and the sources of data for this research work are Primary and Secondary sources of information. Marxist theory was adopted. The study found that ethnic conflict in Nasarawa South Senatorial Zone of Nasarawa State has devastated the Socio-economic and political structure of the zone with profound effect emanating from political dimension and also the menace of ethnic conflicts has impacted on the family, education, economic and the material wellbeing in the zone consequently human and material losses were heavily recorded. The study recommend the government to provide schemes by extending micro credit facilities to men and women empowering them economically to resuscitate them from the negative impact of the crisis. Police should be trained, prepared and equipped to prevent further outbreak of violence.

Keys Words: Ethnic, Conflict, Social-Economic Development

1. Introduction

Ethnic crisis is global phenomenon, in recent time; it has been an area of discourse by government officials and scholars alike. The crisis has violently resurfaced sometimes with terrible consequences. For example, the Arabs/Israeli crisis popularly known as the Middle East crisis, in Rwanda it was between the Tutsi and Hutu, in Zimbabwe the crisis is between the white settlers and native ethnic groups over land ownership.

Kuna (1995), noted that ethnic, communal and religious crisis have been on the increase. According to him, there have been about 250 of such, crisis in Nigeria, since ZangonKataf crises of 1984, the Kafanchan crisis. Agulere and Amulare crisis in Anambra state constitute

some of the most serious identified Crises in recent times. Ethnic Crises still ranges in Delta State between the Urhobo and the Istekiri, in Osun State between the Ife and the Modakeke, in Benue State between the Tiv and Idoma, and Taraba State between the Jukun and Kuteb. This problem has not only remained a reoccurring feature of the Nigerian socio-economic and political scene but it has assumed frightening dimensions in recent times in State like Kano. Kaduna, and area such as Shagamu, Niger Delta, Wukari, Jos, Nasarawa State to mention just a few.

Ethnicity and ethnic identities are real and the sentiments associated with it cannot be faulted, ethnicity and ethnic identity replace patriotism that particular groups or country suffers (Hitler & Asyan project, 1943). In

Nigeria, the manipulation of ethnicity in pre – independence did not just affect us but determined the working nature of government in managing ethnic violence and national cohesion. Ethnic crises plugged the country into thirty months civil war 1967-70 which saw unprecedented destruction of lives and properties. The implication of this since then has been that, the country has operated and survived on scheming to outsmart one ethnic group or another.

The Ethnic Crises that has scarred Nigeria is also a persistent reminder that Crises is pervasive and threatening national unity. (Jega, 2002) Ethnic sectarian violence has left a trail of destruction and threatens Nigeria's territorial integrity. (IDEA, 2001) Little does it help positively toward the socio-economic development of Nigeria? Although colonial powers and the elites succeeding them may have used ethnicity for political ends, today's poverty and ineffective governance has sharpened ethnic divisions. Misunderstanding also brews as ethnic groups see each other as rivals that must be surpassed by any means, thus hampering national integration. (Olu-Adeyemi, 2003) As the state begins to loose legitimacy and authority, the fear of uncertainty increases to the extent that citizens resort to self-help, seeking security and solidarity in their own ethnic, religious or regional affiliation and identity.

A new dimension to Nigeria's ethnic violence is the increasing recruitment and mobilization of ethnic and regional militia, vigilantes and other armed groups. The Oodua People's Congress in Yoruba land, the Arewa People's Congress in the north, the Bakassi Boys in the east and the Egbesu in the South, represent contending interests to Nigeria's detriment. The implication of persistent ethnic Crises is the insecurity of citizens and properties which deters foreign investment and a setback to economic development.

Ethnic conflict has raised fundamental question on national cohesion, national integration and socio-economic development of communal and religious groups. Conflict abounds in the 1990's which linger until date. These crises are all product of politics of ethnicity and religion. "Therefore, most of the crisis that exploded in Nigeria can be traced to ethnicity, religion, economic, social and political activities: Many of these crises left scars, for instance the Tiv and Hausa/Fulani in Nasarawa

State, Tiv and Jukun in Taraba state, and Hausa's and indigenes (Jarawa) in Jos plateau state, Hausa-Katafawas in ZangonKataf (Kaduna State and the recent Eggon, Eggon-Gwandara, Eggon-Fulani, Fulani-Alago, Eggon-Migili and the Igbura-Basa, all in Nasarawa State.

The violent confrontations in Nasarawa State prompted the Socio-Economic Rights and Accountability Project (SERAP), a Nigerian-based NGO to petition the International Criminal Court to investigate human rights abuses and possible crimes against humanity. (Olaniyi, 2010) Through a letter dated 5th November 2010, Louis Moreno Ocampo, Chief Prosecutor of International Criminal Court (ICC), informed SERAP that the ICC was analyzing the situation to establish a reasonable basis that crimes within the ICC's jurisdiction had been committed in Nasarawa. (Olaniyi, 2010) At the time of this compilation, the status of the official findings of the International Criminal Court on possible crimes against humanity has not been made public.

However, Government established several judicial commissions of inquiries with the mandate to investigate into the causes and the possible measures to avert future occurrence of the crises which proves abortive, there have been no credible trials of anyone involved in the communal violence and no concerted effort to arrest and prosecute organizers of the violence in the state since 2012.

Thus, given the pace of ethnic crisis and the seeming destruction of lives and properties as well as, social, political and economic process, leads to the question, what consequences do the crises have on the socio-economic well-being of the people?

Therefore, this Ethnic conflict has impacted negatively on the socio-economic development of the society leading to destruction of lives and properties, disruption of marketing activities, demolition of schools building, food insecurity, income stagnation and human displacement resulting from the violent confrontation arising from the ethnic groups.

There has been series of conflict between the Tiv and Alagos along the border of Benue and Nasarawa State. But these are low intensity Crises bordering on land for farming. But On the 12th of June, 2001, Nigeria woke

up to a violent ethnic confrontation in Nasarawa State due to the assassination of the Chief of Azara in Awe Local Government Area along with six other people on their way to Lafia. This was the climax of series of ethnic violence that has gripped some parts of Nasarawa South Senatorial Zone. This killing has exacerbated the inter-ethnic crisis between the Tivs and Alagos ethnic groups in Awe, Keana and Obi Local Government Areas in the Senatorial Zone. Following the crisis, government set up a judicial tribunal to investigate the causes of the violent Crises in order to find out lasting solution to inter- ethnic crisis(Nasarawa state Judicial commission of Inquiry Report 2002;43).

However, the forces behind most of this ethnic conflict revolved around boundary dispute, land contestation, struggle over political power, unequal distribution of economic resources and religion intolerance and fanaticism leading to destruction of lives and properties ^{ere} neglecting the positive transformation of the socio-economic development and structures of the affected communities especially the family, education, economic, justice and material life of the people.

2. Literature Review

2.1 Conceptual Issues

Conflict: Conflict could be defined as "opposition among social entities directed against one another (Wright, 1990). Action Aid (1994) and Hoivik and Meyer (1994) see conflict as incompatible behavior between parties whose interest are, or appear to be incompatible or clashing. Burton (1972) contends that "conflict like sex, is an essential creative element in human relationship". It is the means to change, the means by which our social values of welfare, security, justice and opportunities for personal development can be achieved. The existence of a flow of conflict is the only guarantee that the aspirations of society will be attained; indeed, conflict like sex is to be enjoyed.

As Ross (1993) notes: "If disadvantaged groups and individuals refuse to consider open conflict, they deny themselves what sometimes is their most effective means for bringing about needed change. Also, Lane (1990) opines that conflict is not deviant, pathological or risk behavior parse, it is the opposite of order; there is orderliness in conflict, although conflict can become disorderly and it can be a very helpful and useful part of society.

Conflict is a situation in which people, group or countries are involved in a serious disagreement or argument (Anifowese, 1982). In the same vain Otitea, 2001 argue that conflict can emerge between two cultures which can either be political, divergent interests, goals and aspiration by individuals and/or groups in defined social and physical environments. Mostly there are fertile grounds for conflict involving individuals and groups who are interested in using these new resources that are arising from development to achieve their goals.

Development: There seems to be divergent views on the definition and usage of the concept of development. Development according to Adam, (1992) is a social condition within a nation, in which the authentic needs of its population are satisfied by the rational and sustainable use of natural resources and systems. This utilization of natural resources is based on a technology, which respects the cultural features of the population of a given county. Conceptually, development deals with the identification of human basic needs of individuals, families, interest groups, communities as well as their competencies or abilities to meet these needs, which are channelled or targeted towards gradual growth (Ogunduyile, 2002). The whole essence of development if it is genuine is not about index numbers of national income, it is not about savings ratio and capital coefficient. It is about people and for people, (Steeten, 1979). Development policy must therefore begin by identifying human needs. These basic needs of which we all know are food, shelter and clothing Steeten (1979).

Ethnicity: An ethnic group is a group of human beings whose members identify with other, through a common heritage that is real or presumed. Ethnic identity is further marked by the recognition from others of a group's distinctiveness and the recognition of common cultural, linguistic, religious, behavioral or biological traits, real or presumed. As indicators of contrast to other groups (Wolf, 1991).

According to (Nnoli, 1992), Over the decades, the deepest attachments had tended to move or shift increasingly towards primordial tendencies as ethnic and regional consciousness have become more pronounced. This simply implies that people tend to show loyalty to

their ethnic groups, region, or state above that of entire nation.

According to Barth (1980-1990), ethnicity was perpetually negotiated and re-negotiated by both external ascription and internal self-identification. Barth's view is that ethnic groups are no discontinuous cultural isolates, or logical to which people naturally belong. He wanted to part with anthropological notions of cultures as bounded entities and ethnicity as primordial list bonds, replacing it with a focus on the interface between groups.

2.2 Empirical Review

The Extent of Ethnic Conflict on the Socio-Economic Development of Nasarawa South Senatorial Zone of Nasarawa State

In Nasarawa South most ethnic groups have conflicting interests and do not agree on how wealth, power and status are to be shared. Some resolve these social issues without conflict, others do not. In general however, Nasarawa State has had its share of ethnic and communal violence. As documented in a study of conflicts in central Nigeria, "Ethnic conflicts have become pervasive in Nasarawa State to the extent that almost every local government area has unresolved ethnic conflict at various stages of escalation-deseculation" (Jibo, Simbine and Galadima 2001:146).

These previous were localized, lasted a few weeks, usually limited to one or two villages and recorded minimal losses of lives and property. It is in this sense that both the scale and duration of the 2001 crisis set it apart from previous ones. In the 2001 explosion, the Alago, Mada and Migili and all the other groups were united against the Tiv. As the Nasarawa Judicial Committee Report (see also Federal Government of Nigeria 2003:137) put it, "It appears that the other ethnic groups were severally and collectively pitched against the Tiv, thereby equated the situation to "ethnic cleansing" perpetrated by other groups to exterminate them from geo-political space (Hagher 2002:206).

The impact of Ethnic Conflict on the Socio-Economic Development of Nasarawa South Senatorial Zone of Nasarawa State

The persistence of ethnic conflict in Nasarawa South has impacted negatively on the socio-economic development structures of the society for instance, the secret killings of Tiv people, the burning of homesteads and looting of property continued. Most of the killings, allegedly carried out by spirits, occurred at night and were said to involve invisible birds that set houses ablaze. As the occupants fled the inferno, heads would suddenly be severed by unseen assailants. It was within this period of sporadic attacks that the newly appointed district head. Anthony Dafaan was beheaded. His compound was invaded at night of June 26, 2000, torched and he was murdered along with six other members of his family, including a pregnant wife, who was gruesomely disemboweled (Plateau State Commission of Inquiry 2001:7).

Tiv respondents said the Chief of Azara blamed the death of Anthony on them: Anthony Dajang..was a bosom friend of SarkinAzara..The SarkinAzara blamed his death on us, Tiv and vowed to avenge the same with the blood of Tiv people. It came to pass with the gruesome murder of Benjamin Shamiga on November 13th, 2000; UtindinyiAondo on March 15th, 1999 and later the pogroms in May 2001 (Tiv Memorandum 14-5).

According to other accounts, the Governor had contemplated creating a district for the Tiv, a proposal which did not go down well with the late chief. The chief allegedly sought and obtained permission to consult with his people on the matter and was on the way to Lafia to "report to the Government the position of his people when he was ambushed and brutally murdered" (Jibo, Simbine and Galadima 2001:147).

The assassination of the chief only fuelled the situation (Ali and Egwu 2003). As the Governor put it: This unfortunate incident worsened the gloomy and precarious situation in this area and ignited the gun powder that brought about a chain of violence, acts of arson, wanton destruction of lives and property in Nasarawa South Senatorial District (Governor Adamu 2002:10-11). Both the Tiv and other ethnic groups were unanimous about immediate triggers to the conflict, namely:

- i. The appointment of Anthony Dafaan as district head;

- ii. The murder of the SarkinAzara, Alhaji Musa Ibrahim and;
- iii. A conflict between Fulani herdsmen and Tiv farmers in Awe Local Government Area.

The conduct of the pogrom suggests that the violence was in phases, with each ignited by some trigger factor. Thus, the murdered of Anthony Dafaan brought reprisal attacks on the Tiv as did the assassination of the Chief of Azara:

The first started on February 4, 2001 around Agyaragu in Obi Local Government Area eleven Tiv villages were razed down and over nine people were murdered and property looted, the second phase of the attack and assault on the 27th March 2001 around Kundum a border town between Nasarawa and Plateau State and extended into Awe Local Government Area of Nasarawa State by May 31, 2001 over one hundred and four people had been murdered while over fifty five towns and villages razed (Tiv memo 2002:20). The third phase of the uprising on the 12th June 2001 following the murder of the Chief of Azara, the spate of attack became unprecedented and ruthless (Tiv memo 2002:15).

Administrative and commercial activities were brought to a standstill. The situation appeared worse because of the preponderance of unemployed youths who took the law into their hands. The Nigerian Red Cross estimated that at the cessation of hostility, not less than 200 people had been killed - in Lafia and 50 hospitalised (Alli and Egwu 2003:120, also the Vanguard July 2, 2001).

2.3 Theoretical Framework

Marxist Conflict Theory

For the purpose of this study, the conflict theory is use in unfolding the issue of ethnic conflicts in Nasarawa South Zone. Conflict theory derives much of its inspiration from the work of Karl Marx, it has many other sources as well including the works of George Simmel (1950), Lewis Coser (1956) and Collins (1975).

However, most scholars of the Behavioural Sciences contend that conflict is an inherent feature of human existence. In other words, conflict is inevitable and has become integral in every human endeavour. In fact,

conflict in the actual sense helps, to establish group identity, differentiates group boundaries as well as contributes to group cohesion (Duogherty & fautgraff, 1971). Conversely, the opinions of social scientists are clear, as they seem to agree that a certain degree of discord and opposition within groups helps the members of such groups to develop a sense of common identity.

Although class was the core of Marx's theory, many contemporary conflict theorist view conflict as occurring among many groups and interests, religion versus religion, ethnic group versus ethnic group, consumers versus producers, the young versus the elderly (Hughes, Michael et al., 2002).

However, Conflict theory also focuses on disorder, disagreement and open discrimination between individual and group, this theory sees discrimination as resulting from the struggle for power among different groups in the society. In the word of stranger (1967) conflict is a situation in which two or more human beings desired a goal which they perceive as being obtainable by one or the other not by both. In this situation therefore, each group organizes energy to obtain a goal, a desired objectives or situation. Each perceives the other as a barrier or threat to that goal.

Relatively speaking, Dahrendoff (1998) contains that; the fundamentals of social structures and lasting determinant of social conflict is the inequality of power and authority, which inevitably accompany social organization. At the helm of affairs economic gains is the inner motive for political turmoil and chaos, which are barriers to suitable citizenship fraternity in the third world countries.

According to the Marxist, the main source of conflict in human societies is scarcity of the resources, wealth, prestige and power which are always in limited supply so that gains for one individual or group are often associated with losses for others. This situation inevitably creates conflict in the society by confrontations between individuals or group (Hughes, et al, 2002).

Marx maintained that society is often held together in the face of conflicting interests. Many divided but overlapping interest groups generates a large number of crosscutting conflicts. People who are opponents in one

conflict are allies in another, society persist because no one conflict can become great as to tear the society apart (Coser 1956). Some conflict scholars such as Simmel (1955) and Coser (1956) suggested that under some circumstances, conflict is functional for a society, it prevents social system from becoming rigid and fixed by exerting pressure from change and innovation.

The basis of Marx argument is materialism where economic factors determine every other sphere of life and the forces of production which is the foundation of any society and the society comprised a moving balance antithetical force that generates social change by their tension and struggle rather than peaceful growth was the engine of progress.

Moreover, the relevance of this theory to my research study shows the level of scarcities of resources experienced in human societies which are power, wealth, prestige which are contemporal experience in Nasarawa South and that inevitably create conflict where the resources are always in limited supply, so that gains for one individual or group are often associated with losses for others resulting in misunderstanding which culminated to violent conflict.

3. Methodology

3.1 Research Design

The study adopted mixed research design this entail collection of data from both primary and secondary sources. In the case of the primary data, we used survey method to collect our data and administer the questionnaire to the household sample. Similarly, Secondary data was utilized through library research to get materials such as newspapers, magazines, journals, periodical and published works by seasoned authors.

3.2 Population and Sample Size of the Study

The population for the study comprises of Principal actor's such as security personnel, panel of enquiry, parties to the conflict, businessmen and women among others. The population of the study is drawn from five (5) Local Government of Keana, Awe, Doma, Obi and Lafia Local Government Area. The five (5) Local Government area under study have the population thus: Keana 81253, Awe 114574, Doma 141607, Obi 150874 and Lafia 3327712. Therefore the total population to be considered in this research work is eight hundred and twenty one thousand, twenty one (821021). A sample population for the study will be drawn using the steely Yamane (1967, p.886) formula thus:

Table 1: The Population of five (5) Studied Local Government Areas and the Projected Record of 2021 in Nasarawa South Senatorial Zone of Nasarawa State

S/ N	Local Government Area	Population 2006	Census	Projected Census 2021	Population
	Keana	79253		81253	
	Awe	112575		114575	
	Doma	139607		141607	
	Obi	148874		150874	
	Lafia	330712		332712	
	Total			821021	

Source: Field Survey 2022

The steely Yamane (1967, p.886) formula specifies that, when n is the sample size, N is the population size and ' e ' is the level of precision $(0.05)^2$ which is the total population of the five (5) local government area, based on the local government area, applying the formula above. The sample size is determined as thus:

3.3 Method of Data Collection

The method of data collection in this study include Primary and secondary method of data collection.

4. Results and Discussion

One of the important steps in a research process is data analysis to determine the socio-economic impact of ethnic conflict on the economic development and lives of citizen in Nasarawa south senatorial zone, the

researcher embarked on administering questionnaires and analyzed them for easy understanding.

To obtain information, questionnaires containing twenty four (24) questions were constructed with nineteen (19) containing multiple choice answers and five (5) with open ended questions, out of the numerous communities in the Nasarawa South Senatorial Zone, five Local Government Councils were selected namely: Awe, Doma, Keana, Obi and Lafia East (Assakio).

Four hundred (400) questionnaires were administered out of which three hundred and eighty one (381) were

returned. The analysis of data reflects the assumption given in the course of the field work. In order to communicate the result of the findings clearly, simple percentage techniques were adopted, for the given item in the questionnaire, differences in opinion are seen by the amount of variation in the position taken by the respondents on the issues. To calculate the percentage of both the positive and negative responses, each of the position was placed over the expected total number of respondents and then multiplied by 100.

Table 2: Respondents View on the Extent of Ethnic Conflict on the socio-economic development of Nasarawa South Zone of Nasarawa State

Opinion	Frequency	Percentage
Political	212	55
Economic	101	27
Social	68	18
Total	381	100

Source: Field work 2022

The table above indicated that 212 respondents representing 55% responded that politics influences Ethnic Conflict in Nasarawa South Senatorial Zone, 101 respondents representing 27% were of the view that economic instigate Ethnic Conflict in Nasarawa South Senatorial Zone, while 68 respondents representing 18% opined that social aspect caused Ethnic Conflict in Nasarawa South Senatorial Zone.

However, this responses shows that the politically related crises tend to be more devastating because of the competition for space and access to participation in the decision making process of the state, thereby creating opportunities for ethnic groups to devise means to deter their opponents.

An informant, Mr. AhembTsev confirmed this finding that:

This lingering issue was strengthen during the administration of Governor Abdullahi Adamu in 1999, which Tiv were appointed to key political position in government such as, special adviser to the Governor on political and legislative matters,

permanent Secretary of works and Urban development, secretary Teachers Service Commission among others which other ethnic groups such as Alago, Kanuri, Hausa/Fulani among others in the zone were not happy and claim that position meant for "son of the soil" has been given to settlers at their detriment. And the issue of creation of chieftdom in Azara Development Area where the district headship position became a major tussle between the Tiv and Kwalla ethnic group is ending up in wanton destruction of lives and properties.

Supporting the argument of few respondents, another key informant Mr. FimberAdigizi maintained that:

The actual mainstay of Nasarawa south in economic terms is predominantly agriculture where farmers engage in crop production for either cash or for subsistence. Thus, with the high rate of dependence on land for survival, it becomes clear that most people in the zone will be willing to stake their lives to acquire one or at best repel imminent intruders.

The Socio-Economic Impact of Ethnic Conflicts.
The Data on Socio-Economic Impact of Ethnic Conflict are presented as Follows:

Table 3: Respondents Opinion on the Impact of Ethnic Conflict on the Family Structure in Nasarawa South.

Opinion	Frequency	Percentage
Loss of lives (Incapacitated)	133	35
Loss of properties	141	37
Displacement (Refugee)	107	28
Total	381	100

Source: Field work 2022.

The table above shows the responses of respondents on the effect of ethnic conflict on the family in Nasarawa south senatorial zone. 133 respondents representing 35% maintain that a considerable number of people lost their love ones, 141 respondents representing 37% were of the view that the greater number of people lost their properties while 107 respondents representing 28% were of the opinion that a large number of people have been displaced.

About Seventy percent of the respondents were with the view that there are huge human and material losses with others displaced.

To buttress this further, a key informant interviewed Mr. Otov Ohegh reported that:

The strong family bond was severely disrupted by the ethnic crises as several members were killed. Widow and widowers found themselves in new environments many times without breadwinners. In several instances, parents were killing and children were left to fend for themselves and that causes serious distortion to an organised family as a lineage.

a) Primary Method

i. Questionnaire

The study adopted the use of 5 point Likart Scale questionnaires for this investigation making provision for respondents to tick Strongly Agree, Agree, Disagree, Strongly Disagree, and Indifferent/Undecided. This type of questionnaires is more effective to examine the impact of ethnic conflict on the socio-economic development of Nasarawa South Senatorial Zone. Both open and closed ended questions were used in the questionnaire format. Open-ended questions allowed the respondent

to express his/her opinions on issues relating to the research problem. Closed-ended questions allowed as well as restricted the respondent to choose an answer from a range of options available. The questionnaire formats were structured in line with the specific objectives of the study. Questionnaires are preferred because of their general simplicity and wider coverage of the respondents. The use of research assistant was employed to aid them interpreting the questions in the language for better understanding. The questionnaire is divided into two parts. The first part contains the bio-data of the respondents and the second aspect focuses on the research topic.

ii. Interview

The qualitative data were gathered through in-depth, interviews with knowledgeable key informants such as the (panel of inquiries, security personnel, parties to the conflict, business men and women among others in the zone). Structured in-depth interviews was conducted with five (5) information officers of Awe, Doma, Keana, Obi and Lafia Local Government Area among others in Nasarawa South Senatorial zone of Nasarawa State.

The in-depth interview (IDI) schedule were designed to capture the specific objectives of the study and served as a reminder for further discussion with interviewees. The IDI formats were designed in such a way that, personal, leading and double-barrel questions were avoided. Also, for the sake of generating a comprehensive data, the researcher make used of probing questions in the course of the interview. With the permission of research participants, the researcher also make used of a tape recorder and a field note in order to capture both the

audio conversation and audio recorder of key informants during interview sessions.

4.2 Summary of Major Findings

This section introduced the discussion of major findings of the research conducted on the topic Ethnic Conflicts and economic development in Nasarawa South Senatorial Zone. The discussion was presented in line with the objectives of the research designed.

From the field exercise, and in line with the first objectives which aim to ascertain the extent of ethnic conflict on the economic development of Nasarawa South Senatorial Zone of Nasarawa State.

Table 5.5 the findings revealed that 212 respondent representing 55% and key informants alike attested that the politically related conflict tent to be more devastating because of competition for space and access to participation in the decision making process of the state.

This lingering issue was strengthen during the administration of Governor Abdullahi Adamu in 1999, which Tiv were appointed to key political position in government such as, special adviser to the Governor on political and legislative matters, permanent Secretary of works and Urban development, secretary Teachers Service Commission among others which other ethnic groups such as Alago, Kanuri, Hausa/Fulani among others in the zone were not happy and claim that position meant for "son of the soil" has been given to settlers at their detriment. And the issue of creation of chieftdom in Azara Development Area where the district headship position became a major tussle between the Tiv and Kwalla ethnic group is ending up in wanton destruction of lives and properties. On economic dimension, 101 respondents representing 27% maintain that the actual mainstay of Nasarawa south in economic terms is predominantly agriculture where farmers engage in crop production for either cash or for subsistence. Thus, with the high rate of dependence on land for survival, it becomes clear that most people in the zone will be willing to stake their lives to acquire one or at best repel imminent intruders.

5. Conclusion and Recommendations

As stated earlier in the course of this research, the work examines the impact of ethnic conflict on the economic development of Nasarawa South Senatorial Zone. As a result of the issue raised and analysed in the proceeding chapters as well as the summary of findings made, it is convenient to conclude on the strength of the following propositions namely, that:

Ethnic conflicts has negative effect on the socio — political and economic development of Nasarawa South Senatorial Zone. In the economic dimension, the mainstay of Nasarawa State in terms of economic is predominantly agriculture which emanated from land cultivation, in any case, forceful acquisition of land belonging to an ethnic group by other ethnic groups fuel crises, however, the politically related conflict tent to be more devastating because of competition for space and access to participation in the decision making process of the state, however, this idea is surrounded by the idea of competition and struggle for control of institutions and resources of government.

Giving the systemic nature of the problems that instigate the persistence of ethnic conflict on socio-economic development of Nasarawa south senatorial zone as evident in our findings. The research work strongly recommends the below measures to address the problems in order to avert future occurrence of ethnic conflict in the zone.

Government should make important political appointment in consultation with stakeholders and guided by justice, equity, fair play and objective meanwhile certain vexed questions about indigene versus non-indigene, settler versus strangers dichotomy should be settled with the aim of ensuring that all Nigerians have the right to live in any part of the country of their choice and discharge their civic responsibilities.

Government should make it a duty to rehabilitate schools destroyed during the crises as a matter of priority to alleviate the negative impact on children and education as we know is the bed rock structure of socio-economic development. And also Government should consider as their responsibilities the grievances of families who lost their lives living dependents behind and people who suffer injuries or lost homes and their properties stolen or damaged and address any

legitimate complaint placed by families and this should be done by compensating the victims and assist them rebuild their homes, businesses and lives through special funds assigns by government

Government should also enforce tight regulation of the possession of weapons in order to prevent another situation in which a large number of civilian can quickly be armed and equipped to participate in mass killing and destruction particularly attention should be paid to the control of mercenaries and weapons brought

in from neighboring state. Also Youth should not only be educated and train academically, professionally and technically but employment should be provided for them, Nigeria youths constitute majority of the fighting force in these violent confrontations among the various warring communities. However, Government in power should consider as their responsibilities the welfare of the citizen in accordance to the tenet of justice, equity and fair play not minding discrimination based on party, ethnic, religion or ideological difference.

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