

## **WHY ARE WE MIGRATING? A CRITICAL EVALUATION OF THE CAUSES AND IMPLICATIONS OF MIGRATION ON NIGERIA**

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### **Abstract**

*Migration has historically been a source of opportunities for people to improve their lives and those of their families especially when the condition of living is not favourable in the migrant's home state. Today, the practice of moving away from home in search of a better place is becoming common. The ease of global mobility allows people to migrate to distant places around the world. The rate of human migration has increased recently due to many factors. There are many factors that cause people to migrate from one country to another. These factors include social, political and economic aspects; the effects also vary for both sending and host countries. First, human migration is due to social factors such as, racism, religion, hunger, poverty, insecurity and the list continues. This paper seeks to evaluate the causes and implications of migration of Nigerians from their home states to other countries of the world. It is the position of this paper that most of the migrations that do occur in Africa in general and Nigeria in particular are caused by such factors as poverty, religious violence and insecurity. The paper employs the historical analysis method to investigate why people live their home country for another. The paper concludes therefore, that unless the problems arising from these factors are tackled head-on, the implications will be grave for Nigeria.*

**Keywords:** Migration, Poverty, Insecurity, Hunger, good governance

### **Introduction**

Migration is the movement of people from one area to another or from one country to another often in search of what they could not get in their homes or home country. Migration could be local or international. It is local when people migrate especially from rural areas to the urban centres often in search of better condition of living. It could also be international migration when people move out of their home countries to another.

As Africa's most populous country, Nigeria, with an estimated population of 190 million people and over 250 ethnic groups, deals with a range of migration issues, from massive internal and regional migration to brain drain and a large, well-educated diaspora in the West (mainly the United States and the United

Kingdom) that it sees as key to future development. Thousands of Nigerians seek refuge and asylum each year, and some also migrate illegally, transiting through North Africa and then crossing the Mediterranean to Europe.

Poverty and insecurity drives much of this movement; more than 70 percent of Nigerians live below the national poverty line. Also, millions have been internally displaced due to insecurity – particularly in cities across the north – that have persisted despite the establishment of a democratic government in 1999 that followed several years of military rule. At the same time, Nigeria is home to a large number of foreigners, including those attracted by the oil-export boom from the 1970s and displaced by political conflicts and civil wars in West Africa.

Migration is a worldwide phenomenon. People move in their numbers from their home, countries, children and all that is familiar in order to find a way to support themselves and their families. Migration is about survival. It is about the haves and have-nots. The U.N. has concluded that because most immigrants move to escape poverty, the growing gap between rich and poor nations will cause even more people to migrate. This assertion is true because as people move from their home country to another, they leave their home country poorer while populating and enriching their host countries.

In Africa nay Nigeria, two major factors are akin to their citizen's incessant migration from their countries to another especially in recent times. These factors are poverty and insecurity. Since most African countries lack the basic needs of life such as food, electricity, hospital, good water, access to free and quality education, they see migration as the only option to their survival. Insecurity is yet another important cause of migration in Africa. The rate of insecurity in Nigeria is assuming a critical dimension, exposing people to danger, sickness, death and poverty. The Boko Haram insurgency in the north, the Fulani herdsmen onslaught and the Niger delta militancy has forced many Nigerians to flee to neighbouring countries such as Cameroon, Niger Republic, Ghana and the rest for protection.

This paper seeks to examine the causes and consequences of migration on Nigeria. The paper argues that poverty and insecurity in Nigeria are the major factors responsible for their constant drift to other countries even with attendant risks involved. In fact illegal migration is the direct effect of poverty and insecurity as no sane person will like to take the risk of travelling to Europe on

foot through the Sahara desert despite touching stories by survivors. The recent cases of Nigerians being stuck in Libya and Morocco are good examples.

### **History/Overview of Migration in Nigeria**

Migration in the territory that is now Nigeria dates back to four simultaneous slave trades in Africa between 15th and 20<sup>th</sup> century, the largest being the transatlantic slave trade in which about 12 million slaves were exported from west, west-central, and eastern Africa to the European colonies in the Americas beginning in the 15th century. The three other slave trades – the trans-Saharan, Red Sea, and Indian Ocean – which began before the transatlantic trade, involved another 6 million people. (Behrendt, 1999) Harvard economist Nathan Dunn noted that Nigeria lost about 2 million people during the 500-year period, out of which about 1.4 million slaves were shipped to the Americas.

Internally, migrant labourers from different parts of the country, especially from rural areas, moved into Nigeria's regional headquarters and administrative and market centres in search of trade and gainful employment; destination cities included Lagos, Kano, Zaria, Enugu, Onitsha, Aba, Ibadan, Sokoto, and Kaduna, among many others. Of particular importance to rural-urban migration was the creation of mining towns and the linking of seaports in Lagos and Port Harcourt to rural areas via railways.

An estimated 10,000 to 30,000 Tuaregs from Niger moved into Kano city and its environs between 1914 and 1922. Kano city offered better grazing facilities, wells for pastoralists and their flocks, veterinary services, and lower taxes. For similar reasons, another 250,000 people moved into the north western region of Nigeria between 1931 and 1952 from French West Africa, which extended from Lake Chad to Dakar, Senegal, and from the Sahara to the Gulf of Guinea; the flow dates back to the beginning of the 20th century.

From Nigeria, an estimated 6,500 Nigerians moved to the then Gold Coast (now Ghana) and Cotonou-Parakou in Dahomey (now Benin) to work on rail lines and in gold mines between 1900 and 1902. After the railway was completed, some of the migrants became traders, and many migrated to Côte d'Ivoire after World War I. Côte d'Ivoire needed labour for cash-crop plantations established by the turn of the 20th century and the infrastructure improvements such as ports, warehouses, railroads and roads designed to aid agricultural exports. In the colonial era, thousands of Nigerians from Hausa land and Borno in northern

Nigeria migrated to Sudan. Sociocultural ties, especially ethno-religious affinity, explain the Nigeria-Sudan connection, which remains strong till today.

According to Ghana's 1948 census, there were about 46,800 Nigerians, a number that later rose to 100,000 in 1959 following Ghana's economic development and the country's vigorous Pan-African movement after its independence. Though this estimates vary depending on the source, Ghana's alien expulsion order of 1969 expelled about 140,000 Nigerians between December 1969 and early June 1970, according to the Nigerian High Commissioner (Adepoju, 1984: 426). According to Professor Adejumo Afoloyan, the experience influenced Nigerians' migration decisions, such as movement to other destinations (in particular Côte d'Ivoire), shorter stays, and circulatory movements.

According to Nigeria's 1952-1953 census about 257,000 people left Nigeria's north-western region. Their destinations included the Gold Coast, Dahomey, and Togo, out of which 28,000 people were mostly from Northern Sokoto. Large chunk of emigrant streams were particularly reported for the Yoruba of southwest Nigeria to Côte d'Ivoire, Upper Volta (now Burkina Faso), Dahomey, Mali, Togo, Niger, and Ghana. These movements were linked to the artificial nature of colonial boundaries, which split the people of common culture and ethnic groupings into different countries.

### **Migration since Independence**

Movement from Nigeria to countries beyond the region did not occur on a large scale until after independence in 1960. From the 1950s through the 1970s, the emerging elites moved mainly to the United Kingdom due to the legacy of colonial ties, for educational pursuit, and in a few cases for administrative matters. The aim was that Nigerian students would return with valuable skills needed for nation building. Indeed, most Nigerians educated abroad in the 1960s and 1970s readily came home after completing their education to assured plum jobs in the civil service or the booming oil and private sectors of the economy.

After independence in 1960, this largely highly skilled migration to the United Kingdom continued, although an increasing proportion of Nigerians also migrated to the United States for study, business, and work. As political tensions Nigeria became rife and its economy stagnated in the late 1970s and 1980s, the stream of emigrants increased. Unlike previous emigrants, these Nigerians tended to stay abroad for longer periods after graduating, and some never

returned. Consequently, a well-developed culture of professional migration emerged. By 1978, an estimated 30,000 Nigerian graduates from UK higher institutions were living outside Africa, with 2,000 of them living in the United States. In 1984, the Nigerian population living in the United States had increased to 10,000 highly skilled manpower.

Following the country's poor economy, Nigerian-based professionals left because of the austerity measures of the Structural Adjustment Program, which the government agreed to as a condition of a loan from the International Monetary Fund in the mid-1980s. Because the program included devaluing the national currency and reduction of wages for professionals, working conditions worsened leaving them with no other alternative than to relocate.

As desperation in the country continued, many less-educated youth became significant part of the emigration stream. By the early 2000s, an increasing number of Nigerians had migrated to countries such as Spain, Italy, Ireland Germany, France, the Netherlands, and Belgium, as well as the Gulf states. In addition, relatively highly skilled nurses and doctors were recruited from Nigeria to work in, America, Saudi Arabia and other Gulf states.

### **Internal Migration**

With independence in 1960, and indeed during the military regime of General Yakubu Gowon in 1967, the Nigerian government reorganized the territory from three regions into a number of states, a move that encouraged even higher rates of internal migration. The new state capitals, which became home to various state and federal government departments and agencies, as well as related businesses, drew construction workers, job seekers, traders, and relocating civil servants and their families. Similarly, the creation of 776 local government areas between 1976 and 1996 made these places attractive destinations.

When the military-run government made Abuja the capital, in 1991, 200,000 public sector workers, along with staff of foreign embassies and multilateral and bilateral agencies, relocated from Lagos. Abuja's population which was 378,671 according to the 1991 census, accelerated when a democratic government took office in 1999. By 2006, Abuja's population had more than doubled to 778,567, making it the fastest case of urbanization in West Africa.

The country's southwest, which includes Lagos (population 18 million) and Ibadan, attracts migrants from all over Nigeria. The region hosts the nation's two largest seaports, 65 percent of its industrial plants, large proportions of educational and research institutions, and large agricultural plantations. Internal migrants come from Nigeria's significantly less developed regions. For example, the south eastern region has been a major source of internal migration for several decades due to poor environmental and economic conditions. Nwajiuba (2005) identified the motivations for migration out of the southeast as mainly economic which accounts for about 80 percent of it, with education a distant second of about 16 percent.

According to a Nigerian priest and social commentator John Odey, the recent introduction and implementation of Sharia law in northern states heightened tensions between Muslims and non-Muslims, and the consequent persistent ethno-religious conflicts have kept internal migrants away. (Odey, 2000: 10)

Beyond politics, internal migrants maintain ties with their communities of origin as an important part of an elaborate kinship system and as a survival strategy for themselves and their investments in times of crises. Hence Onwudufor,(n.d:183) observes that following the Nigerian civil war, communities were enabled by the Abandoned Property Decree to seize "abandoned" land and property of the Igbo people located nationwide, especially in Port Harcourt. This remains one of the many unresolved issues of the war 49 years after it ended. Consequently, Igbo migrants have since invested significantly in Igbo places of origin. This has generally enhanced rural economic viability, particularly in eastern Nigeria. This in a nutshell, summarizes the history of migration in Nigeria.

## **Insecurity**

Insecurity is the state or feeling of not being [safe](#). It is a situation whereby a people, community or nation is not sure of its safety owing to different factors such as war, terrorism, outbreak of epidemics and other situations that raises concern by the citizens. Insecurity in Nigeria is on the increase in recent times owing to the rising waves of terror since 1999 when the country regained its democracy. Crimes of high magnitude has a root and history in Nigeria, which could be historically traced back to the period from 1960 to 1970. First at independence in 1960 a federal structure was imposed on Nigeria by the British which hitherto forced into marriage, the different and distinct nationalities

which could have thrived better when they live separately on their own as a result of difference in language, culture and most importantly religion.

The demand for true federalism, fiscal and political restructuring by different ethnic nationalities in Nigeria is on the increase. These demands have contributed to violent rebellious reactions by aggrieved ethnic groups in the country, thus endangering the security, unity, peace and corporate existence of Nigeria as one country. The federal system in Nigeria undermines the independence and autonomy its federating units and this has led to different degrees of conflict which threatens national cohesion and peaceful coexistence. Thus to buttress the assertion Ali and (2013) and Adamu (2005) observes that lopsided federalism will only lead to conflict and disintegration.

### **Causes of Insecurity in Nigeria**

Many factors has been adduced as to what causes insecurity in Nigeria. This factors vary in nature and degree but complements each other in occurrence and may be external or internal. The internal causes of insecurity pose major challenge to socio-economic development than the external causes of insecurity. For the purpose of this study the internal causes of insecurity in Nigeria will be examined.

**Poverty cum Unemployment:** The direct consequence of unemployment is poverty and this invariably result to crimes especially among the youths. The problem of poverty and insecurity is a recurrent factor because of successive administration's failure to address challenges of poverty, unemployment, and inequitable distribution of wealth among ethnic nationalities. Thus broadening the gap between the rich and the poor in the society.

**Political Violence:** Nigeria has a chequered history of violence which is politically induced. Since the end of the first republic on January 1966 and the incursion of the military into governance political violence has become a recurrent decimal. Elections in Nigeria right from 1960s till date have been characterized with violent conflicts, political thuggery, rigging, assassinations and arson. The sit tight syndrome of Nigerian politicians has been attributed to the rise in violence since they would do every possible to retain their seat in the government. Hence (Eme and Onyishi, 2011) posited that politicians in Nigerian do not accommodate dialogue, negotiation and consensus. Political contests which like other contests should be a game of win and loss are characterized by

desperation, and violent struggle by politicians to maintain status quo. Thus the wave of insecurity is on the increase in Nigeria.

**Economic based Violence:** The desire to control the resources of the state often leads to violence. For instance the desire by the people of the Niger Delta to control the resources in their domain after many years of neglect by the government has elicited a great degree of violence in Nigeria. The Niger Delta militancy is a good example of economic based violence. These violent agitations have claimed many lives of Nigerians and foreigners, military and para-military personnel, and properties worth billions of naira thus lending credence to migration as the only means to escape the consequences arising from insecurity.

**Systemic and Political Corruption:** According to Nwanegbo and Odigbo (2013), corruption is a cancer militating against Nigeria's development. This is because corruption deeply threatens the fabric of the Nigeria society. Corruption is a hydra-headed monster that has held the Nigerian state captive. The level of insecurity is greatly a function of government failure, which is embedded to systemic and political corruption. Corruption has kept the country in a perpetual poverty and underdevelopment as our leaders usually siphons our resources to the utter detriment of the nation, thus exposing the youths to poverty and hardship which invariably gives them the opportunity to take to arms in order to get their own share of the national cake.

On his part, (Iyare, 2008) opines that corruption hampers economic growth, disproportionately burdens the poor and undermines the effectiveness of investment and aid. Corruption has added another dimension of violent conflicts which has eroded national values.

**Ethno-religious Conflicts:** A major cause of ethno-religious and political conflicts in Nigeria according to Nwose (2015) is accusations and allegations of neglect, oppression, domination, exploitation, discrimination and marginalisation. These conflicts are caused by suspicion and distrust among various ethnic groups and among the major religions in the country. Ethno-religious conflict is a situation in which the relationship between members of one ethnic or religious and another of such group in a multi-ethnic and multi-religious society is characterized by lack of cordiality, mutual suspicion and fear and a tendency towards violent confrontation (Achumba et al. 2013; Salawu, 2010). According to (Eme and Onyishi, 2011), these ethno-religious identities have become disintegrative and destructive social elements threatening the

peace, stability and security in Nigeria. Consequently these factors mentioned above have in one way or the other accelerated the pace of migration of Nigerians to a place where they believe they will find peace and security.

### **Causes of Migration in Nigeria**

**Poverty:** Poverty is the state of being extremely poor. It is the state of lacking the basic needs of life. Poverty is hunger. Poverty is lack of shelter. Poverty is being sick and not being able to see a doctor. Poverty is not having access to school and not knowing how to read. Poverty is not having a job, it is fear for the future. Poverty is losing a child to illness brought about by unclean water. Poverty is powerlessness.

The United Nation puts Nigeria's poverty level at below one dollar per day. This implies that a poor person does not make or earn as it were up to N360.00 per day in Nigeria. The number of Nigerians in this category accounts for about 80 percent of the population of Nigeria. These category of people lack money to feed, go to school, access medical care and afford good shelter. They are depressed and hopeless and are prone to crime, sickness, death and corruption. Little wonder the spate of human trafficking in Nigeria is high. People allow themselves to be trafficked at least to change environment and escape the unfriendly hand of poverty in Nigeria.

People migrate in order to seek for a better condition of living which in all ramifications have eluded them in their own country. Of course, here in Nigeria, the rich only travel abroad for medical tourism and comes back because of high cost of living in those countries. For instance, here they don't pay for parking lots for their retinue of cars or gigantic properties as is done in the developed world. Thus, they see migration as a waste of time.

### **Population Growth amidst Economic Development Stagnation**

The high rate of population growth and the poor perspectives for economic development in Nigeria is a major cause of migration. Nigeria lacks capital and technical know-how to stimulate economic and technological growth which drives development and reduces migration. As it were servicing of foreign debts absorb a major part of the economic power. Nigeria depends only on oil while neglecting other sectors of the economy which would have been harnessed to stimulate economic development and reduce migration wave. Unstable or lack of viable economic policy, lack of legal stability and widespread corruption

discourage investors from locating their long-term industrial projects in Nigeria and this has greatly affected economic growth which invariably has contributed to migration.

### **Insecurity and Violence**

Insecurity and violence are serious contributory factors to migration. Violence and insecurity leads to forced migration as people are always conscious of their safety. *Violence* is an "intentional use of physical force or power, threatened or actual, against oneself, another person, or against a group or community, which either results in or has a high likelihood of resulting in injury. The Boko haram and Fulani herdsmen onslaught against Nigerians has contributed in no small measure in creating refugee camps and many migrating to other countries for safety.

The term "refugee" is used to describe people who are persecuted on account of their race, religion, ethnic group or political conviction. Persons whose freedom or lives are threatened in this sense have a right to protection by foreign countries on the basis of international conventions. Thus refugee situations arose as a result of threatening insecurity and violence in a particular country. "Displaced persons" are not fleeing from individual persecution but from escalating violence threatening large parts of the population in a certain region or country. Those affected by such conflicts mostly flee in large numbers to safe regions in their native land or in a neighbouring country. The reception and care of large influxes of refugees severely undermine the resources of the states concerned. Refugee camps with tens of thousands of strangers often arouse feelings of insecurity in the host country's population. This can lead to political instability in the country concerned, provoking new conflicts.

### **Accessibility of rich and Industrialized Nations**

The development of tourism, television and the internet have all enhanced the attractiveness of migration. They make the poorest aware of the wealth of the rich. The growth of air travel facilitates journeys to far-away industrialized countries. So far, only a fraction of those willing to consider migration have actually been able to travel to their preferred destination on other continents. But this could soon change since successful emigrants transfer a considerable share of their income to their relatives at home. As a result, more and more people can

afford to travel to distant countries. Asylum seekers prefer countries where many of their fellow-countrymen already live.

### **Rigid Education System**

People often migrate to other countries with rigid education system which is better than what they get from their home country. This is made worse by the much importance attached to foreign certificates over certificates obtained here in Nigeria. One of the important reasons why many students migrate to developed nations for higher education is to get the requisite knowledge and expertise which in some cases are lacking in Nigeria and to graduate on record time or better still to escape the academic huddles occasioned by delays by universities or during university strikes which prolongs the duration of studies. Government needs to take concrete measures to amalgamate Nigerian education system with global trends to achieve uniformity and standardization and this is what is required today to meet global manpower demand.

### **Unemployment**

There is lack of opportunities for job in Nigeria. The Nigerian employment system is affected by the bureaucratic policies and framework especially at the government or public sector openings. This also leads to migration of qualified people thereby causing brain drain. It has become a common place for qualified Nigerians who has been frustrated in finding jobs in Nigeria to relocate to other countries where they could find jobs for themselves. According to some estimates, about 2,000 doctors have left the shores of [Nigeria](#) over the past few years (Aljazeera.com). Apart from, the high level of unemployment in Nigeria, the few available employers underpay their workers prompting them to look elsewhere for better opportunities.

### **Consequences/Implications of Migration on Nigeria.**

Migration is the movement of people from their home state to other states. Though we are trying to justify the fact that migration is always borne out of the search for better conditions of living and to escape insecurity in the land, it has both negative and positive effects on the sending state. We are going to examine these effects under these two headings; Positive and negative effects.

### **Positive Effects**

#### **Brain gain**

It can be generally defined as a form of brain drain where human capital moves in reverse from the developed countries to the developing ones. These migrants may accumulate savings; develop skills which could later be utilized in their home countries. The dot-com bubble, sub-prime crises, 9/11 attack, attack on students in Australia and related issues. The expertise of these talented migrants can be used for the establishment and management of enterprises. Brain gain also results in increased capital flows in to the country of origin, which can be used for the better utilization of resources. The returning entrepreneurs can also help Nigeria in making a distinguished position in the international markets.

### **Financial Resources**

Migration results in remittances. Nigerians who are earning abroad in foreign currencies send back money home for their families and to fulfil their liabilities. They also travel to and forth and along with them they bring foreign earnings to their country. Estimated at 30 million with a presence in 189 countries, the Nigerian Diaspora produces an annual economic income of about \$ 400 billion, almost 30 percent of Nigeria's GDP. This is highly encouraging and shows the significant aspect of brain gain to our economy. Nigerian Diaspora has also resulted in increased demand for Nigerian products in foreign market. This has further helped in the increased consumption of various products of Nigerian origin which now is equally liked and demanded by Nigerian and foreign markets.

### [Reduction of Unemployment](#)

Migration does not necessarily create employment to the remaining people in that state, but it helps to reduce the number of unemployed people thereby creating opportunity for those who are left to get better job opportunities.

### **Improvement of the Social life of the People**

Migration helps to improve social life of people as they learn about new culture, customs, and languages which helps to improve brotherhood among people. There are certain culture and custom which help to improve the social life of the people which are learnt when people leave their country for another. For instance, recruitment in the western world is based on competence and not by favouritism which is the order of the day in Nigeria. People hardly get job here if they do not have someone at the top.

## **Negative Effects**

### **Brain drain**

Brain drain, which is the emigration of intelligent, well-educated individuals to somewhere else for better conditions of living is one of the effects of migration. Brain drains affects the migrant's home state because it makes the place they came from to lose those skilled people, "brains" or professionals. There is brain drain when scientists, engineers, doctors, as well as IT- professionals and other intellectuals migrate to another country for higher studies, to undertake research activities, to get better job and work experiences which they are not getting from their country of origin. Nigeria is no doubt a very prominent source for supply of professionals such as doctors, nurses and scientists. Elites and highly qualified professionals from Nigeria are placed all over the World. Nigeria is very rich in resources including human resources. The intellectuals which Nigeria loses every year can help in the effective utilisation of our natural resources.

### **Talent Shortage**

Migration results into talent shortage in the home country. The educated elites instead of serving their own country prefers to work for the developed nations for the sake of better pay and standard of living or any other reason. This is evident in Nigeria especially in the field of medical services. Rural areas face acute shortage of medical practitioners. Also, there is huge demand of IT professionals in Telecom software companies which is unfulfilled. Most of the available professionals prefer to go to abroad to meet the requirements of software companies abroad. This results in the crunch for professionals in these sectors here in Nigeria.

### **Untimely Death**

It was Tahar Ben Jelloun, a Moroccan writer, who wrote: "Migration is no longer a solution; it's a defeat. People are risking death, drowning every day, but they're knocking on doors that are not open." Probably, the author is right because most of the migrants even do not know what awaits them in a new country. Before thinking about the effects of migration, people should draw a distinction between emigration and immigration. The immigration is beneficial, whereas the emigration is totally disadvantageous for a country.

People from industrially backward regions do not value their current lifestyle and conditions, and they cannot resist the lure of a wonderful life in economically advanced countries, thus contributing to the underdevelopment of their country which they will eventually return to. Such a movement of people may leave a dent on the economies of the host countries, and on the society and customs of the host countries. In this 21st century, it is already time to start actions in order to decrease the incidence of migration. Although for some people emigration is helpful to solve their own personal problems.

### **Conclusion**

This paper concludes that migration has profound negative effects on Nigeria. It argues that most of migration experienced in Nigeria is borne out of frustration and helplessness. Although migration has some positive effects on the sending or home states, such as remittances and brain gain, most migrants are doing so because they have no option. They knew it is risky, yet cannot help remain and rot here in Nigeria. Most of the migrants who got stuck in Libya and morocco attest to the fact that they were trying to escape their ugly condition in Nigeria.

Poverty and insecurity are yet another significant factors that induces migration in Africa, thus, making the people seek alternative means of survival. We therefore, implore the government of Nigeria to look inward and address the challenges that has kept the country down. The number of people dying in the Sahara desert in attempt to move to Europe is quite worrisome. The spate of xenophobia and indiscriminate attacks and killing of Nigerians in South Africa is enough for us to put our house in order. The security situation needs to be improved so as to give as sense of belonging to those who chose to remain in Nigeria. In fact, given the state of things, if everybody in Nigeria has the wherewithal, they would have left this country because of high rate of insecurity, poverty, suffering and above all lack of the basic things of life.

### **The Way Forward**

The way out of the box of incessant legal and illegal movement of people out of the country is to create a conducive environment for everybody. Creation of employment opportunities, reduction of poverty, provision of infrastructure for the wellbeing of the citizens and above all the maintenance of security all over the country will drastically reduce the spate of migration and its effect on the country.

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