

## UNEMPLOYMENT, POVERTY, AND NATIONAL SECURITY: IMPLICATION FOR SUSTAINABLE DEMOCRACY IN NIGERIA

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### ABSTRACT

This study examined the relationship between unemployment, poverty, and national security, anchored on a psychological, frustrated aggression theory. The research argues that unemployment is a cause of poverty and a problem for national security. This scenario puts Nigeria's democratic survival at peril, lacking the peace and security that democracy needs to thrive. Such individuals would be poor in a country with many unemployed people because they would not be able to participate effectively in the country's socioeconomic development, which jeopardizes lives and property through discussing the maintenance of democracy in Nigeria and extrapolated in the research. The study employed the qualitative approach using primary and secondary data drawn from online sources, journals, and newspapers. The findings indicate increasing investment in the country's socioeconomic initiatives and programs to combat poverty and unemployment. The working-age population should be broadly reoriented toward the need for self-employment, as the government alone cannot offer the necessary jobs. The study recommends that technical education be promoted and revived as a surefire method of developing youths' capacity for self-employment.

**Keywords:** Unemployment, Employment, Poverty, National security, Democracy.

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### INTRODUCTION

National security is a global concern. It has implications for the survival of any democratic system, and this is the primary reason why all systems try to ensure the maintenance of national security. Both developed and developing countries are included in this struggle. National resources are usually deployed to ensure that all issues that will affect their national security are addressed. These issues range from building solid institutions to social and human capital development. Other problems, such as poverty and unemployment, have also been seen and taken seriously as issues that affect a country's national security.

Academics and policymakers have acknowledged poverty and unemployment as societal problems that negatively affect citizens and states' economies globally. This explains why international leaders try their hardest to keep it as low as possible. These two societal problems in Nigeria are challenging and have significantly slowed the country's development. Obadan and Odusola (2001) pointed out that despite Nigeria's unemployment being less severe in the 1980s, it has worsened due to its ineffective leadership. According to Lamido (2013), the percentage of unemployed persons in the nation rose from 15% in 2008 to 20% in 2011 and has subsequently remained high. The nation's unemployment rate as of 2021 was 33.3%, with young people making up 42.5% of the workforce (National Bureau of Statistics, 2022). Clearly, young people, whose unemployment rates have historically been the highest in Nigeria, are the victims of this problem. The risk associated with this development is the emergence of a youthful populace that is typically resentful and aggressive against their fellow people. It is appalling to see that young people make up the majority of the criminals that law enforcement agencies parade in front of the public. The majority of the terrorist groups in the country use this age range for their suicide bombs (Lamido, 2013). This age group typically participates in or executes Niger Delta militancy (Akwara *et al.*, 2022). The fact that most people involved in high crime are educated yet unemployed legally adds another layer to the problem as

some of them get involved in illegal activities such as making explosive devices, kidnapping, cybercrime, and armed robbery (Lamido, 2013). The issue of unemployment is connected to the plague of poverty, which has affected most of the world's nations in different dimensions and hues. However, as stated by Akande and Okuwa (2009), the country's poverty is caused by the growing number of young people roaming the streets of Nigeria. On behalf of the Federal Government, the National Bureau of Statistics indicates that 130 million Nigerians live in poverty (Seral, 2022). It is clear from the economy's informal sector, where underemployment is typical, from dropping actual earnings, fewer incentives, lower levels of overall private investment, and the caliber of instruction and training offered to individuals in our educational institutions across the country().

Poverty and rising crime rates are consequences of unemployment. In other words, unemployment in Nigeria carries several attendant social, economic, political, psychological, and security challenges and, by extension, the effectiveness of democratic practice in a system. The study examines the nexus between unemployment, poverty, and notational security in the context of sustainable democratic practice in Nigeria.

This paper is divided into six sections. Section one is the introduction, while section two deals with conceptual clarification. Section three presents the theoretical framework of the study. This section highlights the depth of unemployment and poverty in Nigeria. Section five is dedicated to the nexus between unemployment, Poverty, and National Security and its implications for Nigeria's democratic sustenance. Section six presents conclusions and recommendations.

### CONCEPTUAL CLARIFICATION

#### The concept of unemployment

Like all other social science terms, various academics have described unemployment in various ways. Unemployment is when persons who

should be employed are either unemployed or have unsustainable employment. According to the International Labour Organization's (2007) definition, the unemployed are those who are economically active, unemployed, and looking for work, including those who have lost their jobs and those who have chosen to leave their jobs. In addition, according to The Nigerian National Bureau of Statistics (2020), most nations in the world use a modification of the ILO definition in which unemployment is defined as the ratio of the total currently active (labor force) population to those in the labor force who are actively looking for work but could not find employment for at least 20 h during the reference period(). According to Adebayo (1999), unemployment occurs when the labor force needs work but cannot get work or jobs. Scholars have identified and explained various forms of unemployment. These include seasonal, frictional, cyclical, and structural employment (Adebayo, 1999; Damachi, 2001). According to the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) (2009; 2010), the national unemployment rates for Nigeria between 2000 and 2009 showed that the number of unemployed person constituted 31.1% in 2000, 13.6% in 2001, 12.6% in 2002, 14.8% in 2003, 13.4% in 2004, 11.9% in 2005, 14.7% in 2006, 14.6% in 2007, 14.9% in 2008, 19.7% in 2009, and 33.3% in 2021.

In a developing State like Nigeria, urban unemployment and underemployment have different root causes (Alao, 2020). First, many new work possibilities must be generated every year due to the strain of a rapidly expanding population, especially school-leavers. The second issue is the rising unemployment rate for educated workers, notably recent graduates. Third, there is insufficient planning for human resources mixed with unjustified bias in the educational system, which produces an overabundance of white-collar job seekers at the expense of desperately needed technicians, technologists, and scientists. Moreover, job seekers' selectivity of job availability or location, posting or hankering after jobs unrelated to acquired training and skill.

In Nigeria, unemployment has social, economic, political, and psychological repercussions (Abdullahi & Saka, 2023; Okafor, 2011). A phenomenon promotes the growth of urban hooligans and street kids (also known as "area boys") who are raised in a society that values criminal behavior. In addition to encouraging prostitution as a method of survival, unemployment has also contributed to the feminization of poverty among young women, which has ramifications for transnational security because it encourages young women to be trafficked across borders. When it comes to their mental health, unemployed people frequently face trauma, rage, frustration, low self-esteem, negative life satisfaction, sadness, and mental disorders such as depression and severe stress. Another economic impact of unemployment is the exodus of young people and physically fit males from Nigeria who search for better chances abroad (Akande and Okuwa, 2009; Okuwa, 2009). This has the effect of decreasing Nigeria's labor force and capacity to produce.

Underemployment is a notion related to unemployment. However, underemployment occurs when the minimum work is less than full-time hours, which is 40 h. These circumstances are according to the National Bureau of Statistics (2020). Therefore, if rural farmers just labor on their farms during the planting and harvesting seasons and do nothing else, they will be regarded as underemployed. However, if farmers labor during the dry and wet seasons, as is becoming the case, they will be employed full-time. This applies to drivers, cooks, cleaners, bankers, teachers, etc, who, in most cases, work well over 40 h and hence are considered full-time employed as their working hours and skills meet the adopted methodology.

### The concept of poverty

There are as many definitions of the concept as scholars are writing on the subject due to how, historically, the perception of what constitutes poverty has changed and how it differs among states in magnitude and scope. However, there are universally accepted indicators of what constitutes poverty, and these indicators categorize and explain the concept. In general terms, poverty connotes a condition where

individuals lack basic necessities such as food, shelter, and clothing; lack access to education and health care; and are uncertain of daily survival.

The inability of an individual or community to meet their basic material requirements and maintain their dignity is referred to as absolute poverty. Because the individuals or groups do not have jobs or sources of revenue, these goods include food, clothing, shelter, water, health care, primary education, transportation, and work. While material poverty is the absence of ownership control over tangible assets like lands and all other resources that land produces or that subsist on land, such as birds and animals and mineral resources, relative Poverty is the inability of specific segments of society to satisfy their basic needs as well as other needs. Finally, rural and urban areas are impoverished (UNDP, 1996).

Being in Poverty is being unable to take advantage of the resources available for a better situation economically, socially, politically, or in any other way. A lack of educational opportunities essential for human development could bring it on. Indolence or misunderstood religious convictions may contribute to Poverty (Chigbo, 1996). Another possibility is that the person in issue is in want, whether material or spiritual, due to their mental state or psychological tendency. In terms of things, Poverty involves a lack of shelter, clothing, and food. The inner man, the spirit, and the lack of peace of mind are all spiritual issues. Okoronkwo (1996) asserts that Poverty typically refers to a circumstance in which a person cannot meet minimal needs. Any situation where one cannot afford a good meal at any given time is real Poverty. One is poor when one cannot plan for tomorrow because he or she has failed for today. Poverty means a man's inability to afford decent food, shelter, clothing, and recreation (Jolaosho, 1996). Poverty entails the absence of the basic requirements essential for the survival and comfort of man. It is hunger and starvation. It is squalor, and basic medical care is unavailable.

Therefore, a lack of the fundamental needs for life constitutes Poverty for any individual or human community. According to a Somali elder who was quoted, "All development endeavors are about people. Water is the primary need of humans. It is the primary requirement for survival. A plant, an animal, or a baby perishes without it. The next is food. Life is sad and brief if there is not enough of it. Third, health is important after obtaining food and drink since a person gets sick without it. The fourth is education; after a person has access to water, food, and health, he or she needs to learn new perspectives and open up new opportunities. And there is the fifth – peace and order. None of the four basic needs can be sustained" (UNDP, 1996).

Therefore, Poverty is a state of scarcity, lack, inadequacy, or Poverty. Being poor is a state of not having enough money or resources. In its most severe form, Poverty is the absence of necessities, including healthy food, clothing, housing, and medical care. Poverty also has other connections, such as a lack of knowledge or ideas. According to the most often-used definition of Poverty (Adefolalu, 1992), Poverty is when there are not enough resources to meet basic human requirements. Poverty, however, affects not only the individual but also social classes, entire cultures, and even countries. The unemployed, those with little education, and homes with a woman as the head of the family are some of the sub-groups of the poor in Nigeria (NBS, 2009).

According to Adefolalu (1992), Poverty is caused by "endogenous forces," or forces that operate within the victims, as exemplified by individual responsibility and welfare dependency, and is thus self-created. "Exogenous forces" operate outside the victims' control, such as overpopulation, high living standards, high living costs, inadequate education, unemployment, and environmental degradation. Although the severity of Poverty is greater in urban regions, the distribution of Poverty between urban and rural areas is equal on a geographic basis. As a result, poverty-related economic pressures and significant young unemployment in urban regions, like many Nigerian metropolises, have exacerbated the problem of crime. This issue is more severe among young males (Gilbert & Gugler, 1982).

Because of the many disadvantages that it results in, Poverty typically has a dehumanizing effect on the person who experiences it. People who are poor experience terrible starvation, illnesses, famine, and conflict. Poor nutrition, food insecurity, mental illness, drug addiction, crime, and a high incidence of diseases are all side effects of Poverty that pose risks to national security. In addition, the impoverished in urban areas are a perpetual source of embarrassment for the government and the rest of society since, if neglected, they continue to be politically unstable and serve as breeding grounds for urban socio-political intrigues. Their utter neglect creates social imbalance and can provide ripe conditions for the outbreak of urban social disorder, which may find expression in the form of urban riots, crime, and other clandestine activities. Any unpleasant occurrence or situation can be used as an excuse by the urban poor with long pent-up grievances to create sporadic or even widespread disorder. Examples are the Jos riot of 2008, the postelection violence of 2011 in the northern states of Nigeria following general/presidential elections that were believed to be free and fair, and the sporadic disturbances in many parts of the country triggered by the January 2012 removal of petroleum subsidy in Nigeria. In sum, as crime and violence occasioned by poverty situation continue to increase, they often have detrimental effects on the economy, the administration of the country, and national security in the country.

### **The concept of national security**

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### **The concept of democracy**

Increased intellectual effort has often been made to achieve universality in the accepted definition of the notion due to democracy's development and widespread acceptance as an appropriate system of government. Scholars have continued to analyze the idea of democracy in a way that would reflect global practices (Osaghae, 1992; Schumpeter, 1990; Nnoli, 2003; Appadorai, 2004; Dahl, 2000; Ake, 2003; Awa, 1999; Sen, 1999; Ake, 2000). Despite their contributions, there is currently no universally recognized definition of democracy.

More succinctly, Diamond *et al.* (1989) posited that democracy is a system of government that congregates three vital stipulations of governance:

1. Significant and all-encompassing competition among political parties and their candidates for political offices at well-defined period intervals and where the use of force is discouraged.
2. A highly comprehensive level of political participation in the election of leaders and policies is designed. This should be done through free and fair elections so that qualified members of the society are not disenfranchised.
3. A high level of civil and political freedom is necessary for democratic societies. Nnoli (2003) asserted that democratic governance should usually involve citizens' freedom in various aspects of their political lives, including choosing their leaders in a secure environment.

In actuality, the ability of the populace to participate and choose the ruling class is what gives democracy meaning and substance. The scope of involvement includes the ability to choose who rules, which policies to support, and which decisions will benefit the most significant number of people. Democracy also requires adequate security for individuals directing and participating in the selection process. The absence of the compromises above affects the effectiveness and efficiency of democracy and the democratization process. In such a situation, democratic values ingrained in its operations tend to be neutralized, producing paradoxical outcomes and raising questions about the sustainability of democracy.

### THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

The paper is built on the frustration-aggression theory. The frustration-aggression theory is a psychological concept that claims "aggression is always a consequence of frustration" and "frustration always leads to some form of aggression" (Leeds, 1978; Dollard *et al.*, 1939). According to the theory, anger – a state of emotional preparedness for aggression – is produced when frustration fosters animosity. The cause of hostile violence is rage. The idea is applicable everywhere. In a study of political unrest in 84 countries, Ivo and Rosaline (1972; 1968), they employed the frustration-aggression theory. It has been discovered that when populations in quickly modernizing countries urbanize, and their literacy levels rise (as is happening in Nigeria right now), they become more conscious of material advancements. The growing disparity between the rich and the poor, however, exacerbates frustration, leading to unwarranted aggressiveness, which worsens because affluence often diffuses slowly. In Nigeria, these aggressions take the form of crimes and violent acts.

Although not always present in isolation, unemployment and the accompanying poor situation constitute a severe threat to democratic governance and the integrity of the country's security, and their effects have several security implications. For instance, a lack of work possibilities has fueled youth engagement in the militancy and urban conflicts plaguing Nigeria. Unemployment is linked to a rise in sectarian crime, violence, and terrorism (Rotimi, 2011). When young people cannot find steady employment, they offer their services for odd tasks to survive, which can take on any criminal aspect imaginable.

People often turn to violence when they are repressed, discriminated against, socially isolated, or economically disadvantaged since the causes of violence and insecurity tend to be complicated. According to some experts, poverty and inequality lead to violence (Awake, 2012). The poorer parts of cities are frequently high-crime areas, and youth unemployment and poverty are playing a significant role in African conflict experiences, including Nigeria.

A growing body of scholarship suggests that youth involvement in conflict and war situations across Africa is explained by the dissolution of social institutions and the inability of the economic system to provide adequate means of subsistence for people. When unemployed youngsters get embroiled in violent circumstances such as religious and ethnic strife, Nigeria's national security is put in danger. For instance, youths who were all unemployed and underprivileged are driving the violent scenario in the Niger Delta. There is, at the absolute least, a connection between economic hardship (caused by unemployment

and poverty) and the kids who are allegedly involved in the violence or violent disorder that is currently occurring in this nation. In all, it is clear that unemployment predisposes people to poverty, and the two problems co-jointly influence national security by creating an insecure situation. Rising crime waves are, therefore, the consequence of poverty and unemployment.

### UNEMPLOYMENT: CAUSES AND CONSEQUENCES

Unemployment, defined as being without work despite actively seeking employment, is a pervasive phenomenon with profound social and economic repercussions. Its causes are multifaceted and often rooted in structural deficiencies within the labor market, such as mismatched skills, inadequate education and training, and fluctuations in economic demand (ILO, 2020). Technological advancements and globalization have also contributed to the displacement of workers in traditional industries, exacerbating unemployment rates in specific sectors (Brynjolfsson and McAfee, 2014).

The consequences of unemployment extend far beyond financial hardship, encompassing a wide range of social and psychological impacts. Long-term unemployment can erode individuals' self-esteem and sense of purpose, leading to mental health issues such as depression and anxiety (Paul and Moser, 2009). Moreover, unemployment can strain interpersonal relationships and social networks, exacerbating feelings of isolation and alienation (Winefield *et al.*, 2002).

Economically, high levels of unemployment have detrimental effects on both individuals and society as a whole. Diminished consumer spending resulting from reduced household incomes can dampen economic growth and exacerbate recessions (Stiglitz, 2012). Moreover, unemployment burdens social welfare systems, increasing public expenditures on unemployment benefits and social services (OECD, 2020). In the long term, persistent unemployment can lead to a loss of human capital and productivity, hindering countries' ability to compete in the global economy (Blanchard *et al.*, 2013).

### POVERTY: A VICIOUS CYCLE OF DEPRIVATION

Poverty, often intertwined with unemployment, is a condition characterized by a lack of access to basic necessities such as food, shelter, and healthcare. While poverty can result from various factors, including structural inequalities, discrimination, and political instability, unemployment remains a primary driver of poverty in many societies (World Bank, 2019). The inability to secure stable employment traps individuals and families in a cycle of deprivation, perpetuating intergenerational poverty and widening economic disparities (Sen, 1999).

The consequences of poverty are wide-ranging and profound, affecting individuals, communities, and entire nations. Beyond material deprivation, poverty undermines individuals' access to education and healthcare, limiting their opportunities for social mobility and economic advancement (UNDP, 2020). Children growing up in poverty are more likely to experience poor health outcomes and lower educational attainment, perpetuating the cycle of poverty into future generations (Duncan and Brooks-Gunn, 1997).

Moreover, poverty has significant implications for social cohesion and stability, particularly in regions characterized by high levels of inequality and social exclusion. The concentration of poverty in marginalized communities can breed resentment and social unrest, fueling crime, violence, and political extremism (World Bank, 2020). In extreme cases, poverty can contribute to state failure and conflict, as seen in many fragile and conflict-affected states around the world (Collier, 2007).

### UNEMPLOYMENT, POVERTY, AND NATIONAL SECURITY

The foundation of democracy is the existence of legislative institutions that allow disparate viewpoints and interests to coexist. Democracy, the

majority-run form of government, is responsible for equally defending its citizens' rights, property, and possessions to help them reach their full potential. In a democratic society, the government provides for the welfare and security of its citizens in exchange for their civic submission. Equal opportunity to pursue their job, equal ability to participate in politics, and freedom of speech and religion are all guaranteed. When everyone is uneasy, nothing can work. Insecure environments are inhospitable to democracy. For fear of being attacked by political thugs, many eligible people are unwilling to run for office or cast ballots during elections. Due to unemployment and poverty, thuggery has developed. Politicians utilize the unemployed and underprivileged kids as troops to advance their political careers.

According to conventional knowledge, unemployment and poverty increase levels of insecurity because they impair people's ability to pay their bills, maintain their households, and take care of dependent relatives and household members (Kirby, 2011). Advanced nations provide social security payments to the unemployed to keep them off the streets until they find work because of the security threat that unemployment poses. Compared to countries like Nigeria, where the unemployed receive no support, this has made their countries safer. According to a Reuters report dated April 15, 2024, Nigeria's inflation reached a 28-year high of 33.20% in annual terms in March, driven by soaring food and energy costs despite central bank rate hikes aimed at halting its ascent (Muhammad et al., 2023).

These have taken the form of terrorism in the northwest, north-central, and northeast regions, militancy and arson in the south-south region, kidnapping in the southeast region, and an alarming amount of armed robberies in the southwest region. All of these affect the nation's security situation, economic and investment decisions, governance structures, and, most importantly, the sustenance of democracy, which is still in question. For example, they increase the price of governance. The unemployed must find a way to support themselves, and they do this by committing crimes and offering their services as thugs and assassins to the political class. Unemployment and poverty undoubtedly contribute to the political violence, ethnic and religious disputes, and terrorism that are so prevalent in Nigeria today. Crime and insecurity in the nation would significantly decrease if most of our youngsters were employed. The country's youth are underemployed in significant numbers, and those employed are paid very poorly and have numerous dependents. Their take-home wage cannot get them home after taxes.

Law enforcement personnel must be sufficiently numerous, well-equipped, or paid to patrol every part of the nation. In addition, the educational system's curriculum needs to be fixed, and entrepreneurial development was only considered for inclusion in the academic curriculum relatively recently. While the government-designed programs to end poverty are cornered by politicians and those in charge of the programs in the various regions for political patronage, financial institutions cannot lend money to young, ethical school graduates starting their businesses. Instead, they prefer to lend money to politicians who cannot repay these loans when they lose elections.

High unemployment rates can strain the democratic sustainability in Nigeria by fueling social unrest, economic instability, and dissatisfaction among the population. Unemployment often contributes to poverty, which can undermine the effectiveness of democratic institutions and increase the likelihood of political instability. In addition, frustrated citizens may lose faith in the democratic process if they perceive it as unable to address their economic concerns. Addressing unemployment is crucial for maintaining a stable and sustainable democracy in Nigeria. Also, Poverty in Nigeria can negatively impact democratic sustainability in various ways. When a significant portion of the population is impoverished, it can lead to social unrest, disenchantment with the political system, and a decline in trust in democratic institutions. Poverty often limits access to education and healthcare, hindering the overall development of citizens and potentially creating a cycle of disenfranchisement.

Moreover, economic inequalities associated with poverty may lead to corruption and eroding democratic values. Impoverished individuals may become susceptible to manipulation, making them vulnerable to populist or undemocratic movements. Therefore, addressing poverty is essential for fostering a stable and enduring democratic system in Nigeria.

The Boko Haram insurgency in northeastern Nigeria is recognized as one of the deadliest terrorist organizations globally. It has wreaked havoc in the region, causing immense suffering to civilians and posing a significant threat to Nigeria's stability and security. Boko Haram's emergence and growth can be attributed, in part, to socio-economic grievances deeply rooted in high levels of unemployment and poverty. The lack of economic opportunities and marginalization of specific communities have fueled resentment and disillusionment, providing fertile ground for recruitment into extremist groups like Boko Haram (Olujobi, 2019). Moreover, youth unemployment and underemployment exacerbate feelings of alienation and hopelessness among young people, making them susceptible to radicalization and recruitment into criminal and extremist organizations (Alao, 2020). This cycle of economic deprivation and radicalization poses significant challenges to national security, undermining efforts to maintain peace and stability in Nigeria.

## CONCLUSION

The shows above that poverty and unemployment are common social issues in Nigeria, threaten national security, and have significant ramifications for its democratic system. Unemployment causes poverty, leading to insecurity, which then threatens democracy. This is due to the possibility that poor and unemployed individuals, particularly young people, could be used to undermine national stability and incite violent disruption at any time. In addition, they are used as a tool of manipulation to sabotage the election process and impede speech and press freedom. It can be concluded that one of the greatest threats to stability and national security in Nigeria is the large army of poor and unemployed people.

## Recommendations

It is imperative from the forging that there is an urgent need to address the unemployment problem in Nigeria. It has created poverty and insecurity in the country, which hurts democratic sustenance if not addressed. In light of the above, the paper recommends the following:

1. Government at all levels should put in place majors that will make agriculture viable, especially in rural areas, to address the problem of unemployment and poverty. A larger population of Nigerians lives in rural areas and primarily engage in subsistence agriculture. Improving agricultural practices in rural areas to mechanize farming will address the country's unemployment issue.
2. There should be a paradigm shift in the bias of our educational system, with a view to making Nigerian youths imbibe the philosophy of self-employment and entrepreneurship through the inclusion of vocational and entrepreneurial training into our school curricula. Students can use their certificates on graduation to obtain loans for businesses from entrepreneurial loan schemes.
3. The government should enforce strict corruption control measures since it is well known that corrupt government officials usually mismanage much of the country's budget even when good programs are put in place to reduce unemployment and manage poverty in the country. It is unfortunate that those who are in a position to control corruption are also accused of involvement in serious corruption cases.
4. Political appointments and posts should be made less lucrative by slashing their jumbo salaries. The money saved through such slashing would go a long way in paying the salaries of many Nigerians employed in the service. The jumbo salaries attached to the political positions encourage electoral violence and corruption in the country's political process. It would reduce politically motivated assassinations, electoral violence, and malpractices. The political leaders should be transparent in their governance and accountable

to the people. If the government is accountable and transparent, most of the violence in the country today would disappear. Most of the policies of the government that do not favor people with low incomes should be reviewed.

5. Proper remuneration for those who are employed is needed. Poor salaries, which do not usually take workers home, create underemployment, and a lack of a vibrant working class that could redistribute government benefits to reduce poverty and general crime in the country.

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