

Addressing the Separatist Movement in Eastern Nigeria: Intelligence-Driven Approaches to Mitigating Civil Unrest and Promoting National Unity

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ABSTRACT

The separatist movement in Eastern Nigeria advocating for the creation of the state of Biafra, remains one of the serious challenges to national stability, unity, and security within the region and Nigeria. The movements have sparked off civil unrest, violent clashes, and socio-political tensions, thus intensifying the set of accrued and unattended grievances in the region and aspersions on the sovereignty of Nigeria. The research explores intelligence-driven strategies as a veritable way of stemming the increasing civil unrest and fostering national unity. This study makes use of a doctrinal research approach in looking at intelligence gathering, analysis, and operational tactics as it pertains to the combatted separatist activity in seeking methods through which these tools might better control a conflict and prevent violence while setting up a dialogue process between the government and the separatist factions. The research also examines how local perspectives can be factored into socio-economic factors within the intelligence framework for lasting peace. It draws on case studies of successful intelligence-based interventions both within and outside Africa, drawing important lessons for Nigeria's current efforts to confront secessionist challenges. This research proposes a strategic and non-military approach where security imperatives will be balanced with inclusive national policies for consolidating unity in Nigeria and promoting long-term peace in Eastern Nigeria.

Keywords: Separatist movement, Biafra, Sovereignty, Eastern Nigeria

INTRODUCTION

The secessionist movement of Eastern Nigeria is represented by the Indigenous People of Biafra, a movement which, within this recent period, has assumed wide prominence as a result of increasing tensions and incidents of violent confrontations with state authorities; these injustice is caused by historical injustices, socioeconomic marginalization, and cultural identity. There is a need for the adoption of intelligence-driven measures that consider the root issues of the movement and, at the same time, ensure national cohesion, considering that civil unrest may compromise regional stability. The Movement has its historical causes in the grievances of the Nigeria Civil War and present socio-economic marginalization of the Igbo people [1]. Separatist views again have begun to surface, coupled with protests and killings, calling for self-autonomy, hence portraying the region in utter chaos [2]. Heavy-handed security responses from the government of Nigeria have further exacerbated this, with most responses aimed at maintaining order and instilling a sense of alienation among the native people, leading to rising tensions [3]. It is against this backdrop that there is a dire need to rethink the approach toward adopting an intelligence-driven one that will critically determine the root causes of such unrest and act as an interlocutor for the different stakeholders involved in the fray. The intelligence-driven approaches widen situational awareness and establish a framework for understanding the dynamics of civil unrest, hence allowing for proactive and preventive measures [4]. All efforts toward national unity and abatement of civil unrest have to be manifestations of involvement of local voices in the discourse such that government strategies would truly reflect real concerns of the affected communities [5]. Emphasis on dialogue, socio-economic development, and effective communication on the part of the state would be

an affirmative policy to bridge the gap between the state and the separatist factions in contributing toward a more united and stable Nigeria. There is no research without a problem that this paper tends to address. Increasing trends of separatist sentiments across Eastern Nigeria have degenerated into increased violence and insecurity, instilling fear among the populace. This unrest not only undermines the socio-economic development of the region but poses a great threat to national security and unity. The government of Nigeria, on the other hand, has an obligation to respond effectively to the said grievances without further escalation of violence. There is therefore a dire need for strategic and intelligence-driven approaches that may reveal to it the roots of this separatist movement and thus pave the way for dialogue and reconciliation. The objectives of the study will be to analyze the factors that propagate the separatist movement in Eastern Nigeria, to explore intelligence-driven methods for assessing and addressing civil unrest, to evaluate the effectiveness of existing governmental strategies in managing the conflict, and to make actionable recommendations that could foster national unity and stability in the region. [6] The scope of the study is limited to the separatist movement in Eastern Nigeria and, more specifically, the activities of IPOB and implications for civil unrest. These will be analyzed in the context of historical, current developments, involvement by different stakeholders—from the government of Nigeria to security agencies down to local communities. It also looks at various intelligence-driven approaches to conflict resolution applied globally and tests their suitability for the Nigerian context.

Conceptual and Theoretical Framework

This research addresses how intelligence-driven strategies can be applied to separatist movements and specifically aimed at the Eastern region of Nigeria. This section presents the conceptual and theoretical framework that informs this research, and thus forms a basis through which civil unrest, separatism, and intelligence perform in promoting national unity are analyzed. A separatist movement is generally a political effort on the part of a group to take leave from a nation-state and become either its own independent entity or part of another nation-state. The separatist movements in Eastern Nigeria were commanded by the Indigenous People of Biafra-IPOB, which ever since existed and argued for the autonomy of the Igbo people. It is nourished by a mix of historical injustices, economic marginalization, and preservation of cultural identity. Being aware of the motive forces behind separatism is relevant for policy formulation and intervention efforts to slight the movement [7]. Civil unrest is group action by segments in society, this normally takes the form of protests, strikes, or worse of all, violence as a means to show discontent to the government or the socio-political environment. What started as civil unrest for Eastern Nigeria-linked separatist demands quickly escalated into an armed conflict, violent clashes with security forces, and disruption of socio-political stability within the region. It is, therefore, befitting to conceptualize civil unrest within the greater perspective of socio-political dynamics, state responses, and the role of intelligence agencies in predicting and managing such crises. Approaches that are intelligence-driven are those in which the gathering, analysis, and interpretation of information need to be utilized to forecast, prevent, or respond to threats against security [8]. In this study, intelligence-driven strategies are seen as developing an early warning, threat assessment, and creating tactical interventions that seek to prevent the escalation of separatist-driven civil unrest. Intelligence gathering relies on human intelligence, signals intelligence, and open-source intelligence in making a determination of key actors, movement trends, and vulnerabilities to be exploited for the resolution of the conflict. In this respect, national unity means the integration of diversified ethnic and regional groupings into a nation through political, social, and cultural means. National unity in Nigeria, being a multi-ethnic and multi-religious state, includes addressing regional grievances, equitable distribution of resources, and encouraging attitudes of collective identity. In respect to the separatist issue in Eastern Nigeria, national unity will have to be achieved through overcoming historical divisions and giving better representation in the political system [9]. This research is predicated on the theoretical framework that addresses some of the important theories that could explain this phenomenon of separatism, civil unrest, and the role of intelligence in conflict resolution. Under relative deprivation theory, in 1970, a sociologist named Ted Robert Gurr advanced the Relative Deprivation Theory [10], which postulated that civil unrest and political violence can often be linked to a perceived gap between what people expect and their real social, political, and economic conditions. The case of Eastern Nigeria further points to the fact that Igbo, feeling relatively deprived—especially after the end of the Nigerian Civil War—saw reasons why the separatist movement should grow. Indeed, relative deprivation theory explains well why ethnic groups might turn to separatist demands when they consider that they are excluded from the national political process and denied access to economic opportunities. Ethno-nationalism theory [11] is a form of nationalism in which the nation is defined in terms of ethnicity. According to scholars such as Walker Connor, ethno-nationalism arises in the event of an ethnic group that then seeks to attain sovereignty over what it perceives as a threat to its cultural identity. The IPOB movement is built on very strong Igbo identity and self-determination. Ethno-nationalism theory helps in the analysis of how cultural identity and historic grievances fuel separatist ideologies and movements. Intelligence-led policing is a strategic approach to law enforcement where data and intelligence drive decisions on investments, deployments, and actions. As formulated by Jerry Ratcliffe, ILP emphasizes proactive use of intelligence with the aim of stopping and preventing crime, rather than merely reacting after crimes have happened. In the contexts of response to a separatist

movement, ILP provides a framework within which intelligence agencies in Nigeria can use surveillance, informants, and analytics data to prevent violence, dismantle separatist networks, and predict civil unrest [12]. According to conflict transformation theory [13], represented among others by a scholar named John Paul Lederach, a holistic approach should be used to achieve conflict resolution; therefore, it needs not only to resolve the immediate violence but also to transform the underpinning structures, relationships, and cultural narratives feeding the conflict. In the Nigerian context, conflict transformation theory can provide insights on how intelligence-driven approaches can be combined with broader political and social reforms to deal with the root causes of separatism, including economic inequities and political exclusion. The goal is not only to suppress civil unrest but to transform the conditions giving rise to separatist demands.

Henri Tajfel and John Turner proposed the theory of social identity [14], which showed exactly how the identification of individuals with one or another social group was able to be transformed into in-group favoritism or out-group hostility. In the separatist movement of Nigeria, the mantra is basically "us" versus "them," where "us" is the Igbo people representing them against the Nigerian State or other ethnic groups. Understanding the role that group dynamics and identity play in perpetuating conflict and how intelligence-driven interventions may address these perceptions by setting up inclusive narratives of national unity is why social identity theory is important.

Literature Review

The current state of separatist agitation in Eastern Nigeria, largely led by the IPOB, has assumed a critical turn in the polity in ways that fan civil rebellion and threaten national cohesion. Any movement to contain this upsurge would require an integrated approach of security interventions, political reforms, and intelligence-driven strategy. The review of literature critically examines available scholarly literature on separatist movements, intelligence strategies, and conflict resolution to identify the gaps in the present research and to establish the way in which the present study would contribute to bridging them. A few scholars have been able to engage in the history behind separatist movements in Nigeria. Events from the Biafran War between 1967 and 1970 and its subsequent effects that were long-lasting. Indeed, other authors, such as Lu [15] and Ezeakukwu [16], give longer accounts of how the civil war and subsequent political marginalization of the Igbo have translated into a resurgence of secessionist sentiments. They underline how historic grievances of economic neglect, exclusion from political power, and cultural identity have risen in the IPOB. Other studies also indicate that separatism in Nigeria is not an independent matter but part of broader regional and ethnic conflicts engendered through the complex ethnic, religious, and economic divides in the country. According to Brigevech and Oritsejafor [17], and Boone [18], the persistence of structural inequalities—especially unequal distribution of state resources—has kept ethnic nationalism alive in Nigeria, often manifesting in separatism. These studies create a background from within which the present unrest in Eastern Nigeria would operate, but they have tended to dwell on the historical causes rather than explore contemporary strategies toward conflict resolution. Although highly critical, these historical and socio-political analyses have only recently addressed the issue of current solutions. The little attention has, so far been given to the ways in which the modern intelligence-driven approaches might be applied to mitigate the conflict and to advance the national unity. Nowadays, intelligence-driven approaches are increasingly prevailing in both policing and security management across various parts of the world. History and development, about which scholars such as Laufs and Borrión [19] and Ezzeddine et al [20] debate, especially in the realm of intelligence-led policing. Other scholars, such as Gana [21] and Agbibo [22], discuss applying intelligence-driven strategies in addressing the security threats which the Boko Haram and other insurgent groups present to Nigeria's North. These authors support the view through surveillance, informants, and analytics that intelligence gathering helps law enforcement agencies to anticipate such threats and dismantle insurgent networks before the conflicts escalate. These studies insinuate that intelligence-driven operations have degraded, to a great extent, the operational capabilities of terrorist organizations. They also note a number of challenges in doing so to include limited resources, corruption, and lack of cooperation among security agencies. Despite these studies, very little scholarship has focused on applying the principles of an intelligence-driven approach against the separatist movement in Eastern Nigeria. Most of the available literature on Nigerian security concerns issues of either counter-terrorism or criminal insurgencies, whether in the form of IPOB. There is considerable literature on how effective intelligence-driven policing against terrorism is, yet there is a dearth of research on how such a model could be applied to mitigate separatist movements in Eastern Nigeria. There is also a lack of concentration on how intelligence could nurture not only security but also political discourse and unity. The literature on civil unrest and ethno-nationalism is replete with theories on how identity-based movements arise. Yehuda [23] and Shahabuddin [24] investigate the issue of ethno-nationalism, where the shared ethnic identity of a group ignites the demand for political self-government. This has indeed been the core in the IPOB case, drawing on Igbo identity and the historical narrative of Biafra. Such studies bring to light how ethno-nationalism challenges the authority of the state and why such movements based upon cultural identity cannot be easily repressed through military force. This is also supported by conflict resolution literature; for example, Abu-Nimer [25] and Barnes [26] stress that conflict resolution must concern itself with the basic causes of a conflict, whether these be social, economic, or political. These works advocate "conflict transformation" as distinct from

efforts aimed at merely suppressing dissent by the forcible silencing of opposition. Much of the scholarship produced in these directions is highly theoretical, with broad frameworks of conflict resolution that are bereft of actionable, intelligence-driven models applicable to separatist movements in fragile states like Nigeria. While many of these models in conflict resolution focus on negotiations, they often do not account for the role of intelligence in facilitating dialogue or averting violence. Despite an enormous theoretical literature on conflict resolution and ethno-nationalism, there is a lack of investigations connecting intelligence strategies with conflict transformation efforts, particularly in situations where identity and historical grievances are drivers of separatist movements, as in Eastern Nigeria. Indeed, most of the literature on national unity and political integration of Nigeria has navigated around the core of how state policies can address regional disparities and foster inclusive governance. Other scholars, such as Erk [27] and Diamond [28], still lament the fact that federalism, resource control, and decentralization are necessary ingredients for national unity. These works posit that the feeling of belonging to marginalized groups is foundational for sustaining a stable and united Nigeria. However, most of these works are more inclined toward political reforms and changes in institutions, without really considering how intelligence-driven approaches would support such an objective of national unity. While necessary, political solutions themselves do not immediately act as deterrents against separatist movements that present a security challenge. They also lack the mechanisms for intelligence agencies to become involved in encouraging dialogue or diffusing tensions. Most of the current literature on national unity is dominated by purely political and structural reforms that do not actually integrate intelligence-driven approaches that can forestall the separatist movement at both the security and political levels. The research will, therefore, contribute to the literature by addressing the gaps identified through a detailed analysis of how intelligence-driven approaches can be adapted to deal with separatist movements like IPOB; indeed, this would incorporate elements of counter-insurgency, surveillance, and facilitation of dialogues. Examining how intelligence could serve the political processes in addressing the underpinning issues of separatism, especially through the identification of relevant actors, monitoring of negotiations, and prevention of violence during political dialogues, will be the scope of the study. In linking an intelligence-driven approach to strategies of national unity, this research will provide an integrated framework for solving the immediate security challenges of the separatist movement while engendering long-term political cohesion. This research contributes uniquely because no other research specifically combines intelligence strategies with political and social reforms in an attempt to suppress unrest and foster national cohesion.

Historical Context of Separatist Movements in Nigeria

This section begins with the history of separatist movements in Nigeria to date, including the Nigerian Civil War of 1967-1970 and socio-political factors that have perpetuated the calls for secession among Igbo people. Separatist movements in Nigeria find their roots back in the colonial era, which set the stage for ethnic splits and regional differences. The British colonial administration introduced indirect rule, which further polarized ethnic identity by favoring some over others, thus building up a sense of competition among Nigeria's various populations. [28] With the division came a form of political organization whereby different ethnic groups strove to safeguard their interests, thus giving birth to regionalism as a political force. The Biafran War, popularly known as the Nigerian Civil War, was an auspicious moment in the history of separatist feelings in Nigeria. It was essentially a war born of ethnic tension, economic inequality, and political marginalization that saw the Eastern Region of Nigeria, mainly populated by the Igbo ethnic group, declare itself an independent entity called the Republic of Biafra [29]. This war had been one of unimaginable horrors: the loss of life and the mass suffering the war occasioned have created deep lacerations in the collective memory of the Igbo nation and nurtured a latent bitterness that has armed recent separatist movements. The "no victor, no vanquished" policy of the Nigerian government after the civil war did little to soothe the political and economic marginalization being felt by many Igbo. This feeling of alienation was further propelled by the perceived injustices, underrepresentation in strategic positions in politics, and poor representation in the sharing of federal resources. Hence, movements demanding independence from Biafra started to relapse, culminating in the emergence of the Indigenous People of Biafra in the early 2010s. This time, the resurgent IPOB took to peaceful protests and demands for self-determination—an appeal quite close to the hearts of those alienated generations who little attachment felt to Nigeria's political fraternity. The present wave of separatism in Eastern Nigeria is a manifestation of pretty complex interplay between historical grievances, socio-economic inequities, and cultural recognition. The militarized response of the government to the protests and calls for self-autonomy has cemented these divisions into increased violence and civil unrest. [30] In addition, the historical context provides a firm basis in which to address the root causes of separatist sentiments with the view to arriving at sustainable solutions that foster national unity.

Socioeconomic Factors Contributing to Unrest

The following review attempts to look into the unemployment situation, lack of infrastructure, and perceived political marginalization that Eastern Nigeria grapple with. These facts are important to address the grievances girding the separatist agenda. The socio-economic landscape of Eastern Nigeria is characterized by huge disparities in fuels of discontent and unrest, especially among the Igbo population. High unemployment rates, especially among

youth, contribute to a feeling of hopelessness and frustration. Besides, this has been compounded by a lack of job opportunities, which has driven a number of youths into separatist groups like the Indigenous People of Biafra, IPOB. Their grouse, IPOB has been trying to express, was an attempt to agitate for change. This disconnection of aspirations of youth and their economic realities is crucial in determining the current unrest. Apart from unemployment, infrastructural deficits have been a barrier to economic growth in the region. The deplorable state of road networks, inadequate electricity supply, and inadequate health facilities have translated to poor business performance and inaccessibility to vital services by the people. The infrastructural challenges have created the feeling among the masses of this Eastern region that the federal government has abandoned them, thereby increasing resentment and reinforcing this demand for self-determination. In such a situation, when development projects were lacking, the desire for autonomy got stronger, as many felt that self-governance could mean better resource allocation and improvement in livelihood. Besides, the COVID-19 pandemic has further worsened the socio-economic problems that hitherto existed in Eastern Nigeria, mainly characterized by the negative impacts brought about by widescale lockdowns, translating into shut-downs of many small businesses, hence placing more stress on the local economy and increasing poverty levels. This recession has created an enabling environment wherein separatist discourses thrive in dual privileges of economic instability and perceived political marginalization. [31]. The frustration of economic deprivation was thus linked with ethnic and national identity, making the road to peace tortuous. Another pertinent factor is political exclusion. A greater number of Eastern Nigerian citizens feel that they are not well represented in national politics, hence the reason for the lack of confidence in government institutions. This perceived marginalization extends into the spheres of resource control and political appointments, where often the Igbo people feel are often shortchanged in comparison to other ethnic groups. The Igbo feel that their voices are not heard, hence several have adulated for self-government as a means of ensuring voice and interest are captured and responded to. These are closely intertwined with socio-economic factors that drive unrest in Eastern Nigeria. For such problems, the approach must be multi-dimensional: reducing unemployment, making up infrastructure deficits, and engendering political dialogue inclusive of one and all. By recognizing and addressing these socio-economic grievances of the people, the Government of Nigeria can create pathways toward peace and unity and reduce the appeal for separatist movements.

Intelligence-Led Policing and Conflict Resolution

The following section explores the roles of intelligence-led policing in civil unrest prevention. It lists the case studies in other conflict-affected regions that may be relevant in the development of successful strategies for adaptation in the context of Nigeria. Intelligence-led policing is an approach whereby collection and analysis of information on any individual or organization for disruption/criminal gain are used to inform decisions related to law enforcement and public safety. In this regard, ILP is a proactive framework for conflict resolution that, well in advance, can help indicate the flashpoints of violence that are about to break out and take remedial action to contain them, particularly in areas of civil strife like Eastern Nigeria. Through data-driven strategies, law enforcement agencies can appreciate the dynamic nature of conflict and tailor their responses to the specific needs of the community. [32] This would not only enhance operational efficiency but also foster trust between the security agencies and the populace. Community participation becomes especially crucial in conflict-prone areas and forms one of the core tenets of ILP. Indeed, through community participation, police can get real insight into the sociopolitical environment and what breeds unrest among people. Also gives the police activities more legitimacy and also allows members of the public to report problems without fear of retaliation. [33]. In cases where communities perceive that their concerns are heard and valued, the possibility of violent confrontations becomes minimal since an atmosphere for talking and negotiation is set. Also, ILP makes it much easier to identify the root causes of such conflicts: economic disparity, political exclusion, and historical injustices. Deep data analysis enables the law enforcers to identify patterns and trends that project underlying issues leading to civil unrest. [34] Such an understanding provides the ability to intervene in such targeted areas so as to address symptoms of conflict but also issues fundamentally perpetuating the conflict. Addressing the causes can help ILP deter cycles of violence and create long-term stability. However, more importantly, ILP creates an avenue through which inter-agency coordination is facilitated. Conflicts are most often multistakeholder; hence, it demands the involvement of local governments, community-based organizations, and security agencies. Such stakeholders will tend more to share information and resources through the intelligence-driven approach in order to have a harmonized response when there is unrest. It is important in Eastern Nigeria, whereby the various actors in separatist movements and governmental forces should be brought together for an amicable solution. In ILP, training and capacity building are needed, especially for personnel involved in law enforcement. The officers must be capable of analyzing data and communicating effectively with the community. This will be further developed by investment in training programs for conflict resolution, community policing, and intelligence analysis to enhance the general efficiency of ILP in unrest mitigation. The government of Nigeria can, therefore, introduce an intelligence-led practice culture in police forces through better conflict management and work for national unity.

The Role of Dialogue and Community Engagement

This title focuses on the importance of dialogue and community involvement for the resolution of conflicts. This literature featured a number of frameworks that try to incorporate principles of inclusiveness and respond to the needs and concerns of the most marginalized groups in society as a means of transitioning toward sustainable peace. It is where dialogue and community engagement become important facilitators for understanding, cooperation, and social cohesion in diverse communities. The essence of dialogue is free and frank communication among the parties so that they might share their views and experiences. This process stimulates interpersonal relations and may work as a connecting link between cultural and ideological gaps. Where communities have been in good dialogue, the communities have managed to create space where individuals felt heard and valued, hence a sense of belonging or collective identity [35]. In addition to that, community involvement is a source of catalyzing joint action. In this respect, organizations and leaders involve themselves in decision-making together with community members for access to the availability of local knowledge and insight that leads to relatively better solutions which concur with the needs and hopes of the community. An involved community is generally stronger and more adaptable since its members are active in the process of solving their problems and implementing change. This participation thus empowers the people, inculcates into them a sense of belonging and responsibility for the common good [36]. Moreover, dialogue and community engagement may lie at the heart of addressing social injustices and inequities [37]. Discussion of systemic issues in open forums may highlight implicit biases, which may then compel citizens to engage in critical reflection. Furthermore, a culture of dialogue at the community level has the potential to enable people to challenge stereotypes and develop empathy—so vital for overcoming their divisions. In addition, inclusive engagement serves to amplify marginalized voices in a manner that can help nurture equity and social justice within community development projects [37]. The interaction of dialogue and community engagement blesses the social fabric. Where people converse respectfully and work together on projects, they develop trust and thereby relationships. Further, this leads to social cohesion and even the development of a culture of peace and mutual respect [38]. Essentially, dialogue and community engagement are central in the development of vibrant, inclusive communities able to navigate the challenges of modern life.

CONCLUSION

It is, indeed, a complex question in that it depends upon a number of interacting elements of historical grievances, socio-economic challenges, and political dynamics that get combined into an issue like this. Thus, an effective resolution requires understanding multifaceted causes and hinges upon the implementation of intelligence-driven strategies, which are premised in nature on dialogue and engagement with communities [39]. With regard to addressing the separatist movement in Eastern Nigeria, multi-dimensional and intelligence-driven efforts must be taken to later blunt the incidence of civil unrest and keep national unity intact. First, there has to be enhanced intelligence gathering and analysis [40]. Understanding the motives, grievances, and social dynamics will make it fruitful to mount targeted strategies that focus on the root causes rather than reactive measures [41]. Secondly, community engagement through dialogue is necessary. Such open lines of communication between government officials and local leaders can help bridge gaps and build trust, dispel rumors, and cement trust. This should also be an engagement in which inclusive discussions are made, whereby the concerns of marginal groups are taken up and a sense of belonging and national identity nurtured [42]. Thirdly, there is the need for such socio-economic programs to bridge these developmental gaps. Investment in education, infrastructure, and employment opportunities would go a long way in lessening tensions playing into the hands of separatists [43]. Showing concern for the improvement in the lives of the people in Eastern Nigeria will build trust and perhaps usher in a new era of peaceful coexistence. Finally, a strong national narrative of diversity within unity needs to be built. Such divisive rhetoric, however, will be duly complemented by the taking up of national campaigns that display common values and historical experiences shared between them. This is to be achieved by marrying pure intelligence-driven strategies with community outreach and socio-economic development toward a more peaceful and united future for Nigeria [44].

FINDINGS

1. Historical grievances coupled with socio-economic disparities act as major boosters of the separatist movements.
2. Government agencies respond to the present situation without a coherent strategy that integrates intelligence-led approaches.
3. No meaningful conflict resolution can be achieved without engagement at the local community level, where their issues should be given a proper hearing.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Develop and institute an Intelligence-driven Socio-Political Assessment Framework for the Eastern Nigeria theatre.
2. Establish a consultative framework between government functionaries, heads of security agencies, and separatist group leaders to build constructive dialogue on perceived grievances.

3. Invest in socio-economic development projects in Eastern Nigeria to reduce sentiments of marginalization and promote inclusiveness.
4. Design community engagement programs which would allow the voice of the locals to be represented, while at the same time compelling a nation towards unity in action.

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