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## STATE AND THE ECONOMY: A FOCUS ON OIL THEFT AND THE STATE RESPONSE

BY

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### Abstract

Overtime, the state seeks to protect itself, citizens, political structure, economic structure etc. from the thriving of some phenomenon which could be injurious to the prosperity of the state. Organized crimes seek to exist to promote and provide for the demand of illegal goods and services that have been prohibited by the state. Many insecurity phenomena rely on the employment of terror, fears, force etc. but organized crime relies majorly on maneuvering, and operating in the dark, systematic operations well regulated in secrecy and arranged to deliver to the society what the state kicks against. The oil theft organized crime has caused Nigeria Billions of dollars in loss due to the inability to meet its OPEC quota. The economy and finance of the country has been feeling the heat since 2014. Therefore, the research seeks to study the effect of the organized crimes of oil theft and the attendant effect it has on the national economy of Nigeria. The research employs the qualitative research methods and Theory of State Fragility. Findings shows that Organized crime presence in the polity of the country endangers the country's political integrity, social order and economic prosperity. Oil theft in Nigeria has milked the national economy of its profit. The various individual groups' operation is at the detriment of the collective good of the society. The environmental degradation, the pollution, financial crimes and money laundering etc. the research recommends the employment of modern technology to protect its oil pipelines channels is imperative and apt.

**Keywords:** Oil theft, organized crimes, organization, development.

### Introduction

Since the inception of the modern state in the 16th, and the social contract of the leviathan. The state has tried to protect, promote and defend the state from the internal conflict of man to man relations and from external aggression. Overtime, the role of the state has continued to metamorphose to encompass sociality, economy intra and inter relation etc. The 19<sup>th</sup> century liberal put freedom at the heart of the state and the individuals at the heart of society. For them the point of the state was not to promote equality in fraternity or pursue the cause of a certain sect but ensure equal representation. It was to ensure the maximization of God's given talents. (Micklethwait, 2010). In the present day world order, security has been the heart of the matter of most states. Security envisages social prosperity, economic development, international relations and overarching state development. In and around the world security seems to be a backdrop impeding the development and prosperity of the state. The continuing cycle of violence, retaliation, war, terrorism and insurgency are the major security issues in the world security order. However, a problem have continued to cultivate itself, hiding and prospering in the dark. Organized crime is a local, state, national or international group of highly structured enterprises run by well regulated and systematic process of enriching themselves through illegal activity. Organized crime syndicates enrich themselves illegally on the plight of the society etc ( United Nations Office on Drug and Crime, 2022).

Overtime, the state seeks to protect itself, citizens, political structure, economic structure etc. from the thriving of some phenomenon which could be injurious to the prosperity of the state. Organized crimes seek to exist to promote and provide for the demand of illegal goods and services that have been prohibited by a state. Many insecurity phenomena rely on the employment of terror, fears, force etc. but organized crime relies majorly on maneuvering, and operating in the dark, systematic operations well regulated in secrecy and arranged to deliver to the society what the state kicks against. Economic development is the core vision of all governments. However, not all businesses, goods and services will ensue development. Some businesses, actions, goods and services are injurious to the citizens, and at a long run to the survival of the state. The United States organized crime control act of 1970 defines organized crime as the unlawful activities of a highly organized, disciplined association. Organized crimes take place in the

political environment through racketeering, socially through drug peddling, financially through money laundering and economically through resource theft (UNODC, 2022). Organized crimes group generally could be piracy of product either medical products, copyrights, materials tangible and intangible, drug peddling, natural resources theft such as oil bunkering, illegal refinery, money laundering, illegal production and distribution of intellectual property of private individuals or government bodies, sales of arms and ammunition, human and animal trafficking for sex, rituals, forced labor etc. Presently organized crimes syndicates operate on international forums and have keyed into technology, globalization and also imperialism. Moreover, in government agencies, political leadership positions and economy organized crimes have penetrated and found a foot stool has godfathers, financiers, leaders etc. even religious bodies have not been spared from the organized crimes. Isezuo (2015) opined that organized crimes in historical databases thrived in the rural areas but in present day urban society also feels the heat. These groups invest in infrastructures to ensure the thriving of their business and operate in the political, economic and social order.

The safety and well-being of the citizens rests on the protection of the states' rights and powers over policy, equal sharing and benefiting of resources, the economy working for all etc. however with the presence of organized crime syndicates, national benefits become individuals' benefits, thriving on corruption and imbalance in development. In Nigeria the problem of organized crimes has entrapped national development. Organized crime has thrived in the theft of natural resources, money laundering and group profiteering over national development. Majorly Nigeria is facing a turmoil in its economy due to the downturn in its revenue accruing from its major source of national revenue, crude oil. The National economy of Nigeria is mono-cultural and built on the sales of crude oils for financing its overall national development. The oil theft and oil bunkering of pipelines cum the inability to reach its quota has reduced the national earnings while certain groups of individuals are self-enriching themselves from the theft of the national resources. (Mele kyari, 2022) According to NEITI 2023, Nigeria lost a whopping \$1 billion to oil theft in the first quarter of the year. More since, 2009 to 2020 a total loss of \$46 billion (#16.25 trillion) has been incurred due to oil theft (Vanguard news). Looking at the amount lost to oil theft, the funds could have been better used for projects for national good. Moreover, the environmental degradation, unethical procedures, and risk of life due to confrontations from security personnel also serves as a problem of the oil theft. Since 1960, Nigeria has struggled to have a constructive political structure that ensues National development, freedom and imperialism. The presence of a wide range of actors in the oil theft trade internally and internationally, the protection gotten by political elite in the military and governance provides the forum for the continuity of the trade. In addition, the increasing profiteering of crude oil products sales and the lack of government oversight in the supervision of the vast oil pipeline fields serve as incentives for Nigerian officials and members of the local population, organized crimes, and international buyers to partake in the sale of stolen petroleum products. The extensive poverty and increase in the dimensionality of the poverty plays a significant cause in the oil theft syndicates (Osibanjo, 2020). The research seeks to study the effect of the organized crimes of oil theft and the attendant effect it has on the national economy of Nigeria.

### **Theory of State Fragility**

The theory gained prominence from the 1990s onwards and gained further traction after the 9/11 terrorist attacks. The theory was coined by various scholars in the International Development Association (IDA). A fragile state is a low income country characterized by a weak state capacity or weak state legitimacy leaving citizens vulnerable to a range of shocks. A fragile state is significantly susceptible to crisis in one or more of its sub systems. It is a state that is particularly vulnerable to internal and external shocks, and domestic and international conflicts. The fragile nature of the state, and the inability of the government to key into technological and advanced instruments in protecting its resources channel ensues fragility. The oil channels can be tampered upon without the knowledge of the government. More, corruption, equal sharing of benefits, the people poverty and environmental degradation has caused the local people to see the oil pipeline bunkering as a means of getting benefits from the sales of oil gotten from their lands. Whenever there's room for insecurity, insecurity thrives. The government's inability to protect its internal region encompasses one of the problems of oil theft. The porous borders, unmotivated security forces, political influences etc.

### **Concept of Good Governance**

Governance is the heart of development in society. Governance is the act of administering politically, economically and politically. The political control of a society is the governance of the state. Etymologically speaking, the term “governance”, is being used as a verb *kybernin* (infinitive) or *kybernao* (first person) which literally means ‘steering’, ‘guiding’, or ‘maneuvering a ship or a vehicle’. Governance is referred to as the political administration of policies for effective and meaningful development. Governance to the World Bank (1993) is a system through which ‘power is exercised in the management of a country’s political, economic and social resources for development’. The emphasis here, according to the World Bank, is ‘the use of power to control political and economic resources of the nation’. Thus, governance is about securing political power in order to control economic power for the purpose of a nation’s development. Put differently, it is about using the nation’s wealth for the benefit of the nation only. Governance has to do with the totality of governmental actions and activities that are geared or directed toward making and realizing effective economic policies (International Monetary Fund, 2016). However in Nigeria and other third world society governance has been laden with some emphatic issues which therefore reduces its efficiency. Governance in cases have been able to lead to meaningful development and in some cases not being able to infer any meaningfulness. Good governance refers to the proper application of policies for societal development. Lambe (2023) opined that good governance envisages leadership, actions, rule of law, accountability and strategy for public policy.

### **Concept of Organized Crimes**

The application of modern administration into crime is what we refer to as organized crimes. It is referred to as the principled planning, structuring and administration of illegal activity in the society for self-profiteering. It is a category of transnational, national or local group of highly professional enterprises providing goods and services which are illegal but in high demand in the society for profits. Organized crimes takes different forms which could be in the supply or providing of goods such as weapons and ammunition, illicit drugs, pirated production of some goods, money laundry etc. while supply of services which includes terrorism, hired thuggery, fear, rebel etc. Organized crime is inimical to the state and the needs of the masses but only beneficial to the groups that belong to the crime in society. Organized crime groups often engage in illegal services, goods and victimization of businesses by using extortion and fraudulent activities like bankruptcy fraud. Hijacking cargo trucks and ships, robbing goods, insurance fraud among others. In the same manner, they also victimize individuals by bank robbery, burglary, credit card fraud, jewelry theft, computer hacking, economic espionage, embezzlement, and securities fraud. Majorly organized crime syndicate operates in the dark, by evading law enforcement agency and supplying societal need either at a cheaper price or supplying the needs of illicit demands of society. Operations here are done in groups and specialization of functions are well structured. Various units exist in the enterprise each carrying out functions in a hierarchical manner, focusing on activity assigned to them and meeting the dark hidden demands of the society. It should be noted that not all criminal gangs or association are organized crimes. Some crime syndicates operate without organization and structuring (Lambe, 2023). Oil theft is a type of organized crimes operation which constitutes the illegal operation of and appropriation of refined or unrefined crude oil from the various multinational oil companies that are positioned in the country through the process of oil bunkering. This includes the theft, diversion, and smuggling of petroleum products. There are various procedures involved in this and an estimates of how much oil is stolen per day in Nigeria vary, the British think tank Chatham House reports that over 100,000 barrels of oil were estimated to be stolen per day. According to OPEC, Nigeria is estimated to produce over one and a half million barrels of oil per day however in the final sales the quantity reduces due to oil theft. Oil theft is a conscious and tactical process of diverting oil from the usual official channel to an offsite channel for illicit refining or sales. For profiteering in the name of ethnic nationalism, environmental conservatist, etc. Some locals partake in the technical process of illicit sales of crude oil channeled from oil companies’ pipeline (Punch, 2019).

### **Methods of Oil Theft**

There are various methods used by the various players in the oil theft syndicates to facilitate there operation.

**Hot-tapping:** During the process of hot-tapping, an illegal secondary pipeline belonging to oil theft criminals is attached to a high-pressure primary pipeline belonging to a multinational corporation. After this breach is successful, oil is diverted from the primary pipeline into mobile oil bunkering facilities that are attached to the secondary pipeline. By gradually withdrawing small amounts of oil, the primary pipeline is able to function at an almost normal pressure

and can remain undetected by oil corporation officials. Hot-tapping is considered to be extremely dangerous and complex.

**Cold-tapping:** In the process of cold-tapping, a portion of a pipeline is blown up and a secondary pipeline is attached to the shut-down primary pipeline. After the primary pipeline is repaired, the existence of the secondary pipeline's access to the oil flow is unknown since the overall pipeline pressure will not fluctuate. Cold-tapping is considered to be less dangerous.

**Terminal and vehicle transportation theft:** Although oil theft is common during the initial stages of the oil production process, theft is rampant at the port terminals where crude and refined oil products await shipment to international locations and during the transportation of oil products from corporate facilities. In export terminal theft, administrative collusion and security force corruption facilitate the siphoning of oil shipment reserves into criminal fuel trucks. In turn, these fuel trucks are used to transport illegal oil products for sale in neighboring African countries where the price for oil is substantially higher than the subsidized rates in Nigeria. Since oil corporations do not have oil meters at the source of production and since they are only present at export facilities, there is a lack of oversight into managing the initial value of oil that was produced by the multinational oil corporations.

### Actors Involved in Oil Theft

The bunkering of oil through various mechanism in the Niger Delta region is a collaborative process in which various thinkers and political analyst have come to agree that no single individual can successfully pull such height without international and intra political and security support. The complex trade relations between the various actors in the oil bunkering is what makes them organized and hidden from public. The complex interrelationship takes place between the local citizens who participate actively, passively and supporting and also the security agencies both military, police and civil defense and the buyers/traders. More, the sales of stolen crude oil happens internally and internationally. So internal bodies buy these stolen crude, refine and then sell them at local markets or neighboring countries.(Punch, 2023)

**1. Security agencies:** The military administration saw the introduction of the military officials into oil offshore and onshore. Though the relevance of the military has been reduced to only military function but still the military still plays an active role in the Niger Delta region. Overtime, corruption, and bribery has deviated the security agencies into escorting and aiding the oil theft and trade. Money plays a major role in the military personnel and task force minds. Placement and transfer to the Niger Delta regions are seen as juicy positions for self-enrichment, and those willing to play the piper for the higher ups are placed in these regions. In addition to providing security for the illegal trade, the Nigerian navy is frequently active in seizing transportation vessels that are suspected of containing stolen petroleum products. However, in these operations, Nigerian security forces have often been accused of facilitating the disappearance of captured vessels and the appropriated sale of seized products to foreign markets.(Wikipedia 2022) Similarly to facilitating the oil theft trade, Nigerian military officials often pursue oil bunkering allegations against fellow servicemen as means of absorbing sectors of the oil trade and strengthening individual positions in the region. For example, in 2007, the former Chief of Naval Staff (CNS) Ganiyu Adekeye reported that a large group of retired military officials were suspected of facilitating the disappearance of captured vessels. Although there is credible evidence for a variety of participants in the illegal oil trade in Nigeria, the Nigerian government's lack of prosecution before Buhari's administration suggests that corruption is extensive and high-reaching.

**2. Militancy and armed groups:** Several gangs of locals exist in the Niger Delta areas. Disgruntled youth who feel the nation is surviving and they benefit nothing from the oil which is gotten to them, therefore take up arms and employ the use of terror and force to take "what rightfully belongs to the community". The militant groups to some thinkers and the former President of Nigeria Olusegun Obasanjo sees the Military as a tool used by political actors to ensue crises and conflicts in the region. These conflicts give room for an increased bunkering activity and loose security. Moreover, due to the impoverishment in the society and spread of political distrust and marginalization recruitment into gangs takes place with ease. These militant individuals are the closest to the community and know the in and out of the society so this makes theft and movement of the stolen oil to point of sales easy. These individuals even make roads and infrastructures for the ease of their business. These more, serve as armed escorts for the property of the political elite or function as the sabotage mechanism that is necessary for cold-tapping operations. A prime example of militant organizations and their role in political violence is the contemporary existence of the Niger Delta Avengers. Currently, the Buhari administration has pursued anti-corruption policies and has undertaken a variety of

indictments and probing of Nigeria's political elite for their involvement in the oil theft trade. However, the organized structure, money laundering attempts by this elite has been able to scale out and fight back also. Previous government use of maritime security to complement the national security agency by Goodluck Jonathan was at first was canceled by the Buhari administration and probing of the Ekpemupolo on forty counts of financial fraud but it led to the hiding of the maritime boss. However this led to the attendant effect of a series of attacks on oil pipelines and a resulting effect of the decrease in the oil output of the country from 2.2 million barrels per day to 1.4 million barrels per day. As a consequence of the high influx of oil pipeline sabotage in the Niger Delta, oil spills have "devastated mangroves, contaminated soil and groundwater, destroyed the fish habitat, and posed a serious threat to public health."(Punch, 2023)

### **3. Political and international influences**

Organized crimes are usually structured in a way that leaders of the crimes are not known or easily related with the crime actions. Oil theft involves the use of technical instruments and procedures that ordinary citizens in the local area cannot afford. The logistics involved in carrying out oil theft are provided and engineered by higher ups influences. The setting of the hot tapping and cold tapings are done by technicians and engineers, not just ordinary citizens. The influence of the higher ups assists and support the ground workers in the carrying out the ground operations of hot tapping or cold tapping the crude oil pipelines, and also cross border sales of these crude oil.

**4. People in Local Community:** The locals at the sites of explorations who are of close proximity either to the site of exploration or pipelines channels. These citizens facilitate the theft and sales of these stolen crude oil or it's by-product either by involvance, aiding or abetting. Through the use of small scale hot and cold tapping equipment, local means of refining and transporting out of the forest to the point of sales the locals one way or the other play a role in either turning a blind eye or aiding and abetting. More so, given the simple construction of bush refineries and their placement in isolated locations, all efforts by the Joint Task Force to mitigate the illegal refinement of oil products have largely been unsuccessful due to lack of cooperation from the locals who have more intelligent information about the forest but chooses to keep silent due to hatred for the government, the corruption tendencies of security agencies, government and political actors more so.

### **Causes of oil theft in Nigeria**

**1. Political influences:** the political actors involved in organized crimes create an environment to safeguard their business. The political influences make provision for protections, covering up and facilitations of the oil theft. The locals do not work alone and the major profiteering from the oil theft shows that the local individuals are just the labor force and not the major players the organized crimes. Political unwillingness plays a significant role in the insincerity in the stopping of the oil thefts.

**2. The military era:** during the military era, certain activities has been well enacted since then. Most of the pipelines, nooks and crannies of the society were drawn by the military administration. Therefore, these sets of individuals have been able to create loopholes for their profiteering. The mechanisms established since then are still operational. The years of Military rules have given some syndicates an already established base and structure which are hidden to present day administration eyes.

**3. Neo colonialism and foreign players:** the presence of some mechanism used in refining stolen oils and the diversion of the crude oil from officials shows technicality and funds which the locals do not have to pull up; therefore, the presence of higher ups who teach, train and facilitate these oil thefts. The logistics more so used in the facilitation of the oil theft operation shows the presence of foreign players who help in the facilitation of these activities.

**4. Fragile security architecture:** the security nature of a society gives room for crime to thrive in the open or to hide in the dark. However due to the porous border, lack of updated security mechanism, low performance of the security agencies and corruption. The security network in Nigeria is outdated and not enough to protect the borders, oil installations and other facilities in the open areas, borders and in the savannah forest. This fragile security nature gives

room for insecurity and thriving of the easy movement of stolen oil products, the Naval officers and the ground Security of the NSCDC, Police etc. have not been forthcoming.

**5. Low technology and modern tools:** The new order of technology has made life easier for those who have keyed into it. Nigeria in its oil exploration and oil pipelines have not adequately keyed in to modern technology of protecting its oil pipelines. Oil production has been adequate however, at the point of transporting Nigeria has not been able to successfully protect the oil pipelines. The pipelines are being redirected, hot tapped and even redirected and the country has not been able to key into modern technology to use in determining leakages and diversion. From 2014 to 2023 the oil supply has been following a downturn due to this thefts yearly.

**6. Porosity of the border:** Apart from the porous nature of the land borders, the water lines border like the lagoons, creeks and rivers are heavily and advantageously used by criminals to facilitate cross-border crimes, such as Firearms trafficking, human trafficking, narcotics/drugs trafficking, oil bunkering, money laundering, armed robbery, among others (Ikoh, 2013,p.35). The high environmental factors are not used as an advantage in Nigeria. The land mass, water resources etc are a disadvantage to the country rather than a positive. The inability to account for what goes in and out of our border plays a major role in facilitating the continuous oil theft.

### **Impact of Oil Theft on the Political Economy of Nigeria**

While transnational organized crime is a global threat, its effects are felt locally. When organized crime takes root it can destabilize countries and entire regions, thereby undermining development assistance in those areas. Organized crime groups can also work with local criminals, leading to an increase in corruption, extortion, racketeering and violence, as well as a range of other more sophisticated crimes at the local level. As typical of most developing countries that are victims of the resource curse, the Dutch disease plays out in Nigeria's economy. Since its involvement in oil exportation, there has been near collapse of the non-oil sectors and in particular, the agricultural sector, which in the past contributed the bulk of Nigeria's export earnings (Otaha, 2012). Crude oil theft has had a substantial and detrimental impact on the Nigerian economy. The magnitude of this impact is reflected in revenue losses, environmental degradation, and hindrances to economic development. Illicit activities, such as pipeline vandalism and oil bunkering, result in significant revenue losses for the government, affecting budgetary allocations for critical sectors (Obansa, 2015). Additionally, the environmental consequences, including oil spills and ecosystem damage, pose long-term challenges, impacting agriculture and local livelihoods (Ite, Ibok, & Ekpenyong, 2017). Addressing the issue is crucial for mitigating these adverse effects on Nigeria's economic stability and sustainability. The financial impact of oil theft on a state's capacity is significant. The government's economic resources are immediately lowered by the revenue losses from illegal activity, making it more difficult for it to finance social programmes, infrastructure improvements, and other necessities (Obansa, 2015). The state's ability to successfully rule and provide for its population is weakened by this. The state's capacity to enforce laws and regulations is further undermined by the illegal economy driven by oil theft, which can exacerbate corruption and erode institutional integrity (Ite, Ibok, & Ekpenyong, 2017). Resolving oil theft is essential to maintaining and bolstering the economic base required for strong governmental capacity.

More, to its impact on revenue, oil theft in Niger delta has led most of the prominent MNCs operating in Nigeria including Shell, Chevron and ENI to exit from many of their onshore ventures (Bloomberg, 2013). ENI in particular had initially planned a complete pull out from the country before it later reneged on its intention (Ventures Africa, 2014). It is believed that this development, even though some of these companies have commenced new operations offshore (Bloomberg, 2013), may bring about massive job cuts in the country (Daily Trust, 2014), thereby demonstrating the volatility of the mineral-dependent economy. The job cuts ensuing from dramatic change in operations of MNCs can therefore lead to an increase in rate of unemployment and a possible decrease in income available to households. The reason why good governance is adversely affected is that organized criminals have infiltrators into politics. They view governance mainly as their survival and enrichment to the alienation of the citizenry from the political systems rather than national development. They have disregarded the rule of law and perverted bureaucratic procedures to cause socio-economic stagnation. Organized criminal groups in their inordinate ambition to control the government entrench corruption to entice public officials to enrich themselves or close friends

unlawfully through the misuse of public power. Organized criminal usually destroyed state institutions, ingrain corruption to weaken the rule of law and other government institutions. This is because some of the law enforcement agents and security institutions are co-opted into organized crime and become violent agents of an equally imperious status and prosecute criminals selectively to protect their cherished establishment. They are so organized that among them are some political groups who control the state and resources from foreign donors, to provide security and development for themselves. The existence of organized crime, in Nigeria, affects good governance as perpetrators infiltrate politics to undermine effective government policies and efficient business to protect their interests. Corrupt public officials in the executive, law enforcement, and judicial institution are sought by organized crime groups so that their criminal activities on the black market can be protected against being investigated and prosecuted. With this situation, nepotism, poverty, and corruption become a growing phenomenon as civil service bureaucracies and law enforcement agents are politicized (Shaw & Reitano, 2016). Organized crime has increasingly become the source of funds by terrorists and insurgents to generate money for acquiring logistical support to carry out their violent acts. The ability of the groups to fund terrorist activities is connected to the miniaturization of information and communication technology, particularly electronic banking. The communication system also makes it easy for terrorist organizations who engage in criminal activities such as kidnapping for ransom, human smuggling and illicit finance, and their links to terrorism to be successfully discharged (Campball, 2014). Nigeria in the first half of 2023 has lost 10 billion dollars to oil theft. Loss of revenue may be seen as a negative impact; however, it may also lead to diversification of Nigeria's economy. Loss of revenue may lead the government to pay more attention to non-extractive industries and embark on taxation programs that are appropriately monitored. Already, there are slight indications of this effort based on a news report that non-oil sectors were the main drivers of Nigeria's economic growth in recent times (This Day, 2014). Although this development has not been directly linked to loss of revenue from oil theft in the Niger Delta, the IMF in its report on the growth of the non-oil sector in Nigeria notes that oil's contribution to the GDP has shrunk by 1.3% (Oxford Business Group, 2014).

### **Conclusion**

Nigeria is a country blessed with so many resources however it seems the resources curse has continued to play an impeding factor in its growth paradigm and polity. Nigeria's political lineage has seen the rise and fall of leadership and administration which has placed the development of the nations at its heart, but overtime parasitic leeches have continued to suck on its finances and resources. Organized crime presence in the polity of the country endangers the country's political integrity, social order and economic prosperity. Oil theft in Nigeria has milked the national economy of its profit. The various individual groups' operation is at the detriment of the collective good of the society. The environmental degradation, the pollution, low quality refined by products, financial crimes and money laundering etc. Organized crimes plays an impeding role in the developmental paradigm of the state and this has overtime thrived due to lack of sincerity from the government and its security agencies, the impoverishment and fragility of the state, the corruptions and illegal enrichments of some political office holders whilst impoverishing the host society. Neo colonialism has over time influenced various politics, social and economic phenomenon in third world countries and Nigeria has not been spared.

### **Recommendations**

To achieve development and a break away from the resources curse and resource theft. The government firstly needs to in sincerity decide to end the menace of oil theft in the country. Oil theft and organized crimes are unprecedented events which are present in the society. The failure to plan invariably leads to the plan to fail. The government plays the major role if the menace is to end. Nigeria makes the most of its revenue from Oil therefore, the government not protecting its most vital assets shows insincerity. The Saudi Aramco, the Venezuela oil corporation and other world leading oil firms have successfully updated their technological instruments to be able to monitor oil pipelines channels and assess leakages and theft along the channels. Nigeria needs to invest heavily on the protection of its oil channels. The application of modern tools and technology to protect its oil pipelines is imperative and apt. The security nature of the country is porous and below average. The security of a nation ensues its sovereignty over conducts in and out of its territorial borders. The inability to control events in the country due to the fragile security nature of the state shows the weakness and quality of a countries security architecture. The financial in and outflow windows are porous

such as the border of the country are porous, the government needs to investigate and close down unethical financial windows used in the laundering, transfer and exchange of money between the oil thieves and the buyers. The thriving of the easy exchange of goods and services for money allows for the prosperity of the crimes.

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