

Implications of Sit-At-Home Order Strategy for Self-Determination Struggle of IPOB on Socio-Economic Development of the South East Geopolitical Zone of Nigeria

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Abstract

This study examined the Implication of Monday Sit-at-Home Strategy for Self-determination of IPOB on Economic Development of South East Region of Nigeria. The study adopted a survey design. A sample size of 400 were selected the five states in South East Region through purposive sampling technique. Both primary and secondary data were utilised for the study. Group theory propounded by Truman (1951) was adopted as a framework of analysis. Both inferential were used to analyze the characteristics of the respondents and the data generated from the respondents regarding to Monday Sit-at-Home strategy of IPOB on socio-economic development of South East Region. The two (2) hypotheses formulated in the study were tested with the use of simple regression through (SPSS) Model version 23. The study revealed that the sit-at-home strategy by the IPOB has significantly affected the income of the daily income earners in the south east zone. That the sit-at-home strategy of the IPOB has significantly reduced the economic activities in the south east zone. Arising from the findings, the study made the following recommendations: that the federal government under president Buhari should release Namdi Kanu in order to stop the every Monday sit-at-home IPOB order to enable the masses especially those self-employed business people resume their normal economic activities in the south east geopolitical zone of Nigeria. Also, it is recommended that the South-eastern regional government, religious groups, traditional leaders, and other important parties engage in diplomatic and political discussions with the central government. of Nigeria for the release of IPOB leader while the federal government of Nigeria. That central government should adopt all-inclusive (to reintegrate the south easterners effectively) governance as these will return full economic activities to the zone.

Keywords: Sit-At-Home Order, Self-Determination Struggle, IPOB, Socio-Economic Development, South East Geopolitical Zone of Nigeria

INTRODUCTION

Indigenous People of Biafra (IPOB) is separatist organisation formed by Nnamdi Kanu for the actualisation of sovereign state of Biafra through nonviolent approach (Ibeanu and Iwuamadi, 2016).

The actualization of the sovereign state of Biafra Republic was first initiated in 1967 by Lt. Col. Odumegwu Ojukwu, the then governor of the Eastern Region of Nigeria. This Biafra declaration resulted in civil war as General Gowon wanted a united Nigeria while Ojukwu wanted to secede from the Nigerian federation and war lasted for three (3) years between 1967 to 1970 with the declaration *No Victor No Vanquish* announced by the federal government of Nigeria (Madiebo, 1980).

Historically, the war was rooted from the military coup of 15th January 1966 staged by Major Chukwuma Nzogwu and five other majors of Igbos extraction to save Nigeria from disintegration. Shortly, after the successful coup, there was a wide spread of suspicious of Igbo domination among the Hausa-Fulani that the coup was an orchestrated plot by the Igbos to annihilate the Northern political elites (Ikenga,2017, May 8). The suspicion was based in the fact that during the coup, the prominent politicians from the Eastern Region to escaped the bloody coup while the northern politicians were killed. This development sparked violent attacks, burning and killing of Easterners who are mostly Igbos in the Northern Nigeria. On 29th July, 1966, a counter coup was staged by the Northern military officers which claimed the life of the then Head of State General Aguiyi Ironsi, an Igbo man. The coup ushered in Lt. Col. Yakubu Gowon as the Head of State in favour of the North and further aggravated the attacks against the Easterners. Onu (2001) estimates that about thirty thousand easterners were killed while about 1.8 million were forced back to the east as refugees in 1967.

With the assumption of Lt. Col. Yakubu Gowon as the Head of State; Lt. Colonel Odumegwu Ojukwu, the then Governor of Eastern Region refused to recognise Gowon as the new Military Head of State because he was a junior officer in Army. Tension was so high, the attacks, burning and killing of the Easterners continue increasing. In a bid to restore normalcy and peace in Nigeria, a meeting was organized on 4th and 5th of January 1967 in Aburi Ghana and chaired by the Ghanaian President. The resolution of the meeting should be embodied in a decree that will be issue in Lagos in concurrence with the Military Governors with a set of decisions that were referred to as the Aburi Accords (Madiebo, 1980). Ojukwu in returning to Enugu, during his personal interpretation of their Aburi Accord, in his broadcast announced that the Supreme Military Council had agreed to a confederal system of government. On the other hand, Gen. Gowon announced the creation 12 new states from the existing 3 regions in Nigeria. In a swift reaction to the creation of more states by Gen. Gowon, which was an express breach of the Aburi Accord, Col. Ojukwu declared the eastern region a Republic of Biafra (Madiebo, 1980).

In reaction to the above, Gen. Yakubu Gowon took action against the declaration of Biafra as he wanted a united Nigeria (Madiebo, 1980). The civil war broke out on 6 July, 1967 and was very bloody and by 1969, Lt. Col. Ojukwu fled from Biafra and handed power to his second in command Col. Effiong who subsequently surrendered to the federal government of Nigeria. On January 10, 1970, Colonel Effiong made a treaty with the federal government of Nigeria which ended the war on grounds of “No Victor, no vanquish”. On January 1, General Gowon (the Head of State of the Federal Republic of Nigeria) accepted and signed the peace treaty which led to the end of the war. The Federal Government then announced 3Rs programme which stands for the Reconstruction, Rehabilitation and Reconciliation aimed at fixing all infrastructural and social damages occasioned by the civil war in the Eastern Region of Nigeria. After many decades of the civil war injustices persisted as, social inequality, marginalization and political exclusions, killing of Igbos by any slightest provocation in all part of the country leading to the formation of the Movement for the Actualization of the Sovereign State of Biafra (MASSOB) by Uwazurike 1999 (Ikenga, 2017).

MASSOB was formed on 13 September 1999 by Chief Ralph Uwazurike, an Indian-trained lawyer to actualise the Biafran Republic through nonviolent approach to avoid the replication of 1967–1970 episodes when the initial attempt to create a Biafran state failed after three years of a gruesome, catastrophic war (Ogbonnaya-Ikokwu, 2017). Uwazurike noted that the declaration of ‘no victor, no vanquish’ and the programme of 3Rs of rehabilitation, reconstruction, and reconciliation launched for reintegrating the Igbo into the main fold of a united Nigeria, was merely rhetorical as no concrete actions were undertaken to accomplish those objectives (Onuegbu 2008).

MASSOB commenced by organising rallies and demonstrations basically in Lagos as a way of creating awareness before the symbolic flag hoisting ceremony on 22 May 2000 in Aba that was referred to as the re-declaration of Biafra (Ojukwu, & Nwaorgu, 2016). In 2005, Raph Uwazurike was arrested by security agents and flown to Abuja, where he was remanded in the Department of State Services (DSS) in an underground cell for nearly 3years without trial, but with some interventions and high-wired intrigues in the Presidency, Uwazurike was on October 26, 2007, granted three-month conditional bail by Justice Binta Murtala Nyako to enable him go home and bury his late mother. Other conditions attached to the bail were that Uwazurike should regularly report to the nearest police station and ensure that peace reign during the three-month period and would return to the prison after the burial of his late mother (Ojukwu, & Nwaorgu, 2016). However, after the burial of his late mother and expiration of the three (3) months granted to Uwazurike, it was realized that he didn’t go back to prison or being tried again as was signed by the court (Uzodinma, 2019). Rather, Uwazurike started preaching for peace among members. This action rose suspicious among the members of the MASSOB in the southeast region (March, Onu & Godwin (2019).

In view of the foregoing, the MASSOB that was organisationally cohesive suddenly developed cracks leading to the divisions of the organisation (Obianyo, 2007). Splinter groups such as the Coalition of Biafra Liberation Groups (COBLIG) and the Biafra Must Be Society (BIAMUBS) broke away from MASSOB. The inability to resolve that debate within MASSOB led to the formation of BIAMUBS. Beside ideological misunderstanding and differing approaches towards achieving an independent Biafran state, access to materialism, which rests on who controls the organisation were the major issues responsible for the divisions (Okafor, Imhonopi &Urim, 2011). For instance, COBLIG, which comprises seven groups at home and two others in the diaspora accused Uwazurike of high-handedness and misuse of the organisation’s resources for personal gain, including the building of a massive house called the Freedom House in his hometown of Okwe, Imo state. Furthermore, they accused the Uwazurike-led group of derailing the organisation’s efforts and turning into the oppressors of the same people they purportedly strove to liberate (Okonkwo 2008). It was at this juncture; the Indigenous People of Biafra (IPOB) was formed by Nnamdi Kanu.

The Indigenous People of Biafra (IPOB) better described as an offshoot MASSOB was formed in 2012 by Nnamdi Kanu with same objectives as IPOB but in a less radical manner (Ojukwu, & Nwaorgu, 2016). In fact, it was the ‘weakness’ in the modus operandi of MASSOB in pursuing its objectives that paved way for the hysteria of the more radical IPOB as “an undisputable champion, fronting the Igbo secessionist cause. That the leader of IPOB Nnamdi Kanu employs different approach including mobilization of the people especially the youth, enlightenment and awareness campaign, propaganda and media through his radio-biafra to reach out to the Igbo race in disposal (Ekpo and Agorye, 2019).

In his return to Nigeria in October 2015, Mr. Kanu, the leader of IPOB was arrested by the Nigeria government on charges of treason and belonging to an unlawful group and was taken to an undisclosed location which led to series of protests by IPOB members for the release of their leader.

It was estimated that not less than 146 people were killed during the clashes between IPOB protesters and security operatives (Ekpo & Agorye, 2018). Nnamdi Kanu was released from prison in 2017; then on September 15, 2017, the Nigerian Military High-Command launched Operation Python Dance exercise in the South-East (Owoeye, Ezeanya & Obiegbunam (2022). The operation witnessed clashes between soldiers and IPOB members particularly when the troops started a show of force prior to the commencement of the exercise on the streets of Umuahia, The IPOB leader's home was raided by military officials, thereby forcing his escape from Nigeria to save his life (Anaya, 2000). The Federal Government of Nigeria led by President Buhari declared IPOB a terrorist group but the declaration was condemned by Nigerians and the international Community including the United States (Vanguard News Nigeria, 2021). On March 2019, a Nigerian judge, Justice Binta Nyako ordered Kanu to be rearrested over his inability to attend court hearings for months after his release on bail (Abasilim, Gberevbic & Osibanjo, 2019). Kanu was re-arrested on June 29, 2021 by the Nigerian government in collaboration with Kenya's Government in Kenya and brought back to Nigeria (Ogbonnaya-Ikokwu, 2017). He was re-arraigned on charges bordering on treasonable felony. On July 30,2021, in reaction to that arrest, the spokesperson of IPOB, Comrade Emma Powerful announced that every Monday starting from August 9, 2021 has been set aside as a sit-at-home which would remain in effect until Nnamdi Kanu, the leader of IPOB is released from the custody of the Department of State Security (Anoke, Osita, Eze & Muogbo, 2021).

Since the commencement of a sit-at-home strategy order in south east, socio-economic activities have gradually crashed out. The school activities, markets and government activities every Monday and other days when Nnamdi Kanu goes to court, Transporters, hotels managers, traders including hospitals as no human movement is allowed by the enforcers of the sit-at-home order. It is against this backdrop that the researchers sought to investigate the complaint of the IPOB's Monday sit-at-home order on the economy of the South-East region.

Statement of the Problem

The struggle for the actualisation of sovereign state of the Biafra State appears to be unending one, this struggle has resulted into civil war between 1967 and ended in 1970 with the declaration of no victor no vanquish. In 1999, after about twenty years of the war, the Movement for Actualisation of Sovereign State of Biafra (MASSOB) was re-launched by Uwazurike, for the actualisation of sovereign state of Biafra again, through non-violent approach to avoid the replication of 1967–1970. Similarly, the IPOB leader, Nnamdi Kanu London based Nigerian who had effectively utilized his Radio Station based in UK to expose the injustice, killing and marginalization of the people of the South East of Nigeria to the whole world (Omole, 2021).

Since the commencement of Monday sit-at-home strategy order by the IPOB in the south East, there has been frequent closure of schools leading to the absence of teacher and lecturers on duty on Mondays, all banking institutions are closed, Government workers no longer go to work on Mondays, every major Markets and enterprises are short down and people do not travel from one state to another within the Southeast region leading to the excessive deployment of State repressive apparatus in the region. In view of the foregoing, Monday sit-at home strategy order appears to have posed multi-dimensional effects on the socio-economic activities in the Southeast since every State within the region are being subjected to the pressure of Monday sit-at-home order despite the response of the Nigerian Government It is based on the foregoing the researcher investigates the impact of sit-at-home order by IPOB on the economy of the south east geopolitical zone.

Research Questions

- (i) Has Monday sit-at-home strategy of IPOB affects the income of the daily earners in south East Geopolitical Zone of Nigeria?
- (ii) Has the effects of the enforcement of the Monday sit-at –home strategy of IPOB reduce the economic activities of the people in the South East Geopolitical Zone.

Hypotheses

The following hypotheses were formulated to guide the study

H₀: Monday sit-at-home strategy by IPOB has no significant effect on the daily income earners the South East Geopolitical Zone of Nigeria

H₀₃: The method `of Monday sit-at-home strategy by IPOB has no significantly reduced the economic activities of the people of south east zone of Nigeria.

2. Review of the related literature

Concept of Sit-at-Home Strategy

Monday sit-at-home strategy was adopted as a strategy since August 9, 2021 by IPOB in the South- in order to persuaded government of Nigeria to free Mazi Nnamdi Kanu, who has been in detention (Achumba, Ighomereho, Akpor-Robaro, 2013). Kanu was re-arrested in June in Kenya in corroboration with the government of Kenya and brought back to Nigeria (Ewetan & Urhie, 2022). The declaration of sit-at-home order shuts down every human activity in the South East making the region look desolate and deserted in those days the order is enforced. When the sit-at-home order was announced by IPOB, it was opposed by many Igbo people, leading to a reversal. Since the announcement of the reversal of that order late August, 2021 according to (Ewetan & Urhie, 2022), the sit-at-home has continued to hold because of fear. Some people who tried to go about their businesses were attacked, making others to stay indoors for fear. Offices, markets and schools are closed on every Monday in the region. Therefore, both those who want to observe the sit-at-home and those who do not want to do so stay at home (Ewetan & Urhie, 2014).

The Rise of IPOB

Ekpo and Agorye (2019) argued that Indigenous People of Biafra (IPOB) is a secessionist movement based in the Southeast Nigeria with the aim of restoring the defunct Biafra, albeit, through peaceful means. They assert that the group (IPOB) as an offshoot of Movement for the Actualization of Sovereign State of Biafra (MASSOB). Similarly, Jacob, Nwobi and Igboji (2020) noted that IPOB is a reformation of the weakened pro-secessionist groups of Movement for the actualization of the Sovereign State of Biafra (MASSOB) and the Biafran Zionist Movement (BZM) with the aim of creating an independent state for the people of old Eastern region.

The group took over the rein and rose to prominence with weakening of MASSOB activities in the struggle (Allison, 2017). Nnamdi Kanu established Radio Biafra through which he reaches millions of IPOB supporters throughout the entire old Eastern region of Nigeria. Upon his return to Nigeria in October 2015, Mr. Kanu was arrested and detained by the federal government of Nigeria on charges of treason and belonging to an unlawful group. Kanu was held at an undisclosed location until April 2017, when he was released on bail from detention for nearly two years (Adekunle, 2017).

Immediately after the release of Nnamdi Kanu from prison in 2017, on September 15, 2017, the Nigerian Military High-Command launched Exercise Operation Python Dance II in the South-East. The operation witnessed clashes between soldiers and IPOB members on the streets of Umuahia and it was recorded that more than 50 members were killed and several others were arrested. The IPOB leader's home was raided by military officials, thereby forcing his escape from Nigeria to save his life (Anaya, 2000).

Self-Determination

Every country that feels oppressed desires self-determination. According to Weller (2009), self-determination is the right of people to determine their state's politics and evolve their economy, social well-being, and culture. The United Nations supports the freedom of people who demand self-determination in social, political, and economic areas, which cover all aspects of human life. The United Nations Charter recognizes the right to self-determination as a fundamental human right. It states that every state has the freedom to choose and develop its political, social, economic, and cultural systems (Cristecu, 1981).

History of Self-Determination around the World

Agitations for self-determinations are not new. Globally, different countries have experienced agitation for self-determination in different dimensions. Kosovo was a self-governing state within the Republic of Serbia when it was part of the former Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (SFRY). In 1989, Slobodan Milosevic ended Kosovo's autonomy. The situation in Yugoslavia was characterized by a power struggle between the strong and the weak. According to Borgen (2008) analysis, Kosovar Albanians sought to regain autonomy for Kosovo in the 1990s, while the Serbian government responded with military actions in 1998, which spread to other areas (Chukwudi, Gberevbic, Abasilim & Imhonopi, 2019). Like many other islands, the Indigenous People of Puerto Rico were almost wiped out when they were conquered by Spain. The current inhabitants of the island are not the rightful inheritors of their land, according to Rasmussen (2010).

Self-Determination in Nigeria

Struggle for self-determination and the threats of secession from the Nigerian federation cannot be said to be new in Nigerian politics. Between 1950 and 1964, secession was frequently used as a tool for political negotiation in Nigeria, according to a study by Aremu and Buhari (2017). The Northern Region, considered "big, strong and reliable", had issued an "Eight-Point Programme" threatening withdraw from the Nigerian federation in 1953. In like manner, in 1953, the West had also warned about withdrawing from Lagos state, as mentioned in Aremu and Buhari (2017) publication. Another example of a secessionist group is that of the Ijaws led by Isaac Adaka Boro who mobilized a sizeable number of his Ijaw people to wage war against the Nigerian government under the leadership of Late General Aguiyi Ironsi in 1960. Akanji (2012) states that since the late 1990s, certain ethnic militias like the Oodua People's Congress (OPC) and the Movement for the Actualization of the Sovereign State of Biafra (MASSOB) have established ethnic and sub-ethnic militant groups within Nigeria's political scene. This corroborates with the above.

The Genesis of Struggle for Biafra

The first attempt to actualize the sovereign state of Biafra Republic was in 1967 by Lt.Col. Odumegwu Ojukwu, the then governor of the Eastern Region of Nigeria. The declaration of Biafra by Ojukwu resulted in civil war as General Gowon wanted a united Nigeria while Ojukwu wanted to secede from the Nigerian federation and war lasted for three (3) years started from 1967 and ended in 1970 with declaration of No Victor No Vanquish by the federal government of Nigeria (Madiabo,1980).

The Nigerian Civil war actually started with the creation of 12 states in Nigeria on May 27, 1967 by Gowon the then Head of State (Achebe, 2012). It is instructive to recall that at this time Nigeria is still practicing regionalism and Lt. Colonel Odumegwu Ojukwu was the Governor of Eastern of Nigeria. In a swift reaction to the creation of more states which was an express breach of the Aburi Accord, Col. Ojukwu declared the eastern region declared the a Republic of Biafra. In response to this declaration, the federal military government led by General Yakubu Gowon (rtd) took action against the declaration of Biafra. By the end of 1969, Col. Ojukwu who fled from Biafra and hand over to his second in command Col, Effiong who subsequently surrendered to the federal government of Nigeria. On January 10, 1970, Colonel Effiong made a treaty with the federal government of Nigeria which ended the 30 months war on grounds of “No Victor, no vanquish” On January 1, General Gowon accepted and signed the peace treaty and the war ended (Allison, 2017).

The Rise of MASSOB

MASSOB simply means the Movement for the Actualization of the Sovereign State of Biafra. Chief Raph Uwazuruike, on the 27th May, 2000, mobilized over ten thousand youths in Aba and launched the flag of sovereign state of Biafra with its national anthem (Ikpeze, 2000). Furthermore, on the 26th of August, 2004, MASSOB mobilized the Igbo youths in a civil protest that led to the cessation of all commercial activities and closure of all offices. The clarion call on the Igbo was acceded to by a tumultuous large numbers of Igbo across the country thereby grinding commercial activities to a standstill during the period under survey.

In 2005, Raph Uwazuruike, the MASSOB leader was arrested in his Okwe hometown by security agents and flown to Abuja, where he was remanded in Department of State Services (DSS) underground cell for almost three years in prison without trial. However, with some political interventions and high-wired intrigues in the Presidency, Uwazuruike was on October 26, 2007, granted three-month conditional bail by Justice Binta Murtala Nyako to enable him go home and bury his late mother (Obianyo,2007). Other conditions attached to the bail were that Uwazuruike would return to the prison and should regularly report to the nearest police station and ensure that peace reign during the three-month period granted to him (Obianyo, 2007). Standing as sureties for Uwazuruike then were two serving senators from the Southeast-Uche Chukwumerije now late and Ikechukwu Obiora and two traditional rulers, Eze Christian Uchechukwu Nwachukwu (Eze Ndigbo Lagos)

However, Uwazuruike couldn't go back to prison after the period or being tried again by the government as recommended and signed (Uzodinma, 2019). Rather, Uwazuruike started preaching for peace among members. This action rose suspicion among the members of the MASSOB in the

southeast region (March, Onu & Godwin (2019). It must be recall that thousands of Igbo sons and daughters are being charged to court in connection with MASSOB activities and thousands were held and abandoned languishing in prisons across the country, while millions have been killed by the security agents during rallies just to get Uwazurike released (Obasi, 2002). It was based on the attitude of disposition that led to accusation that Chief Raph Uwazurike has compromised with the federal government by way of politicising and personalising the pro-Biafra group (Ujumadu, 2016).

In view of the foregoing, the MASSOB that was organisationally cohesive suddenly developed cracks leading to the divisions of the organisation (Obianyo, 2007). Splinter groups such as the Coalition of Biafra Liberation Groups (COBLIG) and the Biafra Must Be Society (BIAMUBS) broke away from the organisation. The inability to resolve that debate within MASSOB led to the formation of BIAMUBS. Beside ideological misunderstanding and differing approaches towards achieving an independent Biafran state, access to materialism, which rests on who controls the organisation were the major factors responsible for the divisions (Okafor, Imhonopi & Urim, 2011). It was at this juncture, the Indigenous People of Biafra (IPOB) was established by Nnamdi Kanu.

The Government Approach and Response to the IPOB Agitation in the South East

The federal government has been responding to the movement of the self-determination by the indigenous people of Biafra (IPOB) and other groups like MASSOB, Coalition of Biafra Liberation Groups (COBLIG) and the Biafra Must Be Society (BIAMUBS) who were in the same cause for the actualisation of state of Biafra Republic. The government has relied on the use of force resulting in killing and detention of the members of the groups in Nigeria. Immediately after the release of Kanu, the leader of IPOB from prison in 2017, on September 15, 2017, the Nigerian Military High-Command launched Exercise Operation Python Dance II in the South-East (Owoeye, Ezeanya & Obiegbunam (2022). The operation witnessed clashes between soldiers and IPOB members on the streets of Umuahia which led to the death more than 175 members and several others were arrested. The IPOB leader's home was raided by military officials, thereby forcing his escape from Nigeria to save his life (Anaya, 2000). The Federal Government of Nigeria led by President Buhari declared IPOB a terrorist group, noted that the group was no more civil in its operations. The declaration was condemned by Nigerians and the international Community including the United States (Vanguard News Nigeria, 2021). On 1st Sept.2015, 3 members of the IPOB were killed and about twenty persons were wounded in clash between the group and police men in Imo State. In the same vein, in 5th August, 2017, it was revealed that 115 members of the IPOB were executed by the joint security agents in Onitsha, Anambra State while more than 500 members of the IPOB were arrested. Similarly, on 13th February 2017, the group clashed with police in Enugu State and 7 members of IPOB were killed and 38 members of the group got wounded by the Nigerian police. Furthermore, on 18th August, 2022, the Nigeria army killed 6 persons who members of the IPOB, a non- violent group who are their peaceful rally in solidarity to their Leader, Nnamdi Kanu in Imo State. Also, 23rd Feb, 2023, the army spokesperson, Brigadier General Onyema reported that Nigeria has succeeded by killing 23 terrorist members of IPOB in Amagu village, Nkalaha in Ishielu Local Government Area of Ebonyi State.

Effect of the Sit-At-Home Strategy on Economic Activities in the South East Region of Nigeria

There series of reports on the prevailing situation of the shutdown of the South-East every Monday has continued to inflict collateral damage on the socio-economic activities of the South-East Region of Nigeria. The masses who depend on daily hawking sachet beverages, vegetables, fruits for their survival bears the brunt of sit-at-home strategy of IPOB in south East Region. The frequent closure of schools leading to the absence of teacher and lecturers on duty on Mondays in the whole of the South East has been a serious problem facing the academic activities in the region. Education is the bedrock of development of every society in the world and no education, no future (Ani, 2022). With the continuation of the sit-at-home strategy in the region, it may likely push the region to the bottom line of educational development when compare with other regions in Nigeria (Ani, 2022). In like manner, the closure of banking institutions every Monday in the region has terrible implications on the economy of the South East Region. It is worthy to note that eighty percent of the easterners depend on buying and selling. It is also important to note that eighty percent of business transaction in the region is carried out through banking institutions therefore; the closure of banks on every Monday has not only affected the banking institutions but equally grinding the business activities whose survival depends on the banking institution for their daily activates. More so, the absence of Government workers from duty on Mondays has continue to pose a serious threat to the government both the federal, state and local governments are suffering from the sit-at-home effects, Government activities get paralysed on Mondays, the revenues are lost, service delivery are crippled as result of Monday sit-at-home strategy adopted by the IPOB in the South East Region of Nigeria. Likewise, every Markets and enterprises within the South East are short down, both the medium and small scale business enterprise are not in operation and this by implication worsening the rate of unemployment in the region. People no longer travel freely and confidently from one state to another within the Southeast geopolitical zone, particularly on Monday, the excessive deployment of State repressive apparatus (security personnel) the deployment of about 40,000 security personnel to Anambra state only during the gubernatorial election can attest to the above statement. It is noteworthy that the above mentioned activities resulting from the IPOB Monday sit-at-home strategy cum order has presumed multi-dimensional effects on the socio-economic activities of the South-east region of Nigeria.

Review of Empirical Studies

Owoeye, Ezeanya, and Obiegbunam (2022) investigated the effect of sit-at-home order by IPOB on the economic development of southeast geopolitical zone. The study adopted a survey design method. A total of 400 respondents were selected the chosen areas through purposive sampling technique. Descriptive statistical tool and chi-square were both used for the analysis of data generated in the study. The study's findings indicated that the sit-at-home order by IPOB's Monday in the south east geopolitical zone of Nigeria has negatively affected the economic development of the south east geopolitical zone. Arising from the finding, the study recommended, that federal government should release Mazi Nnamdi Kanu, the leader of IPOB, and initiate an affective dialogue with the secessionist, since the use of force cannot resolve the issue of agitation for Biafra,

Nwaubani and Ebere (2021) studied the impact of sit-at-home order by IPOB on business activities in south east zone of Nigeria. The study adopted descriptive embedded in survey design method. A sample of 300 respondents was selected through purposive sampling technique. Chi-square statistical tool was used for the test of three hypotheses formulated for the study. The study's findings indicated that the sit-at-home order by IPOB's Monday in the south east zone of Nigeria has created a hardship to the self-employed business people in the south east zone. Arising from the finding, the study therefore, recommended that federal government should release Mazi Nnamdi Kanu, the leader of IPOB, and initiate an affective dialogue with the IPOB leaders in the south east zone rather than the use of coercion on the group since they have genuine demands

Ekene, Daniel, Abasilim and David (2019) examined the strategies of the Indigenous People of Biafra (IPOB) agitations and the response of the Nigerian government towards IPOB agitators and its implications on political stability. The study adopted the use of survey research design. The sample size of the selected areas was summed up 385. In-depth interview was the second method of data collection. The retrieved questionnaires were analyzed using the Statistical Package for the Social Sciences (SPSS). The findings showed that the government's strategy for dealing with the Biafra separatist movement has focused mainly on police action, most times, involving excessive use of force. It can be concluded that the recurring agitation for Biafra has serious implications for political stability and democratic consolidation. Finally, it was recommended that the positive responses of government on development projects and inclusivity in governance will determine the courage IPOB and the Biafra movement will have going forward.

Nwobi, and Igboji (2020) examined the impact of IPOB's Monday sit-at-home order on economic development of the south east region. The paper is a qualitative descriptive survey. This study adopts group theory as a guide for the study. The study's findings revealed that IPOB's Monday sit-at-home has hurt Southeastern Nigeria's economic operations. In light of the foregoing, the study recommended, among other things, that the issue of Mazi Nnamdi Kanu, the leader of IPOB, be resolved as soon as possible, since the Monday sit-at-home order was a strategy to persuade the Federal Government to release IPOB's leader, Mazi Nnamdi Kanu, from detention.

Theoretical Framework

This study anchored on group theory as its analytical framework. The theory is associated with scholars, namely, Bentley (1908); Truman (1951); Smith (1964); Garson (1974); Jordan (1999). The choice of the theory for this study is based on its identification of the importance of groups in society. One of the major assumptions of group theory according to Truman (1951) is that a good feature of a group is their sharing of behaviours and desires on the ground of which demands are made on the government. Another major assumption of group theory is that stability in the society is maintained by the balance of group pressures and the adjustment of government operations. This shows that the role the government is expected to play towards the maintenance of law and order through the shaping of activities of the different groups existing in the political system like Nigeria.

The Group theory is relevant to this study base in the fact that Indigenous People of Biafra (IPOB) is a group that has been made possible due to the coming together of different individuals with common interest in the objectives of IPOB. These individuals that made up IPOB shared attitudes on the ground of which they agitate for self-determination from the Nigerian government. In Nigeria's political landscape, IPOB is one of several groups, including MASSOB, Fulani herders, Boko Haram, OPC, and MEND, that operate within the system. IPOB seeks to achieve self-determination as its primary objective. Group theorists recognize the significant role of government policies in ensuring peace and stability between the various groups. The Nigerian government mediates between these groups and prioritizes the safety of its citizens and their property. The stability of Nigeria is determined by maintaining a balance of pressures that may arise from these diverse and complex groups.

Methodology

The study adopted the survey research design and was conducted in five states in south-eastern Region of Nigeria which include: Anambra, Abia, Enugu, Ebonyi, and Imo). The choice of south east is because the region is the where the activity of the IPOB based. The population of the study comprises all the business organisations operating in the south east geopolitical zone. Multi-stage sampling technique was utilized for the selection of sample size in the study. The data was gathered from the most important markets in each of the five states in the region. The markets studied are Onitsha Main Market, Onitsha, Anambra state; Ariaria International Market, Aba, Abia state; Margret Umahi International Market, Abakiliki, Ebonyi state; Eke Onu-Uwa Douglas market, Owerri, Imo state, and Ogbete Main Market, Enugu, Enugu state. Also, the major motor parks operating in the aforementioned states were included because; they represented the targeted population in the study. The test-retest was used to determine the reliability of the instrument while face and content approach was used to establish the validity of the instrument. So, among the five states selected for the study, 80 persons were issued questionnaire from each state thereby making the population of study 400. The data were analyzed using mean waith score where the score from 200 was accepted while the score below 200 was rejected for the descriptive statistics and simple regression analysis was used with social science statistical package SPSS version 23 for test of hypothesis at 5% significance level.

RESULTS AND FINDINGS

The total of (400) four hundred questionnaire were issued out the respondents of the study, three hundred and sixty (360) representing 90% of the questionnaires were retrieved while (40) forty representing 10% could not be retrieved back in the study.

Table 2 Summary of the Inferential Statistics

s/n	Item	N	Mean	St.D	Decision
1	Sit-at-home order by IPOB has led to insecurity in the region	360	2.3361	1.12991	Accepted
2	Sit-at-home activity has led to the attacking killing of security personnel in the region	360	2.2639	1.13188	Accepted
3	Sit-at-home order has led to the loss of lives of innocent people in the region	360	2.2222	1.08448	Accepted
4	Sit-at-home order by IPOB has led to the closure of public and private institutions every Monday in the region	360	2.1750	1.14660	Accepted
5	Sit-at-home activity has led to the loss of many lives in the region	360	2.2861	1.12397	Accepted

Source: Field Survey, 2023

On the table three above, it revealed that in option that the mean score is 2.3361 while the standard deviation is 1. 12991Also, in the second option, it indicated that the mean score 2.2639 while the standard deviation is 1.13188, More so, the third option, it shows that the mean score is 2.2222 while the standard deviation is 1.08448, Similarly, in the option four, it indicated that the mean score is 2.1750 while the standard deviation is 1.14660. In addition, option five in the table revealed that the mean score is 2.2861 while the standard deviation is 1.12397. The result from the option one to the fifth option indicated that the mean scores were above 2.0 and therefore, were all accepted that sit-at-home strategy adopted for the actualisation by IPOB for has negatively affected the socio-economic development of the southeast geopolitical zone of Nigeria.

Table 3 Summary of the Inferential Statistics

s/n	Item	N	Mean	Std. D	Decision
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6	Sit-at-home order by IPOB has led to the closure of public and private institutions every Monday in the region	360	2.3361	1.12991	Accepted
7	Sit-at-home order by IPOB has crippled the government internal generated revenue (IGR) in the region	360	2.2639	1.13188	Accepted
8	Sit-at-home order by IPOB has led to the loss of jobs among the people in the region	360	2.2222	1.08448	Accepted
9	Sit-at-home order by IPOB has negatively affected the economy of the region	360	2.1750	1.14660	Accepted
10	Sit-at-home order by IPOB is responsible for the formation of unknown gunmen in the region	360	2.2861	1.08333	Accepted

Source: Field Survey, 2023

The results on the table four above indicated that in option six, the mean score is 2.3361 while the standard deviation is 1.12991. Also, in the seventh option, it indicated that the mean score 2.2639 while the standard deviation is 2.2639. More so, in option eight, it shows that the mean score is 2.2222 while the standard deviation is 1.08448. Similarly, in the option nine, it indicated that the mean score is 2.1750 while the standard deviation is 1.14660. In addition, option ten on the table revealed that the mean score is 2.2861 while the standard deviation is 1.08333. The result from the option six to the tenth option show that the mean scores were above 2.0 and therefore, were all accepted that sit-at-home strategy adopted for the actualisation by IPOB for has negatively affected.

Hypotheses

Test of Hypothesis 1

H₀: Monday sit-at-home strategy by IPOB has no significantly effected the daily income earners the South East Geopolitical Zone of Nigeria

H₁: Monday sit-at-home strategy by IPOB has significantly affected the daily income earners the South East Geopolitical Zone of Nigeria

Table 4 **Model Summary**

Model	R	R Square	Adjusted R	Std. Error	Beta	T	Sig
1	.904 ^a	.817	.817	46056	.604	4.581	.000

Result of data analysis summarized on Table 38 indicated that the P.> value of 4.581 at 0.05 alpha is greater than the sig. value of .000. Since the P> value is 4.581 at 0.05 alpha variable which is greater than P< value of .000. We therefore rejected the null hypothesis (H₀) and retained the alternative hypothesis (H₁). This result shows that the Monday sit-at-home strategy by IPOB has significantly effected the daily income earners the South East Geopolitical Zone of Nigeria given at the 0.05 significant different, therefore, it shows that the researcher is 95% confident that the right decision has been taken.

Test of Hypothesis (2)

H₀₃: Monday sit-at –home strategy by IPOB has no significantly reduced the economic activities of the people of south east zone of Nigeria.

H₀₃: Monday sit-at –home strategy by IPOB has significantly reduced the economic activities of the people of south east zone of Nigeria

Table **5**

Model Summary

Mode	R	R Square	Adjusted R Square	Std. Error of the Estimate	Beta	T	Sig.
1	.909 ^a	.827	.826	.37329	.909	.516	.606

Result on the table 40 shows that the p <value is .516 value at 0.05 alpha while the Sig. value of .606. Since our P< value is .516 at 0.05 alpha is less than p> value at .606, we retained the Null Hypothesis (H₀) and rejected the alternative hypothesis (H₁). The result shows that the Monday sit-at –home strategy by IPOB has significantly reduced the economic activities of the people of south east zone of Nigeria. This result shows that given at the 0.05 significant different, therefore, it shows that the researcher is 95% that the right decision has been taken.

Findings

The study was basically designed to examine the implication of sit-at-home strategy of the IPOB for self-determination on the socio-economic development of the south east geopolitical zone. To achieve this objective, the two research questions and the corresponding two hypotheses formulated and tested to determine the significant relationship between the sit-at-home strategy of IPOB on the socio-economic development of the region.

The first hypothesis is stated ‘that the Monday sit-at-home strategy by IPOB has no significantly affected the daily income earners in the South East Geopolitical Zone of Nigeria Result indicated that the P.> value of 4.581 at 0.05 alpha is greater than the sig. value of .000, Since the P> value is 4.581 at 0.05 alpha variable which is greater than P< value of.000. We therefore rejected the null hypothesis (H₀) and retained the alternative hypothesis (H₁). This result shows that the re-arrest of Nnamdi Kanu by the federal government of Nigeria is responsible for the sit-at-home order by IPOB in the south east region given at the 0.05 significant different.

In the second hypothesis that states that the Monday sit-at –home strategy by IPOB has significantly reduced the economic activities of the people of south east zone of Nigeria.

Result shows that the $p < \text{value}$ is .516 value at 0.05 alpha while the Sig. value of .606. Since our $P < \text{value}$ is .516 at 0.05 alpha is less than $p > \text{value}$ at .606, we retained the Null Hypothesis (H0) and rejected the alternative hypothesis (H1). The result shows that every Monday sit-at-home order by IPOB order has significantly affected the economy of the south east region.

Conclusion

This study focused on the impact of sit-at-home order by Indigenous People of Biafra (IPOB) on the economy of the south east geopolitical zone, Nigeria. Based on the findings from the results of the work added to the relevant literature reviewed in the study, the work reached the on following conclusions

That the re-arrest of the Nnamdi Kanu was the major reason behind the sit-at-home order by the IPOB that is now posing a serious threat to the economy of Nigeria in general and in the south east geopolitical zone in particular.

This study also concluded that people are obeying the sit-at-home order by IPOB because the people believed that Namdi Kalu is fighting a just cause resulted from the marginalization of the south east geopolitical zone of Nigeria

The study equally concluded that the sit-at-home by IPOB has resulted in hardship, insecurity of lives and property, with the overall negative effect on the economy of the south east geopolitical of Nigeria.

Recommendations

Arising from the conclusion, the study made the following recommendations based on the outcome of the specific objectives as stated therein.

The researcher recommended that the federal government under president Buhari should release Namdi Kanu in order to stop the every Monday sit-at-home IPOB order to enable the masses especially those self- employed business people resume their normal economic activities in the south east geopolitical zone of Nigeria.

Also, the researcher recommended that the regional government (South-eastern), religious bodies, traditional rulers, and other key stakeholders, should diplomatically and politically engage the central government of Nigeria for the release of IPOB leader while the federal government of Nigeria

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