The Problems & Prospects of Establishing Cattle Colony in 21st Century Nigeria

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Abstract

This paper examined the challenge of the federal government in establishing cattle colony in Nigeria in the 21st century. The cattle colony was a programme being championed by the former Minister of Agriculture, Audu Ogbeh. This was because it was believed to have answers to the incessant herdsmen/crop farmer's crisis across the six-geographical zones of Nigeria; if sincerely implemented by the government. On the other hand, many Nigerians, especially in the Southern part and the Middle Belt Region had kicked against the programme; based on demonstration of their perceived miscalculations, misconception, suspicious, mistrust as well as ignorance. Those who are conversant with the policy and programme have since embraced it and are ready to provide financial and logistic support for the programme. *DailySun,* Monday, January 29, 2018 reported that 17 State Governors have endorsed the programme. Likewise Myetti Allah Kautal Hore (MAKH) said the cattle colony policy being Champion by the federal government will end incessant herdsmen/farmers clashes in different parts of the country. This paper examined the programme to come forth with a panacea to curb herdsmen/crop farmer's crisis in Nigeria in the 21st century. The paper adopted the descriptive design. It drew upon a variety of sources, namely, primary and secondary sources. Primary sources include oral information and interviews. In the study, newspapers and magazines reports were used in conjunction with official records in government publications. Secondary sources include relevant books. The researcher made use of

participant observation method. All the pieces of information so gathered were subjected to critical historical evaluation.

Keywords: Herdsman/crop farmers' crisis, cattle colony, needs, challenges, solutions

Introduction

As a result of the continuous bloodshed between herdsmen/crop farmers clashes in Nigeria, especially in the Middle Belt Region and other parts of Nigeria, the agriculture and Rural Development Minister, Audu Ogbeh, announced the cattle colony programme immediately after the Benue massacre, where 73 farmers were killed by Fulani herdsmen on 1st of January, 2018, as an alternative to ban grazing by Fulani pastoralists, which has been responsible for the crisis with farmers. The cattle colony programme was, however, met with wide rejection and criticism by some state governors and stakeholders like Governor Fayose of Ekiti and Governor Ortorm of Benue State. Even as 17 state Governors mostly from Northern region have endorsed the programme. Miyetti Allah Kautal Hore (MAKH) National President, Alhaji Abdullah Bodejo, told *DailySun*, Monday, January 29, 2018:39, in Abuja, that the cattle colony programme is preferable than the establishment of ranches and other government policies that were being proposed by State Governors. A good cattle colony must have a dam built, to provide water for the cattle. Other essential services, such as veterinary clinic, feeds, nomadic school and other services are expected there, to encourage herders, with millions of cattle to relocate there. It will, therefore, restrict them to that comfortable location. Cattle colony are established in such a modernized architecture to attract the interest of local nomadic settlement and their international collaborators and investors (Itua, F., Ezeh, F., Oata, 2018, p.39).

On the other hand, Joseph Masin, Chairman, Nasarawa state chapter of the Christian Association of Nigeria (CAN) has said, we have heard that the

Federal Government has proposed herdsmen colonies, to my understanding, this is calling for fresh problems as there are hardly any free land for such colonies, rather, the herdsmen should establish ranchers, to cater for their cows as their private business. Deputy Senate President, Ike Ekweremadu on *DailySun*, January 29, 2018:3, has said only state governments can allocate lands for grazing or cattle colonies, as clearly specified in the Land Use Act of 1977. Ekweremadu also called on States to come up with legislations that will ban open grazing across the country, since "cattle rearing is a private business and should be handled as such".

It is also important to note that the only way the Federal Government can encourage the establishment of cattle colony is to provide the policy direction while states take up the challenge because the issue of cattle rearing is a state matter as all lands are vested in all states under the Land Use Act in Nigeria. It is not for the states to set up ranches or cattle colonies since it is a private business. The state should, instead, come up with agricultural credit schemes that would encourage and support farmers to set up their ranches. This is because open grazing is archaic, anachromstic and out of tune with modern society (Itua, F., 2018 p.3).

According to Yinka Odumakin, the Publicity Secretary of Afenifere, a socio-cultural Yoruba group, cattle colonies as the concept is offensive, repugnant and an affront on the rights of non-Fulani communities across Nigeria as their lands would now be forcefully acquired and be subjected to an alien culture and rule in the name of cattle rearing. Odumakin aptly explains that "the Yoruba people will not allow any colony on their land as we are a free people and anyone who wants to raise cow within our space should do ranching".

It is obvious that the menace of herdsmen attacks on farmers in the recent history of Nigeria, especially in the Middle Belt and the southern regions has affected farming communities. Much damage has been done, not just

security-wise but to the psyche of the people; due to series of attacks, people are afraid. The government should consider to repairing the damage that has been done to the infrastructure of the farming communities and rehabilitate the people, rather than imposing cattle colonies on communities that witnessed killings and massacres like Agatu of Benue and Nimbo of Nsukka; since the emergence of the vicious Boko Haram suicides and more recently the bumbling but ruthless Fulani herdsmen, both have exposed Nigeria as a terrorist country according world terrorist index. This ugly development has made other geo-political zones in Nigeria to be suspicious and mistrust about the cattle colony concept as another method of colonization and neo-colonialism of their territory by the herdsmen.

Meanwhile, the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development, Chief Audu Ogbeh, has said establishment of cattle colonies in states will not transfer communal land ownership to Fulani herdsmen wherever it is established. The federal government dumped ranching plan and opted for cattle colonies because they are strategic measures to curb incessant bloody clashes between herdsmen and farmers in the country. Ogbeh (2018) explain that cattle colony is not using Fulani herdsmen to colonise any state. It is going to be done in partnership with state government that would like to volunteer land for it. The federal government will fund the project and those wishing to benefit from it will pay some fees. While cattle ranching is for individual venture, for herdsmen and those wishing to invest in the livestock sector, cattle colonies are larger projects where up to 40 ranches can share same facilities, schools, dams and roads provided by government, at reduced rate. (Eze M. and Oota L., 2018, p.10)

Unfortunately, states in the Southern parts of the country that experience how 73 people were buried in Benue State to make cows happy have continuously rejected the cattle colony concept. The cultural practices and traditions attached to cattle rearing by the herdsmen who can kill because of cow stealing or rustling is a serious offence as farmers are killed in the

Middle Belt and other states in Nigeria. The herdsmen value their cattle more than anything; even when it trespass a farmer's farmlands, they can kill because of attack on their cow. Cattle to the Fulani herdsmen are all about bravery, manhood, and manliness of the herdsmen, a young boy who can multiply inherited heads of cattle is more respected among his kinsmen. But the Fulani herdsmen were suppose to be dynamic to change to learn and respect traditions and beliefs of their host communities and environment so that they can cooperate with others as good neighbours which may make others welcome the cattle colony in peace.

The Challenge of the Federal Government in Establishment of Cattle Colony

The continuous attack on crop farmers by killer herdsmen is a threat to farming communities to give their land to either the government or herdsmen to establish cattle colony. For example, the former Secretary to the Government of the Federation (SGF), Chief Olu Falae (2008), has disclosed how his farm has been attacked five times by herdsmen within three years. Falae believed the motive for repeated attacks on his farm were to kill him just as he vowed that he will never allowed establishment of cattle colonies in the Western region. The farm is located in Ilado, in Akure North Area of Ondo State. The former SGF specifically expressed disappointment with President Buhari silence as the herdsmen have burnt his farm. Falae in the face of the open aggression said "my farm has been destroyed five times within three years and it's a deliberate means to probably kill me, run me out of business and away from the farmland, which is not possible". "There shall not be cattle colonies in any part of Yoruba land. It is a fraud". Falae said Buhari's silence on Fulani herdsmen attacks on farmers was not good. I have expected him, for over two years, to take an initiative and make a national broadcast to his people in Nigeria and assure us he will handle the matter by announcing effective measures that could control the capacity of the herdsmen. He has failed to assure Nigerians that both the herdsmen and us can live together, in peace,

without one side damaging the other. Today in Nigeria, many people do not want to hear that word colony or cattle colony. They believe colony ended since 1960, we are no longer a colony. In Nigeria, to mention the word colony has political connotation not economic. A colony is a political entity which the Buhari government said it wants to establish in the territory of another. Nigeria is a multi-religious, multi-ethnic and multi-cultural country. Many Nigerian religions, and traditional leaders as well as politicians regard the creation of cattle colonies for the Fulani herdsmen as a challenge and provocation for more conflict in Nigeria. According Falae "it is a terrible thing for anybody to contemplate... In any case with what is going on, I can tell you as a leader of our race, the Yoruba people will not concede one inch of its territory as a colony to any person". (Osazuwa J., 2018, p.8)

Despite the 73 people massacred by the killer herdsmen in Benue State because of the introduction of Anti Open Grazing law by Governor Ortom of Benue State. As if enough is not enough, a former Minister for Education in late President Umaru Musa Yar'Adua administration, Prof. Jerry Agada, on *DailySun*, Tuesday, January 23, 2018:9, has raised the alarm that herdsmen and cows have invaded Agatu Local Government Area of Benue State, regardless of the state's anti-open grazing law. This open aggression and continuous clashes between herdsmen/farmers in the Middle Belt Region pose a big challenge in the Federal Government initiative to establish cattle colonies across the six-geopolitical zones in Nigeria. Meanwhile, Nigerians resident in the United Kingdom have staged a protest at Trafalgar Square, in London, over the "insecurity and perennial clashes between herdsmen/farmers, particularly in Benue state. The protest was convened by Mutual Union of Tivs in the UK, with support from the Nigerian community in the UK. It is appalling that, inspite of the country's strict gun control laws, persons purported to be herdsmen carry and use military style assault weapons openly with impunity. These are some of the hurdles and challenges to the federal government establishing cattle

colonies to herdsmen, rather groups called for efforts to regulate open cattle grazing to modern standards which utilize ranches; as it is done in other countries and to ensure respect for the dignity of human lives and property.

Likewise, traditional rulers from the Ijaw speaking communities have rejected the idea of cattle colonies in any part of Ijaw land. This was part of a communiqué issued at the end of a meeting in Yenagoa and chaired by the first military governor of the Old Rivers State and chairman Bayelsa State Traditional Rulers Council, Amanayabo of Twon Brass, King Alfred Diete-Spiff. The traditional rulers while condemning the killing of the farmers by Fulani herdsmen "expressed total rejection of the establishing cattle colonies for cattle production on Ijaw territories". Even General Williams warns, cattle colonies will set Nigeria on fire. (Folaranmi F., 2018, p.38).

Igbo Elders Council has also vowed to resist any attempt by the Federal Government to extend its cattle colony policy to the South East states. Eze Igbo in the Federal Capital Territory (F.C.T), Dr. Ibe Nwosu (2018), told newsmen at the end of their emergency meeting in Abuja, that the policy was not only conservative, retrogressive and obnoxious, but parasitic, anachronistic and anti-people and must be rejected by all. The royal father thus cautioned South East State Governors against giving/leasing any land in the region for such "politically" motivated policy in the South East geopolitical zone. He explains that South East is one of the most densely populated regions in sub-Saharan Africa. Its land resources have come under constant pressure recently, resulting in prevalence gully erosion in different locations. Any additional pressure and appropriation of land, through the creation of "political" cattle colonies, would further aggravate the situation rather than ameliorate it, it will further reduce the, hitherto, insufficient arable farmland for our people. Ibe Nwosu (2018) reminds the federal government that Igbo people still practice shifting cultivation. The federal government is adviced to go the way of ranching or better still adopt

other technologically advanced system of cattle rearing that encourage improved milk and beef production. Likewise, the former governor of Anambra State, Chief Chukwuemeka Ezeife (2018), aptly explains that the restructuring of Nigeria along the path of true-federalism and regionalism would go a long way to curb herdsmen/farmers clashes in Nigeria. (Eze, F., 2018, p.4). It is important to note that when indigenous farming communities are in siege because of herdsmen attacks. They would find it difficult to give out their land to the government or cattle owners to build cattle colonies or ranching. A farming community that is in a coordinated attack by herdsmen suffers decline in food harvest and increase in poverty as they feel the killer herdsmen are coming to take over the land as majority of the farmers are driven to internally displaced persons (IDPs) camps.

Meanwhile, Ikenna Emewu on Saturday Sun, January 20, 2018:50, in an article entitled "Audu Ogbeh back with cattle colony Blunder" lamented that, now, we are in 2018, and Ogbeh has gone back on his old art of treating Nigerians to illogic. Today, it is the theatre of cattle colony that he runs. As agriculture minister, what he thinks would bring an end to the clashes and deaths between Fulani herdsmen all over the South/Middle Belt of Nigeria and farmers is that the federal government should decree and enforce cattle colonies in all states for specifically the Fulani herdsmen. Sound logic indeed. We wait for the powers of the agriculture minister to enforce that thought gone adrift. Is it within the powers of the minister to hijack lands belonging to people of states and convert them to the use of herdsmen? Where did he keep reserve of such lands and whose land would that be? Is it land belonging to the minister in the states or that of the ministry or herdsmen? These are the many unanswered questions that are a big challenge for the establishment of cattle colony in Nigeria in the 21st century. For example, Benue State, that witnessed how 73 indigenes were killed by herdsmen has distanced Audu Ogbeh and vowed no piece of its land would be allocated for any cattle colony. The Southern part of the country does not also welcome the concept of cattle colony.

Furthermore, as Emewu, (2008) aptly pointed out the challenge of the cattle colony concept, these are the same herdsmen the presidency announced to us when they routed Nimbo in Enugu State, Agatu in Benue and Ankpa in Kogi in 2016 and early 2017 that the herders that killed farmers were foreigners and never Nigerians. Today, Ogbeh and his government want to seize lands from all over the nation and hand over to "foreign" Fulani herdsmen as cattle colonies. These are some of the issues, problems and blunders facing the creation of cattle colony across the six-geopolitical zones in Nigeria. Meanwhile, the plan to establish cattle colonies was not for Nigerians with interest in rearing cattle, but specifically for Fulani herdsmen in all the States, from earliest time till today, the Fulani has colonise rearing of cattle in Nigeria. Their business is rooted in their culture and environment in the North, not in the South. Even if Ogbeh forcefully get a law to back this cattle colony blunder, it would be a bad law; because to make a law to establish cattle colonies for Fulani herdsmen in a multi-ethnic, multi-religions, and multi-cultural society like Nigeria is discriminatory. Our constitution does not permit discriminatory laws and this looks like one and will easily be defeated in judicial interpretation as unconstitutional for intentionally out to favour and benefit a particular ethnic and religious group of Nigeria against others. If the federal government go ahead and establish cattle colonies for the Fulanis in other states in Nigeria, then the federal government must have hanged itself on a noose because it must establish other colonies in all states for poultry, piggery, bee keeping, mushroom farming, paddy rice cultivation, yam and cassava fields, cocoa plantation and for every conceivable farming in Nigeria for other set of ethnic and religious groups. (Emewu I., 2018).

Government must be sincere in addressing issues, there have been movements of cattle and herdsmen from one part of Nigeria to another for decades. Never at a time have they been going with AK 47 guns as we see in our local communities today. What is the cause? Government should answer that before talking about cattle colonies. Governor Okezie Ikepazu

of Abia on *Saturday Sun*, January 13, 2018:52, has said his government would not cede any part of the state for the establishment of cattle colonies; for the grazing of cattle for Fulani herdsmen. Governor Ikpeazu said the available land in the State would not be enough to accommodate the agricultural plans of the state government, adding that the available land in Abia was not even enough for the agrarian communities in the state to effectively carry on their farming activities. Ikpeazu maintain that leasing out the land may cause unrest in the state beyond what his government could handle. This is because such alien land occupation will also cause unrest and crisis that may grow. So the best thing such government may do is to reject such plans so that those behind it will know that Abia State is not part to it.

In the recent history of Nigeria, on the issue of cattle colony, Middle Belt and Southern States are hesitant to support it because of the perceived expansionist and conquest ambition and ideological ambitious of Fulani people. The impression is that if you give the Fulani people land over time he would expand it beyond the boundaries you have given him and will be ready to fight you if you want to ask questions. Some scholars support this argument with the story of the migration of the early Fulani in the north led by Usman Danfolio. Meanwhile, Bodejo National President, Miyetti Allah Kautal Hore Socio-cultural Association, explains that all the people kicking against the cattle colony are the enemies of the Fulani people and they are also enemies of progress of the nation. (Eya W., 2018, p.42). Many scholars have recommended the operation of ranches for the herdsmen in Nigeria, where cattle owners as private business operators get land for themselves, pay and rear their cattle like the poultry farmer does in Nigeria or like the rice farmer also does in Ruwa located at the road intersection of Gusau-Tsafe-Funtua-Katsina road. Cattle rearers can also emulate President Buhari, who has invested so much in ranches, to breeds his cows. Until the government thinks of funding a more humane and modern means for the

Fulani to rear their cattle and make a better living, they don't wish them well.

The anger and condemnation expressed across Nigeria as a result of the killings occasioned by farmers/herdsmen clashes that immediately started because of the introduction of the anti grazing law in Benue State by Governor Ortorm to prevent indigenous farming communities from killer herdsmen and the response of the Minister of Agriculture and Rural development, Chief Audu Ogbeh, to establish the cattle colony across the federation to curb herdsmen/farmers crisis would not bring permanent solution but would rather stir up hatred and disunity in the country like Nigeria which is already divided along ethnic, religious and cultural fault lines.

Today in Nigeria, the nomadic Fulani herdsmen are facing the challenge of climate change as the desertification is eating up the green pasture and water that sustain cattle rearing. Hence water and green pasture resources are scarce, it is the consequences of these climate change and its effects of scarcity that makes herdsmen not to have enough grass and water to feed the cattle. Hence herdsmen roam about and trespass into the farmer's farmland in the Benue Green Valley and crop farms in Southern Nigeria. Meanwhile, farmers are not having enough land to farm as they used to have because of increase population and development. The desperate Fulani pastoralists are not having enough grass in heir vicinity and are wondering around and they can't find it and all we are hearing is anger, hostility, animosity and cattle colony blunder in places there are scarcity of land which creates mistrust; for what is essentially a climate problem.

All these challenges are there and it would get worst if federal government want to take land from people by force to create cattle colony for herdsmen. Today, if you go to any prison in Benue, Taraba, Kebbi, Sokoto or in Zamfara and even in Southern Nigeria, predominantly you will find young

people, Fulanis that are there on one farmer-herdsmen clash or otherwise. Our leaders and people, should think above religious and tribal interest to better the life of Nigerian youths; by collating data across the 774 Local Government Areas (LGAs) to encourage youth agro based entrepreneurship and empowerment programme to help the youths base on the peculiar needs of each geo-political zone in the federation. To force the establishment of cattle colony in Christian dominated Igboland while the youths there might have another agro based entrepreneurship priority might be postponing the day of crisis.

Curbing Controversy over Federal Government Establishing Cattle Colony

If the federal government desires to establish cattle colonies in the North, they should also be prepared to establish cassava, cocoa, rubber, poultries colonies in the South so that the people would have a sense of belonging and justice. But if they create cattle colonies without creating cassava and poultries colonies then the federal government is discriminatory in its programmes and policies of diversification of the economy. It may result to national protest and crisis across the federation. Cattle's rearing is a private business; individual cattle owners can build their ranches, just as crop farmers do in that regard. In the Middle Belt and Southern Nigeria, many states are not willing to give out or cede an inch of land to anybody to set up cattle colony, since cattle rearing is a private business.

Government should stop herdsmen desperately grazing their cattle through people's farmland down to the South, destroying the crops along the way because there is no green vegetation for them in the North any more. As they do this, they are stopping farmers from going to farm. The trend portends a great hunger in the land. The solution to all this is to start urgent re-afforestation in the North and building ranches and the cattle owners should also go back to automation, that is, using railway and roads

to transport cattle to the South rather than allowing the herdsmen to troop down like Jihadists and an army of expansionism and occupation.

Moreso, restructuring the Nigerian state into a true federal system, resource control and state policing will settle all the national questions causing herdsmen/crop farmers crisis and separatist agitations in the country. There will be no more issue of Niger Delta Avengers, IPOB and others. There will be progress, peace and harmony. Each region will determine whether to establish cattle colony or not. Every region will develop at its own pace. The so called ethnic wrangling as a result of media hype stigmatizing the others will end. There will be healthy competition among the diverse ethnic groups in Nigeria.

Meanwhile, Nigeria is a federation and the land in every state is vested in each Governor. In fact, section 1 of the Land Use Act vests the land of every state in the hand of the Governor. So, to that extent, I don't know which land the federal government will want to carve out as a cattle colony without the input of the state, while in the South majority of the Governors are already rejecting the cattle colony concept. It would be unfair for the federal government to impose the cattle colony on States in the Middle Belt and Southern Nigeria which do not need it. For example, Senator Solomon Adeola on *DailySun,* Tuesday, January 30, 2018:41, has called on governors of the South West to reject establishment of cattle colony. The call became imperative in the face of attacks and killings by herdsmen across the nation. Moreso, the proposed cattle colony would not end herdsmen/farmers clashes in the South West, but would rather destroy the socio-cultural way of life of the Yoruba people.

Governors in Southern Nigeria that identify with the cattle colony will smear their rising profile and image of their administration, so many seem to reject any agreement for cattle colony to be established in any part of their state. Cattle rearing is a private matter and individuals should make their

private arrangement, just as crop farmers do in that regard. The federal government should urgently intervene to curtail incessant killings of farmers by killer herdsmen. The unprovoked attacks had made it difficult for farmers to continue legitimate farming activities on their own land.

Conclusion

The issue of cattle colony establishment in the recent history of Nigeria to curb herdsmen/crop farmer's clashes and killings has heightened the political tension in the country. This is because issue of cattle colony has divided the nation along ethnic, religious and cultural fault lines, especially in the Middle Belt and Southern part of the country. Chief Shugib Oyedokun, former Deputy National Chairman of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) and former secretary to the Oyo State government response to the incessant attack by Fulani herdsmen and the proposed cattle colony creation in the states of the federation on *Saturday Sun,* February 3, 2018:49; said, "the issue is that must we necessarily eat cow meat. Let all the southerners boycott cow meat and reject cattle in the South. Where there is no one to be oppressed, there will not be oppressors. I look at the meaning of colony and I found out that it means movement of people of other tribes to settle in another place that does not belong to them" From the above scenario in the recent history of Nigeria there are lots of suspicious and mistrust in the proposed concept of cattle colony. The best option for the herders to do is to operate ranches to do their cow business and pay royalty to land owners. That is the right thing to do because cattle rearing is a private business. Ranches promote business activity in such locations. The ranches facilities stimulate economic activities rather than cattle roaming about and trespassing into people's farmland which may result to clashes between herdsmen/crop farmers. It is condemnable for herdsmen to take life of human being as we have witnessed in Nimbo of Nsukka area, Enugu State, Agatu in Benue State, Ekiti State, Taraba state and Adamawa State. Islam and Christianity do not preach crisis and killings as we know today. African Traditional Religion has not been involved in killings. So if

herdsmen and farmers cannot embrace this imported foreign religion and live in peace and harmony, let us embrace our fore-fathers religion so that Nigerian farmers and herdsmen can co-exist in peace and brothers' keeper. Herdsmen and farmers need better understanding to ensure adequate protection of lives and property of the two. An engagement between both sides is necessary to ensure that neither side becomes a threat to the other in the course of carrying out their activities. The process of grazing cows needs avoidance of people's farms. When cows feed on people's farm that is one of the things that trigger conflict, as farmers are entitle to their farms to yield good harvest at the end of the season. Just as the herdsmen are entitled to their cows, therefore, none should be a threat to the other. There is a need for farmers/herdsmen to live in peace with one another; if we must progress as a nation. Herdsmen/farmers clash is economic issue, herdsmen wish to feed the cows and farmers wish to grow their crops; some of the fiscal recommendations of the 2014 National Conference can help to alleviate the economic challenges faced by herdsmen/crop farmers.

Recommendations

This study has come forth with the following recommendations to curb herdsmen/farmers crisis in Nigeria in the 21st century.

(1) Worries over the herdsmen/farmers crisis in many parts of Nigeria, especially the recent January 1, 2018 killings in Benue State. Many scholars and leaders are advocating for commercial ranching as the best method for meat and dairy production, and called on federal and states governments. In the country to reject the idea of cattle colonies, which, according to it, has adverse security implications. This is because people believe cattle colony was a way to colonize other ethnic groups through the back door.

(2) Other recommendations to curb herdsmen/farmers clashes across the 36 States of the federation are the issue of state police creation. The

recent herdsmen/farmers clashes and killings in Benue and Taraba States exposed the weakness of centralization of the Nigerian police. If there were state-controlled police units in the affected places, the marauding herdsmen could have been checked. The need for state police clearly demonstrated the growing need for the restructuring of our false federal system in Nigeria to a true federal system. State police would help to curb our porous borders insecurity and attendant's arms and weapon proliferation among the killer herdsmen that carry sophisticated weapons like AK47 which has the capacity of worsening the country's security situation. State policing would curb herdsmen/farmer chaos; the country is ripe for state police. Some states in Nigeria already have their own security outfits operating like state-owned police. Lagos State has the Kick Against Indiscipline (KAI) Brigade; Kano State, the Hisbah crops, while Kebbi State has created the Hisbah corps (Ibe, B. 2018:16). State police would be a willing tool to oppress, check and run out perceived killer herdsmen out of indigenous farming communities and villages. State police would provide good security network when ranches are established across the Nigerian State rather than cattle colonies.

(3) The governors in the country should partner traditional rulers to check the menace of killer herdsmen/crop farmers' crisis in Nigeria. Traditional ruler has powers to summon everybody irrespective of his/her status to curb killer herdsmen and farmers clashes in the rural areas. Traditional rulers are closer to the people of the grassroots. The government should partner with traditional rulers urgently to curtail incessant killings of farmers by killer herdsmen; the unprovoked attacks had made it difficult for farmers to continue legitimate farming activities on their own land in the rural areas. Because of the recurrent clashes between herdsmen/farmers in the recent history of Nigeria. Indigenous farming communities have rejected the idea of cattle colony and will continue to stand against it. Farmers perceive the

cattle colony as a campaign designed to seize their lands and give to the Fulani herdsmen.

(4) If Nigeria is serious about agricultural revolution in the 21st century, ranching is the most sensible thing to do rather than cattle colonies, majority of people are rejecting. Many Nigerians are suspicious of cattle colony establishment, they see it as forceful occupation of lands for killer herdsmen and marauders, who also hired mercenaries, foreign allies, mostly Fulani from Senegal, Niger, Chad, Northern Cameroon, Libya, Mauritania and Mali, members of Al-Quida and Nigerian returnees from ISIL, as well as members of sleeper cells of Boko Haram who relocated into other states. Many Nigerians perceive that the creation of cattle colony would help to hide foreign killer herdsmen that could easily be deployed to attack indigenous farming communities. Better alternative to open grazing should be sought rather than introducing "cattle colonies" in the country. While thinking of how best government can help cattle owners establish ranches, government should equally have plans to help farmers, whose produce is essential for our survival as a nation. (Taiwo, O., 2018, p.10).

(5) To curb the menace of herdsmen/crop farmers' crisis in Nigeria, Kano State Governor, Umar Ganduje has called on Fulani herdsmen resident in other parts of the country to relocate to Kano State. He said Kano State has vast grazing land, and ranches to accommodate all of them and their cattle, including those of them in Benue and Taraba State. Ganduje said Kano State herdsmen don't have any reason to move out of the State. We will take care of them and accord them the respect and dignity they deserve. We have grazing lands in Rogo, Gaya, Tudun Wada, Ungogo and other reserved places where facilities are in place to accommodate the herdsmen and their cattle. (Mgboh D. and Ede R., 2018, p.10).

(6) Herdsmen in Nigeria should consider ranches than cattle colony. Cows kept in controlled conditions of ranch will produce better quality beef; tendered and more robust cows under the ranch condition, cattle owners will multiply their herd and develop the full potential of the cattle industry. A model example of such business is at the Shonga farm as ranching alternative to ill-advised cattle colonies. Cattle owners should be mandated to own ranches within their respective jurisdictions; so that their herdsmen would desist from defacing the outlook of our various major roads cum farms as it is invariably found whenever they migrate with their cattle. (Nwaozor, F., 2018,p.17). With the introduction of "cattle colonies" in Nigeria, there is a feeling of fear and helplessness among farmers that herdsmen may take laws into their hands... Herdsmen may be under pressure to save their livestock and economy but, this is never to be done at the expense of other peoples' lives and means of livelihood. So ranches should be better alternative for them

(7) The colonial livestock policy which created disunity and sowed the seeds of today's wrongful notion by the Fulani that they alone are endowed with the monopoly of cattle rearing business should be eradicated from the perception of Nigerian farmers who are still suffering from the menace of colonialism and neo-colonialism. (Adinuba B., 2018, p.17). Cattle rearing should be seen by all Nigerians as a business for every Nigerian, not only the Fulani, therefore, other ethnic groups – Yoruba, Igbo, Tiv, Ijaws etc. are all welcome to open up ranches as a private business in their communities and train their people on the secret of cattle rearing this 21st century. There is freedom of enterprise in Nigeria today, which encourages diversification of the economy. The federal government should partner with the Northern governors to start planting trees and grass so that they can reclaim the land that has been lost to desertification.

In the recent history of Nigeria, the Economic Intelligence Unit published by the London Economist said that 75 percent of our arable land has gone. Togo is worst with 79, we need to develop land for grazing by planting trees that will create foliage in the North with vast landmass. (Salaudeen, O., 2018, p.32). Statistic report in the South West geo-political zone reveals that up to 2015, there were only about 50 cattle herdsmen's settlements in the region but suddenly between 2016-2017, the figure grew to 127 in the West alone. That is an increment of about three fold in one year. It is possible they have an objective for coming..... what we do know is that their land in the North has become bare as a result of deforestation, when the land becomes bare, they try to move down south... The federal government should try to reverse that trend... This is a problem that was not there before and has now become a reality. The solution of the problem is planting of grass and trees in the North as a campaign and provides more irrigation waters.

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