

# Where Is Our Government?

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***“We have a lot of insecurity in Nigeria. By road we are not safe. By train we are not safe”.***

(From a survivor of the Abuja-Kaduna Train bomb; Mon., March 28, 2022)

Too many ills do a nation kill  
Ills just as many as the corpses  
That clutter every gutter  
Of our callously mis-governed country

The roads are slaughter slabs  
The rails only take us on terminal journeys  
Every coach is a waiting coffin  
The nation’s graveyards puke from unspeakable excess

“Bandits”, “terrorists”: a tardy government  
Plays name-games while criminals  
Rampage without restraint  
Different name, same Nemesis

What do you call a nation  
Where food is scarce  
And peace is scarcer; where

Life sells at a thousand for one kobo?

Bandits raid the homestead  
Bandits raid the streets  
Bandits raid the schools  
Bandits raid the temples

Bandits rack army barracks  
Bandits pummel police stations. . . .  
Our government fled long ago  
Without leaving a forwarding address

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