

Leveraging on technology to contain the spread of insecurity in Nigeria

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Abstract

The level of insecurity in Nigeria seems to have defied all solutions and the security apparatuses look helpless and hopeless. The government has been spending a lot of resources to contain the spread of insecurity but the attacks on human lives and the wanton destruction of properties is not abating. This paper describes the imports of technology in stemming the tides of insecurity in Nigeria it is a qualitative research that relied on both primary and secondary sources of data. This paper is anchored on Dwight D. Eisenhower's Domino Theory, which was aimed to tame the spread of communist influence in Southeast Asia. Data for this paper were gathered from secondary sources including books, newspapers, magazines, research papers, journals and internet materials; and interviews. Among the causes of insecurity include poverty, unemployment, porous borders, godfatherism, religious fanaticism amongst others. The security challenges in Nigeria are manifested in various ways including terrorism, Boko Haram/ISWAP, ethnoreligious crises; banditry and others. The paper recommends that the adoption of modern day technology will help to resolve these challenges of insecurity in Nigeria; the government must rise to their responsibilities and reclaim the cyberspaces and all that happens around there.

Key words: Contain, domino theory, insecurity, leverage, technology, Nigeria.

Tirer parti de la technologie pour contenir la propagation de l'insécurité au Nigeria

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Abstrait

Le niveau d'insécurité au Nigeria semble avoir défié toutes les solutions et les appareils de sécurité semblent impuissants et sans espoir. Le gouvernement a dépensé beaucoup de ressources pour contenir la propagation de l'insécurité, mais les attaques

contre des vies humaines et la destruction gratuite de propriétés ne diminuent pas. Cet article décrit les importations de technologie pour endiguer les vagues d'insécurité au Nigeria. Il s'agit d'une recherche qualitative qui s'est appuyée sur des sources de données primaires et secondaires. Cet article est ancré sur la théorie des dominos de Dwight D. Eisenhower, qui visait à apprivoiser la propagation de l'influence communiste en Asie du Sud-Est. Les données de cet article ont été recueillies à partir de sources secondaires, notamment des livres, des journaux, des magazines, des documents de recherche, des revues et des documents Internet ; et entretiens. Parmi les causes de l'insécurité figurent la pauvreté, le chômage, la porosité des frontières, le parrainage, le fanatisme religieux entre autres. Les défis sécuritaires au Nigéria se manifestent de diverses manières, notamment le terrorisme, Boko Haram/ISWAP, les crises ethnoreligieuses ; banditisme et autres. Le papier recommande que l'adoption de la technologie moderne de jour aidera à résoudre ces défis de l'insécurité au Nigéria ; le gouvernement doit prendre ses responsabilités et se réapproprier les cyberspaces et tout ce qui s'y passe.

Mots clés : Contenir, théorie des dominos, insécurité, effet de levier, technologie, Nigeria.

Introduction

The incidences of insecurity in Nigeria in the 21st century have placed the country at a crossroad. In the days of the military (before 1999), most Nigerians and political analyst had thought that with the entrenchment of democratic government the country will be crisis-free, there will not be ethnoreligious and sociopolitical squabbles. Experiences so far ironically have revealed that the nation harvest reverses in its sociopolitical and material fortunes. Nigeria and Nigerians have become more vulnerable and fragmented than hitherto. The failure of the earlier generation of leadership to contain the various forms of insecurity manifesting itself in the country that independence bequeathed to them prompted the civil war of 1967 to 1970 and partially led to the avoidable and worrisome 29 years of military incursion (Muzan, 2014).

The security agencies in Nigeria are struggling to combat the menace of insecurity; the country's security architecture has arguably been hijacked in many parts of the country. The insecurity challenges have grounded governance and the socioeconomic activities across the nation is being paralysed. Even the Telecommunication industry is affected by the insecurity challenge as operators lose infrastructure, employees and revenue to the menace. In this regard, insecurity manifesting itself in ethno-religious cleavages, terrorism, militancy, rapacious mismanagement of commonwealth, kidnapping, armed robbery, cybercrime, high profile murder and human trafficking have become a recurring decimal in the daily lives of the people.

The preponderance of armed banditry, kidnapping, terrorism, ethnic militancy, secessionist agitation, and the destruction of oil installments are clear manifestation of a failed national security. In this period of the "villagization" of the globe, where crime and criminality are cross-borders and could scientifically and technologically exported, criminality is also globalized (Okene, 2010).

Security plays a pivotal role in the national and economic development of any country, while its absence is capable of cascading and causing serious upheaval in various geo-political zones as well as the wellbeing of the country. Insecurity is the bane of Nigeria's problem and it has remained so since the pre-independence era. Though, there had been a paradigm shift from the kind of security challenges experienced in the pre-independence era to what is witnessed today. The current democratic dispensation needs to seek for solutions to these menaces.

Aside the divisive legacies left behind by the British colonialist, most actions and behaviours of Nigerians now portray even greater danger to effective national security. Shehu (2013) share this assertion that Nigeria has never been threatened by centrifugal forces like it has been happening in the recent years. The civil war of 1967 to 1970 was the biggest challenge Nigeria has faced in her 63 years of independence. Though the 30-months war was limited to the (then) Eastern region but the consequences would have been more if not that it was quickly nipped in the bud to ensure that its negative impacts did not portend far reaching effects on the nation.

Insurgency is a violent agitation against a constituted government authority. The ultimate goal is to enfeeble public trust in government thereby undermine national security. The main objective of the insurgents is to gain control of the civil population (territory, population and resources). Since the advent of the fourth republic in May 1999, the country's has been faced with myriads of security challenges ranging from insurgent and criminal gangs with terrorist groups, bandits and Fulani herdsmen, youth restiveness among others.

Technologies are in different forms and categories, and it is used for different things. Leaders in the developed countries are setting up integrated frameworks to allow them adopt and deploy technology, particularly Artificial Intelligence (AI), to improve and strengthen their national security infrastructure. In the emerging field of AI, modern tools like surveillance cameras, social network analysis, biometric surveillance, data mining and profiling, corporate satellite imagery, and Geolocation devices have become available to combat insecurity.

According to Ijide (2020), technology is one of the areas affecting the capability and the strength of the security agencies in Nigeria. One clear example of the gap in technology is in the fact that kidnappers can hold their victims in captivity for many days while arranging for ransom via mobile phone calls and without quickly and effectively nipping it in the bud through tracking devices and other technological devices.

By leveraging cutting-edge technologies, the state can make room for proper cooperation and coordination amongst security agencies to lessen duplication of efforts, guard against the mishandling of information as well as enhance intelligent gathering among the different agencies. "Although deplorable, herdsmen attacks, kidnapping for money or ritual killings, ethnic cleansing, cybercrimes, human/material trafficking and endemic acts of corruption are the realities today. Now is the time for leaders to wake up to the realisation of the need to mobilise resources — human, financial, technological — to address the diverse issues of national insecurities.

Brief history of Nigerian security challenges

Nigeria is a heterogeneous society, rich in population, which the 2020 conservative estimate put at over 200 million people. The country is highly diversified with multi-

ethnic, multi-linguistic and multi-religious groups. The heterogeneity nature of Nigeria can best be exemplified in the differing languages and cultural heritage, unequal population sizes, uneven economic resources and educational imbalance.

The Nigerian security challenges worsened in the 21st century, immediately after the re-introduction of democracy in 1999. The situation has become embarrassing and a dent on the nation's image, it has also threatened the sovereignty of the Nigerian state. These challenges that have bedeviled the country are traceable to the endemic corruption, mismanagement of resources, political upheaval, religious fanaticism and even differences in the norms and customs of the various ethnic groupings that make up Nigeria.

The biggest security threat facing Nigeria today has been that of insurgency and terrorism since the return of civil rule in May 1999. The activities of terrorists started historically with the movement to liberate the Niger Delta people led by Major Isaac Jasper Adaka Boro and which gave birth to a group known as the Niger Delta Volunteer Force (NDVF), a terror military group composed of Boro's Ijaw tribesmen. On February 1966, the group declared the Niger Delta Republic that was later crushed by the Federal military forces and arrested Boro. Muzan (2014) also declared the 6 July 1967 to 15 January 1970 Nigerian civil war or what is also known as the Biafra war as another earliest form of insurgency in the country.

Many years after, other forms of insurgencies appeared in the Southern parts of Nigeria like the Movement for the Actualization of the Sovereign State of Biafra (MASSOB) formed by Ralph Uwazurike, a lawyer and human rights activist. MASSOB was formed in 1999 to resuscitate the aims and objectives of the failed Republic of Biafra agitation. The same ambition is what characterized the activities of the Indigenous People of Biafra (IPOB) under the leadership of Mazi Nnamdi Kanu. They are all calling for the secession of Biafra, and they have unleashed terror on the people of the Southeast.

Other terror groups like Ateke Tom and Mujahid Asari Dokubo's Niger Delta People's Volunteer Force saw to the creation of movement known as the Movement for the Emancipation of the Niger Delta (MEND) both from the Niger Delta sub region of Nigeria. In 1997, there was the emergence of a Yoruba nationalist group known as the Oodua People's Congress (OPC) founded by Dr. Fredrick Fasheun with its militant arm led by Ganiyu Adams in the South West region of the country (Mohammed & Abdulhamid.2019).

The northern zones of the Nigeria was not immune against the geometric rise of violent crimes during this period with the zones taken over by brutal intra-religious crises between various Islamic sect that refused to accept each other's kind of Islam. There are also the challenges of Arewa Youth Congress (AYC) in the north. The activities and unrest caused by the AYC are similar to those of the insurgents. Similarly the activities of Islamic Movement of Nigeria otherwise known as the Shi'ite movement led by Sheikh Ibrahim el Zakzaky has caused serious unrest in some selected states of the north (Muzan, 2014; Mohammed & Abdul Hamid, 2019).

The coming to public glare of the Boko Haram insurgency in 2009 seems to have demystified all possible solutions proffered by the Nigerian government. This group has become so antagonistic and dangerous threat to the people and security agents in Nigeria. To this end, scholars have argued that insurgency in all its forms, either from

the BH, bandits and herders' attacks or militancy both in the northern and southern regions of the country, the safety of lives and properties and the future of the country have been put to test or serious danger since the emergence of these groups in the country. The emergence of Boko Haram in 2009 has worsened the security threats and posed as a security challenge. BH terrorists in their deliberate style of inflicting fear by way of planned attacks to weaken the government and undermine the sovereignty of the country.

Attacks on people, communities and infrastructures by terrorist organizations have imposed fear and tension around the world and Nigeria in particular. There are different terror organizations in Nigeria with different ambitions that carry out terrorist attacks within the country. Some harbour secessional ambitions (IPOB, MASSOB, Afenifere), some seek for bigger shares in the national cake (Niger-Delta Avengers), while the religious groups are agitating for the implementation of sharia law (Maitatsine, Boko Haram). With the global rise in terrorism, terrorist activities are today classified as a foremost menace to global peace and security. This has led to transnational cooperation among international security agencies to gather information on the causes and the implications of terrorism on people and country.

Mao taught us that insurgencies must pass through three stages before gaining victory: strategic defensive, stalemate, and strategic offensive. In the first stage, insurgents use guerrilla tactics to sap the will and strength of government forces. They raid when possible and retreat when necessary. During the second phase—stalemate—neither side can conduct major offensives. A sense of futility or endlessness seeps into the government's troops and populace. Casualties and costs mount, with no decision in sight. During this second phase, insurgents build up their strength and retrain their guerrillas. When government forces and morale are sufficiently weakened by stalemate, the insurgents launch the strategic offensive, using conventional maneuver attacks with organized army units. Their goal in this third phase is to defeat government forces and exercise political control over territory. Mao insisted that an insurgency must transit all three phases to gain victory.

Methodology

The paper is a qualitative study. It was conducted using both primary and secondary sources as a means of gathering data and finally leading to this research paper. Journals, conference papers, reports, Newspapers, textbooks and online materials were consulted to amplify the research. Also, interviews were randomly conducted with relevant stakeholders of different profession and discipline.

Explaining some theoretical issues underpinning insurgency

To start with, there are a number of theories on violence, militancy, insurgency and terrorism that might assist in explaining the critical question of why the resurgence of crises in Nigeria. The frustration-aggression theory uses the psychology of individual behaviour to explain civil crises, including riots, militancy, and coups. One of the leading scholars of this theory, Dollard (1939) insisted that the main source of human capacity for violence starts from an assumed widening gap among the level of satisfaction people gained and what they truly deserved. To Gurr, (1970) deprivation is not just relative, but also, measuring its standard is relative. It mostly depends on the individual's belief, standard of equity and fairness and social justice, which might be

different from that of the society. All this serve as the weakness of the frustration-aggression theory explaining the challenges of insecurity in Nigeria.

The group-identity theorist use social psychology of group behaviour to explain intra-group skirmishes which include nationalism, ethnicity and religion. These groups make use of violence to reinforce their identities in order to make their demands met. But there is an inbuilt tendency for members of a particular group to derogate the other group thereby giving the leaders the chance to take advantage of the differences. Most times, violence within and between ethnic groups such as the case in the South-South region, are not based in identity crisis, but in the exploitative policies in Nigeria.

The Domino Effects of Insurgency in Nigeria

The concept “domino effects” is generally used to describe that a particular change will result in a similar change nearby. This alteration will in turn create another similar alteration, hence the analogy to a row of standing dominoes that starts collapsing. In a well circulated application, Dwight D. Eisenhower a former United State president coined the concept of “domino theory” (Ninkovich, 1994). This Dwight D. Eisenhower was aimed to tame the spread of communist influence in Southeast Asia. He viewed countries of Southeast Asia as a set of Dominoes which will all embrace communism if Vietnam is to embrace the ideology.

In this study, we use the term “domino effect,” as this study addresses the concern about domino effects prevalent in policy: that the accommodation of one ethnic group's territorial claims will prompt other groups to pursue similar separatist goals. The domino effects examined in this study are specified to the process whereby the granting of territorial concessions to one ethnic group may encourage *other* ethnic groups into violently pursuing similar aspirations. This specification of domino effects excludes the related process of concessions leading to more extreme demands *by the same group* (Cornell 2002). In many statements on domino effects, the phenomenon is discussed in general terms whereby separatism in one location is supposed to spur similar movements “elsewhere.” However, the researchers demonstrate that it is fruitful to distinguish between domino effects as a general inspiration process and domino effects operating between ethnic or militia groups confronting the same government.

Several researchers suggest that the granting of extensive concessions to a separatist ethnic group may trigger domino effects by causing other ethnic groups to update their beliefs about the usefulness of resorting to violence and by providing strategic cues to learn from. For instance, a number of studies within the ethnic-conflict literature discuss the general tendency whereby successful ethnic conflict may prompt similar demands by other groups. The success by one ethnic group, for example being granted greater territorial self-determination, may lead another group, under similar circumstances, to update its beliefs, making it believe that similar concessions can be gained if using violence.

A group is not likely to become secessionist simply because it perceives a greater chance of succeeding or because an ethnic group in another country provides strategic guidance to learn from. Domestic conditions must make the group *want* to pursue a secessionist option.

To sum up, proponents of the domino effects as a general inspiration process suggest that the success of one ethnic group in itself may trigger other groups into raising similar demands.

Table 1: Statistics of death caused by insurgency in Nigeria from June 2011 – June 2021

S/N	Geo-Political Zones	Number Of Reported Deaths
1	North East	44,247
2	North West	12,743
3	North Central	10,119
4	South West	3,534
5	South East	3,020
6	South South	5,710

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Some manifestations of insecurity in Nigeria

Nigeria has been witnessing unprecedented security challenges in the last two decades, ranging from criminalities such as intensified domestic crises in all spheres, assassination, kidnapping/hostage takings for ransom, armed robbery, human trafficking, destruction of oil installations, strategized armed banditry, secessionist agitations, clamour for resource control, herdsman attacks or herders-farmers incidents and violent religious extremism that culminated into the Boko Haram Terrorism (BHT) that has been ravaging the Northeast since 2009. The unabated and deteriorating security challenges overwhelming the country has affected the socioeconomic and political development as no significant progress can be attained in an environment where political violence, religious fundamentalism and ethnic and sectional animosity subsist. Insecurity is a feeling of uncertainty, a lack of confidence or anxiety about oneself. It is the result of chaotic situation after an individual or groups of individual feel trampled upon or that their needs are not met. Some of these challenges and drivers are briefly explained below:

Terrorism/Insurgency: The most worrisome challenge to the nation's security is the case of terrorism/insurgency. The activities of the insurgent groups in the Niger Delta (Niger Delta Peoples Volunteer Force (NDPVF) led by Alhaji Asari Dokubo, Movement for the Emancipation of the Niger Delta (MEND) led by Henry Okah, the Martyrs Brigade, the Niger Delta Vigilante force (NDVF) led by Ateke Tom, the Bush Boys, among others) manifested in different ways such as militancy, kidnapping, killings, bombing, hostage taking, demolition of oil and gas facilities, pipeline vandalization, illegal oil bunkering (Duru, 2012: 162-170). The militants launched attacks on the Shell Petroleum Development Corporation (SPDC), Chevron and TotalFina Elf (IFE) staff and facilities. MEND killed oil workers at Chevron, TotalFina Elf (IFE), damaged a rescue helicopter sent to rescue employees, killed naval officers, injured soldiers, attacked police stations like the Mini-Okoro Elenlewo and killed some officers on duty, attacked fivestar hotels, and carried out a bomb attack on the Eagle Square, Abuja on October 1, 2010 during the fifty year anniversary of independence. Between 1999 and 2007 a total of 308 hostage incidents were recorded in the region (Ogbonnaya and Ehigiamusoe, 2013: 46-60).

The terror group capitalized on the level of poverty and unemployment in Nigeria to increase their membership by enlisting the poor and the jobless. The local populace suffers from alienation and neglect; many of the youths are jobless, idle and angry. Ayegba (2015) has argued that unemployment and poverty together add to people's vulnerabilities and raises their likelihood of joining Boko Haram and other security threatening groups as an antidote to their economic troubles.

Boko Haram/ISWAP: This is an Islamic sect founded in 2002 by Late Mohammed Yusuf. It is the biggest security challenge Nigeria has faced after the civil war of 1967. The effect of the sect activities is not just limited to Nigeria but to other neighbouring countries as well, it has adversely affected their economic development. According to Odo (2015), the word "Boko" is a Hausa word meaning "western", otherwise non-Islamic education; and the Arabic word "Haram" figuratively means "sin" or literally something "forbidden". The Boko Haram is a controversial Nigerian militant Islamist group that has sought to impose Sharia law or its radical interpretation of Islam on the northern states of Nigeria and then to other parts of the country like what the Malians Islamists almost succeeded to do in Northern Mali. Mohammed & Abdulhamid (2019) rightly holds that the group opposes not only western education, but also western culture, civilization and modern science. The Boko Haram group also promotes a radical form of Islam which makes it "Haram" or forbidden for Muslims to take part in any political or social activities in the society. This includes voting in election, wearing of shirts and trousers or receiving secular education (Onifade, Imhonopi and Urim, 2012; Mohammed and Abdulhamid, 2019).

Boko Haram has severally launched attacks on military institutions such as military barracks, police stations (including the Force Headquarters in Abuja); and have also swooped on educational institutions at all levels, government establishments, places of worship (both churches and mosques) and have assassinated key political figures, statesmen and religious leaders that oppose their ideology.

In 2018, the report of the Institute for Economic and Peace (IEP) on the Global Terrorism Index (GTI), Nigeria was positioned on 3rd among the 10 most terrorized countries in the world (IEP 2018). Nigeria accounted for 10,000 (equivalent of 8%) of total deaths from global terrorism in 2017, therefore ranking the third beyond only Afghanistan and Iraq (IEP, 2018). Boko Haram has remained the most dangerous terrorist organization in Nigeria well ahead of kidnappers and bandits. The sect owned up to be responsible for many violent attacks on the people and the security forces in the Northern region.

Kidnapping and Banditry: One of the most challenging threats for families in the country is the frequent act of kidnapping for ransom and other violent crimes. It has continued unabated in Nigeria with the kidnapping of lots of people, schoolchildren, and expatriates. Thousands of schoolchildren have been kidnapped from their classrooms and boarding houses since the case of the Chibok girls of 2014; many were only released after millions of naira was paid as ransom.

Some of those perpetuating the acts of kidnapping are also called "bandits" in the country. These bandits maraud villages, abduct civilians, set ablaze houses and forced many to flee their homes and seek for shelter elsewhere. The northern part particularly

the north-west has been the epicentre of these violent attacks. Over 3,000 people have been killed in Zamfara state since 2012. Kaduna, Benue, Niger and Plateau states have been brutally affected; killings of civilians, abductions of schoolchildren are very common.

The security paraphernalia saddled with the sole responsibilities of securing lives and properties in Nigeria rests on few thousands of security agents and agencies who are not adequately equipped to secure a population of over 200 million people. The weaponry of the security agents are not as sophisticated as those of the bandits and insurgents. Therefore, in the face of containing the spread of insurgency, the security agents are likely to record more casualties which is capable dampening their morale, thereby making them unwilling to forestall future impending attacks when intelligent reports are made available. The consequential outcome of inadequate funding of the agencies is that they will be easily enticed with bribes and gifts from the perpetrators of these crimes, thereby abdicating their primary responsibility and exposing the lives and properties of the citizenries.

Desire to actualize ethnic agenda: The desire to secede has become a recurring decimal in the history of Nigeria. This is as a result of certain unsatisfactory conditions which are either political or economical nature; prompt the agitators to take the option of secession from Nigeria. The message of, Movement for the Emancipation of the Niger Delta (MEND) in the South, Movement for the Actualization of the Sovereign State of Biafra (MASSOB) in the South East, Oodua People's Congress (OPC) in the West, Boko Haram in the North, Bakasi Boys, Fulani Herdsmen, and vigilante groups all over the country. Each one of these groups has reasons for their agitation (Muzan, 2014). The secessionist groups for Biafra led by Nnamdi Kanu under the umbrella of Indigenous People of Biafra (IPOB) and the Sunday Igboho led movement for a Yoruba nation named Oduduwa Republic are continuously constituting security threats in the southern part of Nigeria.

Porous boundaries: This factor that has contributed to the growth of insecurity in Nigeria. The boundaries between Nigeria and its neighbours Cameroon, Chad, Benin Republic

and Niger are very porous. The often difficult terrain, the length of borders, and ineffective

government capacity make these frontiers hard to secure and prone to infiltration (Hussein, 2012). One time Nigerian Interior Minister disclosed that there are a staggering 1499 illegal entry points into Nigeria. This compares with 84 legal entry routes and underlines the level of porosity of boundaries (Onuoha, 2013).

The Porosity at the nation's borders has aided Boko Haram and other agents of insecurity in many ways. To escape the onslaught of the security forces, militants have usually fled across borders into neighbouring countries where they have sought refuge, set up bases, and encouraged recruitment amongst the local populace. The movement of fighters moving back and forth allows for cross-border hit-and-run attacks. It has also made easy the smuggling of arms and ammunitions into Nigeria. The Cameroonian authority

has confirmed the presence of trans-border operations and observed that the insurgents use the border area to "reassemble after attacks in Nigeria." There is strong evidence

that insurgents/militants have established rear bases in Cameroon, Chad and Niger (ICG, 2014).

Ethno-religious violence: The rate of inter-ethnic and inter-religious crises has caused more problems to the peaceful coexistence of the Nigerian state. Some states like Kaduna, Taraba, Plateau and Benue States reprisal attacks by ethnic militia unleashing violent attacks in these areas. While security in some parts of the country, like the South-south, southeast and the southwest has been compromised, the northern zone that has always shown a propensity for violent conflicts did not disappoint security watchers. Starting with the usual religious/ethnic oriented conflicts to the Jos ethnic/religious/political conflicts of 2008 till date, the Umuleri-Aguleri crisis in Anambra, Ife-Modakeke in Osun, Tiv-Jukun, Yoruba-Hausa in Lagos, Oyo, Kano and Ogun states have shown that security of persons and properties is still far from being realized.

The level of religious fanaticism in Nigeria has been alleged to be the main driver of Boko Haram insurgency. Some researchers posit that BH is a product of Islamic pedagogies of Salafism, pureness, implementing the Islamic Sharia system and waging a war (Jihad) against compromised members (of the same faith) and infidels. References are always made by the members of this school of thought to the Muhammedian jihad (622 AD), Danfodio's jihad (1804), Maitatsine Uprising (1980s), with Yusuf's Boko Haram regarded as a prototype nurtured and motivated by the nostalgia of its predecessors. The position of this school is made more appropriate by the manifesto and demands of BH to root out western culture and impose Sharia law on the 19 Nigeria's northern states. It was based on the above presuppositions that one of the proponents of this school Austin (2015) appeals that "adherents of all religions should see beyond their narrow/parochial spheres as they embrace the spirit of dialogue".

Corruption: Corruption in Nigeria is endemic and has been one the main reasons fuelling insecurity in the country. The public is highly dissatisfied about the level of corruption in the system. The exponential rise of corruption in post-colonial Nigeria is closely connected with the discovery of oil and gas and the rapid expansion of bureaucracy. Nigeria's democracy has degenerated into a plutocracy dominated by a few rich men, and where there is concentration of wealth and power in very few hands. If effectively managed and distributed, Nigeria's vast resources could do a lot in taking care of the masses and improve the people's standard of living. Instead, ubiquitous and multi-faceted corruption in Nigeria has extended even into the security services such as the police (Campbell and Harwood, 2012).

The concept of godfatherism has whittled down the seriousness attached to good governance; it constitutes a causal factor to insecurity in the nation's political environment. The complexity posed by this concept has a toll on the effective performance of elected and appointed officials who are always answerable to their godfather

The insurgents or militants often lampooned corrupt government officials for the relative economic deprivation of the masses (Maiangwa, 2012). Transparency International's Corruption Perception Index (CPI) shows that Nigeria's country ranking has risen slightly over the last three years, indicating a marginal increase in the perceived levels of corruption in the country (CPI, 2008).

The import of technology in containing the spread of insecurity

Technology, especially Information and Communication Technology (ICT) is one of the veritable platforms that cannot be neglected, particularly when it comes to insecurity where by a lot of tools can be deployed to combat and improve vigilance of all the organizational activities. There is a saying that security is every one's concern? Basically ICT can be a great tool in detection and identification of citizens, their interaction and communication, movement, education and so on. When we look at Nigeria in particular, Nigeria is a country that has a lot of issues that can contribute to the insecurity such as poverty, illiteracy, corruption, unemployment and so on. Any country with any of the above can be at risk of increase in the level of violence or crimes e.g. robbery, kidnapping, rape, and even terrorism.

The fight to keep Nigeria safe has been a daunting task, especially the fight against terrorism. The fight against Boko Haram seems to have defied all governmental solutions, hence the need to fall on technology to help ameliorate the pains.

The Government of Nigeria initiated some policies like terrorism prevention policy, bank verification number (BVN); anti money laundering laws, national identification number (NIN) amongst others to checkmate the challenges of insecurity in the country and chiefly among them is the compulsory biometric registration of every mobile telephone sim-card owner by the mobile network operators in the country and the deactivation of all unregistered phone numbers. The registration exercises were successfully accomplished and the operators were alleged to have helped the security agents with intelligent gathering (via their mobile devices) of suspected insurgents. The 2012 coordinated attacks on telecommunication masts in Yobe, Borno, Gombe and Bauchi states were suspected to be retaliatory attacks for the connivance between the operators and the security personnel.

The other effort played by the Nigerian government is the proliferation of comprehensive depository of biometric data of the citizens. This is fundamental to Nigeria's national security. There are different agencies where biometric data are captured in the country with no central integration of the captured data yet. For effective delivery of their work, the following agencies also collected biometric data of the citizens just like the mobile network operator:

- i. The Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) for the Permanent Voter's Cards (PVCs).
- ii. National Identity Management Commission (NIMC) for national identity cards.
- iii. Nigerian Immigration Service (NIS) for the issuance of international passports.
- iv. National Population Commission (NPC) for census data.
- v. Joint Admission and Matriculation Board (JAMB) for candidates' registration.
- vi. Federal Road Safety Corps (FRSC) before the issuance of driver's licenses.
- vii. Bank Verification Numbers (BVN) for all banking transactions.

It is important for the federal government to harmonize all the different sources listed above as well as intelligence-based, inter-border cooperation on biometric data within the continent of Africa.

There is lot more to be done on data mining/profiling if the government is to curb the spread of insurgency and insecurity in Nigeria. Importantly, the government should anchor the integration of citizens' database where all biometric records of the citizens and visitors are documented. This is very important to counter insurgency

response and planning. This idea can best be appreciated from the experience of the advanced countries of the world, where news agencies are furnished with pictures of terrorist and criminal-suspects within hours after the crimes are committed will inspire Nigeria's efforts.

Another technological investment Nigeria can key into in combating insecurity is the communication satellite surveillance. Though, the federal government had earlier launched NigeriaSat-X and NigeriaSat-2, these two are not enough to provide aerial surveillance required given the size of the country and to view the insurgent hideout like Sambisa Forest in Borno and the Creeks in the South-South region of Nigeria. The investment and launching of satellite infrastructure is no doubt capital intensive, but it is justifiable for the government to spend that amount to avert the loss of life and property of the citizens.

It is also instructive that the Nigerian government insists on Automated Personal Data Bank (APDB) for all citizens and immigrants. APDB is the use of dedicative devices as database for the collection and storing of personal information and data of citizens and immigrants that can allow the security agents to trace individual's data including suspected criminal or terrorist (Yakubu, Mohammed, and Abdulkadir, 2018). The records of APDB can contain fingerprints, digital images, addresses and vehicle registration in order to facilitate the monitoring the activities of the citizens by government security agencies and departments like Department of State Security Service (DSSS) and State Criminal Investigation Department (SCID).

The drone technology or unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) exists in the developed countries to fight insurgency and other form of insecurity. Drone is an unmanned aerial vehicle that is capable of flying over the epicenter or hotbed regions to gather valuable visuals that will complement satellite imagery. This technology is being used in the developed countries to quietly deploy bombs on target area with little or no collateral impact.

The Global Positioning System (GPS) as a tracking System is one of the most rapidly growing technologies around the world. Most developed countries have focused on the GPS technologies in resolving some of their inherent security problems. The GPS is used to determine the exact location of a person, a vehicle or other asset to which it is attached and to record the position of the asset at regular intervals. The recorded location data can be stored within the tracking unit, or it may be transmitted to a central location database, or internet-connected computer, using a cellular (GPRS), radio, or satellite modem embedded in the unit. This allows the asset's location to be displayed against a map backdrop either in real-time or when analyzing the track later, using customized software. A GPS tracking system uses the Global Navigation Satellite System (GNSS) network. This network incorporates a range of satellites that use microwave signals which are transmitted to GPS devices to give information on location, vehicle speed, time and direction. So, a GPS tracking system can potentially give both real-time and historic navigation data on any kind of journey (Abdulkadir, Hassan, & Abdulrahman, 2016).

The Close Circuit Television (CCTV) plays an important role in safeguarding the people and aiding the security agents in the investigation of crime. While there are evidences of it in some very few places, the technology is still grossly inadequate.

The expected goals of the urban populated area are to be completely covered by CCTV surveillance. Other key areas aside these areas are to be mapped out also.

Conclusion

With the myriads of security challenges facing the Nigerian state, there is the need for the Federal Government and its agencies to adopt the use of technology like the ones mentioned above to contain the spread of the challenges. These technological infrastructures are very important in mounting surveillance by monitoring and controlling the affairs of the state. The satellites and drone are eyes in the air that monitor the environment as well as gather geospatial information for mapping crime hotspots, surveillance and security intelligence. The lives and properties of the citizens of Nigeria deserve to be protected better than what they are currently experiencing, security remain one of the basic necessities of life, without security citizens are exposed to different form of attacks.

With the latest technology advancement and applications all over the world, a lot can be achieved and monitored such as CCTV and GPS to monitor movement and visuals to what is going on in a certain location, National identity can also be used to controlled and know the number of people living in a particular location where each and every member of the society have to uniquely be identified and can be tracked with National Identity card he is holding which is GPS enabled.

Recommendations

The adoption of the ever evolving technology in the fight against insecurity cannot be over emphasized. For the government and its security agencies to live up to the constitutional expectations of protecting lives and properties of the citizens they must rise to their responsibilities and reclaim the cyberspaces and all that happens around there.

As new technology keeps evolving where more sophisticated and advanced devices keep emerging, it becomes only imperative and instructive that the National Security forces implement technology or ICT applications proactively in order to manage the new trend of events and data transmission nationwide. The security should be across the nation and not only enforcing it in areas affected by crimes.

Security situations in Nigeria should be the concern of all discerning citizens, every suspicious transmission, movement, communication within the circle of reach of every citizen must be reported to the nearest and appropriate authorities for prompt

action to be taken. The citizens have to be ready to comply and also have in mind that security is everybody's business and not the security agencies alone.

Nigerian scientists home and abroad should be tasked to produce the appropriate technology for the specific needs in the security sector. The Defence Industry Corporation of Nigeria (DICON) can be challenged to oversee this assignment.

Finally, the government should train its personnel on ICT knowledge in all sectors and agencies to ensure maximum use of the ICT facilities.

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