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INTELLIGENCE SYSTEM AND NATIONAL SECURITY IN NIGERIA: THE CHALLENGES OF DATA GATHERING

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Abstract

Nigeria today faces a variety of security risks that are threatening to undermine its status as an independent republic. These include armed robbery, urban violence, smuggling of weapons, kidnapping, trafficking in people, and disputes between communities and religions. A strong intelligence system that can readily gather and analyse data to precisely predict the movement of criminals and other unwanted elements inside society might alleviate all these concerns. However, it appears that the government, security, and intelligence agencies are caught off guard by the on-going attacks by militants, herders, and incidents of ethnic-religious strife. These unexpected attacks might not be unrelated to incorrect and insufficient information provided about these acts. The study employs qualitative methodologies and draws on secondary sources like newspapers, the internet, and published academic works. The paper's findings show, among other things, that a number of intricate and interconnected problems can be blamed for the Nigerian intelligence system's lack of efficacy. These problems, which include an apparent lack of data, under-use of the data that is already available, and improper data, are made worse by inconsistencies in data management and sharing across the numerous security agencies operating in the nation. The article concludes that it is important for the various security apparatuses to be data-driven and exchange intelligence with one another in order to promote early response to any threat to the security of citizens' lives and property.

Keywords

Intelligence System, National Security, National Identity System, Data Gathering and Cyber-security.

Resumo

Atualmente, a Nigéria enfrenta uma série de riscos de segurança que ameaçam minar o seu estatuto de república independente. Estes incluem assaltos à mão armada, violência urbana, contrabando de armas, raptos, tráfico de pessoas e disputas entre comunidades e religiões. Um sistema de informações forte, capaz de recolher e analisar prontamente dados para prever com precisão o movimento de criminosos e outros elementos indesejáveis na sociedade, poderia aliviar todas estas preocupações. No entanto, parece que o governo, a segurança e as agências de informação são apanhados desprevenidos pelos ataques em curso de militantes, pastores e incidentes de conflitos étnico-religiosos. Estes ataques inesperados podem não ser alheios à informação incorrecta e insuficiente fornecida sobre estes actos. O estudo utiliza metodologias qualitativas e recorre a fontes secundárias como os jornais, a Internet e trabalhos académicos publicados. As conclusões do estudo mostram, entre outras coisas, que uma série de problemas intrincados e interligados podem ser responsabilizados pela falta de eficácia do sistema de informações nigeriano. Estes problemas, que incluem uma aparente falta de dados, subutilização dos dados que já estão disponíveis, e dados impróprios, são agravados por inconsistências na gestão e partilha de dados entre as numerosas agências de segurança que operam no país. O artigo conclui que é importante que os vários aparelhos de segurança sejam orientados por dados e troquem informações entre si para promover uma resposta rápida a qualquer ameaça à segurança das vidas e bens dos cidadãos.

Palavras chave

Sistema de Informações, Segurança Nacional, Sistema Nacional de Identidade, Recolha de Dados e Cibersegurança.

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Introduction

The Boko Haram insurgency in the north of the country, Delta militants, Fulani herdsmen invaders, kidnappers, and reviving Niger-Delta Avenger provide possibly the greatest security threat and challenge to the Nigerian state since the conclusion of the country's civil war in the early 1970s. Boko Haram and other security threats have prompted a significant mobilisation of the country's defence and intelligence services, a tightening of border posts, stringent searches, and the repatriation of illegal immigrants. However, despite the presence and tactics of the defence and intelligence communities, the terrorists' on-going violent acts have continued to occur often, resulting in significant bloodshed and property loss. The type of bombing appears to raise the stakes in comparison to earlier attacks and lean towards the risky territory for retaliation. A large population exodus occurs from the damaged areas, which tends to give the terrorist a new sense of hegemony and spatial control. As a result, many who appear to be overwhelmed by insecurity have said that Nigeria is on the verge of a new civil war. Boko Haram and other security issues have made the country more vulnerable to humanitarian disasters as a result of the large number of refugees and internally displaced people. The large population in the camp for internally displaced people paints a picture of a fragile nation. These difficulties show that Nigeria's intelligence agencies and systems have a long way to go before they can provide quality services, especially in terms of preventing terrorist attacks and the activities of extremists like Fulani herdsmen invasion and kidnapping. They also show that they need to be more practical and creative in their approaches to the many problems this issue poses for Nigeria's public safety and security. One might speculate that some of the apparent government, security, and intelligence

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agencies' unawareness or surprise regarding militant, herdsman, and ethnic-religious conflicts in the nation could be at least partially attributed to Nigeria's intelligence agencies' lack of knowledge, resources, and data.

Alemeka (2005), and Permot-Leplay (2020), agree that the issue with the security, law enforcement, and intelligence organisations is not a lack of valid and reliable data or poor data management. It is a widespread issue that affects all of the nation's political and economic institutions. For instance, because Nigeria lacks valid and reliable data on the size and makeup of its population, we must make do with estimates or data from other crucial areas, such as employment and unemployment rates, foreign and domestic debts, petroleum output, export, and import theft (bunkering), foreign trade, poverty rates, etc. This explains why nothing in Nigeria seems to be going according to plan. Simply put, planning is characterized by educated guesses and ignorance of pertinent socioeconomic and political parameters for policy formulation, implementation, monitoring, and evaluation, which is why things rarely go as planned. This paper adopts qualitative methodologies and draws its data from secondary sources like newspapers, the internet, and published academic works.

Conceptual Clarification: Data and Intelligence Gathering

Understanding intelligence is not a simple concept. It is challenging and susceptible to misunderstandings. Between academics and practitioners, as well as frequently within each group, certain issues are still up for discussion. Intelligence is seen as an interesting and, to some, even rather exciting subject to study, but this excitement can frequently result in enthusiastic, and occasionally partisan, attention to current issues in intelligence without sufficient grounding in the more fundamental and significant aspects of a national intelligence program. According to Marrin (2004), some people may find these definitions overtly pedantic, but others may well prefer the well-known "duck" definition given the newness of intelligence as a subject of study and the definitional and theoretical dispute that is still going on. In a similar spirit, Warner (2011) said that there is no universally recognised definition of intelligence and that any attempt to do so would only lead to more questions than it would resolve.

According to Iheriohanma and Emenyonu (2018), acquiring, analysing, and utilising effective information and intelligence regarding the security situation in Nigeria is vital. Every country's ability to effectively pursue and carry out its security needs depends critically on a number of factors, including a citizenry that is motivated to be security conscious and provide the information required, intelligence gathering, the presence of the necessary security tools and equipment, the will of the government in place, and security institutions that are able to analyse and make use of the information that is already available. This point to the lack of information and intelligence gathering and analysis, lack of relevant modern ICT security equipment and personnel, sharing intelligence information, and collaborative efforts among these agencies.

Data, information, and intelligence have significant effects on national security, and each is equally vital in enabling better strategy and decision-making. According to Liew (2007), Zins (2007), and Gutierrez (2018), data is a recorded truth from a particular point in

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time in its most basic form. Symbols and signal readings are recorded, collected, and saved as data. The components of communication-text or verbal, numbers, diagrams, photos, and video-are always included in the symbols. Sensor or sensory readings of light, sound, smell, taste, and touch are examples of signals. Data is simply a representation of fundamental meaning stored as symbols. According to Liew (2007), the primary goal of data is to record activities or situations in an effort to capture the truth or the actual occurrence. It captures a moment in time. That occurrence could be a discussion, a deal, or an interaction. Data is a collection of results from those events that are quantifiably documented and then used to analyse security conditions. They are unquestionably expressions of fact.

According to Hoppe, Seising, Nurnberger, and Wenzel (2011), data is provided through straightforward sign and symbol sequences. In a similar spirit, Bierly, Kessler, and Christensen (2000) observe that, data are representations whose meanings depend on the representation system, including symbols and language utilised. Information is a straightforward method of combining data. When you incorporate data from an event into a story, you will have information rather than just data. The context of the data is what enables you to provide simple answers. Information is created as a result of the responses to those questions. It ultimately comes down to transforming data points into information that alerts you to security concerns. Intelligence goes a step farther and makes decisions based on the data.

Intelligence involves the capacity to perceive the environment, form judgments, and manage behaviour. Higher levels of intelligence may include the capacity for object and event recognition, information presentation using a world model, and future planning reasoning. Advanced forms of intelligence have the ability to see, comprehend, make sensible decisions, and act successfully in a wide range of situations in order to live, thrive, and reproduce in a challenging and frequently hostile environment (Albus, 1991; Kekela, & Jana, 2019; McCall, Bowers, & Westaway, 2019).

However, intelligence is the timely and accurate dissemination of information, and accurate knowledge before a crisis occurs is a vital asset. Such proactive intelligence enables the close monitoring of developing events and the proactive formulation of adaptive tactics based on current observations in the field of intelligence and early warning. Giambastiani and Jones (2004) note that intelligence failure occurs when intelligence agencies provide inaccurate or misleading information or when actionable intelligence is not obtained on time. Intelligence collection, analysis, dissemination, and sharing will be critical in reducing the decision time between recognizing a security risk and executing the desired course of action. The frequency and scope of crimes are evolving along with the rest of the world. The procedure of obtaining intelligence must constantly be improved due to the shifting patterns of crimes. The five steps of the intelligence cycle, which has also historically been used to describe the intelligence process, include planning and direction, collecting, processing, analysis, and dissemination.

Intelligence systems are information networks that provide useful intelligence for national security. They are built on data, information, and intelligence, involving people, processes, and technologies. The intelligence doctrine, which includes concepts like

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intelligence cycle, target cycle, and opioid cycle, serves as a rulebook and reference for understanding intelligence, developing intelligence capabilities, and utilising intelligence systems within national security (Smith, 2020; National Counterintelligence and Security Centre, 2018). It helps stakeholders make informed decisions and ensures that citizens are better informed about national security matters.

According to Lowenthal (2000)**,** intelligence is comprised of three interconnected phenomena that, if not explicitly stated, will be unclear. The first thing to understand is that intelligence is a process. "Intelligence can be thought of as how certain types of information are required and requested, collected, analysed, and disseminated, as well as to how certain types of covert action are conceived and conducted," says John C. Allen. "Intelligence can be viewed as the outcome of these processes, that is, as the analyses and intelligence operations themselves," says the second point. The third factor is the structure: "The units that perform intelligence's many functions can be conceived as intelligence. In reaction to an external threat, in order to safeguard their essential interests and the welfare of their citizens, governments seek intelligence (Johnson, 2013). The aforementioned intelligence allows for early detection of a security issue and prompt action to avert the scenario. Sims (2013) asserts that obtaining more information than your adversary can happen in sports, commerce, and politics but that this is still the basis of intelligence.

Warner (2017) emphasises the secretive character of intelligence, claiming that intelligence is impossible without secrets and that a lack of secrecy jeopardises the sought-after competitive advantages. This is true because a state's use of intellect can determine its fate. The heart and soul of the intelligence process, the intelligence output is what gives intelligence its added value. The goal of intelligence is to enable the right decision to be made and the right action to be taken at the appropriate time and location. This is accomplished by planning, identifying potential decisions (actions) to be taken along some course of a planned operation, and then identifying those bits of clarifying, validating, or triggering information that can be collected and reported in both a timely and relevant manner. Klir (1992) notes that the capacity of a person or a system to convert knowledge into actions is referred to as intelligence. Natural intelligence, artificial intelligence, machine intelligence, and computational intelligence are examples of intelligence paradigms. The emergence of cognitive robots, cognitive computers, intelligent systems, and software agents suggests that machines and artificial systems are also capable of inventing or implementing intelligence.

Intelligence: Towards a Theoretical Analysis

Since the 1950s, intelligence has been studied academically, according to Phythian (2009). Scholars have pushed for a theory of intelligence almost from the beginning. Nothing has been developed. Although some authors refer to certain parts of their works as "theory of intelligence," no one has, to our knowledge, put out any conceptions that can be put to the test. The contribution that each theory of intelligence makes to the field of intelligence studies should be stated. But in order to achieve this, it is also necessary to investigate the method through which knowledge is created, collected, and applied.

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Any theory's foundation is provided by the process; hence studying methodology comes before studying theory.

State-centric intelligence studies have historically developed in close alignment with international relations, with realism being the IR school that has most obviously impacted intelligence studies. Similar to this, the essential assumption at the core of intelligence analysis has been realism. In order to understand the conflict that the practice of intelligence can cause in liberal democratic nations, Phythian (2008) lays forth the on-going importance of this. Hamilton Bean and Gunilla Eriksson contend that different strategies, such as discourse analysis, should be utilised to reveal the underlying presuppositions in intelligence communications. As a result, analysts should aim for fairness and clarity rather than the unattainable ideal of objectivity.

According to Phythian (2008), the assumption that states have a reasonable offensive capability, are unsure of the intentions of other states, and are rational actors is captured by structural realism. This assumption underlies the notion of the "great powers" and is based on the assumptions of an anarchic world system. States aim to lessen uncertainty through intelligence, and their efforts to remain viable are marked by secrecy.

Sims (2013) criticises structural realism and advocates "adaptive realism," but a more comprehensive theoretical challenge to realism is made by some who contend that the concept of "human security" should take the place of the national security as the driving factor. The interconnectedness of nations and the reality that governments will improve their security and stability by collaboration with others that support (collective) sovereignty, despite it has a significant impact on reducing national autonomy, provide mounting evidence for this (Beck, 2005). However, Beck further warns against the "methodological nationalism" that has been dubbed "zombie science" and that fails to acknowledge or advance the degree to which transnational variables "determine" relations within and between states.

Nigerian Intelligence System: An Historical Perspective

The history of intelligence in Nigeria dates back to the colonial era, when the police's intelligence branch mainly served as a source of criminal analysis for the force. Their primary concern was keeping dossiers and records about those who were deemed to be criminals, associated with criminals, or individuals who were deemed to pose a threat to public safety, public order, or colonialism. They also offered analysis of the nation's crime patterns and trends. Particularly during colonial rule, police intelligence units typically compiled dossiers and kept a close eye on political activists and nationalist-politicians. After the E-Branch was eliminated from the Nigerian Police Force, and the Nigerian Security Organisation (NSO) was founded in 1976, the Police Management established the Criminal Intelligence Bureau (CIB) to carry out the duties formerly handled by the E-Branch.

The National Security Agencies Decree No. 19, 1986, issued by Ibrahim Gbadamosi Babangida during his administration, as well as the National Security Agencies Act, Cap. N.74 of the Laws of the Federation 2004, and the Police Acts and Regulations Laws of

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the Federation, 2004, are what gave rise to Nigeria's intelligent system. State Security Services and the Defence Intelligence Agency were also established by these laws. The statutory responsibility for maintaining internal security and public order falls to the Nigerian police. Along with the police, The Directorate of State Security Service (DSS), which is in charge of domestic intelligence, the National Intelligence Agencies (NIA), which is in charge of foreign intelligence and counterintelligence operations, and the Defence Intelligence Agency (DIA), which is in charge of military intelligence, are all members of Nigeria's intelligence community.

The violent actions of Boko Haram, herdsmen, robbers, and other sources of instability have prompted responses from all of the aforementioned organisations. The worst possibility of detecting crime and insurgency operations, much alone averting bombing assaults, is provided by Nigerian intelligence systems. With sister agencies that can assist in identifying and monitoring insurgencies as well as providing early warning signals and quick responses to thwart their intentions, our intelligence system has failed to successfully exchange information and intelligence assessments. Lack of confidence among intelligence agencies could be primary problem in combating the Boko Haram threat. At the highest level of the agencies, there is excessive rivalry, mistrust, and personal glory seeking among the sister organizations. However, it can be assumed that a lack of cooperation among the security services is what led to their failure.

Intelligence and National Security in Nigeria

National security has been defined as a nation-capacity state's to, among other things, maintain its territorial integrity and physical integrity, maintain reasonable economic relations with the rest of the world, maintain its nature, institutions, and system of government from the outside, and control its borders. According to Peter, Marrin, and Phythian (2009), maintaining states' and societies' distinct identities and functional integrity is a crucial component of national security.

Akintoye and Ayi (2015), and Lemu (2017) agree that Nigeria's intelligence and security systems have improved significantly since its independence in 1960. The State Security Service, the primary agency, protects national security interests and collects information. Other security bodies include the Nigerian Armed Forces, the Nigerian Police Force, and the Immigration Service. The Nigerian Intelligence Agency (NIA) provides strategic analysis and assessments. The government has invested in modernising intelligence gathering and analysis capabilities by establishing a National Security Database (NSDB), a national surveillance network, and a Regional Security System (RSS). Advanced technologies like aerial and satellite imagery are used for intelligence gathering. The government also has intelligence training centres and has adopted an open-source intelligence system (OSINT) for security, defence, and political purposes (Ogunkoya, Olagunju, & Adewumi, 2016; Oladun, & Ola, 2018). These measures aim to ensure the country's safety and security.

Human security includes the necessity to defend fundamental human rights, which include as their main threats, killings, executions, genocides, and fatalities as a result of war or conflicts. These contemporary risks to human security are global in scope and

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interconnected, necessitating an international and integrated response approach. The fact that Nigeria's various security agencies have fallen short when it comes to intelligence is reflected in the increase of terrorism, militancy, kidnappings, and armed robberies, to name a few. These security services' shortcomings in the areas of intelligence collecting and sharing such intelligence reports with other pertinent security agencies for proper implementation, despite the significant annual budgets allotted to them are substantially to blame. The politicisation of the security system and corruption are two significant factors that work against the success of Nigeria's security system.

The safety and security topology now significantly more advanced than it was in the previous two decades, according to Odinkalu (2005). The environment, shoddy infrastructure, and health and safety supervision procedures are under enormous stress as a result of population increase, industrial advancements, and sophisticated criminality. The range of needs for safety and security as a result includes issues like industrial and civil safety economic, communications and general infrastructural security, various types of accidents and related rescue operations, environmental security, identity security, and more advanced intelligence mechanisms that prioritise crisis prevention over post-hoc detection and response.

Nigeria's attempt to address the issue of threats to her internal security as a result of the prevalent state of insecurity in some sections of the country has presented intriguing problems for the country's intelligence community. Because of the on-going intelligence failures and resulting state of uncertainty, intelligence's effectiveness had been questioned. The competing problems of a lack of real-time intelligence and a lack of analytical ability related to information gathering and management made this necessary.

To ensure individual safety and property protection, Nigeria is home to numerous law enforcement, intelligence, and security organisations. However, due to a number of internal and external constraints, the level of efficacy and efficiency of these agencies is unsatisfactory (Peters, 2020; Akinsulure-Smith, 2020; Alemika, 2005; Alemika & Chukwuma, 2001). One of these reasons is the lack of adequate and trustworthy data and information that all of these organisations practically work on (Alemika, 2005). The police have struggled to attain high clearance rates, successful prosecution, and high conviction rates due to a lack of trustworthy data and statistics. The prosecution division, courts, and jail facilities are backed up due to a shortage of trustworthy criminal intelligence analysis. Statistics on the prison population in Nigeria during the previous 15 years reveal that a large portion of offenders were being held in custody pending trial. Overall, the nation's ability to prevent and regulate crime has been hampered by the lack of trustworthy and legitimate information management systems inside each of the criminal justice and security institutions. Additionally, it has reduced the effectiveness of defences put in place to protect the nation's security and safety.

Maintaining a sufficient security presence is one of the most crucial tasks in counterinsurgency (COIN), according to Oyewole (2014), in order to protect the lives and property of the affected population and reinstate law and order in society. As a result, both the size and quality of security presence have an impact on the situation in Nigeria's COIN theatre, notably the operators' capacity to receive timely and pertinent information and mobilise for an immediate response. The local air force and the complementary air

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powers have impacted the security situations with the level of their presence or absence in the sky for intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance; firepower; and transportation in the theatre, even though the roles of the ground operatives have dominated public attention.

According to Oshita, Alumona, and Onuha (2019), the administration of internal security in Nigeria during the past two decades has been defined by the emergence of numerous security concerns. Although continuous herdsmen-farmers confrontations, militancy in the Niger Delta, Boko Haram insurgency, and other security issues including kidnapping, urban gang violence, human trafficking, arms smuggling, cybercrime, and illegal migration, among others, have a tendency to be overshadowed. The substantial loss of life and property in Nigeria is a result of the security crises' endurance and the institutions' formal and informal incapacity to contain them. They also pointed out that the Nigerian government's management of internal security issues tended to take a reactive, forceful, and repressive strategy rather than a proactive, preventive, and inclusive one.

In modern global environment, studies had shown that security is a core goal of state. Many states gather intelligence as part of their efforts to protect their borders, but some states prioritise doing so more than others, thus they devote greater resources to the effort (Jubril, 2017). It is impossible to overstate how useless intelligence is, that is why Moses is said to have sent spies into Canaan to investigate the possibility of Israelites settling there. The availability of information and communication technology, which has increased the speed and methods of gathering correct data and the precision of turning raw data into final intelligence, as well as the state's desire for intelligence, have, however, made these factors less important.

Nigerian intelligence agencies included have access to data from the National Identity Database System, which was developed and is being used, for its own objectives. This is why the National Identity Management Commission (MIMC) was established, with its three main responsibilities being to build, run, and manage the National Identity Management System (NIMS) with a focus on:

1. Establishing and maintaining a National Identity Database;

2. Providing eligible citizens and legal residents with Unique National Identification Numbers;

3. Issuing a Smart ID Card to every person who has registered;

4. Harmonizing and integrating Identity Databases in Government Agencies to achieve resource optimization;

5. Providing a secure method for accessing the National Identity Database so that a person can unquestionably assert their identity (Person Identification Verification Services (PIVS) Infrastructure);

6. Collaborating with private and/or public sector institutions to deliver on the National Identity Management System (NIMS)

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Terrorism, Banditry and Kidnapping: National Identity System and Intelligence Operations in Nigeria

A national identity system can help prevent terrorism, banditry, and kidnapping by giving residents a safe and trustworthy way to identify themselves. It will be harder for criminals to use phony identities if this system helps to verify that people are accurately identified and vetted. Law enforcement organizations can effectively follow and apprehend criminals engaged in these activities by connecting different kinds of identification, such biometric data, to a centralized database. Guardian (August, 2021) reports that despite the fact that many Nigerians had to stand in line for days in the hot heat to register during the pandemic, the impact on the National Identity System security concerns in Nigeria remains minimal. Attacks by criminals on the public are still common today. Even with the NIN-SIM identity system in place, terrorists, kidnappers, bandits, and other criminal elements of society continue to operate with impunity. This Federal Government's security regulations have frequently been circumvented in the bandit-prone North East. According to reports, citizens of the states of Katsina, Zamfara, and Kaduna gave security personnel the bandits' phone numbers after recounting their experiences inside kidnappers' lairs. However, they bemoaned the fact that nothing was done to capture the crooks, messing up the Federal Government's directions on registering telephone subscribers and connecting SIM to NIN (Guardian, August 2021).

Ayamba (2018) looks at the difficulty Nigeria's identity management environment faces due to the lack of consistency among identity databases. The situation of chaotic identity management exists in Nigeria, where each institution that collects identity-related data handles its own and there is no efficient synergy to coordinate the disparate identity management silos. The study's conclusion is that in order to avoid identity crises, ensure interoperability, and reap the full benefits of identity management, it is necessary to unify identity-related data from public entities that collect such data.

The application of information and communication technologies for the development of public service delivery has become increasingly essential to any nation (Oyeniran, Oyeniran, & Oyeniyi 2019). These factors include population growth, the expansion of complex government services, and the urgency for effective public service delivery to the citizens. This is the era of electronic governance and administration, when advances in ICT are fuelled by a combination of hardware and software technologies to generate ease, accuracy, precision, efficiency, and effectiveness in the management of the public's human and material resources.

To find and follow potential threats, intelligence agencies collect and analyse information from a variety of sources. This may entail keeping an eye out for suspicious activity, breaking into criminal organisations, and exchanging intelligence with the appropriate law enforcement organisations. Effective intelligence operations, according to Oatley (2017), can aid in spotting high-risk regions, preventing attacks, dismantling criminal networks, and freeing hostages. In order to address these security issues, cooperation between law enforcement, intelligence, and other relevant parties is crucial. Combating terrorism, banditry, and kidnapping can be more effective if intelligence is shared and operations are coordinated.

Challenges of Intelligence Agencies: Data and Cyber-security in Nigeria

Mabogunje (2018), Udubuisi, Ikwuagwu, and Igboanusi (2016), as well as others have underlined the critical role that intelligence services play in preserving national security and safeguarding a nation's interests, including in Nigeria. To identify and stop threats to national security and guarantee the protection of its population, these agencies acquire and analyse information. In today's increasingly linked world, data security and cyber-security concerns are of the utmost importance. Nigeria is vulnerable to different cyber threats such hacking, data breaches, and cyber-attacks. The security and privacy of people, businesses, and governmental entities may be jeopardised by these issues.

Nigeria has taken action to strengthen its cyber-security capabilities in order to address these problems. To monitor cyber-security measures, the nation has formed organisations like the National Information Technology Development Agency (NITDA) and the National Cyber-security Agency (NITDA). To avoid and address cyber threats, these organisations collaborate with other parties, including law enforcement organisations (Umaru, 2018). Any nation's intelligence services must contend with a number of difficulties, and Nigeria is no exception. Common difficulties include a lack of funding, inadequate technology and training, political meddling, and the dynamic nature of international security threats. Corruption, a lack of coordination and communication between authorities, and the demand for more robust international cooperation are possible additional difficulties in the Nigerian setting.

The increasing use of technology without appropriate security safeguards is a significant problem. Critical industries including banking, healthcare, and government systems become vulnerable as a result. Individuals and businesses become victims of cyber-attacks due to a lack of awareness and education about these threats, which can cause data breaches, financial loss, and the interruption of vital services.

Nadarajah and Param (2020) note that another issue is the rise of clever cybercriminals who prey on poor cyber-security systems and legal vulnerabilities. Cybercrime is on the rise in part because there are not enough regulations in place and they are not being enforced. Additionally, a labour gap caused by a shortage of qualified cyber-security specialists makes it challenging to recognize and effectively respond to cyber threats. Education and awareness are crucial in addressing these issues. At all educational levels, funding for cyber-security education and training programmes is essential. This involves increasing knowledge of cyber threats, safe online conduct, and the value of data protection among students, instructors, and the general public (Epstein, 2015; Moritz & Rheign, 2016). However, it is crucial to improve cooperation between public sector organizations, businesses, and international partners. Nigeria can create more effective cyber-security plans and technologies to successfully combat cyber threats through exchanging knowledge, resources, and skills.

Data security and cyber-security should be prioritised by people, corporations, and organisations in addition to government initiatives. This can be accomplished by taking steps like performing routine software upgrades, using secure passwords, using firewalls and antivirus software, and keeping up with emerging dangers. Protecting against cyber

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threats can be greatly aided by putting cyber-security best practices into practice and encouraging a culture of knowledge and vigilance.

In general, maintaining a safe and secure digital environment in Nigeria requires the cooperation of intelligence agencies, data security, and cyber-security. Nigerians can work together to strengthen her defence against cyber-attacks by adopting proactive measures both at the governmental and personal levels.

Obstacles to Effective National Intelligence Service Delivery

Effective national and organisational intelligence service delivery faces a number of challenges. Among the challenges are: lack of cooperation and competition among intelligence agencies: In a nation like Nigeria, where there are several security and intelligence agencies as well as layers of government authorities, this issue is exacerbated. When one agency wants to stand out and claim the spotlight, there is always a lack of cooperation; Officers are instructed on knowledge necessary for gathering intelligence: To produce timely, pertinent, and accurate intelligence, Wirtz (2009) emphasises that training police officers in many functional areas, particularly patrol and border officers, is essential. According to Wirtz, many police and security officers frequently lack awareness of the relevance of the information they get or the events they observe for efficient intelligence generation. This is because they have not received enough and pertinent training. Due to a lack of proper terrorism intelligence training, officers or detectives may be hiding crucial information from them or may not know how to convey it.

The federal government should establish cooperative intelligence among the security agencies as a proactive response to the problem of information sharing vertically among sister security agencies and local vigilante, and encourage horizontally between peer agencies operating in the country, in recognition of this weakness; The plurality or proliferation of police and security organizations are frequently obstacles to effective flow. Docobo (2005) points out that the majority of local law enforcement officials have never worked in the intelligence field and may not be fully aware of what information to look for as being suggestive of terrorist activities or that may be valuable in a broader intelligence context. Without adequate training, coordination, and use of intellect, a typical patrol officer or detective would not be able to identify these indications because they are not always evident but rather subtle. According to Ratcliffe and Walden (2015), having local police and having local politicians manage them politically in America is seen as the "basis for improved accountability and community connection." He countered, though, by saying that "it is a technical and cultural impediment to collaboration and knowledge." As a result, they note that in the United States of America, where there are numerous federal law enforcement agencies and roughly 18,000 state and local agencies, it was evident in the immediate wake of 9/11 that crucial information was not thoroughly assessed or shared with those who required it.

The following summarises the factors that prevent Nigeria from providing competent national intelligence services:

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1. Limited finance and resources: The efficiency of intelligence services can be severely hampered by inadequate budget and resources. For the purpose of obtaining cutting-edge technology, educating employees, and gathering important intelligence, adequate expenditure is essential.

2. Lack of coordination: Information sharing and coordination issues between various intelligence organisations might result in inefficiencies. To provide a thorough and cohesive approach to intelligence gathering and analysis, agencies must work together and in concert.

3. Corruption and politicisation: The honesty and efficiency of intelligence services' work can be jeopardized by corruption within those organizations. Additionally, political meddling in intelligence affairs can erode the impartiality and objectivity necessary for precise analysis and decision-making.

4. Lack of knowledge and experience: Having access to knowledgeable and qualified intelligence workers is essential for providing effective services. A lack of skilled personnel and inadequate training opportunities might be quite difficult.

5. Technological constraints: Inadequate data management methods and out-dated technologies might make it difficult to obtain and analyse intelligence. The adoption of cutting-edge technological tools and infrastructure is crucial for enhancing productivity and accuracy.

6. Nigeria faces a variety of security issues, including terrorism, organized crime, and insurgency. The capacities of intelligence organisations may be strained, and resources may be diverted from other areas, due to these complicated security challenges.

7. Public perception and trust: Effective service delivery of intelligence services depends on public trust. Transparency, accountability, and obedience to the law are necessary for establishing and sustaining confidence.

Conclusion

From the findings of the study, it seems intelligence agencies in Nigeria are powerless to address the security situation in the nation as a result of Boko Haram's recent wave of bombings across the entire nation, Movement Emancipation of the Niger-Delta (MEND), Fulani herdsmen attacks, various cultist attacks in Rivers and Lagos states, and on-going kidnapping in the country. However, a number of intricate and interconnected problems might be blamed for the Nigerian intelligence system's inefficiency. Concern over various security systems' corruption, the state of the economy, the intricacy of the border, and some political elites' backing for the uprising.

Collaboration between intelligence agencies, law enforcement agencies, and other key parties is necessary for the efficient operation of security agencies in Nigeria in order to address these security concerns. Combating terrorism, banditry, and kidnapping will be more effective if intelligence activities are shared and coordinated. The article concludes that, it is important for the various security apparatuses to be data-driven and exchange

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intelligence with one another in order to promote early response to any threat to the security of citizens' lives and property.

Recommendations

Based on the conclusion of the study, various devices must exchange intelligence with one another. The intelligence establishment should muster the courage to name political leaders who are helping Boko Haram in order to coordinate their response cooperatively and implement proper and effective border management. A combined intelligence center should be established at the federal police headquarters, with branches at the police headquarters in each of the states, as far as the Federal Government of Nigeria is concerned. The Ministry of Cooperation and Integration in Africa, the Office of the National Security Adviser, and the other country's armed forces and security agencies may all be immediately connected to the joint centre. At least two specially trained individuals from each of the nation's security agencies would make up the personnel of the joint centre. The government should ensure that the joint intelligence centre will receive the tools and instruction required for it to properly tackle the problem of arms proliferation.

The study's suggestions are summed up as follows:

- Improve Information Sharing and Collaboration: Encourage cooperation and communication among the many government organisations engaged in intelligence collecting. This includes organisations in charge of law enforcement, intelligence, defence, and security. Creating platforms and protocols for data sharing can assist organize and streamline information for better decision-making.

- Invest in infrastructure and technology: By making investments in cutting-edge technology solutions, Nigeria's data collection infrastructure would be upgraded and modernized. Creating secure networks, data storage, and processing capabilities are all part of this. Artificial intelligence and data analytics techniques can be used to accelerate analysis and find patterns in massive datasets.

- Strengthen Cyber-security Measures: It is essential to safeguard data from online dangers as more data is gathered and shared. To stop hacker attacks, data breaches, and unauthorized access, strengthen the cyber-security infrastructure. Establish secure communication routes for transferring critical information, conduct routine security audits, and train staff on cyber-security best practices.

- Create policies for thorough data collection: To ensure compliance with privacy regulations and safeguard individual rights, establish precise norms and methods for data collection, storage, preservation, and destruction. In order to ensure that those working on intelligence gathering understand the significance of data ethics and privacy, more training should be given to them.

- Enhance Human Resources and Training: Invest in initiatives that will help professionals who gather intelligence develop their skills. Giving them knowledge of cutting-edge data analysis methods, information security protocols, and emerging

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technology is part of this. Effective data collection depends on finding and keeping qualified workers in the intelligence sector.

- Encourage global cooperation: Encourage alliances and collaborations with other countries and organisations to take advantage of their knowledge and expertise in intelligence collecting. This entails taking part in global discussions, sharing best practices, and drawing on outside sources of intelligence to support domestic initiatives.

In summary, implementing these suggestions will assist Nigeria in overcoming the difficulties entailed in data collection for intelligence systems and national security. Nigeria can boost its intelligence capabilities and guarantee the safety and security of its inhabitants by investing in technology, boosting cyber-security, creating comprehensive policies, enhancing human resources, and promoting international cooperation.

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