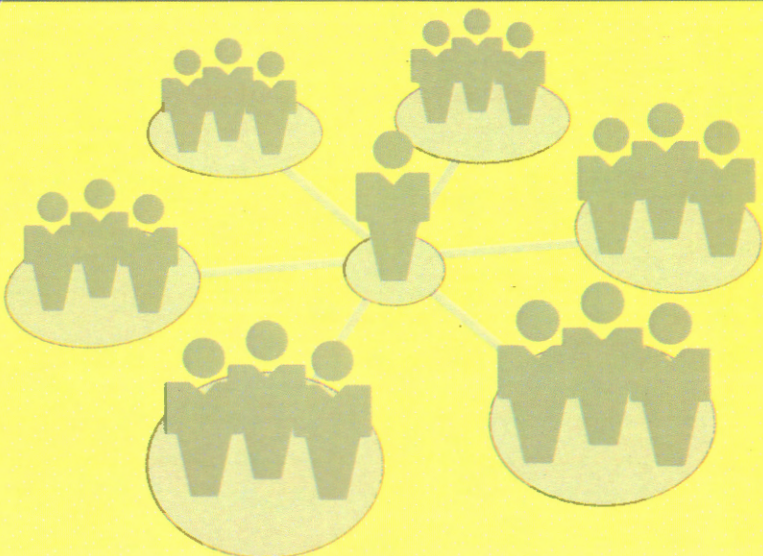




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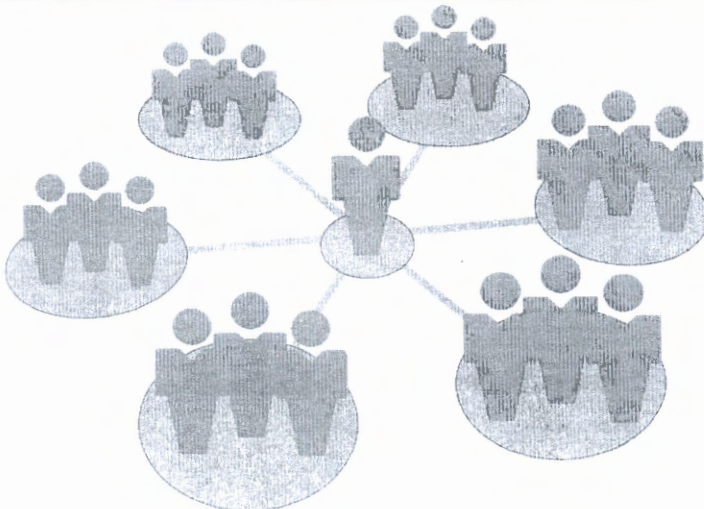
Vol. 1, No. 1, Dec. 2015





LASU Journal of
**Public Administration
& Management**

Vol. 1, No. 1, Dec. 2015



LASU
Journal of
Public Administration &
Management

Vol. 1, No. 1, Dec. 2015

ISSN 2536-7773

Editorial oversight, design, layout & production:

FREE ENTERPRISE PUBLISHERS, LAGOS

HEAD OFFICE: 45, Thomas salako Street, Ogba, Lagos.
0807.7255.288
free.ent.publishers@gmail.com

LAGOS OFFICE: LASU Strategic Business Unit (L.S.B.U.)
Lagos State University Campus, Ojo.



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LASU Journal of
**Public Administration
& Management**

Vol. 1, No. 1, Dec. 2015

Published by: Dept. of Public Administration
Faculty of Management Sciences
Lagos State University, Ojo,
Lagos, Nigeria

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10



Governance and Security Management in Nigeria: Need for ESecurity Approach

Joshua, S., PhD / Olu-Owolabi, F. E.

ABSTRACT

Governance in recent times has become a more difficult task due to the surge in criminality that constitute insecurity to the country. The government has spent huge sums of money to acquire weapons to check activities of criminals, especially insurgencies in the Northeast, with little success. It is in this regard that this chapter is based on secondary data-gathering technique, using rational choice theory as an explanatory tool, examines governance and security management in Nigeria with the aim of advocating for the adoption of public surveillance cameras and other electronic devices to complement physical combat in the fight against insecurity. The study finds that, seeking new technologies that hold promises to enhance public safety becomes necessary in view of the growing and complicated dimension criminal activities have assumed in the country in recent times. The chapter suggests that, since equipment advocated for in the fight against insecurity are electronic gadgets that must be powered by energy, there is need to explore the option of solar energy to keep the gadgets functional in view of epileptic power supply in the country post-deployment. We also recommend the need to

cultivate maintenance culture to guarantee the continuous functioning of the devices.

Keywords: Governance, security management, public surveillance camera, Nigeria

INTRODUCTION

MAN HAS A NATURAL INSTINCT FOR SECURITY. IN FACT, SINCE THE existence of man, the pursuit of security has been one of his major priorities. Bassey (2004) explicates that, primitive man of Africa, realizing the hazards of everyday life, followed his instincts to survive against danger. Some of the measures he adopted included taking shelter in caves as safeguard. Despite such measures, predators still found their way to the cave to prey and plunder him. In response, he began to make bonfire and traps. He also used gates, high walls, hilltops, watchtowers, trenches, gullies and gorges, and invented weapons like spears, bows and arrows to protect himself. Over time, other methods and means were employed for protection of life and property. Since individuals are conscious of the need for security, they began to organize in groups in order to ensure better security. For instance, Purpura (2011) elucidates that during prehistoric times, when humans banded together for protection, they employed security strategies that were somewhat similar to strategies applied today. Cave dwellers implemented layered security strategies that presented multiple obstacles for adversaries and beasts. These included caves that were at a high elevation for safety and observation, a narrow path to the caves along steep cliffs, fire, dogs to provide early warnings through barking and to attack intruders, and armed sentries. It can safely be deduced that as security challenges kept pace with the rapid growth of society, the need for a modernized way of governance with a standing army for better security came to the fore.

Suffice to say that the essence of government is to provide security for its citizenry. But in recent time, Nigerian government appears to have failed in the management of security using the regular forces. It is on this note that the need for esecurity becomes relevant to complement the efforts of the security forces, hence the need for this work.

CONCEPTUAL CLARIFICATION

In the context of this work, the definition of governance extrapolated from the work of Oghona (2004) is apt. Thus it can be inferred from his work that governance simply denotes the act or manner of exercising control or authority over the actions of subjects, or a system of regulation. Going by the account of Thomas Hobbes, government exists to provide security for the people. To him, human society without government to provide security can be likened to living in a state of nature in which life was short, brutish and characterized by all forms of insecurity. In view of this, any person or group of people that could emerge to govern and provide security, no matter how vile, should be obeyed (Appadorai, 1971).

Although this position has been criticized by some philosophers who succeeded him—such as Locke and Rousseau—but the centrality of security in governance cannot be discarded, which is why governance and security appear to be inexorably linked. It is therefore no surprise that Eliagwu (2012) opines that security is the first priority of the state because without security, peace, law and order and all other functions of the state cannot be effectively carried out. In the same vein, Adedayo (2011) contends that the fundamental goal of any civilized society is to ensure law and order by maintaining and guaranteeing the citizen's general security, and ensure public tranquility. The next concept is security.

Security, according to Fischer and Green (2004), implies a stable, relatively predictable environment in which an individual or group may pursue its ends without disruption or harm and without fear of disturbance or injury. In his submission, Shinkaiye (2004) sees security as the sum total actions and measures, including legislative and operational procedures, adopted to ensure peace, stability and the general wellbeing of a country and its citizens. To Lippmann,

a nation is secure to the extent that it is not in a position to lose core values, life, property and liberty, and if it wishes, to deter aggression or win war when unavoidable (1987: 143).

It can be understood from this context that security is the primary concern of every country as it bears on the fundamental needs of individuals and groups, as well as the survival of the country as a viable entity. In fact, a country is in great danger when she is incapable of ensuring her security.

It is important at this juncture to examine the synergy between gover-

nance and security. For instance, Larringa and Doucet (2010: 1) assert that it appears the two have become indistinguishable to the point of almost being synonymous. They argue:

one might even ask if it is possible today to find an area of governance, from the micro to the global and from the public to the private, that is not framed or motivated at least in some way by stated concerns for security.

This lends credence to the statement credited to Naocleous (2008: 2) that “when one looks closely, it is hard not to conclude that our contemporary politics have become saturated by security.” To this extent, one might wonder if there is anything else, or indeed any politics left other than governance as security. Every seasoned politician, tactician and marketer surely knows that nothing in today’s world seems to attract the attention of voters than campaign promises crafted in security. This is because every citizen places security of life, property and that of the country of their origin at high premium.

In the same vein, Mbachu and Eze (2009) contend that one of the cardinal objectives of any government is the protection of the core values of society by providing, on a sustained basis, adequate security against external and internal aggression. Omodia and Aliu (2013) also argue that there is a strong relationship between governance and security. They aver that governance that enhances public good delivery and improved standard of living of citizenry will invariably guarantee improved security of lives and property and also mitigate potential risk to national security. Conversely, poor governance will inevitably, with its attendant characteristics of poverty, subversion of the rule of law, probity and accountability, culminate in a specter of insecurity. Thus, the failure of governance is central to socioeconomic and political development challenges confronting Nigeria with implications for national insecurity.

Security management: A simple definition of management sees it as “getting things done through other people” (Adebayo, 2001: 1). Flowing from the aforementioned, security management within the framework of this study has to do with the way and manner through which government addresses the security challenges facing the country. From the analyses above, it can be said without contradiction that the primary purpose of every government is the welfare and security of its people. However,

Adedayo (2011) observes that this has been found wanting in Nigeria. Issues of insecurity like crimes, kidnappings, violence, robberies, etc., are prevalent. Shinkaye (2004) adds that security has taken the front-burner of concerns of Nigerians because of the pervasive sense of insecurity in the country. While Boko Haram continues to terrorize the Northeast, armed robbers dominate the crime space in the Western parts of the country, and the Southeastern and SouthSouthern states suffocate under the grips of kidnappers. The Police seem to be overwhelmed by the escalation of crimes and insecurity. To Elaigwu (2011), not only did Nigeria witness an escalation in the technology of violence from guns to bombs, it has begun to experience suicide bombers. This scenario calls for the employment of esecurity approach to strengthen the security efforts in combating insecurity. Similarly, Adegoke, Philip and Keshinro (2015) observe that in 2014, a total 5,197 deaths were recorded as a result of Boko Haram insurgency, while in 2015, 5,654 deaths were recorded between January and March alone. In order to curb the Boko Haram onslaught (and other crimes), the government spends millions of dollars annually to procure weaponry and logistics, without much success.

This scenario underscores the fact that, physical combat alone would not be able to curb the present-day crimes, hence the need to adopt an electronic security (esecurity) approach to aid physical combat for successful operation. The question is what is esecurity?

eSecurity: in the context of this chapter, esecurity is the deployment of electronic devices like closed-circuit television (CCTV), surveillance internet protocol (IP), intelligence video surveillance (IVS), and so on, to preempt crimes, track criminals, thereby improving the security situation of an area. It is important to note that while surveillance cameras are widely employed by the business sector to improve security, their use in public spaces has been much less common (La Vigne et al., 2011). Increasing Resilience in Surveillance Societies (IRIS, 2012) notes that systematic evaluation studies about the use and effectiveness of surveillance technologies (esecurity) are rare, which makes this study significant.

The major objective of surveillance system in public spaces is to reduce crime. It is indeed a modern method to complement traditional forms of crime control such as police patrols, which appear to be ineffective.

THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

Rational choice theory appears to possess explanatory capacity in analyzing esecurity. It is in this regard that this study is anchored on the rational choice theory. Scholars like Homans (1961), Blau (1964), Coleman (1973), among others, have written on rational choice theory. The assumption is that human actions are based on consciousness and deliberate calculative strategies. In other words, human behavior is shaped by anticipated rewards and punishments. People often consciously do things that will attract reward and avoid whatever will bring punishment. The threat of punishment, for instance, may lead to appropriate behavior by those who wish to avoid punishment. The relevance of this theory to the study is seen in the fact that if a potential offender is aware he/she is being watched, he/she will refrain from the criminal acts intended. This is because potential offenders make rational or calculative thoughts before embarking on their actions. Thus, they weigh potential costs and benefits derivable from the crime in question. By way of application, if people are aware that there is surveillance cameras around them by placing the cameras in public view with signposts advertising their presence, without potential offenders knowing the extent of their coverage and capacity, it will serve as deterrent to them committing crimes. In fact, public surveillance systems also have the capacity to increase perception of safety of legitimate users of the areas under the monitoring of such surveillance with implications on crime reduction and prevention.

Rational choice theory has some inherent weaknesses. For instance, it cannot answer important questions like what the offender thinks when he/she commits or plans to commit a crime, and how the offender acts. However, the strength of the theory lies in the fact that everybody makes a decision by weighing the risks and benefits of each outcome, which is rationality. This helps to make the best choice based on the outcome he/she foresees. By implication, rational choice theory helps to prevent crime from happening. It is a crime-prevention theory which is very relevant to this work.

As earlier stated, esecurity is the deployment of electronic devices like public surveillance systems and so on to prevent crimes. Scholars have, however, pointed out the strengths and weaknesses of public surveillance with the aid of cameras. Some of these strengths and weaknesses, as explicated by Glanze and Nacerodien (n.d.), La Vigne et al. (2011) include the following:

STRENGTHS

Camera monitors can be a source of alert to police of crimes and dangerous situations as they occur. This helps to provide useful information on how police responds to such situations. Video footage depicting crimes that occurred and showing perpetrators and witnesses are aid to police investigation and prosecution.

- The presence of cameras in public view serves as deterrent to offenders.
- It helps in facilitating of the processing and finalization of cases as suspects generally plead guilty after being confronted with hard evidence.
- It helps police manning the control room to react to behavior that appears suspicious, thereby swinging to action which may invariably prevent the crime from occurring.
- It reduces the negative impact of police presence and contributes to the safety of police officers, as situations to be dealt with are assessed in the control room before police are sent out to respond.
- It makes the public feel safer and feeling safe encourages them to frequent places under camera surveillance.

Weaknesses

- It is very costly to install and maintain.
- It has been argued that crime prevented through surveillance systems in one area is replicated in another area not under such surveillance system.
- It has also been argued that surveillance system is a violation of the right to privacy.
- It creates a false sense of security as it causes potential victims to let down their guard, thereby making them easy targets.

Types of Security

Basically, there seem to be two types of security—human staff security or physical security and esecurity or electronic security system. Extrapolating from the work of Purpura (2011), human staff security or physical security focuses on the protection of people, property, and facilities through the

use of security forces, security system and security procedures. Esecurity or electronic security system, on the other hand, is an integrated system that encompasses interior and exterior sensors, CCTV system for assessing alarm condition, electronic entry-control system, data transmission media (DTM), and alarm reporting systems for monitoring, controlling and displaying of various alarm and system information. This system consists of hardware and software elements operated by trained security personnel.

CAUSES AND OVERVIEW OF INSECURITY IN NIGERIA

Some of the causes of insecurity include poverty and unemployment which are well-amplified by Joshua (2014), weak security system, pervasive material inequalities and unfairness, porous borders, corruption (Ewetan and Urhie, 2014). Unemployment breeds poverty and poverty can cause involvement in activities like armed robbery, and other forms of violence due to envisaged economic gain. Weak security system can also compound the problem of insecurity as such scenarios will provide opportunities for perpetrators to commit crime with little resistance. The wide gap between the haves and havenots, in which the few rich flaunt their wealth amidst majority of people in poverty-stricken conditions, cannot but set the poor and criminally minded against the rich, especially when it is believed that such wealth is acquired illegally from the collective wealth meant for the generality.

Without going too far back, one recalls that some militant groups like OPC sprung up partly to challenge the insecurity ravaging the Southwest. In addition, Bakassi Boys came up as a group to check majorly the spiral of insecurity pervading Aba. There was a general state of insecurity as life was no longer safe. Women were raped at will. Young girls and even married women were abducted by men of the underworld and defiled. People could not even complain so as not to attract the wrath of the criminals. It became common for people to wake up and see corpses on the streets or at the dumping grounds. Aba became notorious for robbery, rape, stealing, burglary, pick-pocketing and car snatching. The police appeared incapable of addressing the situation, hence, the need for communal efforts to curb the menace (Williams, 2003).

In the Niger Delta, insecurity perpetrated by militants in the region seemed to be crafted in the scope of defending the environment against the environmental degradation owing to oil exploration. In fact, there are

many militant groups in the area, such as Movement for the Emancipation of Niger Delta (MEND), the Ijaw Youth Congress (IYC), to mention just a few. These groups and many more have been involved in destruction of oil companies' properties and many other crimes like oil bunkering and kidnapping for ransom (Joshua, 2007) before their activities were brought under control through the amnesty programme. Insecurity also assumed the dimension of ethnoreligious conflicts like the case of Ife-Modakeke, Tiv and Jukun, indigene/settler in Jos, among others.

However, in the recent times, Boko Haram constitutes the major security threat to the nation. The Boko group started as Shahaba group in 1995 under the leadership of Abubakar Lawan, who later went to the University of Medina to further his studies. Yusuf Mohammed took over from him, changed the doctrine initially espoused by the group, and came up with the Boko Haram name, also known as *Jamaatul Takfur Wal Hyra Alilus Sunna, Jamaatu Alh. lissunnah Lida Awatiwal Jihad* (People Committed to the Propagation of the Prophet's Teachings and Jihad). It is believed the sect emanated from orthodox teachings similar to that of the Taliban in Afghanistan and Pakistan (Joshua and Chidozie, 2014).

However, according to ICG, (2014) the sect's core beliefs are strict adherence to the Quran and the hadith (sayings of Prophet Muhammed), and their interpretation as sanctioned by Ibn Taymiyyah (the preferred scholar of Mohammed Yusuf, the sect's leader). Boko Haram's principal goal is to create a strict Islamic state in the North that it believes would address the ills of society, including corruption and bad governance. The activities of the group after Yusuf was killed have been quite devastating as the group has been responsible for killings through improvised explosive devices, guns, beheadings and house-burning. It is believed that more than 17,000 people have died through Boko Haram insurgency in Nigeria. Such activities have been documented by Okpaga et al. (2012), Joshua and Chidozie (2014), Ewetan and Urhie (2014). Although the Nigerian military has tried to put an end to the activities of the insurgents, they seem to be waxing stronger and devising different methods to counter the military. Having seen the problem of insecurity in Nigeria, we believe that although the esecurity approach may not be able to solve all the problems of insecurity in Nigeria, it will help to minimize it, hence the need for its adoption.

E-SECURITY APPROACH IN NIGERIA

The idea of mandatory registration for all phone users in Nigeria is a step in the right direction. It will help security agencies to work with telecommunication service providers to build a database of all phone users. This approach will help government track potential perpetrators of criminal acts via listening in on their phone conversation. This can be one by installing a listening device in the path between two phones that are part of a conversation. Wiretapping can as well be set up on the subject's telephone, but also on the telephones of persons he or she is expected to contact. This can be done to track down suspected criminals and their accomplice.

Government can install CCTV cameras, systems like anomaly detection systems for unusual patterns, automatic detection systems for face-recognition all over state capitals in the country to monitor criminal activities. In fact, CCTV installation will assist to monitor suspicious activities as the cameras will capture such activities which can now be reported to security operatives for further action.

There should be a control centre created and situated in the office of the National Security Adviser to the President of Nigeria were CCTV systems all over the country can be accessed through the control unit. This point has been amplified by (Ogedebe, Dasuki and Makinde, 2014). The Federal government can also employ surveillance internet protocol (IP) to end impunity perpetrated by criminals, especially insurgents. IP surveillance tool is an intelligence video surveillance (IVS) that is digitized and networked. It is the network version of CCTV. This device has many features that makes it better than regular CCTV. It has greater efficiency and better coverage than CCTV. In fact, it allows for remote viewing and control. The quality of images is better. It can record, playback and has capacity to store video clips for future usage. Ajanaku (2014) argues that the device upon deployment has helped NNPC mega stations to check vandals. He adds that its success in the pilot citywide installation in Bayelsa has proven that it can be used to monitor terrorists. IP has capacity to capture fast-moving objects and intelligent analysis capacity.

The device comes with low bandwidth consumption and its data can be accessed anywhere by the security personnel in charged. Government should consider using it to track Boko Haram activities in the Northeast. The government can also come up with the idea of using drones and satellites to track activities of insurgents.

RECOMMENDATIONS

These devices are all electronic items. Going by the epileptic power supply experience in the country, it appears a tall order to accomplish the above. However government can explore the option of solar energy to keep the equipment functional, and also make sure that those equipment are well-maintained in order to keep them functional. Except there is a change in the parlous maintenance culture toward public properties, such equipment may not serve for long. Our security operatives should be trained how to use the modern security devices, and the central control units should be manned by men of honest and impeccable character, verifiable through background checks. This is necessary so that security of the country will not be compromised. Government should yearly budget toward making the entire security efforts modern to curb the current security challenges we face. Government should encourage more research before setting up a masterplan for esecurity, to know the likely problems that may attend its full implementation and plan ahead to address same.

CONCLUSION

One of the major functions of any government is the protection of citizens and their properties. But of recent, the problem of insecurity seems to defy the normal traditional methods of policing, hence the need to complement the traditional methods of security with the esecurity. A number of measures are suggested to accomplish this. It can therefore be concluded that, if government takes the suggestions above into consideration, the crime rate in the country would be reduced. It will reduce manpower cost for policing the country after full deployment of the gadgets and also improve crime-prevention efficiencies.

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