Information Communication Technology and Security: The Need for e-Policing in Modern Security Architecture in Nigeria

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Abstract: Although insecurity is a global menace, it is incontrovertible that Nigeria is one of the most unsecure, unsafe and dangerous places in the entire world. Hence, the considering an alternative approach to stem the tide of insecurity is pivotal. E-Policing is an integral part of the modern security architecture essential for circumventing Nigeria policing challenges. The analytical design was employed for the paper and it recommends that government should seize on the global ICT driven system to revolutionize policing and curb the persistence of unethical acts and antisocial behavior in order to ultimately reduce the impact of insecurity on the populace.
Keywords: Criminal, E-Policing, ICT, Nigeria, Security

INTRODUCTION

It is incontrovertible that Nigeria is one of the most insecure, unsafe and dangerous places to live in the whole world. According to Okunna (2021), Nigeria is ranked 3rd as the most terrorized country globally, trailing behind Afghanistan and Iraq; it is being speculated that Nigeria will soon overtake them (Obi, 2020). Although insecurity is not new in Nigeria, however, it has been getting progressively worse over the years. The spate of insecurity in Nigeria is so alarming that some countries like the U.S, Australia, Canada, the United Kingdom and the United States had warned their citizens not to come to Nigeria (Olufemi, 2021; BBC News Pidgin, 2021). The recent declaration of Nigeria as a failed state is not unconnected with these countries warning to their citizens as well as the rising waves of insecurity in the country. Thus, John Campbell a former American Ambassador to Nigeria opines that it was scandalous that the Nigerian army made up of 300,000 personnel has not been able to defeat Boko Haram with the numerical strength of just 5000 (ThisDay, 2021).

While the security challenges seem to have assumed the status of a hydra-headed monster gnawing at the vitals of the country, the Nigerian Police charged with the responsibility of maintaining law and order appears helpless. While the country was still nursing the sores of Boko Haram incessant "Rambo-like" attacks, the rise of persistent low-level ethnic violence between pastoral and farming population (in competition everywhere for land use) exacerbated the worsening security situation, thereby, turning Nigeria into a killing field. Moreover, in recent times, bandits are holding the country hostage by making kidnapping for ransom a highly lucrative business. These have been well discussed by (Apeh, 2018; Taft and Haken, 2015). This tense socio-political situation arising from the insecurity conundrum has led to the emergence of some separatist groups, demanding independence.

Quite a number of studies have been conducted on insecurity in Nigeria and the helplessness of the Nigerian Police to cope with the surge, hence, some studies have advocated for community policing which will be analyzed under the literature review section. However, there seems not to be sufficient studies on the need for the deployment of information communication technology (ICT e-policing) to complement the existing efforts in policing Nigeria, justifying this article as a step down this research avenue.

What constitutes the problem of this study is that despite a successive drive to control the magnitude of the surge in crime in Nigeria; crimes such as insurgency, banditry, armed robbery, kidnapping for ransom or ritual, rape and other forms of crimes are still on the increase. It becomes worrisome despite the popularity and embrace of community policing necessitating the exploration of a new approach to policing. Therefore, e-policing is considered as another option Nigeria can exploit in this direction, hence the need for this study. Meanwhile, it is important to note

that Ogunbameru (2008) has long recognized the possibility of the adoption of e-policing in crime detection and control with implications for crime reduction. The work is divided into nine sections. Following the introduction is the research method, literature review, challenges of security and policing, definition of e-policing, need for e-policing in Nigeria, constraints to implementation of e-policing in Nigeria, benefits of implementing e-policing in Nigeria, conclusion and recommendations respectively.

RESEARCH METHOD

This paper adopts an analytical design. The availability of relevant secondary data not only makes primary sources unimportant but qualitative analysis of it fitting for the work. Analytical design helps to undertake a critical assessment, interpretation and appropriation of the secondary information required for the understanding of issues or subject matter of the research such as problems associated with policing and e-policing, the need for e-policing and benefits of employing it as well. Therefore, this justifies the appropriateness of the method for this research.

LITERATURE REVIEW

In a general sense, e-policing is the employment of information and telecommunication technology in policing. Some of the devices for e-policing according to Thoyyib (2019) include; smartphones, telecommunication devices, computers, GPS tracking, CCTV, biometrics among others. These devices help better intelligence gathering and improved the investigation capabilities of police officers. Thoyyib (2019) surmises that modern e-Policing practices focus aggressively on the use of mobile technology, wireless internet, SNS, and location-based services for delivering instantaneous e-Policing services such as crime reporting, crime location tags, seek-for-assistance, and emergency alerts. Several studies on policing in Nigeria either focus on

the problems hampering the effectiveness of the Nigerian Police Force or advocate for community policing. A few of them will be reviewed. First, Alemika and Chukwuma (n.d) in their study explains the role of the Police in any organized society and then narrow it down to Nigeria as a specific case study. The authors submit that the political and economic situation of the country engenders crimes and criminal tendencies. The approach of the Nigerian Police in addressing this scenario was, however, bedeviled with corruption and extortion, inadequate manpower and training, poor funding, poor remuneration, poor resource management, poor knowledge of law and disregard of human rights, brutality, inadequate logistics, poor arms and ammunitions.

Other studies on challenges hindering the effectiveness of the police in curbing crime in Nigeria include Oyemwinmina and Aibieyi (2016), Akuul (2011), Mammus (2010) while studies like Kwaja (2020), Ibrahim, et al. (2016), Okeshola and Mudiare (2013) emphasize, among other things, education, re-orientation of the Nigerian Police Force, the need to review the recruitment process into the police force and adequate equipment for them. Nevertheless, these studies canvass for community policing as a panacea to curb insecurity challenges in Nigeria.

Odeyemi and Obiyan (2018) in their study brought to the limelight the possibilities of digital technologies for the mutual benefit of police-citizen relations and police accountability. The authors see the aforementioned as necessary ingredients for democratic policing but, conclude that colonial legacies and long years of military rule have impacted negatively on police-citizen relations and accountability.

Haruna and Aliyu (2016 cited in Thoyyib 2019) argued for the need to complement community policing with ICT infrastructure to checkmate violence and other nefarious activities prevalent in Nigeria. Ibikunle and Adefihan (2013 also cited in Thoyyib,

2019) in their analysis of the impact of ICT in effective policing argue that the problem of crime has become acute and complex and that the police force is left with no choice but to employ the use of information technologies to enhances its performance and effectiveness in managing crime and criminal tendencies.

Besides, Peters and Ojedokun (2019) advocate for social media platforms as a major technological resource that the Nigeria Police Force can systematically leverage to improve overall efficiency and output while Madubuike-Ekwe and Obayemi (2019) in their study assessed the role of the Nigerian Police in promoting and protecting human rights.

In the main, there seems not to be sufficient studies on e-policing in Nigeria, hence the need for this study to fill the lacuna in the literature. Be that as it may, examining challenges bedeviling security generally and policing in particular in Nigeria appears necessary to spotlight the country's context.

CHALLENGES TO SECURITY AND POLICING IN NIGERIA

The police all over the world have the responsibility of maintaining law and order in their country. The multi-religious, multi-ethnic, multi-social and multi-political characteristics of the Nigerian state have implications on this onerous duty the police have to perform. The following are some of the challenges militating against effective policing and security in Nigeria.

Inability to draw the line between Human Rights and National Security: Respect for human rights is essential to democratic states. An effective balance between liberty, law and order has been a herculean task of policing in Nigeria. There are numerous accusations of human rights violations levied against the Nigerian Police in their adventure or effort to balance national security and rights protections in their daily encounters with civilians (Aborisade, 2017). Some Nigerians have died from an

indiscriminate and deliberate discharge of bullets from policemen. Their actions in many cases have violated the rights of civilians they are meant to protect through violence and uncontrollable use of force and other ineffective policing tactics (Ajayi and Longe, 2015).

Lack of Motivation for officers: Motivation is one of the factors that drive the efficiency of workers to work at their maximum capacity in their various endeavors. Concerning policing in Nigeria, a disturbing challenge confronting the Police force is that of poor financial motivation. Dambazau (1994) argues that 25% of officers in Nigeria lack barracks accommodations. Worse still, barracks are dilapidated, deplorable and in dire need of renovation while officers are also poorly remunerated. They receive meagre salaries that barely feed their families and position them for a good life. Good life in the context of this paper refers to the ability to acquire basic services and goods needed for survival with dignity. Although these disincentives seem not to be sufficient reasons for underperformance, yet lack of motivation and poor remuneration are largely responsible for the police officers corruption, especially regarding pecuniary reward from citizens before offering service or compromising professional standards destroying their moral reputation (Adebayo, 2013). The Guardian (2015: np) states the minuteness of the salary scales or structure of police officers thus:

A Nigerian Police constable earns between N22, 000 ($62) and N27, 000 ($77) per month (depending on the length of service and accommodation plan); a sergeant earns about N30, 000 ($85) per month (after deductions of tax, accommodation allowance and others); a Police Inspector earns N50, 000 ($142) per month. At the Senior Police Officers (SPO) cadre, an assistant superintendent of police earns a little above N80,000 ($228) per month (after deductions). These salaries are far below the poverty level and within the Africa sub-region (i.e. West Africa), the Nigeria Police Force's salary structure is the poorest. By comparison, Ghana Labour Act revealed a 16.7% increase in the police minimum wage and Ghanaian police officers earn more money than Nigeria Police, better training, and better welfare packages.

Also, Police have no good insurance scheme. Onwuka (2011: np) avowed that:

They have no meaningful insurance cover that will make them rest assured that their family will not suffer in case they die in service. When a colleague is killed in service, his living colleagues are the ones who contribute money to bury their dead colleague and support his family.

This is disconcerting to officers' zeal for meritorious service or, state differently, negatively affect their perception and dedication to their duties, which in turn affects national security and professionalism expected of them.

Inadequate Logistics: Policing in Nigeria is also mired by a lack of adequate and effective equipment such as vehicles, communication equipment and intelligence gathering equipment needed to curb crime. Dambazau (2007) argued that:

Less than 5% of policemen in the States and Federal Capital Territory have walkie-talkies for communication during patrols. Less than 20% of the police stations have telephones to respond to distress calls from the public during emergencies. In terms of vehicles, about 5% of the commands have one or no lorry and other operational vehicles (cited in Adebayo, 2013: 73).

While this betrays the contemporary reality of the 21st century, which features a technology-driven approach towards society, the logistic issues discussed above cannot still be divorced from insufficient funding for the security institution, making insufficient funding by the government one of the greatest challenges to policing in Nigeria. Oyemwinmina and Aibieyi (2016) maintain that "the only thing the police do not buy for

themselves is perhaps their guns and bullets" To buttress this assertion, it is observed that there are times officers commandeer commercial vehicles to convey them to destinations during official duties; sometimes use their money to buy materials and sew their own uniforms; and, often buy recharge cards or airtime to make calls on cases from the stipend they get as salary. And for stations that have vans, they fuel their vehicles; and, buy torches and candles used in their offices at night. Likewise, stationeries items are not sufficiently available making officers buy pens and writing materials needed at work. While comparing policing in Nigeria and the United Kingdom, the National Daily Newspaper on 25 January 2013 stated that:

Inadequate funding can hamper police efforts in Nigeria. If they do not have the necessary tools to work, the platform for corruption in the sector will be created. The police officers in UK and Nigeria do the same job, they want to save the community, deal with crime, terrorism but the difference is that there are better infrastructures in the UK: every officer has a radio, access to vehicles, petrol but in Nigeria, a police officer does not even have enough money to put petrol in the police cars. The basic job is the same but Nigeria has less resources that is needed on the ground... inadequate resources and infrastructures have made the Police less effective (cited in Adebayo, 2013: 73).

Given the above, the performance of police in Nigeria appears generally unsatisfactory. The police force has been inefficiently equipped in performing their jobs of crime prevention, investigating crimes and even responding to distress calls by citizens (Oyemwinmina and Aibieyi, 2016).

Ineffective community policing: Policing in Nigeria has been largely ineffective as a result of limited or lack of cooperation for community policing between civilians and the police. This is due to the negative public perception of officers. Usually, crime control is meant to be a collective effort of both civilians and the police. However, public perception of the police has weakened peoples' belief that the "police is your friend" for various reasons such as warrantless arrests, illegal checkpoints, corruption, and occasional "accidental" discharges by officers without sanctions amongst others. In fact, many Nigerians see police personnel as their enemies as they do not trust them. As a result, people with valuable information on crimes refrain from giving them thus, intensifying crime and impeding crime control (Adebayo, 2013). Lack of confidence in the police remains a crucial factor why people are afraid to give information to the police on kidnappers, armed robbery, internet fraud, suicide bombing and hoodlums amongst other national security threats. There are cases when informants have been sold out by the police. However, public participation cannot be avoided in fighting crime and crime control or prevention (Oyemwinmina and Aibieyi, 2016).

Bribery and Corruption: Nigeria's political and economic environment is endemically inflicted with corruption. Bribery and corruption are also twin issues that deeply corroded the fabric of the Nigerian Police Force, crippling policing in the country. The situation is such that corrupt acts of officers are done in public glare (Adebayo and Ojo, 2009). This has marred the legitimacy of the police in the public eyes. The reckless criminality associated with financial gains has taken the forms of the diversion of private funds, open bribery, perversion of justice, falsification of records, stealing, embezzlement, closure of case files, deliberate conniving with criminals to escape justice, escorting of vehicles loaded with stolen items and contraband goods, jostling for favor, the stealing of the supply of police ammunition, army and police uniforms to criminals for monetary gain etc (Adebanjoko and Okorie, 2014).

Intelligence gaps: poor intelligence gathering has crippled the ability of the

Nigeria Police Force to nip crime, violence and killings in the bud as it is done in developed countries of the world. The Police and the Military seek intelligence in a manner that could be improved on by trained intelligence analysts. It is observed that the security architecture in Nigeria is obviously inadequate to secure the country because the intelligence network is apparently not working. Many of the crimes happening on a daily basis in the country would have been averted if Nigeria had a functioning intelligence network. The Nigeria Police lack the requisite skills to secure crime scenes, lack a credible criminal database, cannot use forensic science in solving crime and cannot conduct evidence-gathering procedures like lifting fingerprints from the crime scene (Omoniyi, 2021).

Though some of the vices discussed above denigrate the men and women of the police force, the Nigerian society also shares a greater fault for acclimatizing to the culture of giving police bribes at illegal roadblocks, checkpoints and on the highways. Hence, giving and taking petty bribes as a way of getting out of the hand of the police officers and perversion of justice have become almost the norm of Nigerian society. Police receive petty cash from people without inspecting the trunk of the vehicles stopped at the checkpoints. In effect, this paves the way for the proliferation of small arms and light weapons in society which is used to perpetuate insecurity.

E-policing can help mitigate the highlighted problems and; especially the issue of corruption can be addressed by minimizing the physical contact with the police through e-policing. Complaints about crimes can be lodged through e-platforms without physical contact with police who may want to demand money before acting. This approach can reduce bribery to a reasonable extent. Information gathering from citizens by the police and information sharing about the incidence of crimes among the various units of police can also be enhanced through e-policing. The fact that most crimes are also perpetrated through modern-day technology, necessitates the adoption of the same modern technology to curb it, hence the need for e-policing. In the next section, we begin with an explanation of e-policing. The section that follows highlights its components before delving into its application details.

E-POLICING: AN EXPLANATION

On average, the world has been experiencing a substantial increase in crime categories. These include among others; murder, drug-related offences, robbery and recently terrorism. The law enforcement agencies and governments have realized that traditional policing techniques are insufficient to tackle the menace of crime especially with the increase in cybercrime and the use of technology in perpetrating these crimes, making it imperative to develop a counter-approach or new means to combat crimes in the 21st Century. By equipping their law enforcement agencies and specifically their police agencies with technologies to curtail crimes, developed countries have made their societies safer and incorporated their citizenry as active participants in the security infrastructure (partner in societal security) to enhance efficiency and effectiveness.

There is no general agreement on the meaning of the notion of e-policing. E-policing, overall, reflects a transaction of services and information between the police and citizens using the internet. From this submission, it is easy to deduce e-policing as the utilization of technological devices to record, store, analyze and share policing information.

Meanwhile, Koper et al. (2009) in Busalga and Ringo (2013:43) argued that e-policing involves the utilization of 'high impact technologies' such as Integrated databases, Geographic Information Systems (GIS), DNA testing equipment, computer-aided dispatch with Global Positioning System (GPS) for

tracking patrol cars, inter-agency radio systems, fingerprint, as well as investigative software for policing business while Adigun, Raimi and Mutiu (2020) comprehend e-policing as the idea of using ICT devices to gather, store, retrieve, process, analyze and transmit information for the purpose of policing. Deductively, e-policing, therefore, requires the employment of various high-impact technologies to conduct policing activities within and beyond national boundaries.

The concept of e-policing could be viewed in the aspiration or efforts by several governments to modernize and professionalize their Police service for seamless integration of ICT systems such as the United Kingdom (UK), Australia and the United States of America (USA) where ICT is employed in the conduct of policing. According to BBC News (2017), the United Arab Emirates (UAE) was setting the pace for the world in e-policing with the introduction of robot policemen, more importantly, to patrol shopping malls and tourist attractions areas. It states further that the UAE citizenry can also use robotic-aid to report crimes, get information by tapping a touch-screen on its chest and pay fines.

Whereas on the other side of the spectrum, developing countries have been unable to maximize the use of technology to solve the crime and as such crime prevalence is high and citizens trust in security agencies seems very low. It is this failure that culminated in the increased terrorist activities in countries like Nigeria, Cameroon, Niger and Chad. These countries reliance on primitive investigative techniques, such as guessing, random sampling or mere eye-witness statements or accounts have resulted in clogged police cells and perhaps contributed to the ailing judicial system.

THE NEED FOR E-POLICING IN NIGERIA

Modernizing the policing system in Nigeria, on the account of its increasing population and the complex nature of its socio-environment, appears long overdue. One of the plausible approaches to meeting the new challenges of insecurity posed by the fast-changing environment is through e-policing. This is utilizing technology to meet the three imperatives of improving effectiveness and efficiency, new forms of police management and accountability, and supply the external agencies demand for information (Chan, Breteon, Legosz and Doran, 2001). In other words, it entails improving policing statutory service delivery to the populace – improved operational services; ensuring coordinated organizational structure such that can facilitate not only smooth operations but imbued with internal organizational dynamic ability as well; and, enhancing external relations and collaboration capacity for attaining a safe global society while acknowledging the employment of electronic aided policy tool.

Moreover, securing citizens lives and property through an electronic device, according to Bonadao and Tripathy (2013), make the officers better armed with initiatives to solve local policing problems which will drastically reduce crime incidents (cited in Lazaros and Lilian, 2013). This also precipitates likely morale or motivation boost, which has been observed through the engagement of police personnel with electronic equipment. Furthermore, Opp (2012) submits that the ICT adoption has improved efficiency and cost of operations in Ohio in the United States of America, (USA) at no initial cost to the state government. In this case, the e-policing mechanism brought efficiency to policing with minimal cost burden to the state which seems universal in application irrespective of geographical, cultural or other ancillary variation.

Similarly, e-policing facilitates efficient communication between the community and police which enhances partnership, leads to increased access to information and accountability of the latter to the former (Lazaros and Lilians, 2013). However,

the organizational structure appears as a precondition for effective policing and exterior cooperation which at the same time are interconnected and attainable with the support of information and communication technology. Therefore, ensuring the existence of an adaptable local-compliant police structure is essential for facilitating both the community intelligence gathering and also a functioning communication relationship.

Nevertheless, "the impact of technology on policing is dependent on how technology interacts with the existing culture, values, management styles, work practices and technical capabilities" (chan, et al, 2001: vii). In this context, the extent to which a state is capable of aligning its culture, belief, managerial approach and technical skill are critical determinants of the benefit it stands to derive from E-policing. As such, Nigerian need to circumvent the constraints noted below.

CONSTRAINS TO E-POLICING ADOPTION IN NIGERIA

In several developing countries, e-policing is still at its initial stages because of some challenges. Firstly, most developing states have limited funding for ICT. Funding for crucial communication equipment for the lower cadres Policemen is non-existent and in cases where budgets are made for such purpose, it is often diverted to the private purse. As such, this creates a barrier between the police officers on the field and those in the station. In addition, very few police staff are trained with computer skills. So, even when these technologies are made available, they are either underutilized or not utilized at all. These technologies then become obsolete and inefficient over time.

Further, the lack of internet connectivity serves as a huge barrier to the implementation of e-policing as a strategy to combat crime. For instance, in Nigeria, most police departments, formation headquarters and stations are out of reach of internet connectivity, especially the police-enabled source. For instance,

the country, currently, has 50% internet penetration coverage and nineteen million internet users out of 208 million (Simon, 2021). This makes one wonder if the country, like many of its developing peers, is truly poised for the exploitation of an internet-enabled policing system in the current age synonymous with, and largely driven by ICT.

In the light of the success that e-policing has accomplished in many of the developed or wealthy countries like the UK, the US and the UAE, it is obvious that the developing states needs to grow their ICT capacity (skill and infrastructure) to overcome the limitations and adverse impact of the identified constraints on the national policing. Otherwise, they will be unable to deal with rising insecurity and, in the case of Nigeria, with specific problems such as Boko Haram, persistent low- intensity ethnic conflict, kidnapping and other forms of wanton crime. The necessity of redressing this trend cannot be overemphasized if the trust of the citizenry in the security agencies and the building safer communities is to be attained within the shortest possible time. Indeed, the overpopulated cities like Lagos in Nigeria and Nairobi in Kenya stand to experience a drastic reduction in crime rates if e-policing techniques are deployed accordingly and holistically.

BENEFITS OF IMPLEMENTING E-POLICING INITIATIVES IN NIGERIA

The adoption and implementation of e-policing offer numerous benefits to nations especially emerging economy countries. Firstly, embracing and implementing e-policing initiatives by countries are signs of growth, development and increased opportunity by the citizenry to participate in making the security infrastructure work better. It also provides a two-fold benefit of facilitating development. First, the necessary infrastructure such as broadband technologies required for mobile penetration is provided to power the e-policing effort. The attending

advantages of the infrastructure provision include soft-skill development which is a boost to national technical competence and the employment it generates especially among the young adults who are the chunk of the unemployed segment of the population. In tackling terrorism, the responsibility of citizen participation is a priority.

Secondly, e-policing allows the law enforcement agencies to leverage access to more up-to-date data and as such helps in taking proactive steps to prevent or foil crimes. Scholars regard the police ability to carry out this preventive measure as 'proactive policing' (Matlala, 2016; Njase Joel, 2016). The term implies that citizens have trust in the security agencies, spurring them to report suspicious movements to the relevant authorities. Several techniques are available to facilitate such communication without the physical presence of Police officers. These include: messaging via short message service (SMS), e-mail, Twitter, Facebook messenger, Instagram messages, videos or phone calls. For instance, many news media – conventional and online - have created eye-witness platforms where people can upload live videos of abuses, brutality, riots, protests or breaking news events. Likewise, this information and videos can serve as sources of data for law enforcement agencies which also would aid swift responses to crime.

Another instance is Lagos State, Nigeria, where citizens, traffic enforcement agencies and the Police share smart information to reduce the traffic gridlock in the city. By calling a radio station dedicated to easing the flow of traffic (Lagos Traffic Radio), citizens can inform the Police about car accidents, robbery incidents and other traffic-related issues. Through this platform, the Lagos State Transport Management Agency (LASTMA) - a Para-military traffic management organization - and the Police can track down criminals and traffic hotspots to ease the traffic flow and make the city

safer. In return, LASTMA also calls in on the radio station to divert traffic by informing citizens of routes to avoid or navigate.

Further, e-policing is necessary because it serves as a check on security agents who sometimes are guilty of abusing their power. The increase in the number of police brutality cases is proof that there is a need to engage relevant technological tools to curb human rights abuse. Therefore, citizens cannot only report cases of human rights violation to the Code of Conduct, Public Bureau and other relevant agencies formally but may do so online almost on a real-time basis while employing the media platforms noted earlier as either reinforcement mediums or alternatives and as veritable and verifiable means of airing their grievances or complaints.

Also, though e-policing requires the police to create a database of all criminal records and history, it makes it easier to observe the trend of certain crimes in a community or state. As such, predictive or preventive policing is made possible. While this database may contain documents relating to the investigation of crimes and findings the law enforcement personnel would be able to share intelligence information with each other and easily access similar history case files to widen their understanding and draw inferences helpful for new cases.

Despite the benefits highlighted, many developing states appear to have failed to optimally exploit e-policing like Nigeria while some have yet to implement any of its techniques. Though a range of causal factors can be attributed to this, disturbingly, the largest contributor to reasons why e-policing is not effective is not because of the non-availability of technology in developing countries but rather, the unwillingness to adopt due to fear of change and doubt of the technology's potential. This appears as unscientific assumptions and self-imposed constraints. Nonetheless, since ICT is shifting the ground not only of the global security architecture, especially policing, but

virtually all facets of human livelihood, there is no justifiable or tenable reason for Nigeria to be left behind the curve.

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

There is no hesitation about the fact that the insecurity in Nigeria has intensified to an alarming level. Various forms of security challenges keep appearing. The common ones are kidnapping, the herdsmen crisis, armed robbery and suicide bombing, religious crisis, ethnic violence, politically motivated killing, cybercrimes and other criminal activities which have made Nigeria rank consistently very low in the Global Peace Index (GPI, 2017).

Indicators such as the quality of security and the increase of crime show that the institution of the state saddled with the responsibility of ensuring and maintaining law and order has been a failure. Furthermore, the inability of the government and police to address these insecurities across Nigeria reveals that insecurity has grown beyond the government's capacity and therefore calls for a change of strategy. Policing in Nigeria has been encumbered by several cumulative challenges such as corruption, human rights violations such as intimidation, extortion, brutality and torture, corruption, poor infrastructure, poor remuneration, poor education and training, maligning the image of the institution for effective maintenance of peace and order.

The increasing violence and crimes across Nigeria and the increase of cybercrimes in the intensification of globalization speaks of the need for a change in this traditional model of policing in Nigeria. While this research upholds the findings of Haruna and Aliyu (2019), Peters and Ojedokun (2019), Odeyemi and Obiyan (2018) and Ibikunle and Adefihan (2013) that ICT should be employed to combat insecurity challenges, it pushes further that it is not just imperative but indispensable, without which policing cannot be effective or efficient in the modern or contemporary world characterized by bourgeoning online and ICT-facilitated physical security breaches alongside the availability and the evolution of many sophisticated ICT equipments for preventive and investigative policing.

In the light of the knowledge of the fact that security cannot be compromised, being the life-wire of the country; a basic need of all humans; and, a crucial measurement of a state's image in the international system, this paper recommends that one of the strategies that should be adopted in stemming the tide of poor policing and insecurity in Nigeria is e-policing. There is a need for Nigeria to take advantage of the globalization of ICT to curb all forms of crime and revolutionize policing and law enforcement by leveraging electronic and technology infrastructure. Hence, e-policing is non-negotiable as crime has become so complex and widespread. This will bring community policing closer to the people and also to a higher level of capability. Also, it would help fight crime, curb insecurity and make the communities safer for human existence. In addition, there will be better platforms for sharing information and offering crime tips without fear of being harm by corrupt police.

For e-policing to be effective and for insecurity to be curbed or drastically reduced, the Nigerian Police service and government must awake to the obligation of providing adequate resources to officers to make policing and service delivery with particular reference to security enhancement. The institution, similarly, must redeem its image by ensuring a safeguard of the human rights of civilians and desisting from perverting justice. Finally, timely training and retraining of officers, curbing corruption amongst its ranks and files, increasing the welfare of officers through better remuneration, providing staff welfare packages, providing them with good barracks or housing facilities, up-to-date equipment like patrol vehicles and weapons must be adequately addressed and cannot be solved through just e-policing as a panacea.

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