A model against crime: Crime and intelligence led policing in Nigeria

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Abstract - This paper presents a review of some current technology deployed by the Police, worldwide, to combat crime. A holistic study was carried out on how governments and their security agents combat organized crime. Also, examined and critically analyzed are the structures and duties of the police departments charged with the responsibilities of combating crime. Hence, this research reviewed how these Departments function in the United States of America (USA), Canada, Australia, United Kingdom, Europe, and Israel. These studies led to this proposed model that shows how the Nigerian police can effectively combat crime. The model tends to profound solutions to the defects in its level of technological detection, prevention and investigation of crime. The proposed simple model tagged as “Intelligence led Policing” create databases and real time dynamic network linking all the Police Departments, patrol teams, units, members of the public, other security agents and also undercover agents together. Although the study is still ongoing, early simulated results of this model show its feasibility which however indicates high cost of real live implementation.

Keywords: Police and crime, intelligence policing, internal security, human rights, area command.

1 Introduction

For decades governments all over the world have intensified efforts to provide law enforcement agents with the tools to investigate criminal organizations and to otherwise aid in the fight against criminal elements in the society. To effectively combat crime the law enforcement agents have to ensure that it: (i) develop crime prevention strategies; (ii) coordinate national and regional initiatives; (iii) undertake research and analysis; (iv) engage in public education [1].

In the United States, law enforcement agencies can legally notify the movements of people from their mobile phone signals using Stingrays. In the USA the FBI, DEA, Secret Service, National Security Agency (NSA), U.S. Marshals Service, Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) and ATF as well as the U.S. Army, Navy and Marine Corps all use Stingrays [2,3,4].

Nigeria police was first established in 1820 and in 1963, under the First Republic, these forces were nationalized. The Nigeria Police Force duties were conventional police functions and were responsible for internal security. The Force also performed military duties outside Nigeria. Section 214 of the 1999 constitution, of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, specifies the Nigeria Police as the national police of Nigeria with exclusive jurisdiction throughout the country. The Nigeria Police (NP) is the principal law enforcement agency in Nigeria with a staff strength of about 371,800 [5,6,7]. Section 215 of the constitution empowers the Inspector General of Police with the general operational and administrative control of the Nigeria Police.

The general assumption is that the police are legitimate, officially articulated organizations that can use force to sustain political and civil order. However, the Nigeria Police since 1999 has failed in its constitutional duties [8]. Unfortunately what have characterized the Nigerian Police are cases of:

- Indiscipline: improper dressing, consumption of alcohol in glare public while on duty, lack of respect of junior officers to senior officers, receiving bribes, drunk on duty, human right abuses and extrajudicial killing [9,10].
- Lack of insurance cover: Poor budget funding, misappropriation of security votes.
- Welfare: Very poor housing for the police, poor salary and allowances, no enough vehicles for patrolling or conveying members.
- Network: Lack of citizen’s biometrics, forensic lab is without database, patrol officers lack network contacts, use of media to identify suspects is absent, NPF website has gross inadequate information for the public.
- Logistics: NPF helicopters, armored personnel carriers, light weapons, heavy machine guns, arms and
ammunitions, communication equipment, are grossly inadequate.

- Most police posted to polling units, on election day connive with hoodlums to aid politicians to falsify election results
- Police illegally arrest citizens and detain them in order to extort money from them
- Police extortion of motorist is with impunity

The NPF has seven Area Commands and five Departments (Department Criminal Investigations, Department Logistics, Department Supplies, Department Training, and Department Operations).

The Department Criminal Investigation (DCI) is the highest criminal investigation arm of the Nigeria Police [11]. DCI is tasked with investigation and prosecution of serious and complex criminal cases within and outside Nigeria. The DCI has the following sections with most of them headed by Commissioners of Police (CPs): i) Administration, ii) Anti-Fraud Section, iii) The Central Criminal Registry (CCR), iv) Special Anti-Robbery Squad (SARS), v) X-Squad, vi) General Investigation, vii) Special Fraud Unit (SFU), viii) Legal Section, ix) Forensic Science Laboratory, x) Interpol Liaison, xi) Homicide, xii) Anti-Human Trafficking Unit, xiii) Force Intelligence Bureau (FIB), xiv) DCI Kaduna Annex.

There are several eyewitness reports in social, electronics and print media of Nigeria police collusion with criminals. In most police stations there are bills well-advertised stating that bail is free. But the reality is that for these corrupt officers bail is never free. Accused persons are intimidated by the police and are threaten to pay a ransom for their bail. The relationship between the police and the general public is so bad. Despite all appeals to police officers to change their attitude towards the public, to be fair and honest, and to avoid corrupt practices they remain defiance.

Between the year 2013 and 2015 the crimes committed such as kidnapping, armed robbery, murder, arson, extrajudicial killing, rape, armed banditry, violent militant groups, religious insurrection and stealing of public funds with impunity were on the increase.

### 2 Methodology

The aim of this study is to review studies that have assessed the effectiveness of crime control strategies, by the police, and develop a model against crime for the Nigeria Police. This study review covers a broad range of research methods and data sources. This includes review studies by the Department of Justice in Canada, USA, UK, Europe and Israel on organized crime control strategy. Also reviewed are studies by academics and law enforcement agencies. Most documents for this study literature review were from the search conducted with the help of several electronic databases.

Most of the documents provided empirical evidence on crime control strategies, also included are definitional and methodological issues bearing on evaluations in this area.

This study reviewed each crime control strategy and critically examined the merits of the different control strategies to combat crime.

The study resulted in the development of a model for the Department Criminal Investigation (DCI) Nigeria Police. The developed model took advantage of today’s advancement in technology to produce an active network. The model is a combination of different modules/sections actively networked together. Some characteristics of this developed model are: “Intelligent led policing” app, crime record databases, biometric databases, interactive web pages, communication security, internet links and mobile network app.

### 3 Educating Police Officers

The culture of relevant authorities to turn a blind eye to Police officers corrupt practices with impunity and the continued failure to train police officers properly has resulted in complete lack of public trust.

This study also examined how members of the Nigeria Police are trained, their educational background vis-à-vis duties. The Nigeria Police Academy (NPA) was established to train police cadets. There is no known University in Nigeria that specializes in the training or education of professionals for policing.

If some of the courses offered in NPA are introduced in public schools it will help to produce better educated Recruits. Police recruits are trained at Police colleges in Oji River State, Maiduguri Borno State, Kaduna Kaduna State, and Ikeja Lagos State [10, 11]. The Police also have provision for in-service training schools, including the Police Mobile Force Training School at Guzuo, southwest of Abuja, the Police Detective College at Enugu, the Police Dogs Service Training Centre, and the Mounted Training Centre.

With proper education the NPF will achieve the following:

- Provide safety and security in Nigerian communities; protect and respect human rights, and promote community partnership in preventing and controlling social disorder.
- Will be a leading national, professional and efficient law enforcement organization.
- Reduced cases of extrajudicial killings
- Improve on Police public relationship by organizing educative programs for well-informed citizens on their role in combating crime.
- Effectively combat drug trafficking, economic crimes, high-tech crimes, money laundering, illegal immigration and trafficking of humans, and corruption
- Maintain discipline within its ranks
- Avoid illegal road blocks. Also this will reduce cases of NPF extortion of motorist
- Reduce cases of illegal arrest and detention
- Ability to cope with modern technology to combat crime

Figure 1 Intelligent led policing management for Nigeria Police

4 Intelligence Policing led Model

The DCI lacks adequate and proper intelligence gathering mechanism to support and interpret criminal’s data. The sharing of information among the various police departments are isolated and with no proper or efficient networked databases. This led to lack of adequate intelligent among patrol officers and other undercover agents.

This study therefore proposes a model based on the concept of active networking. The essence is to build a network that is easier to change and customize. Hence, adding new functionality to the network in future will result in minimal disruption to existing services. The advantage of this model design is its flexibility. The command and control room will serve as the network management station. Here information gathered are compared to data stored in the database, concerning previous crime committed, and including those involved as well as the nature and level of investigation carried out are established and analyzed. Figure 1 shows simple components of the proposed intelligent led policing management for the Nigeria Police.

The security of a network is said to be very good if the network security is able to reliably authenticate communication partners and other network entities [12]. The security provided identifies the recipients of information within this network. The fundamental services provided by this unit are confidentiality and authentication.

Database is sited in each of the six geopolitical zones. In this model the current 36 States, the 774 Local Government Councils and the Federal capital territory are networked to these databases. Each of the databases is linked together through the centralized database. With the existence of these
databases crime analysis will help, by early detection, to prevent, reduce, and control crime and disorder in Nigeria. Nigeria Police currently lacks these infrastructures.

A characteristic of this propose model is an automatic response that ensures that immediately a call is linked to the network, in any part of Nigeria, the satellite immediately search the area and record vital data for analysis. The system immediately alerts the nearby command and all the chain of command that are required to take action. The members of the police unit responding to the distress call are guided by the system to the search area. Even when the caller dials and then switch off the phone the system will be able to act effectively. The caller identity can only be disclosed to the IGP after due legal application process. By simply dialing a three digit number from any network the system will respond. The model is built to respond to reported cases of crime. If the caller is in danger to speak, then by dialing the three digits is enough for a quick response from the system. Any statement will be very useful. The three digit number response is independent of network service provider. We are equally developing an application (called “Police and Me App”) for this purpose that will be freely downloaded by mobile phones. Members’ of the public can interact with the system from the comfort of their homes and from anywhere in the country via mobile phone, land phone or Internet connectivity.

The software application is web based and enables tracking of caller location and area. Hypertext Markup Language (HTML), Hypertext Preprocessor (PHP), Javascript, Dreamweaver and MySQL were used to realize the interface and Web Based solutions for the automated model. Cases of inmates with minor offences that are illegally detained in Nigerian prisons for so many years without trial will easily be detected.

5 Conclusions

The search for materials began with a search of several major electronic databases. This report was not about defining crime. The different circumstances under which crimes were committed, however, form the basis for developing this model. The study is still in its early stage. The model is being developed in modules and the entire study when completed is expected to combat crime, such as insurgencies, terrorism, armed robbery, murder and kidnapping. We do not intend to give detail information about the firewall nor how the model detect and identify a criminal/crime.

References


[6] Interpol http://www.interpol.int/Membercountries/Africa/Nigeria


