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## Assessment of Intelligence–Led Policing and Crime Prevention in Nigeria Police

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### Abstract

The study sought to investigate intelligence led policing and crime prevention in delta state command of Nigeria police. Descriptive survey was employed Standardized descriptive questionnaire was adopted and one hundred respondents picked with the use of snow ball sampling method. Data collected was subjected to test for mean and standard deviations using the statistical package of social science to determine significant relationships. Research evidence shows here is crime problem and threat in the command. Reactive model cannot solve the problem of crime. Finding indicates that the use and application of intelligence led policing will enhance police performance in crime prevention. It was further revealed that collective action and collaboration among the intelligence community will enhance security. It is therefore recommended among others that there should be change in police orientation from reactive model to the use and application of intelligence and collaboration between the police and the public should be encouraged.

**Keywords:** Assessment, Intelligence–Led, Policing, Crime, Prevention, Police, Nigeria.

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### INTRODUCTION

There is significant increase in crime, violence and insecurity in Nigeria. Heinous crimes are committed with impunity across the country. In fact, crimes and general insecurity is on the increase in Nigeria on a daily basis. The rising incidence of insecurity is largely reflected on the alarming increase in acts of armed robbery, kidnapping, political assassination, communal hostilities, cultism, financial crime, illicit drug trafficking, arms smuggling and cyber-crimes.

The situation is made worse in Nigeria by the Boko Haram insurgency in the North east, the agitation of sovereignty state of Biafra in the South East, militancy in the Niger Delta area and the persistent and unending conflict between farmers and herdsmen across different parts of the country. Security agencies appear helpless as violence and insecurity now envelopes virtually all part of Nigeria.

These problems constitute immediate and long term threat to security and development in Nigeria. The success in law enforcement is measured in lives saved, crime prevented and the vitality of a city restored. Crime however, constitutes a challenge when its incidence is rampant that it threatens life, property as well as social order and solidarity (Onoge, 1988).

The police, no doubt are the statutory organization responsible for the preservation of law and order in the country. The amended 1999 constitution states that the police among other law enforcement agencies is vested with the function of security of public safety and public order within the states of Nigeria (Federal Republic of Nigeria, 2011). Members of the Nigeria police force are vested by several statutes with wide powers:

- To investigate crime;
- To apprehend offenders;
- To interrogate and prosecute suspects;
- To grant bail to suspect pending completion of investigation or prior to court arrangement;
- To search and seize properties suspected to be stolen or associated with crime;
- To serve summons and to regulate or disperse procession and assemblies;
- To take record for purposes of identification, the measurement, photography and finger print impressions of all persons in their custody.

The Nigeria police can address the security challenges if there is full cooperation between the citizen's, police with responsive and accountable leadership structure at local, state and national level of government. The Nigeria police are confronted with legitimacy crisis which is a direct consequence of the challenges they face in their performance and integrity (Obaro, 2014). An ineffective police force cannot guarantee the security of citizens and cannot command the respect of its citizen (Alemika & Chukwuma, 2000; Odekunle, 1978).

In Nigeria, there is strong feeling among academics, police administration and policy makers that the ineffectiveness and inefficiency prevalent in the Nigeria police stem from the application of inappropriate philosophies, policies and practices. The huge security gap experienced in Nigeria over the years is an indication that the purported reforms made to improve the national police force have not achieved its objective.

There is growing recognition and acceptance by law enforcement administration of the effectiveness of intelligence and information sharing in the prevention of crime and terrorism across the globe. Intelligence gathering and surveillance are some of the indispensable and sophisticated method that law enforcement agencies now use to tackle crime problems in today's world. Intelligence is critical for law enforcement agencies in decision makings, planning strategic targeting and crime prevention.

Bassey (2009) posited that intelligence gathering is the art and Science of proactive procurement of vital data and information by overt and covert means. Alemike (2012) defined intelligence as refined information aimed at evaluating the impact of specific policies or for the identification, evaluation and mitigation of specific threats.

Intelligence-led policing is an underlying philosophy of how intelligence can be incorporated into law enforcement organization. Rather than the police being simply as an information clearing house, intelligence-led policing provides for the integration of intelligence into the overall mission of the police organization (Alemike, 2012).

## **Statement of Problem**

Crime is society-wide problem that attracts the attention of the citizens and Government at all level because of its devastating consequences. Crimes occur and continue to increase with the acceleration of change, development and globalization. The increase in opportunities and dwindling form of social control contributes to a rise in criminality which poses challenge to an unprepared criminal justice system. Crime prevention remain a central issue for the criminal justice system. Crime prevention is the most useful activity that the law enforcement agencies are statutory assigned to embark in most societies by Government. Crime prevention unfortunately is the most controversial aspect of policing because of the potential impact it has on citizens particularly as it concerns liberty and freedom (Asenime, 2011).

Crime prevention is the anticipation, recognition and appraisal of the crime risk and the initiation of some action to reduce that risk (National Crime Prevention Institute, 1978). Crime prevention strategies are goal oriented attempts to reduce victimization, detect crime

and criminals. It specifically refers to effort by Governments to reduce crime, enforce the law and mention criminal justice. The definition and explanation concerning crime prevention clearly indicate it is proactive rather than reactive response to crime and public safety. There are scepticism about crime prevention value of traditional police method that emphasize enforcement principle of random and directed patrol, rapid response for call to service and retrospective investigation of crimes (Moore, 1992).

Traditional approach to policing has been the subject of intensive research over the years, empirical study in Britain of effect of increasing the level of foot patrol showed no reduction in crime (Weatherift, 1991). Research showed that on the whole neither car patrols nor foot patrols reduces crime rate but foot patrol however has the advantage of improving police community relationship and reduce to some extent the fear of crime (Pate 1986). In practice random patrol is less about deterring or catching offender but more about providing symbolic presence that proclaims a state of order. The logic behind random patrol and stop and search is that the perceived 'Omnipresence' of the police will prevent and deter crime in public places. The thinking is that the mere present of men on beat or patrol vehicle will act as deterrent to crime (Trojanowkz & Bucquerous, 1990).

The increase in police number seems not to decrease crime but simply to increase the reported crime (Koenig, 1991). Findings call to question the effectiveness of traditional policing in dealing with crime disorder and fear of victimization.

According to Aluko (2015), routine or random preventive patrol is by definition reactive policing. There is no initiation on the part of the officer or the organization to target a specific area or problem within geographical patrol district.

To make matters worse in Nigeria is the poor confidence the people have on the police force. According to Alemike and Chukwura (2000), relationship between the police and the citizen in Nigeria is largely characterized by suspicious, prejudice and mutual distrust, conflict and violence. The communication with the public which will provide valuable information is clearly lacking. The lack of coordination action between the police and the public is manifested in arbitrary arrest and detention in Nigeria. The police presently arrest to investigate rather investigating to arrest.

The reality in Nigeria's situation is that crime and insecurity will continue to pose serious challenge to the nation. This study will look at the intelligence-led model of policing and how using intelligence and intelligence practitioners within policing and investigations can be the most important single weapon in the armoury of law enforcement.

## **Purpose of the Study**

This research work intends to examine intelligence led to policing and crime prevention in Nigeria. The specific objectives of the study are to:

- To identify crime trends as well as mechanism to develop operational responses to the crimes in Nigeria.
- Ascertain if intelligence provides the knowledge on which security decisions are taken and appropriate target investigated.
- To examine the impact intelligence-led policing can have on crime prevention and law enforcement in general.
- Proffer solution on intelligence-led policy and crime prevention in Nigeria.

## **Research Questions**

This study will address the following research questions:

- What are the most pressing crime problem and crime trends in Nigeria?
- What strategies and tactics are effective against these crimes?
- What is the relationship between the police and the public in information sharing?

### **Scope of the Study**

The scope of this research is on the assessment of intelligence-led policing on crime prevention in Nigeria. The focus is on officers and men of Delta State command.

## **LITERATURE REVIEW**

### **Intelligence**

The desire and use of intelligence has been constant for centuries. Intelligence has been used by rulers and Generals from earliest times to the present. The use of spies was common in the past in the collection of critical information on adversary. In fact, in one of the earliest uses of spies, Moses ordered spies into Canaan to find out if the land was a suitable site for the Israelites. Roman armies under Caesar monitored the movement and capabilities of adversary troops through the use of spies. In fact, Chinese General Sun Tzu (500BC) in his book the Art of warfare discussed extensively the roles of spies in military warfare. The advent of industrialization coupled with technological changes has dramatically influenced the means of collection, speed and accuracy of turning raw data into finished intelligence for decision makers (Taylor, 2007). With information age, means of collection and analysis has changed dramatically across the entire globe.

There is misconception on the use and application of intelligence even among Law enforcement agencies. Intelligence is confused most times with information. Information within the context of this process are pieces of raw unanalyzed data that identify persons, organizations evidence, events or illustrates processes that indicate an incidence of criminal event or witnesses or evidence of a criminal event (Carter, 2002).

Information is pieces of raw data gathered from sources such as wire tapes, informants, banking records or surveillance. Raw information provides input and builds awareness but above all, information that is collected is the currency that produces intelligence. The most concise way of looking at intelligence is information plus analysis equal intelligence. This clarification makes the distinction between collected information and produces or finished intelligence to be very distinct. Carter (2002) defined intelligence as the combination of credible information with quality analysis. Information that has been evaluated and from, which conclusions are drawn. Ratcliffe (2003) viewed intelligence as a structure, a process and a product. Intelligence unit or sector is a recognized internal organization with people, skill and methods and well defined organizational structure. Intelligence is a process with continuous cycle of tasking, data collection, collation, analysis, dissemination and feedbacks. This continuous process is responsible for the generation of an intelligent product which is designed to shape the thinking of decision makers.

Intelligence to Aluko (2015) is an actionable information acquired or communicated by various means. The information can be acquired by human or electronic especially secret information that is used in law enforcement and national security. Alemike (2012) described intelligence as refined information aimed at evaluating the impact of specific policies or for the identification, evaluation and mitigation of specific threats. Intelligence products are essentially reports on specific issues and they may be categorized into current (tactical) and forecasted (strategic) intelligence.

## **Intelligence-Led Policing**

The police now play a cardinal role in the management of information as regard public safety with the sustained growth of information age in a global world. Intelligence in policing context refers to the systematic and purposeful acquisition, sorting, retrieved analysis, interpretation and protection of information (Cheptycki, 2003).

There is no universally accepted definition of intelligence-led policing but Carter and Carter (2009) proposed an operational definition of intelligence-led policing as collection and analysis of information related to crime and conditions responsible for crimes. The process will result in actionable intelligence product that will aid law enforcement and intelligence agencies in developing tactical response to threats.

Ratcliffe (2008) see intelligence-led policing as an approach, which emphasizes information gathering and sharing among authorized agencies that will initiate strategic solutions to combat crime. The concept therefore, allows for joint partnership among law enforcement agencies to solve problems that cannot be achieved easily by single organization (Agranoff & McGuire, 2001). It is a managerial tool used by police management in to plan and implement focused strategies rather than reacting to an incident driven strategy. Intelligence-led policing proactively focuses on known criminals and their activities with the intention of anticipating and defending the opportunities for criminal acts before it materializes (Ratcliffe, 2008).

Chukwuma (2013) noted that the application of intelligence in crime prevention will be successful if there are evident commitment and involvement by police management in the constant upgrading of analyst capacity and continuous evaluation of the entire intelligence process. The Chicago police department successfully applied intelligence –led policing in reducing gun violence through prior arrest, knowledge of membership base and subject list of populace that are at risk of gun violence either as perpetrator or victim (Rich, 2018). In Kakamaji county in Kenya, intelligence-led policing was used successfully in targeting criminals through overt and covert means in collaboration with the locals (Mabie, Itayo & Were, 2016).

The Likelihood however, exists that intelligence-led policing can suffer from a number of potential weaknesses that can undermine its effectiveness in crime prevention. Fear has been raised that intelligence-led policing can perpetrate over policing particularly in minority and poor neighbourhood which will heighten hostility between the police and residents (Rich, 2018). There is equally concern on financial implications and police legitimacy in a strategy that will increasingly rely on the use of informant in crime prevention (Dunnighan & Norris, 1999).

## **Theoretical Framework**

The social contract theory is an agreement made thousands of years back by our primitive ancestors in the primal state of nature to surrender certain liberties in exchange for social order. Thomas Hobbes, John lock and Jean Jacque Rousseau who are proponents of this theory had different conception of what the state of nature and social contract should entail in the society. Notwithstanding the variations all the versions of social contract theories imposes upon the government specific responsibility of its citizens.

The social contract theory plays an important and crucial role in defining the reciprocal rights, obligations and responsibility that exist between states and citizens. It is through this contract that government was created with rights and responsibilities to both citizens and the government.

By the social contract, government has overall responsibility to provide security and ensure peace and safety for its citizens. The citizens on the other hand, owe responsibility to cooperate with government by providing useful information/intelligence for effective policing (Agwe, 2012)

## **RESEARCH METHODOLOGY**

### **Research Design**

The research design is a descriptive survey. Most sociological research methods are descriptive and survey in nature. Survey design deals with systematic method of data collection. As a result, the researcher included specific research design features from the broad empirical and theoretical perspectives to assess intelligence led policing and crime prevention.

### **Population of the Study**

The research population for this study is drawn from officers and men of the criminal intelligence bureau of Delta State command.

### **Sample and Sampling Techniques**

The selection of sample was restricted to the criminal investigation bureau. Researcher used the snow ball sampling techniques which is a probability sampling for picking the sample size. Snow-ball sampling is a technique for finding research subjects in which one subject gives the researcher the names of another subject who in turn gives the name of another research subject (Vogt, 1999). The snow ball was adopted in Delta State command because personnel of the criminal intelligence bureau are hard to reach and because of the sensitive nature of intelligence gathering and analysis a sampling frame that can be totally relied on was unavailable.

### **Source of Data Collection**

The sources of data collection are in two fields: primary and secondary sources. The primary source involves the construction of questionnaire which was administered to respondents to elicit their response on issues pertaining to intelligence-led policing.

A suitable design was structured along a four-point Likert-type scale (summated) of strongly agree (4), agree (3), disagree (2) and (1) strongly disagree. The questionnaire comprised of two sections. Section "A" of the questionnaire focus on items such as gender, age, and academic qualifications. Section "B" focus on possible variables relating to intelligence-led policing.

The secondary sources include information's derived from books, journals, magazines and official records.

### **Validity of the Study**

The instrument that was used in this research was valid because the researcher took time to comply with the rules, regulations and procedures adopted in framing a research questionnaire. To validate the instrument the questionnaire was given to the two experts who read through and made necessary corrections.

## Reliability of the Study

The instrument was subjected to statistical tests that can be used to assess reliability such as Cronbach Alpha test using the Statistical Package for the Social Sciences (SPSS) version 21 to statistically test the reliability of the research instrument because in research statistics when a research instrument's reliability has been assured it gives the bases for continuity. A Cronbach Alpha coefficient of .811 was obtained, which makes the instrument very reliable. The researcher with a research assistant administered the copies of the questionnaire to police personnel.

## Method of Data Analysis

The analyses for this study was mean score and a standard deviation (SD). The standard scores were calculated using descriptive statistics (mean, standard deviation, percentage), via the Statistical Package for Social Sciences version 21 (SPSS).

## RESULTS

**Table 1: Demographic Variables of Respondents**

	<b>Demographic Variables</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Age	20-30 years	12	12.0
	31-40 years	32	32.0
	41-above years	56	56.0
Gender	Male	91	91.0
	Female	9	9.0
Qualification	School Cert	16	16.0
	OND/HND	20	20.0
	Degree	50	50.0
	Postgraduate Degree	14	14.0

The descriptive statistics presented in table 1 showed that 12 respondents constituting 12% of sample size are within the age range of 20-30 years, 32(32%) of the respondents constituting were within the 31-40 years, while 56(56%) were above 41 years. Data analysis further revealed that 91(91%) of the respondents were male while 9(9%) were female. In addition, 16(16%) of the respondents are holders of school certificate results. 20(20%) hold OND/HND certificates, and 50(50%) were degree holders, while 14(14%) hold postgraduate degrees.

## Research Question 1: The most pressing crime problems and trends in Nigeria

**Table 2: Descriptive statistics of respondents answer to the most pressing crime problems and trends in Nigeria**

<b>s/n</b>	<b>Variables (Items)</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>Mean</b>	<b>Std. Dev.</b>	<b>Remark</b>
1	Do you agree that crime problem is high in Nigeria	100	3.6500	.55732	Agree
2	Do you agree that crime problem is a threat to your security?	100	2.6900	.69187	Agree
3	Do you agree that the police is part of the wider crime problems in Nigeria	100	2.5900	.83479	Agree

## Research Question 2: Strategies and tactics for effective crime prevention

Table 3: Descriptive statistics of respondents answer to strategies and tactics for effective crime prevention

s/n	Variables (Items)	N	Mean	Std. Dev.	Remark
4	Do you agree that the current reactive model of police work does not ensure efficient and effective responses to crime in consideration of Limited resources	100	2.8404	.78779	Agree
5	Do you agree that the police don't have widespread application of intelligence in crime prevention?	100	2.9354	.63968	Agree
6	Do you agree that lack of collaboration among the intelligence community can boost crime trend in Nigeria.	100	2.6375	.99143	Agree
7	Do you agree that crime problem can be reduced by collective social action?	100	3.9923	.85865	Agree
8	Do you agree that the use of intelligence- led policing will reduce crime problem in Nigeria.	100	2.8873	.96064	Agree

## Research Question 3: The relationship between the police and the public in information sharing

Table 4: Descriptive statistics of respondents answer to the relationship between the police and the public in information sharing

s/n	Variables (Items)	N	Mean	Std. Dev.	Remark
9	Do you agree that the worth of the police can be determined by the amount and quality of protections it offers to citizens as a whole	100	2.6990	.90893	Agree
10	Do you agree that Nigerians should fight crime in all facets?	100	2.5872	.90988	Agree
11	Do you agree that Nigerians must collectively work to ensure national security?	100	2.7355	.78951	Agree
12	Do you agree that using intelligence from previous crime in local and other jurisdictions, indicators can be created and shared among law enforcement agencies?	100	2.7546	.74536	Agree
13	Do you agree that the public have confidence in sharing information with the police	100	1.1289	1.00484	Disagree

Research findings reveal that there is evident crime problem in Nigeria which is a source of insecurity and a threat to sustainable development. Respondents are in agreement that reactive policing will not reduce crime. Rather intelligence led policing will help reduce crime in the society. The use of reactive strategy is clearly an indication that predictive policing which will allow for a proactive approach to crime prevention is most time absent in crime prevention which is an indication of poor understanding of the use of intelligence to drive police action. Data collection, analysis dissemination and utilisation which bolster intelligence application are mostly deployed in high profile crimes affecting the elites. The study reveals the lack of collaboration between the police and the other agencies that makes up the intelligence community in Nigeria. The dysfunctional interagency coordination has led to critical agencies in Nigeria trading blames and making damaging accusation in the media. Udounwa (2013) pinned the lack of collaboration and rivalry to competition for limited

resources, need for visibility and the quest for favourable public rating from the public. The police need collective action and intelligence to function effectively in crime prevention.

The study reveals that the public don't have confidence in the sharing of information with the police. The Nigeria police are perceived as corrupt, inefficient and brutal which is manifesting in poor public perception about their role in crime prevention. The poor public perception is responsible in the difficulty of the police in getting credible information from the public. Alemike and Chukwuma (2000) noted far back that the relationship existing between the police and the Citizen in Nigeria is largely characterized by suspicious, prejudice and mutual distrust. To the public, the police are regressive and ruthless.

## **CONCLUSION**

The end product of every security endeavour is in meeting the envisaged public need of preventing and managing crime. It is therefore, pertinent that the police should do away with the reactive policing strategy and embrace the proactive strategy which will enhance the full implementation of intelligence-led policing across all the states command. Where proactive measures cannot solve crime problems, such as citizens detention, arrest and prosecution should not suffer undue delay so as to enhance the deterrent principle of punishment. The assumption that policing is the sole responsibility of the Nigeria police force alone should be discarded as policing is a collaborative venture between the police, other security agencies, non-state actors and the general public in the collective task of crime prevention.

The police stakeholders' partnership is a precondition for effective and efficient intelligence-led policing strategy. Without the support of the public the police cannot effectively use and apply criminal intelligence in crime prevention and management. The police must redeem their image and the public should shed their distrust of the police so as to build an enduring and cordial relationship that will help entrench the operation of intelligence-led policing in Nigeria. The Nigeria police should be abreast with the latest advancement in technology and development in intelligence so as to cope in the present global world of uncertainty.

## **Recommendations**

In the light of research findings, the following recommendations are made:

- There should be change of orientation from reactive model to a proactive model based on intelligence;
- There should be an increase funding for the police by the federal government of Nigeria so as to improve their capacity in intelligence –led policing. The funding should target equipment, logistics and training;
- Inter-agency cooperation that is devoid of feud should be encouraged so as to facilitate intelligence sharing and collaboration in crime prevention;
- The police should be exposed and trained on the use of technical devices so as to access seemingly difficult target with ease;
- Training of personnel on necessity of interagency cooperation will go a long way in enhancing effectiveness. The training should focus on dangers of not sharing valuable intelligence or failing to promote interagency collaboration;
- Traditional institutions should be incorporated as an aspect of the security sector to enhance community participation in intelligence-led policing;
- The police as the most visible agent of government should as a matter of necessity undertake an image redeeming plan so as to build public confidence and trust. Cordial

relation with the public will ensure credible information that serves as currency' that produces intelligence is received from the public;

- Hunters, vigilantes and other relevant stakeholder in the community should be trained and exposed the needs and technique of intelligence gathering. They live with the people and know the nooks and crannies of the community;
- Intelligence as a mental exercise requires people with more than average intelligence. The recruitment of personnel should be based on requisite cognitive, emotional and physical fitness that will suit the challenging nature of intelligence gathering. Recruitment into the Nigeria police force should therefore be guarded by suitable educational qualifications that are broad based in the acquisition of multi-skill competency; and
- The government should above all address the problem of poverty which is the underlying cause of most predatory crimes in the society.

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