

APPLICATION OF CRIMINAL INTELLIGENCE AS HOLISTIC TOOLS IN ADDRESSING CRIME IN NIGERIA

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Abstract

Nigeria has witnessed different categories of crime and unimagined attacks such as terrorism attacks, insurgency, proliferation of arms and ammunition, transnational organised crimes, drug trafficking, bandit's attacks, kidnapping, abduction, violence attacks on individuals and robberies, cybercrimes, trading on illicit drugs and dealing on contraband goods. The need arises for a paradigm shift towards safety and security, as countries globally, have become more vulnerable to crime more than ever. In order to address these crime, the intelligence community and professionals need to beef up their intelligence capacities and capabilities in tackling the problem. The study focuses on the application of criminal intelligence in addressing crime in Nigeria. The paper adopted qualitative methodology using its technique for data collection. About twenty-five participants were carefully selected and were interviewed. Among the following are the findings; Nigeria is lacking intelligence officials who can implement criminal intelligence effectively in addressing crime, only few criminal justice officials are specifically trained on how to incorporate criminal intelligence in addressing crime, there is a misunderstanding of the concept of intelligence in Nigeria. Recommendations include; criminal justice officials need to adopt the use of operational, strategic and tactical intelligence in tackling crime problems, need for more training of officials on intelligence capacities, criminal justice should adopt criminal intelligence to address crime in all communities in Nigeria, policing of crime should be intelligence led.

Key Words: criminal, intelligence, tools, crime, Nigeria

Introduction

There has been an increase in crime globally, including Nigeria. Recently, criminals, business competitors, foreign state actors and private individuals troll cyber systems/social network sites looking for information or people to target for exploitation. Nigeria has witnessed unimagined attacks such as terrorism attack, insurgency, robberies, proliferation of arms and ammunition, transnational organised crimes, drug trafficking, bandit's attacks, kidnapping, abduction, violence attacks against individuals, cybercrimes, trading on illicit drugs and dealing on contraband goods. In order to tackle the above crime, the criminal justice needs to adopt tactical, operational and strategic intelligence in tackling crime problems. Thus, crime intelligence encourages early detection of crime tendencies; can assist the police and the law enforcement to develop strategy to cope with the possible threats of crime before the crime gets out of proportion. Atkins (2000) confirms that crime intelligence plays vital role in the detection and prevention of crime by making statistics available and drawing conclusions between certain independent crimes, the casual-link can be ascertained, thus enhance effective detection and prevention of crime. The new threats are no longer traditional in nature but have stepped up to asymmetrical threats that have not been encountered in the past. Moreover, the problem is that there are few trained

intelligence officers that can effectively use crime intelligence in combating crime in Nigeria. The question now is can Nigeria rely on the policing model presently implemented in Nigeria in preventing and addressing crime effectively. Does Nigeria have intelligence capacities and capabilities in addressing crime? can police incorporate criminal intelligence effectively in addressing crime. The paper adopted qualitative methodology, using its technique for data collection. About twenty-five participants were carefully selected and were interviewed. Relevant literature relating to the research topic were consulted. Qualitative data analysis was used.

This study aims to identify the type of policing model adopted in Nigeria, evaluate the intelligence capacities and capabilities of criminal justice officials and law enforcement in Nigeria, ascertain if police can incorporate criminal intelligence effectively in addressing crime, identify types of crime prevalent in Nigeria presently and proffer solution to the problem of insecurity and crime in Nigeria.

Conceptual Framework/Literature Review

Crime Intelligence Theory

This study is based on the theory that crime intelligence supports tactical, operational and strategic intelligence operations and is effective in addressing crime. The tenet adopts tactical intelligence approach which supports the front-line areas operations, investigation and in taking case-specific action to achieve enforcement objectives, employs applications of analysis to crime control. Operational intelligence supports the area commanders and regional operational commanders in planning a crime reduction activity, deploy resources to achieve operational objectives, drives crime reduction activity and resource planning. Strategic intelligence aims to provide insight, understanding and make contributions to broad strategic policies and resources, relates to national law enforcement perspectives to the process of business planning and resource allocations (David Carter, 2006).

Concept of intelligence and different intelligence perspectives

Intelligence is the product of an analytic process that evaluates information collected from diverse sources, integrates the relevant information into a cohesive package and produces a conclusion or estimate about a criminal phenomenon by using the scientific approach to problem solving (David Carter, 2006). Intelligence has been defined in many ways: the capacity for logic, understanding, self-awareness, learning, emotional knowledge, reasoning, planning, creativity, critical thinking, and problem-solving. More generally, it can be described as the ability to perceive or infer information, and to retain it as knowledge to be applied towards adaptive behaviors within an environment or context. The most intelligence process or cycle involves three steps: collection, analysis and synthesis. Analysis involves various techniques to make conclusion or inferences. Synthesis normally produces a product, such as chart, graph, table, summary or other visual aids, synthesis is therefore synonymous with fusion. Other steps of intelligence process or cycle include policy, arrest and war (Tory, 2001). Criminal intelligence is the body of information received on known or suspected person involved in criminal activity or data resulting from the analysis of criminal data collected on persons or suspected of being involved in criminal activities (Atkins, 2000). Moreover, Ronczkowski, (2004) affirms that there is no such thing as intelligence for intelligence sake. Ronczkowski points out that the purpose of gathering

information about other's secrets and processing it into intelligence is to provide leaders or policy-makers with options of making policy, more effective and efficient in service delivery and decision making. Ronczkowski illustrates that there is no need for tasking, collecting, analysing, and distributing intelligence products if there is no policy issue or anticipated issue on the table. Furthermore, Tory (2001) argues that for intelligence to be relevant, it must ensure that it provides the policy makers' time out, critical and unique information to warn them of potential risks and dangers, allows policy-makers to face the unknown and best reduce the uncertainty, and assist the policy makers when to make critical decisions. Intelligence should be able to identify opportunities in the international environment by assessing the real or potential competitors, intentions and capabilities. According to Carl (2001), the competition involves the political, military, technological, scientific, economic sphere and in the field of trade.

The contemporary and ancient categories of intelligence process include current: intelligence looks at day-to-day event. Estimative: intelligence looks at what might happen. Warning: intelligence gives urgent notice that something will happen. Research: intelligence is an in-depth study of an issue. Scientific and Technical: intelligence is information on foreign technology (Khalsa, 2006).

In addition, Lowenthal (2006) postulates that intelligence is the product of the intelligence circle, a process that begins with step one; planning and direction, which leads to step two, the setting of collection requirement based on threats in the form of questions and identified gaps in existing knowledge and which is followed by, step three-the collection of intelligence based on known gaps, step four includes: synthesis and analysis of collected intelligence and results in the creation of an intelligence products. In step five, intelligence is disseminated to policy makers and those responsible for taking actions based on that analysis, and step six is the feedback loop from the customers to evaluate the utility of the product and facilitate another round of the circle by assisting with step one.

Human intelligence has been defined as one's capacity for logic, understanding, self-awareness, learning, emotional knowledge, planning, creativity and problem solving. Artificial intelligence is the ability of a digital computer or computer-controlled robot to perform tasks commonly associated with intelligent beings. The term is frequently applied to the project of developing systems endowed with the intellectual processes characteristic of humans, such as the ability to reason, discover meaning, generalize, or learn from past experience (Lowenthal, 2006).

Intelligence and psychological theories of crime

Dabney (2004) postulates that there exists a link between intelligence and crime. There is a common belief that criminals and delinquents possess low intelligence and that this low intelligence causes criminality. As criminological research has advanced, scholars have continued to suggest that the Holy Grail is causality. The ability to predict criminals from noncriminal is the ultimate goal. The ideology or concept of IQ and crime has crystallized into the nature versus nurture debate (Jacoby, 2004). Furthermore, Messner and Rosenfield (2007) argued that the nature versus nurture debate is a psychological argument that is related to whether the environment or

heredity impacts the psychological development of individuals. The nature versus nurture debate addresses the issue relating the postulation that individuals share the DNA of their parents, for example, some people have short fingers like their mother and brown eyes like their father. However, the question remains: Where do individuals get their love of sports, literature, and humor from. According to Schmallegger (2008), with respect to the nature side, stated that research on the prison population has consistently shown that inmates typically score low on IQ tests. Moreover, Siegal (2008) reports that in the early decades of the 20th century, researchers administered IQ tests to delinquent male children. The results indicated that close to 40% had below-average intelligence. The study reveals that one criticism of this perspective is the failure to account for free will. Many individuals in our society believe in the ability to make choices. There are many individuals who have a low IQ but refrain from committing crime. The study acknowledges that the advocates of nurture theory maintained that intelligence is not inherited. There is some recognition of the role of heredity; however, emphasis is placed on the role of society that is the environment. They agreed that parents are a major influence on their children's behavior. At an early age, parents read books; play music; and engage their children in art, museum, and sporting events. Some parents spend no quality time with their children, and these children are believed to perform poorly on intelligence test. Other groups important in a child's nurturing are friends, relatives, and teachers. Ultimately, the child who has no friends or relatives and drops out of school is destined for difficult times. Research has demonstrated that the more education a person has, the higher his or her IQ.

Nevertheless, Hirschi and Michael Hindelang (1977) suggested that low IQ increases the likelihood of criminal behavior through its effect on school performance. Their argument is that a child with a low IQ will perform poorly in school. In turn, this school failure is followed by dropping out. Given the poor school performance, a child is left with very few options and this ultimately leads to delinquency and adult criminality. Herrnstein and Charles Murray (1994) conducted nature versus nurture study and suggested that individuals with a lower IQ are more likely to commit crime, get caught, and be sent to prison. Importantly, these authors transport the IQ and crime link to another level. Specifically, they suggested that prisons and jails are highly populated with inmates with low IQs; however, what about those criminals whose actions go undetected? Through self-reported data, the researchers discovered that these individuals have a lower IQ than the general public. Thus, research concludes those criminal offenders who have been caught and those who have not have an IQ lower than the general population.

Intelligence process

The intelligence process is the direct collection, collation, evaluation, analysis and dissemination of intelligence. The collection of data is an act of gathering information that produces intelligence, the collection of raw data is an important function in the intelligence process and requires understanding (Peterson, 2000). The study notes that it is necessary to collect adequate and valuable information for an effective intelligence process. The intelligence process relies on the ability to obtain and use data. However, the first and most basic problem to overcome lies with the collection and storage of these data, which come in many forms, from electronically retrievable to hard copy. Khalsa, (2006) warns that care should be taken at the early stage to avoid overloading

and overlooking of data because these data may or not be used later. The issue of planning all the activities in the intelligence process is particularly significant in the collection phase. In both operational and strategic intelligence analysis, the scope of the analysis should be clear before considering further actions to be undertaken. A collection plan is required and identified, also the means of acquiring information should be laid out to ensure orderliness and precise collection of relevant information. The study argues that the collection plan should include information categories, possible sources of information and sources to be contacted by specific requests, and a timetable to indicate when the information was requested and when it is needed to avoid chaos, a structured collection plan approach where the analyst is proactive, imaginative and explores all avenues to gain vital information and specific data items required to conduct the analysis and the analysis.

According to Lowenthal (2006), three types of sources of information are open, closed and classified. Open source (OSINT) is information that is publicly available. One notable subset of open source information is so called grey literature. It can consist of research, technical, economic reports, white papers, conference documentation, dissertations and theses, discussion papers, subject-related newsletters, etc. One of the difficulties in working with this type of source is the evaluation as information available in the public domain can frequently be biased, inaccurate or sensationalism. Closed source includes information collected for a specific purpose with limited access and availability to the public. Closed source information is found in the form of structured databases. In the context of criminal intelligence analysis, these databases will largely include personal data collected as part of an ongoing targeting operations, or broader criminal records, vehicle registration data, weapons licencing. Classified information sources include information collected by covert means including use of human and technical (image and signals intelligence) resources. Use of classified information can significantly enhance the quality of an analytical product, as it is highly accurate; however, it can also make an analytical product significantly less actionable due to restrictions on dissemination.

The use of crime threat Analysis in the intelligence process

Crime threat analysis involves the reviewing of data and the comparison with the crime threat existing in a specific geographical area. Analysis provides a vital link between intelligence and investigation, analysis is the tool that provides steering in support of the operational directions. It is the primary goal of intelligence to provide the profiles of the person involved in crime. Profiling provides direction to what type of profile that is needed e.g. financial profile is required for suspected embezzlement. Once data have been collected, evaluated and analysed, it is then packaged into intelligence product that is used by the client or the decision makers. Intelligence is an art of gathering and giving meaning to information, when examining the role of intelligence in the investigation. In this regard, the primary purpose of investigation needs to be understood. The purpose of investigation is to gather evidence to link a perpetrator to a crime. It is crucial to note that in order for intelligence to support investigation and add value to the investigation, there need to ascertain that intelligence would support investigators in obtaining evidence (Atkins, 2000).

The study notes that the purpose of intelligence in crime investigation is to discover evidence as a result of intelligence provided. The final stage of intelligence analysis is to convert the product of intelligence process into evidence. Furthermore, the function of intelligence is to assist investigators in obtaining evidence related to offender's involvement in criminal activities and deter them from victimizing members of the society. It is necessary that when dealing with serious organised crime in Nigeria, the motivation of the criminals needs to be understood by the Nigeria Police investigators. The Nigeria Police should understand the extent of the criminal networks, the suspects or perpetrators link with other organisations, perpetrators interdependence to individuals and criminals need to be established, so that their strength and weaknesses could be identified.

In relation to the above argument, the study suggests that the method of operations and types criminal businesses and their position within the market place need to be understood by the police, police officers should stay up to date with developing investigative tactics in an attempt to deter the criminals. Furthermore, the study gathers that organized crime can be effectively tackled, if the threat is understood, intelligence allows one to get a clearer understanding of crime and criminality, it identifies active criminal and the crime they have committed, and where they can be found. The importance of intelligence is that it helps the police better understand the object of perpetrator or suspect and to shed light on the previously unknown fact influencing the investigation.

In order to evaluate the role of intelligence in the investigation, Gottlib et al. (2001) noted that investigation process seeks evidence, while the intelligence process seeks useable information; intelligence process compliments the investigation process by gathering data, and processing it to produce intelligence. In other words, intelligence can be used in the investigation process by directing the investigator where the evidence could be obtained. The role of criminal analysis process consists of data collection, data screening, the pattern of crime trend, analysis, dissemination of information and evaluation. Crime intelligence analysis is the process of collection, collation, analysis, dissemination and evaluation.

Prevalence of crime incidents in Nigeria

Ikuomola et al. (2020) report that the north west Nigeria has witnessed waves of violence including sectarian clashes, Islamist militancy and electoral violence. The area has witnessed numerous Christian-Muslim and intra-Muslim riots. Between 2011 and 2015, Kaduna and Kano states suffered many Boko Haram bombings and shootings, most notably the 20 January 2012 attacks in Kano city that killed about 185 people. The study gathers that there has been resurgence of violence in the area between 2018 up on till 2020. Between 2017 and 2020, the north west has also suffered a surge of violence between pastoralists and allied armed groups frequently called "bandits", on one hand, and farmers supported by community and state sponsored vigilantes, on the other. The situation has been further aggravated by the proliferation of deadly criminal gangs, thriving in a region awash with arms and which state security forces struggle to control. Violence has spread from its epicentre in Zamfara state to Kano, Kaduna, Katsina, Kebbi and Sokoto states in the north west and have escalated into north central States. The report has it that many people from these communities

have been killed and the problem is not yet resolved. Jihadist groups are stepping up their presence in the region, taking advantage of the security crisis and surge in criminality (Ikuomola et al. 2020).

According to Chukwuemeka and Agbara (2019), the violence affecting north west Nigeria is multi-faceted, and overlap in certain ways. The first category includes violence pitting mainly ethnic Hausa sedentary farmers and vigilantes acting on their behalf against predominantly, Fulani roving herders and associated militias known as “bandits”. The study reports that these militias operate in a largely decentralised manner under local commanders’ autonomous control. They are motivated first and foremost by fighting on behalf of herders in their disputes with farmers, but many rogue elements have taken up criminal activities as well.

The study reveals that cybercrime has been on the rise in Nigeria. Many youths and unemployed have resorted to cybercrime as means of livelihood, some have engaged on ritual killings and gang related crimes. Furthermore, Chika, and Onyene, (2010) pointed out that Nigeria has witnessed different dimension of crime which involves violence committed by criminal gangs such as cattle rustling, kidnapping for ransom, armed robbery, pillage, and attacks on gold miners and traders, these gangs are known as bandits or criminal groups, gangs or organisations. These groups comprise a mix of individuals from Fulani, Hausa and other ethnic origins, and seek to enrich themselves rather than to advance a political or ideological project. These groups do not operate like militias; they are neither cohesive nor under a centralised command. They also act autonomously, sometimes in rivalry with one another (Chika, and Onyene, 2010). The most recent dimension of the violence involves confrontations between government security forces and jihadist groups that are increasingly active in the Northern region. Most attacks in Zamfara and Kaduna states are traceable to herder farmer tensions, many incidents in these and other states seem to be the work of criminal groups that have mushroomed as the overall security situation has deteriorated amid a proliferation of small arms in the region. Attacks by different armed actors which continue to this day have frequently included the burning of homes and barns, rustling of livestock and dispossession of other property, and acts of sexual violence. Women and girls are often abducted and raped by armed group members. In some cases, women and girls are gang-raped in the presence of family members; in other cases, attackers threaten to kill fathers and husbands if they do not bring their daughters and wives to their forest camps to be raped. Conflicts between farmers and herders, sparked by disputes over land and water resources, have long been part of life in northern Nigeria, but have reached critical levels in recent years. (Ndu, 2019).

Findings and Discussions

The type of policing models adopted in Nigeria

85% of the respondents revealed that Nigerian government and criminal justice have recently adopted the use of community policing, which forms the bedrock of effective law enforcement and crime prevention. 65% of respondents agreed that problem orientated partnership-policing strategy produces result in terms of crime reduction. According to the above respondents, the local government is expected to work along with community police forum and the police in setting joint priorities and objectives along with the community police area boards.

Respondent (19) states; “Nigeria uses reactive policing strategies, which assume that detection will reduce the number of offenders and act as a deterrent to criminals, thus having a preventative risk. It uses the standard model of policing, which includes random patrol, rapid uninformed response, and deployment of officers to crime investigation once an offence has been detected, and reliance on law enforcement and the legal system as the primary means of reducing crime.”

40% of respondents agreed that Nigeria uses crime prevention model, which involves all proactive efforts against the occurrence of crime. They are of the view that crime prevention is holistic strategy to eliminate criminal activity in the communities.

According to the respondent (11), “The policing model used in Nigeria includes specialized policing system, whereby different units are created to handle different categories of crime e.g. Nigeria Customs, Immigration, Nigeria Police Force, National Drug Law Enforcement Agency and Economic Financial Crime Commission.”

Respondent (20) opines that Nigeria criminal justice uses crime control, which deals with maintenance or management of present level of criminal behaviours. The above respondent buttressed that crime control model focuses on the efficient and effective administration of justice through quick procedure and direct handling of cases from beginning to the end. 60% of respondents confirmed that Nigeria uses visible policing. They maintained that the visible policing model adopts crime prevention technique such as patrol to enhance safety and security in Nigeria. They agreed that using visible policing strategies requires the identification of crime prevention technique, evaluating and applying the technique to enhance effective safety and security of the communities. Respondent (4) opines that Nigeria uses criminal intelligence in addressing crime, but the implementers do not use the strategy effectively in addressing crime in Nigeria. Respondent (18) agreed with respondent (4) and points out that criminal intelligence entails the body of information received on known or suspected person involved in criminal activity or data resulting from the analysis of criminal data collected on persons or suspected of being involved in criminal activities, that if the law enforcement adopt the use of the strategy effectively will enhance crime prevention and reduction in communities around Nigeria. The respondent (18) laments that failure of the officers using criminal intelligence strategies have allowed criminals to operate at ease in Nigeria.

Intelligence capacities and capabilities in addressing crime

Respondents (R9) concurred with (R17), that police intelligence unit has intelligence officers and analysts, that are well trained who can be used in combating crime, the intelligence officers that can apply intelligence in resolving crime that they only need to be exposed to the concept of criminal intelligence, make them understand how the concept be adopted and implemented in consonance with other policing models presently used in Nigeria. Respondent (1) supports the above views that Nigeria has intelligence unit where intelligence officers are employed but, the problem is that they are not adequately trained to implement intelligence in policing” the above respondent suggests that if officers are to be used for implementation of criminal intelligence, they need to be given a specialized training.

Respondents (R8) opines, “In my view, the criminal justice system / police management has intelligence capacity to combat crime in Nigeria, NPF has intelligence unit that is

made up of well-trained intelligence officers and analysts, that can be operationalize criminal intelligence in combating crime in Nigeria”

55% of the respondents have contrary views. They opined that, Nigeria does not have intelligence capacity to combat crime, that officers are not adequately trained, officers are lacking skills and expertise, only few officers have gone for intelligence training and need to go for specialized training to improve their intelligence skills and knowledge. Respondent (14), concurred with the above respondents and points out that Nigeria does not have enough specifically trained intelligence officers who can effectively operationalize criminal intelligence, that's why we have incessant kidnapping, abduction and insurgents, robbery and bandit's operations in some communities in Nigeria.

In the view of respondent (13), there is a gross misunderstanding of the concept of intelligence and criminal intelligence. The respondent (10) clarifies the meaning of intelligence and urge the intelligencers and collectors to be conversant with the concept of intelligence which means information selected, collected, analysed, evaluated and distributed to meet the unique needs of the policymaking of an organisation. It is the transformation of information that has been collected into a finished product, polished forward analytic product designed to meet the unique policy making need of an organization.

For the intelligence officers to be effective in the implementation of criminal intelligence, respondent (R19) opines that “Intelligence officers in Nigeria should go for a specialized training especially, intelligence collectors and analysts should be made to understand their roles within the criminal intelligence framework and implementation”.

The study agrees with the view of O'Connor and Cotter (2007), who argued that in the analysis perspective, the gulf between knowledge production and intelligence production is not substantial, it is required that analysts move beyond the descriptive towards understanding their clients' and environment better. The relationship with management entails managing the relationship between analysts and the customers of their product, if the knowledge possessed by the analyst is to be converted into actionable intelligence, there is need to manage the most vital skills that analysts should possess. Therefore, the relationship between analysts and commanders is crucial; they should be educated, collaborate and perform work in synergy.

Types of crime prevalent in Nigeria presently

75% of the respondents agreed that Nigeria has witnessed incessant violence attacks, insurgencies, terrorism, kidnapping, bandits, armed robbery, cybercrime, gender-based violence, farmer killings, communal killings, abduction, drug trafficking, rape and human trafficking.

According to respondents (R10), the political transition also generated material expectations that were largely beyond the immediate delivery capacity of the government, thus generated frustrated expectations leading to criminality in some communities in Nigeria. The respondent (5) agreed with respondent (10) that high and unrealized, expectations associated with political transitions and promises not kept by ruling class has contributed to the justification of crime in most communities also

marginalisation of youth and ethnic group contributes to the high levels of criminality in Nigeria.

Respondent (7) opines that poverty and unemployment are contributing factors that escalate increase in crime among the youth and elderly. The above respondent (7), points out that although poverty does not directly lead to higher crime level, but the combination of poverty, socio-political and culture are some of the factors and conditions that escalated criminality in Nigeria.

Twenty out of twenty-five respondents agreed that the following categories of crimes are prominent in Nigeria, which includes; murder, violence against women and children, drug-related offences, cybercrime, traffic offences, corruption and theft, rape, domestic violence, child abuses, human trafficking, race-related crime, political killing, bank frauds and corruption in the government, hate speech and violation of human rights are sighted to be predominant in Nigeria.

70% of respondents agreed that youth restiveness in Nigeria has been a prominent issue in recent times. The above respondents believed that there has been an increase in the occurrence of acts of violence and lawlessness, including acts like hostage taking of prominent citizens and expatriate oil workers, oil bunkering, arms insurgence, occultism, etc. 55% pointed out that the Northern part of Nigeria has also suffered a surge of violence between pastoralists and allied armed groups frequently called bandits who are made up of the youths, on one hand, and farmers supported by community and state-sponsored vigilantes, on the other.

Incorporating criminal intelligence effectively in addressing crime

Fifteen out of twenty-five respondents agreed that criminal intelligence should be incorporated as effective arsenal in addressing crime in Nigeria. The above respondents agreed that the criminal justice should seek to obtain information of known or suspected person involved in criminal activity or data resulting from the analysis of criminal data collected on persons or suspected of being involved in criminal activities and make use of the information for possible arrest, prosecution and effective conviction of offenders. 60% of respondents opined that if criminal intelligence is implemented effectively, will enhance crime reduction in Nigeria.

According to the respondent (7), "there is need to use tactical, operational and strategic intelligence in tackling crime problems, in order to enhance safety and security in Nigeria. Intelligence officers and personnel are required to use intelligence timeously, ensure that intelligence is used on the need to know the basis in addressing threats directed against individuals, public and national infrastructure of Nigeria."

60% of respondents agreed that crime intelligence encourages early detection of crime tendencies and can assist the police and the law enforcement to develop strategy to cope with the possible threats of crime before crime gets out of proportion. 40% converged that crime intelligence plays vital role in the detection and prevention of crime, by making statistics available and drawing conclusions between certain independent crimes, the casual-link can be ascertained, thus enhance effective detection and prevention of crime. 70% pointed out that proper crime intelligence system enhances effective use of scarce resources by analysing crime tendencies;

certain pattern that occurs, help in identifying crime hot spots that can assist police management in placing the correct number of police officers in a given area for a specific time, which leads to an effective distribution of resources.

Respondent (13) states; "Crime intelligence does not only focus on crime statistics, but also on the geographical, socio economic and cultural compositions of policing area, as the degradation of the community indicate that crime profiles can change."

In order to incorporate criminal intelligence as an effective arsenal in addressing crime in Nigeria, Peterson (2000) linked the intelligence process to the investigative environment. The above author asserts that there is a need to define the problem, study the station matrix, conduct station crime threat analysis and document content to understand the next step in conducting the investigation. In planning and direction, there is need to conduct different levels of evaluation to create frequent direction, inspection and instruction acquiring from all relevant stakeholders, experts, and informers, providing access to information in a document to the operatives. Peterson (2000) states when collecting information, there is need to access information and statement of the victim, witnesses, accused and experts, present physical evidence and court-directed intelligence, there is need to provide technical support such as physical surveillance, on informers and agents. Also, there is need to conduct regular inspection by commander, evaluation of statements and evidence for competencies on a continuous basis, time-line analysis can help perform evaluation.

Moreover, 60% of respondents from Nigeria Police Force Investigative Unit agreed with Peterson (2000) that conducting assessment of the detail of the matrix to establish commonalities or related incidents, statement and evidence need to be collated into a matrix, document analysis, profiling, time-line analysis, profiling, and information from informants, technical and physical surveillance notes, reports and experts. 50% believed that linkages are established via collation and the analysis results are given back to the investigative officers. They stated that it is vital to interpret tactical and strategic analysis by the analyst to the investigating officers for practical application. Also, the recommendations are given back to the investigators, so that the officers would make a decision based on the current feedback conducting their task.

65% agreed with Peterson (2000) that intelligence can be used to describe the process of interpreting information, describe a group or department that gathers or deals with such information or describe the product of such activity or department. The above respondents pointed out that strategic intelligence should focus on the long-term aims of law enforcement agencies, reviewing current and emerging trends or changes in the criminal environment, threats to public safety and order, opportunities for controlling action and the development of avenues for policy change and legislation.

70% agreed that incorporating criminal intelligence will be effective in addressing crime in Nigeria if the strategy is well operationalized, supervised and monitored by the those that have oversight over the criminal justice and law enforcement officers. The above respondents pointed out that operational intelligence provides an investigative team with hypotheses and inferences concerning specific elements of illegal operations of any sort, which include hypotheses and inferences about specific criminal networks, individuals or groups involved in unlawful activities, thereby

giving opportunity for the criminal agencies to discuss, evaluate their methods of operations, capabilities, vulnerabilities, limitations and intentions use the intelligence to carry out effective law enforcement action and decision making, thus enhance crime prevention, control and reduction.

Recommendation

Nigeria criminal justice and the law enforcement should establish effective criminal intelligence database. This database should provide law enforcement with the ability to determine linkages among criminal individuals and activities in Nigeria and outside of Nigeria. The criminal intelligence database should provide the law enforcement with the necessary data to coordinate law enforcement efforts across the states in Nigeria. The central collection of information allows immediate analysis of data; provides alert and cautions to local, states and federal law enforcements agencies. Consequently, allows different states to participate in the information sharing and security networks. The study recommends that effective use of intelligence is crucial for a swift response by the criminal justice and the law enforcement in crime prevention, investigation and monitoring of the activities of criminals and their networks. Also assists security agencies to deter criminals and criminal organisations from orchestrating crime in our localities. Intelligence analysis provides the agency with the knowledge required for effective management of its resources. The study suggests that with appropriate tasking, the products of intelligence analysis can assist in developing strategic plans to tackle current problems and prepare for future anticipated problems and incidents.

The study recommends that Nigeria should improve on its criminal intelligence analysis which permits law enforcement authorities to establish a proactive response to crime. It enables criminal justice officials and law enforcement to identify and understand the criminal groups or gangs operating in a particular area. It is necessary to note that once a criminal group or groups are identified, methods of operation and habits known, the law enforcement authorities will then start to assess current trends in crime, forecast, hamper the development of perceived future criminal activities.

The study recommends strategic and decision makers should base their decisions and action on the intelligence products which will assist in the selection of appropriate measures and investigation targets. While the use of criminal intelligence analysis is appropriate to support investigations, surveillance operations and the prosecution of cases, can provides law enforcement agencies with the ability to effectively manage resources, budget, and meet their responsibility for crime prevention. Nigeria should emulate countries with greater experience in criminal intelligence, such as the United Kingdom that has developed national intelligence models which prescribes how criminal intelligence can be used. Nigeria should improve on information technology which is vital to intelligence sharing. Particularly in this age of sophisticated multinational crime, failure to share intelligence and information effectively limit the national and international efforts states in combating crime.

The study recommends that the criminal justice officials should adopt the use of tactical operational and strategic intelligence in tackling crime problems, there is need for training of more officials on how to operationalize criminal intelligence in addressing crime and policing of crime in Nigeria should be intelligence led.

Conclusion

In conclusion, the study revealed that currently, criminal groups continue to be involved in ventures such as trafficking in human beings, drug trafficking, extortion, fraud and murder. Some are now moving into new criminal enterprises such as high-technology crime. The explosion of internet resources in the last few years has opened new opportunities for financial gain for criminals. This escalation of high-technology crime is a challenging and relatively new arena for law enforcement. Criminal organisations are more sophisticated and dynamic than ever before. Therefore, it is crucial for the law enforcement to be beef up capacities and capabilities to enable them tackle the increasing trends of crime and reduce the impact of crimes in the society. In order to accomplish these tasks, the criminal justice officials and law enforcement agencies need to be proactive and assertive. The criminal justice and law enforcement management should transcend to a smarter and comprehensive policing strategies, adopt the use of criminal intelligence analysis as a major arsenal in the law enforcement profession and in addressing insecurity challenges in Nigeria.

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