



Law Enforcement and Intelligence Gathering: An Evaluation of Citizens' Perception of the Impediments to National Security and Development in Nigeria

Jacob Eneji Ashibi

Department of Criminology and Security Studies, National Open University of Nigeria

E-mail: eashibi@noun.edu.ng

Abstract

Nigeria's security challenges have remained a significant clog bedevilling her wheels of socio-economic development and progress. The trend of criminal activities such as insurgency, kidnapping, armed banditry, ritual killing, armed robbery, herder-farmer conflict, etc has continued to raise serious concerns to both local and international scholars. This disturbing situation of Nigeria's insecurity puts obvious dents on the integrity of her law enforcement and intelligence-gathering strategies. Therefore, this study seeks to evaluate citizens' perception of the impediments to National security and development in Nigeria with specific reference to law enforcement and intelligence-gathering strategies. The descriptive research design was adopted for the study, where a representative sample of 385 respondents living in the Federal Capital Territory (FCT), Abuja were drawn from a total study population of 3,564,126 (NPC 2016 population projection) at a 5% margin of error and 95% confidence level. The social exchange theory of George Homans was utilized to underpin the crux of the study. Whereas, a well-structured self-administered questionnaire served as the major instrument of data collection for the study, the simple random sampling technique was employed in administering the research instrument, where every adult member of the population has an equal opportunity of being selected for the study. Findings from the study revealed an endemic trust deficit between the citizens and the law enforcement agents because of factors such as law enforcement corruption, deceit, brutality, and other numerous professional misconduct of the law enforcement agents. Additionally, the trust deficit of citizens on the law enforcement agents constitutes a major impediment to law enforcement and intelligence gathering in Nigeria. Besides, findings further revealed corrupt practices of law enforcement agents as survival techniques given their appalling socio-economic welfare. Sequel to these findings, the study recommends that; Government through its relevant agencies and parastatals like the Police Service Commission (PSC), should revitalize its mandate in restoring dignity, values and standard operational procedures in the Nigeria Police Force (NPF) and other law enforcement agencies. Besides, the recruitment processes of able and qualified personnel into the law enforcement agencies must be credible and transparent, while those in active service should be given regular reorientations. In addition, regular training and re-training of law enforcement agents particularly on public relations and crime management should be highly encouraged. Finally, the National Orientation Agency (NOA) of Nigeria should consciously pursue public orientation programmes that will redefine the perception of the public about Nigeria's law enforcement agencies from one of corruption and brutality to a new brand of people's protection and national security.

Keywords: Law enforcement, Intelligence gathering, National security, Development.

Introduction

Intelligence gathering has over time remained an indispensable aspect in achieving an effective law enforcement and citizens' protection. The absence of it will create a fertile ground for crime and other security threats to thrive. Therefore, the act of seeking and analysing vital security information is a major practice by law enforcement agents and their agencies across the world. Globally, the

ultimate aim of intelligence gathering is to enhance crime deterrence and reduction. This implies that an efficient intelligence gathering strategy will potentially lead to an effective law enforcement and policing. In the light of effective policing, criminal investigation and rehabilitation or treatment of offenders, the significance of intelligence gathering in law enforcement cannot be overemphasized.



Historically, intelligence gathering can be traced to the ancient days with the utilisation of spies who infiltrates the enemy's camp to elicit vital information about their plans. This compromise is usually taken as an advantage over the rival party to render their efforts futile and inconsequential. However, before the advancement of modernisation in law enforcement, the use of informants became more rampant, a situation where citizens were utilized by law enforcement agents and their agencies in providing relevant information about potential threats or criminal activities.

Intelligence gathering in the 20th and 21st centuries have assumed a sophisticated dimension with many nations giving priority to the establishment of special agencies in charge of intelligence and national security. For instance, the Federal Bureau of Intelligence (FBI) and the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) in the United States of America, Canadian Security Intelligence Service (CSIS) in Canada, National Intelligence Service (NIS) in Kenya, State Intelligence Service (SIS) in Luxembourg, Namibia Central Intelligence Service (NCIS), and a host of other nations. These intelligence agencies are strategically established with the primary aim of unravelling classified information particularly on national security threats, terrorism and all forms of criminal activities including internal and external aggression against the state.

In the contemporary society, the act of intelligence gathering have received significant boost with the innovation of surveillance technological devices and equipment, which has enhanced the utilisation of numerous tools and techniques for intelligence gathering. These technological devices can facilitate wiretapping, videotaping, data mining, bugging, geolocation tracking, etc. When properly accessed, data gathered from surveillance technologies can be vital in preventing, investigating and prosecuting criminal activities and national security threats in general.

Nigeria as an independent nation has demonstrated significant efforts in establishing

her intelligence agencies. Remarkably, in 1986, General Ibrahim Babangida dissolved the National Security Organisation (NSO) to create three separate intelligence agencies to oversee the nation's national security. These agencies includes, the State Security Services (SSS) now know as the Department of State Services (DSS); the National Intelligence Agency (NIA) and the Defence Intelligence Agency (DIA). These intelligence agencies are responsible for domestic intelligence; foreign intelligence and counter intelligence operations; and military intelligence respectively.

Despite the existence of these intelligence agencies, Nigeria has continue to suffer endemic criminality not limited to corruption, terrorism, banditry, kidnapping, insurgency, and other forms or street criminality. The disturbing trend of these criminalities raises serious concerns about the integrity of intelligence gathering and law enforcement in Nigeria. It is based on this security lacuna in Nigeria that this article seeks to investigate the impediments to law enforcement and intelligence gathering via citizens' perception.

Conceptual Issues: Law Enforcement, Intelligence Gathering and Impediments to National Security and Development

Law Enforcement

The concept of Law enforcement has relatively gained prominence in literature but has unfortunately been misused and abused by some law enforcement agents across the world. The concept in itself is self-explanatory and gives a clear direction of its utilization. According to the American Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS, 2023), law enforcement is a term used to describe agencies and employees roles in enforcing laws and ensuring public order and safety are adequately maintained and managed. It includes such essential services like the investigation, apprehension and detention of suspected criminals.

The ultimate aim of law enforcement is to protect individuals and communities and to ensure justice



is done according to the law of any society. However, the prevention of crime and disorder by law enforcement agents is a function of societal approval of the existence of law enforcement agencies and their agents; and their ability to secure public respect (The Policy Circle, 2023). This implies that law enforcement cannot be independently achieved without an effective collaboration with members of the society. In general, Law enforcement refers to the system of individuals and entities tasked with enforcing laws, preserving public safety and order, and preventing and detecting criminal activities. Law enforcement agencies such as police, have the power to arrest, detain, investigate, and prosecute individuals and organizations suspected of breaking the law. The objective of law enforcement is to ensure compliance with laws, promote public safety, and maintain social order.

Intelligence Gathering

Intelligence gathering is a crucial aspect of law enforcement. Technically, intelligence gathering can be described as the heartbeat of law enforcement. According to the University of Maryland, Baltimore Police Department Policy Manual (2022), intelligence gathering involves the collection, processing and dissemination of vital crime information within an area of criminal prospects. Such criminal prospects may include but not limited to terrorism, banditry, kidnapping, human trafficking, white-collar crimes, and even street crimes. It takes into consideration the collation, analysis and dissemination of information as key procedural steps.

Intelligence gathering refers to the process of collecting, analyzing, and utilizing information to gain insights and knowledge about an individual, group, organization, or nation-state's activities, intentions, capabilities, and vulnerabilities. It involves the systematic and strategic gathering of information through various sources, such as human intelligence (HUMINT), signals intelligence (SIGINT), open-source intelligence (OSINT), and others. Intelligence gathering is often performed by government agencies and military organizations to support national security efforts and decision-making processes. The

collected intelligence helps in identifying potential threats, anticipating security risks, preventing criminal activities, and understanding geopolitical developments. It can also be used for strategic planning, policy development, and law enforcement operations. However, it is essential to conduct intelligence gathering in accordance with legal frameworks and respect for privacy rights.

Impediments to National Security and Development

This concept of the impediments to National Security and Development is employed to succinctly express all societal factors or challenges that hinders a nation's ability to protect its citizens, defend its territory, manage its resources and strive for its interest against internal and external threats. These impediments to national security and development may include terrorism, cyber-attack, internal instability, proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, transnational criminal activities, economic vulnerabilities, and natural disaster.

Literature Review

National Security and Development in Nigeria

Nigeria's national security has encountered great challenges over the years, which has significantly affected her developmental pace. National security is described as the capacity of any nation to protect and defend its citizens, institutions and economy (Rober, L., 2021). In this context, the scope of national security spans beyond military attacks and counter attacks. It includes economic, political, environmental, cyber security, etc. These are considered crucial aspects of any nation's existence.

National security and development are two independent concepts that are also correlated in context and practice. The absence of essential national security could spell doom on the state of development of any nation. National insecurity has far-reaching effects on the socio-economic developments of nations affected by it. It retards the wheels of progress and lags economic indices of investment, production, supply and demands. For instance, Odeselu (2011) suggest that



insecurity is repugnant to situations of the transportation of goods and services and negates the tendencies of economic financial gains. Summarily, where national insecurity thrives, national development is likely going to be in the doldrums.

Nigeria as an independent nation has been faced with multidimensional security challenges, which may include but not limited to terrorism, banditry, kidnapping, separatist agitations like that of the Biafran people, and militancy. According to Godly, O. and Wilfred, I. (2012), the situation of insecurity in Nigeria has continued to deteriorate as individuals seem to gain motivation to take to crime against the best interest of the nation. The deteriorating state of Nigeria's security has not changed for the better despite several frantic efforts embarked upon by the government. In recent times, criminal activities like kidnapping, terrorism, militancy and banditry have all become common placed in the Nigerian society.

Yaminu, M. (2021) emphasized that the rise of terrorism, extremism, armed banditry, militia group activities, farmers-pastoralists clashes and transnational organized crimes has severely impinged on the general development of the nation. National security is a precondition for economic and social development as much as economic and social development is a precondition for national security. The attainment of a peaceful and secure environment is a precursor to economic growth and development as investors and entrepreneurs require an enabling environment to reap returns on their investments.

Insecurity has further depleted the financial power and retrogressed the socio-economic developmental progress of Nigeria. Nigeria's spending on insecurity has in recent times continue to surge despite the absence of any significant corresponding improvement on the state of security. According to Microtrends (2022), data derived from the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) indicates that Nigeria's military spending/defense budget surged in 2021 by 73.93% in to a whopping

\$4.47B, which constitutes 0.97% of her Gross Domestic Product (GDP). The trend of Nigeria's military spending is indicated in the table and figure below:

Table 1: Nigeria Military Spending/Defense Budget - Historical Data

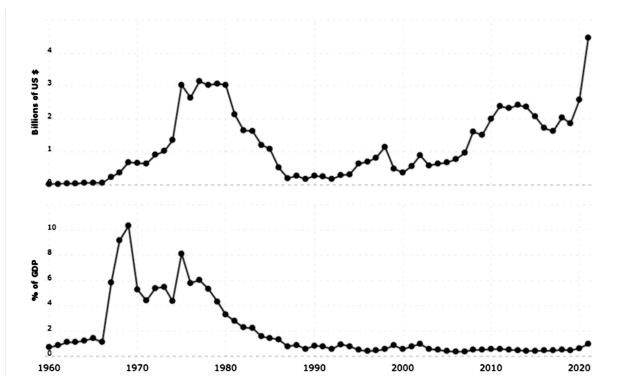
Year	Billions of US \$	% of GDP
2021	\$4.47B	0.97%
2020	\$2.57B	0.63%
2019	\$1.86B	0.46%
2018	\$2.04B	0.51%
2017	\$1.62B	0.43%
2016	\$1.72B	0.43%
2015	\$2.07B	0.42%
2014	\$2.36B	0.41%
2013	\$2.42B	0.47%
2012	\$2.32B	0.50%
2011	\$2.38B	0.58%
2010	\$1.99B	0.54%
2009	\$1.50B	0.51%
2008	\$1.62B	0.49%
2007	\$0.97B	0.37%
2006	\$0.78B	0.35%
2005	\$0.67B	0.40%
2004	\$0.64B	0.49%
2003	\$0.59B	0.57%
2002	\$0.90B	0.95%
2001	\$0.57B	0.78%
2000	\$0.37B	0.54%
1999	\$0.49B	0.86%
1998	\$1.15B	0.55%
1997	\$0.82B	0.44%
1996	\$0.70B	0.41%
1995	\$0.64B	0.48%
1994	\$0.32B	0.78%
1993	\$0.29B	0.93%
1992	\$0.17B	0.56%
1991	\$0.24B	0.77%
1990	\$0.28B	0.83%
1989	\$0.17B	0.58%
1988	\$0.27B	0.88%
1987	\$0.20B	0.77%
1986	\$0.52B	1.31%
1985	\$1.09B	1.44%
1984	\$1.21B	1.56%
1983	\$1.63B	2.22%
1982	\$1.65B	2.27%
1981	\$2.14B	2.77%
1980	\$3.03B	3.30%
1979	\$3.07B	4.32%
1978	\$3.02B	5.33%
1977	\$3.14B	6.02%
1976	\$2.64B	5.79%
1975	\$3.03B	8.12%
1974	\$1.35B	4.34%
1973	\$1.02B	5.48%
1972	\$0.90B	5.39%
1971	\$0.64B	4.39%
1970	\$0.66B	5.28%
1969	\$0.68B	10.32%



1968	\$0.37B	9.16%
1967	\$0.24B	5.81%
1966	\$0.06B	1.10%
1965	\$0.07B	1.40%
1964	\$0.05B	1.23%
1963	\$0.05B	1.10%
1962	\$0.04B	1.10%
1961	\$0.03B	0.85%
1960	\$0.02B	0.70%

Source: Extracted from the World Bank by Microtrends, 2020.

Figure 1: Chart Showing the trend of Nigeria's Military Spending from 1960 – 2020.



Source: Extracted from the World Bank by Microtrends, 2020.

Impediments to National Security and Development

Nigeria's National Security Strategy (NNSS) has its core mandate in the application of national power in ensuring a just society that is peaceful, united, prosperous, and sustainable both locally and internationally. However, this mandate has come under severe threat since the proliferation of security and economic challenges. Generally, crime is at the centre of these escalated security challenges. The impediments to national security and development in Nigeria are itemized and discussed as follows:

a. Terrorism

The concept of terrorism has been severally defined by scholars to fit the context of which they were applied. However, it has been described by the Global Terrorism Database (GTD, 2020) as acts that threatened or apply the use of illegal force and violence by non-state actors with the ultimate aim of achieving

economic, religious, political or social goals via the imposition of fear, coercion, and intimidation.

Terrorism assumed its place in Nigeria in the wake of Boko Haram activities in 2002, particularly in the North-East geopolitical zone. Oladimeji S. (2019) argued that terrorism is a global issue and has been in existence for a long time. However, Nigeria has suffered immensely from its impact with practical evidence of significant loss of human lives, property, displacement of people and a multiplier effect in the rise of poverty, hunger and starvation. According to the National Centre for the Responsibility to Protect (2023), at least 35,000 people have been killed in Nigeria since Boko Haram launched her insurgency agenda for the creation of an Islamic State of their own. The killings are not limited to civilians alone. Both the Military and other paramilitary agents have had their fair share in the loss of lives.

Todd and Walter (2013) believe that the activities of terrorists have severe consequences on the economy of the affected nations. For instance, Foreign Direct Investments (FDI) are diverted, critical government infrastructure is destroyed, public investment funds are redirected to security and in general, trading activities are limited. This has the capacity to drift the nation into borrowing and eventually may go into recession.

The effects of terrorism in Nigeria cannot be over-emphasized. Ugbedeoj (2022) stressed that terrorism has necessitated the abrupt closure of schools and businesses, deprived citizens of their rights to life, liberty, freedom and education, heightened unemployment rate, disrupted productive transportation, and significantly retrogressed developmental endeavours. Therefore, terrorism constitutes a significant impediment to national security and development to any nation.

b. Armed Banditry

Armed banditry is a term used to refer to an



organised criminal group gang without an ideological pursuit but are economically driven to involve in such criminal acts like: sexual violence, cattle rustling, kidnapping, extortion, highway robbery, etc. Ojo, Oyewole and Aina (2023) described armed banditry as the attack of citizens, resulting to death, kidnapping for ransom, rape, cattle rustling, etc. The act itself is economically motivated as they terrorise and seek to dispossess their victims of valuable items including money, livestock, sheep, etc.

Armed banditry has severe implications for national security and development, particularly in the areas of disruption of economic activities, the rise of political instability, humanitarian crisis with regards to peoples' displacements, destruction of critical infrastructure, and the exacerbation of lingering societal conflicts. Ojo, Oyewole and Aina (2023) explores the effects of armed banditry in Nigeria and described it as devastating in view of reports from the economic value of peace, the Institute of Economics and Peace (IEP) indicating that insecurity cost Nigeria 8% of its GDP (\$132.59 billion) in 2021. Besides, the Nigeria's National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) suggest that 26.95% of Nigeria's GDP suffers a disruption of agricultural-related activities by armed bandits. In the same vein, data from the Manufacturers' Association of Nigeria (MAN) indicates that in the half of 2020, there was a decline of 56.5% in local raw materials against the 64% recorded in the first half of 2019, revealing a 7.5% reduction over the period.

c. Kidnapping

The criminal law defines kidnapping as the illegal abduction, and confinement of a person against his or her will. In recent times, the trend of kidnapping in Nigeria has continued to be on the rise, with cases of kidnapping reported almost on a daily basis. Kidnapping for ransom is the most evident variant of kidnapping activities in the

Nigerian society; a situation where monies are forcefully obtained from the victims as a precondition for them to regain their freedom. While some victims regain their freedom after the payment of ransom, unfortunately, others lose their lives in the process.

Kanu and Agbo (2022) explain the dangerousness of kidnapping on national security and development with particular reference to human security and economic activities. The act of kidnapping retrogresses economic activities by causing significant limitations on transport and business operations. The victims of kidnapping in Nigeria cuts across road travellers, Politicians, foreign expatriates, medical practitioners, top government appointees and civil servants, business mogul, children of the rich, etc.

d. Corruption

Corruption refers to dishonest or unethical conduct by individuals in positions of power, authority, or influence, typically for personal gains. It involves the misuse, abuse, or manipulation of public resources, privileges, or entrusted authority for personal or private interests, often at the expense of the public or the common good.

According to the Transparency International (2022) corruption perception index, Nigeria was 24 on a scale from 0 ("highly corrupt") to 100 ("very clean"). When ranked by score, Nigeria ranked 150th among the 180 countries in the Index, where the country ranked last is perceived to have the most corrupt public sector.

Corruption can take various forms, including bribery (offering or accepting money or other favors to influence decisions or actions), embezzlement (misappropriation of funds or assets entrusted to someone's care), nepotism (favouring relatives or close associates in matters of hiring, promotions, or contracts), extortion (obtaining money or favours



through coercion or threats), and fraud (intentional deception or deceit for personal gain).

Corruption undermines the principles of fairness, transparency, accountability, and rule of law. It distorts public policies, weakens institutions, hampers economic development, and undermines trust and confidence in public officials and governance systems. It also perpetuates inequality, reinforces poverty, and hinders social progress. Fighting corruption requires a combination of legal, institutional, and societal measures, including strong anti-corruption laws, independent judicial systems, effective enforcement mechanisms, transparency and accountability processes, whistleblower protections, civic education, and ethical leadership. International cooperation and collective efforts are often important in addressing corruption, as it is a global issue that transcends borders.

Theoretical Framework

The social exchange theory of George Homans was adopted to explain the existential threats constituted by the impediments to national security and developments despite the visible manifestations of law enforcement and intelligence gathering institutions in Nigeria. The principles of person-person interaction in the understanding of personal relationships is fundamental to the theory of social exchange. Historically, the theory was propounded in 1958 and it emphasizes social behaviour as exchange. The thesis of the theory is based on the notion that the strength of any relationship depends extensively on the process of cost-benefit analysis. Therefore, the level of efforts exerted by parties in a relationship is the determining factor of the overall outcome or strength of that relationship. Where the efforts are lopsided, the relationship is likely to be turbulent and catastrophic. Conversely, a balanced effort in any relationship will tend to produce positive outcomes and a healthy collaboration. As part of its core assumptions, the theory holds that human beings are more concerned about rewards in a

relationship, while avoiding punishments or sufferings. This implies that every relationship that produces reward will be cherished against those that produces punishments or sufferings.

The applicability of this theory in the light of law enforcement and intelligence gathering when juxtaposed with the impediments to national security and development, could be explored in the relationship between citizens and law enforcement agents in the act of collaboration towards quality intelligence gathering for law enforcement. It therefore connotes that the outcome of citizens' collaboration with the law enforcement agents for quality intelligence gathering depends on the strength of the relationships between citizens and the law enforcement agents and their institutions. Where the relationship shows no reward, the outcome is likely to be catastrophic. Therefore, the worrisome situation of terrorism, armed banditry, kidnapping, armed robbery and other impediments to national security and development can be assumed to be a product of the lack of quality intelligence as a result of a strained relationship between the law enforcement agents and the Nigerian citizens.

Methodology

In view of the deteriorating state of Nigeria's national security and development, the study seeks to examine the impediments to national security vis-à-vis law enforcement and intelligence gathering. The approach adopted is the evaluation of citizens' perception about the problem of the study. The Federal Capital Territory (FCT), Abuja was adopted as the study area on the basis that it is the seat of power and the headquarters of most intelligence and law enforcement agencies. The study population consist of 3,564,126 inhabitants (NPC 2016 population projection). A representative sample of 385 respondents were drawn from the total population using the Taro Yamane sample size calculation model, at a 5% margin of error and 95% confidence level. The cross-sectional survey research design was employed for the study, where a well-structured questionnaire served as the main instrument of data collection. The research instruments were administered to the



respondents using the simple random sampling technique, where every adult member of the population has an equal opportunity of being selected for the study. Data gathered were analysed and presented descriptively in simple tables of frequencies and percentages.

Findings and Discussions

Table 2 Multi-variate analysis of citizens' Perception of Intelligence Gathering and Law Enforcement in Nigeria.

Variable	Freq(N) – enforcement agents		Unadjusted RR (95%CI)	Pvalue	Adjusted RR (95%CI)	Pvalue
	Yes(%)	No(%)				
Sex						
Male	290	213(74.1)	75(25.9)	1	1	
Female	95	72(75.8)	23(24.2)	1.22(1.08, 1.38)	0.001	1.18(1.04, 1.34) 0.006
Employment Status						
Unemployed	121	84(69.4)	37(30.6)	1	1	
Employed	264	153(57.9)	111(42.1)	1.38(1.14, 1.63)	0.001	1.22(1.04, 1.44) 0.012
Marital status						
Single	258	176(68.2)	82(31.8)	1	1	
Married	82	57(69.5)	25(30.5)	1.22(1.04, 1.39)	0.001	1.15(1.04, 1.31) 0.021
Divorced/separated	45	32(71.1)	13(28.9)	1.56(1.38, 1.76)	p<0.001	1.43(1.24, 1.61) p<0.001
Are the law enforcement agents well equipped?						
Yes	263	183(69.6)	80(30.4)	1		
No	122	86(70.5)	36(29.5)	1.41(1.14, 1.76)	p<0.001	1.22(0.99, 1.50) 0.050
Do you give law enforcement agents criminal information?						
Yes	98	54(55.1)	44(44.9)	1		
No	287	232(80.8)	55(19.2)	1.41(1.14, 1.76)	p<0.001	1.22(0.99, 1.50) 0.030
Causes of poor intelligence gathering						
Brutality						
No	218	177(81.2)	41(18.8)	1	1	
Yes	167	97(58.1)	70(41.9)	1.56(1.34, 1.86)	p<0.001	1.43(1.24, 1.69) p<0.001
Corruption						
No	96	34(35.4)	62(64.6)	1	1	
Yes	289	175(60.5)	114(39.5)	1.19(1.06, 1.34)	0.002	1.16(1.02, 1.31) 0.015
Fear of betrayal						
No	128	88(68.7)	40(31.3)	1	1	
Yes	257	23(8.9)	27(10.5)	1.28(1.13, 1.45)	p<0.001	1.25(1.14, 1.42) 0.001
Deceit						
No	159	98(61.6)	61(38.4)	1		
Yes	226	186(82.3)	40(17.7)	1.17(0.83, 1.64)	0.371	

Source: Fieldwork, 2023.

Table 2 above is a presentation of a multi-variate analysis of citizens' perception of intelligence gathering and Law Enforcement in Nigeria. With P-Value generally less than 0.001, the study revealed a high prevalence of trust deficit between citizens and the law enforcement agents which could be largely responsible for the compromising status of intelligence gathering and the proliferation of the impediments to law enforcement and development in Nigeria. Criminals live and operate within the society. They live amongst people; they have neighbours and engage in interactions with them. Members of the society are nearer to the criminals than the law enforcement agents. But where trust becomes deficit in the relationship between the law

enforcement agents and the citizens, there is bound to be a proportionate deficit in intelligence gathering.

Biographically, out of a total of 385 respondents, 290 males constituted the majority of the respondents, while 95 were females. The study had more male respondents primarily because more of them were willing to participate in the study than their female counterpart. Interestingly, majority of the respondents, both males (74.1%) and females (75.8%) indicated no trust for law enforcement agents.

Majority of the respondents (264) were either self-employed or employed in private or public institutions. Whereas 57.9 percent of them indicated no trust for law enforcement agents, 42.1 percent had trust for the law enforcement agents. This is in strong contrast with the unemployed (121), where the margin of the majority (69.4%) does not have trust for the law enforcement agents. By implication, the law enforcement agents enjoy a considerable positive trust level from the working-class citizens in Nigeria despite the turbulent security situation in recent times.

Majority of the respondents constitutes singles (unmarried persons), numbering 176 out of the total of 385 respondents. Findings revealed that the majority of singles, married and divorced respondents, represented by 68.2%, 69.5% and 71.1% respectively, do not have trust for the law enforcement agents. While the majority of the respondents (263) believe that the law enforcement agents are well equipped to fight crime, conversely, the majority of them (69.6%) also indicated low trust levels for the law enforcement agents.

Inquiries bothering on intelligence gathering from citizens generally indicated a gross lack of cooperation from the citizens. The majority of the respondent (287) indicated their unwillingness to share vital security information to the law enforcement agents. This is supported by 80.8 percent of them having trust deficits in the law enforcement agents. This finding points to the fact



that citizens' security intelligence is deficient to guarantee national security and development.

Law enforcement corruption, deceit and betrayal have been severely implicated as the major causes of poor intelligence gathering by majority of the respondents constituting 289, 226 and 257 respectively. Law enforcement corruption is largely seen as a survival alternative adopted by law enforcement agents due to inadequate remuneration. Similarly, majority of the respondents represented by 60.5 percent of 289 respondents, 82.3 percent of the 226 respondents and 89.5 percent of 257 respondents indicated significant deficit of their trust on law enforcement agents. This finding further substantiates the facts behind poor intelligence gathering and law enforcement in Nigeria.

Conclusion and Recommendations

Consequent upon the findings, the study concludes that there exists a high prevalence of trust deficit between Nigerians and the law enforcement agents. Factors such as corruption, deceit and betrayal by law enforcement agents may be responsible for this trust deficit. Therefore, citizens do not find it rewarding in providing the law enforcement agents with vital security intelligence that may aid national security and intelligence. To this end, it is assumed that the lack of trust between the citizens and law enforcement agents precipitates and exacerbates the state of insecurity in Nigeria. It is on this note that the following recommendations are proffered:

- i. the relevant agencies and parastatals of government directly concern with the management of law enforcement and intelligence gathering should revitalize their mandates in restoring dignity, value and standard operational procedures;
- ii. integrity test and qualification must be given high priority in the recruitment processes of personnel into law enforcement agencies. The process must be generally seen to be credible and transparent, while those in active service should be given regular reorientations in the light of training and re-training of law

enforcement agents particularly on public relations and crime management;

- iii. government should ensure that those saddled with the responsibility of the protection of lives and property are well remunerated. This will significantly discourage the tendencies to be financially corrupt; and
- iv. finally, the National Orientation Agency (NOA) of Nigeria should consciously pursue public orientation programmes that will redefine the perception of the public about Nigeria's law enforcement agencies from one of corruption and brutality to a new brand of people's protection and national security.

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