Development of an Integrated Portal for Nigeria Security Agencies

Prof. G. A. Chukwudebe, Dr. A. O. Agbakwuru, V. N. Emmanuel

Professor, Department of Computer Science, Federal University of Technology, Owerri Imo State, Nigeria
Doctor, Department of Computer Science, Imo State University, Owerri Imo State, Nigeria
P.G. Student, Department of Computer Science, Imo State University, Owerri Imo State, Nigeria

ABSTRACT: The aim of this work is to develop an integrated security portal, a tool for enhancing Nigeria Security. This work was motivated by the inability of security operations to be centralized and share information, manual process of keeping criminal records, unavailability of most security portal to have whistle blowing platform, and database of people wanted and missing people by security agencies (such as Nigeria Immigration Service (NIS), Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps (NSCDC), Nigeria Custom Service, Nigeria Police, Independent Corrupt Practices Commission (ICPC) and Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC). An investigative research will be employed to enable a critical analysis of the existing procedure, with a view to identifying its shortcoming and how the new system will improve the standards of the existing services. In designing the new system, an object oriented analysis and design methodology will be adopted using the following programming languages; JavaScript for controls and flexibility, PHP for effective linking and communication with the database machine, HTML for browser communicator and a database machine, MySQL. This research work is expected to enhance the quality, convenience and reliability of Security Agencies in Nigeria, thereby providing a platform whereby information can be shared among the security agencies and in turn reduce the time spent by users in visiting numerous security agency website.

KEY WORDS: Security, Agencies, Database, Portal.

I.INTRODUCTION

Nigeria in recent times has witnessed an extraordinary level of insecurity. This has made security threat to be a major issue for citizens, security agencies and the government at large. As a result of this, the government has impelled huge portion of the national budget to security so as to reduce the security threats and challenges. In order to revolutionize the occurrence of crime, the federal government has embarked on criminalization of terrorism by passing the Anti-Terrorism Act in 2011, installation of Computer-based Closed Circuit Television cameras (CCTV) in some parts of the country, enhancement of surveillance as well as investigation of criminal related offences, heightening of physical security measures around the country aimed at deterring or disrupting potential attacks, strengthening of security agencies through the provision of security facilities and the development and broadcast of security tips in mass media (Azazi, 2011).

The government created different tiers of government with specific agents and institutions in charge of control and administration of security for the citizens. For instance, the army and it units are meant for the protection of the country from external attacks, the police provide internal security and the maintenance of the law and order for the good of the populace (Adebayo, 1981). There are other para-military agencies like the Department of Security Service (DSS), the National Intelligence Agency (N.I.A), the Defense Intelligence Agency (DIA) the Customs, the Immigration, the Federal Road Safety Commission, the Security and Civil Defense Corp, the border patrol commission, and at the international community we have the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), the African Union (A.U), The United Nation Organization (U.N.O) provide peace and the enforcement, peace resolution and ceasefire management or agreement. All these in bid to reduce security challenges yet it has yielded little or no fruit.

The aim of this work is to develop an integrated portal for Nigeria security agencies that will enable security agencies to share vital information such as wanted persons, provide database for wanted and missing persons.

II. LITERATURE REVIEW

The entire security architecture of Nigeria is face with myriads of challenges due to the tidal waves of criminal activities and general insecurity that pose serious threats to the corporate existence of the country. These challenges and the incapacitation of the extant security outfits necessitated the need for security agencies. Security maintenance is broadly classified into two major management aspects such as direct and indirect matters. They are safety and protection of lives and property and dispute resolution mechanism (Abolurin, 2006).

Diverse security challenges have pose threat on the security of the individuals in the country. Today, the country's nascent democracy is being tested by rampant crime and an unprecedented campaign of terror such that in the south, civil unrest threatens safety a stability, to the east; gangs who kidnap expatriates for ransom lie in wait on the roads, in bars, and cities; and to the north, the Islamic terrorist group called Boko Haram is growing both in number and brutality hence the group has posed brazen challenges to the government and issued the ultimatum "leave or die" to Christians living in the northern Nigeria and confidence that the government can protect the people is at all-time low (Agaptus, 2013).

There is a clear-cut correlation between corruption and economic growth, and if stringent measure is not taken about it, the development of the affected country would be impaired. Corrupt regimes always yield disastrous results. Corruption which is equal to monopoly plus discretion, minus accountability has serious impediment to sustainable development especially in developing countries. It has stolen the wealth of resource-rich nations like Nigeria thereby making people to be trapped in poverty. Even while thinking of some forms/people as if better off through payment of a bribe by most people, the overall effect of corruption on economic development still remains negative. The more corrupt a country is, the slower it economic growth rate. Corruption is a stigma that destroys the reputation of affected country. It lowers investment thereby lowering economic growth of the country.

Despite the existing challenges facing Nigeria after the establishment of the two major anti-graft institutions (ICPC and the EFCC) by the government in 2000 and 2003 respectively, the reforms have yielded some concrete results with a reduction of corruption levels when compared when EFCC was not established. It is in the rules and practices of governance that the foundations of sustainable development are shaped or undermined. The very basis of development becomes compromised when these rules and practices are not effectively monitored and applied. Development suffers where the rules of governance allow arbitrary resource allocations and the diversion of public resources in defiance of the public good and to the exclusive benefit of corrupt officials politicians and their collaborators.

A. THE CONCEPT OF SECURITY

Security Challenges in Nigeria and the Implications for Business Activities and Sustainable Development said that Security however, can be described as stability and continuity of livelihood (stable and steady income), predictability of daily life (knowing what to expect), protection from crime (feeling safe), and freedom from psychological harm (safety or protection from emotional stress which results from the assurance or knowing that one is wanted, accepted, loved and protected in one's community or neighborhood and by people around (Cole, 1991).

Alemika (2015) conceptualize that, security for a group constitutes insecurity for another group. He argued that security depicts reality, a feeling and condition and conceives security as a label attached to a condition that someone considers undeniable.

According to Ubong King, insecurity is defined as "the state of fear or anxiety, stemming from a concrete or alleged lack of protection." It refers to lack or inadequate freedom from danger. This definition reflects physical insecurity which is the most visible form of insecurity, and it feeds into many other forms of insecurity such as economic security and social security.

The Nigeria Police Force (NPF) recently announced that a plan to develop a criminal register in the county was in advanced stage. The register, a database of all suspects, convicts, and criminal status of all other offenders of the law, would be collected and stored and be available to security agencies and Paramilitary organizations.

It would aid in the speedy investigation of crimes and suspects in order to curb such nefarious activities in the country. Towards achieving that goal, the Inspector General of Police, Mr. Solomon Arase, signed an agreement with the UK-based Association of Criminal Records Office (ACRO), which organizes the management of criminal record information and improves links between criminal records and biometric data. They are also associated with issuing police clearance certificates to people who wish to emigrate to or obtain a visa for a number of countries, mostly in the West, but also for South Africa.

 In November 14, Interpol agreed to connect the Economic and Financial Fraud Commission (EFCC), Nigerian Drug Law Enforcement Agency, Nigeria Immigration Service, Nigeria Customs Service, and National Agency for the Prohibition of Trafficking and Persons, National Agency for Foods, and Drugs Administration and Control to its National Data Base tool known as I-24/7. The database can be used for tracking wanted persons, stolen vehicles, artifacts, missing persons and transnational criminals. Interpol also agreed to revive the West African Police Chiefs Committee with its secretariat in Nigeria.

The announcement was made during the 85th Interpol General Assembly held in Bali, Indonesia. The event was attended by the Inspector General of Police, Ibrahim Idris, Director General of NDLEA, Mrs. Roli Bode-George, and Comptroller-General of the Nigerian Immigration Service, Mr. Mohammed Babandede.

The National Identity Management Commission was established by the former President Jonathan Goodluck administration to introduce new national identity card for all citizens of the country to provide a centralised national identity database. Therefore, with the new national identity card system, it should be easier to identify perpetrators of crimes or those that breach peace and security in the state. But, most of the people that registered for the scheme still don't have proper documentation. If Interpol's move to connect these security agencies to its database will have maximum effect, this glaring problem must first be dealt with.

In spite of these efforts, the level of insecurity in the country is still high. In addition, Nigeria has consistently ranked low in the Global Peace Index (GPI, 2012), signifying a worsened state of insecurity in the country. Hence, Adagba, et al (2012), is of the view that the efforts of government have not yielded enough positive result.
With the lingering security challenges and the inability of the security apparatus of the government to guarantee safety and security in the country, the question that borders everyone in Nigeria today is that "can there be security?" Is security of lives and properties achievable? Apparently, the security situation in Nigeria appears or at least have remained insurmountable and many people have argued that government at all levels has not done enough by not confronting the situation head on and dealing with it decisively, others have argued that the situation has a political undertone or inclination calculated to serve the interest of certain political gods, who have been dissatisfied and disgruntled about the political manifestations in the country (Achumba, 2013).
The current rate of poverty in Nigeria stood at 54 percent (NBS, 2018). Therefore, people believe that corruption is heightened by the pervasive and chronic poverty, high level of material deprivation and other structural inequalities. Considering this Shamija (2006) asserts that, corruption is a mechanism adopted by Nigerians to cope with or avert poverty, particularly in the urban centres where the high cost of living may be an inducement for corruption. In a situation where there is inadequate wages and nonpayment of salaries in most cases to workers, corruption provides a means of augmenting one's legitimate income. To justify the above, Ayua (2001) notes that, there are low and declining civil service salaries and promotion that is not based on performance, dysfunctional government budgets and delays in the release of budgets funds, including pay. He asserts that under such conditions and circumstances officials deliberately refuse to act or delay action in order to coerce some payment out of citizens or forms.
Shamija (2006) observed that, the seeming reluctance of government to sanction corruption creates the impression of support. Media report show that government is fond of setting investigation panels and commissions of inquiries whose investigations or findings and recommendations are never made public nor implemented. For instance, the move by EFCC and ICPC in fighting corruption has not yielded expected fruitful results.
There are growing concerns about the deplorable condition of the economy aggravated by corruption in Nigeria. Nigerians and the government alike have expressed considerable worry about the state of the economy, poor growth, and development in all sectors due to the presence of hydra-headed monster called corruption.
To have a systematized and precise development program, Nigeria needs valid data to provide insight into the crucial realities of daily living. Now more than ever, it is in no saying that Nigeria has suffered great losses through many forms of insecurity including insurgency and terrorism because it was difficult to ascertain the identity of members of

this unethical society. Most security agencies do not have an electronic database of criminals and wanted persons for members of the public to view no platform for secured whistleblowing. Therefore, the integrated portal for Nigeria security agencies shall address this problems by effectively providing quality database of criminal and wanted persons, create room for whistle blowing and a message alert where anyone can drop a message for the security to act upon if found worthy by them and integrate the security agencies.

III. RECOMMENDATIONS

Security enhances and optimizes progress but insecurity hinders these activities and so it constitutes a threat to individuals, organizations and government. Insecurity in Nigeria has posed a great threat to the lives, properties and even the government at large. There is a strong skepticism that if the level of insecurity in our country is not scaled down, our vision to be among the best 20 countries of the world may be aborted."The approach towards curbing this menace has been to respond when the crime has been committed and the harm has been done.

One can commit a crime in a state and be declared wanted by a security agency, the crime offender travels to another state and live comfortable there, in most cases, among another security agency, but because this agency is not aware of the fact that this follow has been declared wanted will not launch an arrest, unless another is committed by the follow. This act is common and this is due to the fact that security agencies do not share information together, thereby perpetuating and enhancing insecurity in the country.

In order to the reduce security challenges and ensure the maximum security, the security agencies must work together and share vital information, apprehend criminals and hand them over to the rightful agency in charge of the case if need be, create a platform for whistle blowing and ensure the security of the blowers.

The federal government should apply the use of rule of law and new advance technologies to tackle insecurity challenges like computerized machines and other technical accessories like in other western countries.

REFERENCES

1. Abolurin, A., "Understanding Tactics in Modern Security Network", pp.3: 4-8, 2006.
2. Achumba, I.C. Ighomereho, O. S. and Akpor-Robaro, M. O. M., "Journal of Economics and Sustainable Development". Vol.4, No.2, p. 79, 2013.
3. Adagba, .O, Ugwu, .S. C., and Eme, .O. I., "Activities of Boko Haram and Insecurity Problems in Nigeria". Arabian Journal of Business and Management Review. 1(9).
4. Adebayo, A. (1981). Principle and Practice of Public Administration in Nigeria. *John Willey and Son Ltd*. pp.12: 34 – 46, 2012.
5. Agaptus, N. National Security, Religious Anarchism and the Politics of Amnesty in Nigeria. Covenant Journal of Politics and International Affairs (CUJPIA) 1(1) (Maiden Edition), Retrieved September 18, 2013
6. Ayua, I. A. "Overview of corruption in Nigeria Nigerian", Journal of Political and Administrative Studies, pp.1, (2), 2001.
7. Cole, G.A., "Personnel and Human Resource Management, Fifth Editio"n. Thomas Rennie Publisher, London. pp.8, 1991.
8. National Bureau of Statistics, "Social Statistics in Nigeria, Abuja: The NBS Publication, 2018.
9. Shamija, T. A. (2006). *Politics of development: The African perspective*, Makurdi: DestinyVentures.
10. **Ubong, K., Chairman American Society for Industrial Security CHP 206 and CEO, Protection Plus Services Limited. 2018.**