

Provision and Utilization of Security Information by Intelligence Agencies for the Maintenance of Law and Order in Rivers State

Ifeyinwa Udumukwu. J. PhD

Blessing Ijeoma Wegwu. PhD

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ABSTRACT: *This study was conducted to investigate the relationship between provision and utilization of security information for the maintenance of law and order in Rivers State. Two research questions and two hypotheses were formulated to guide the study. Survey research design was adopted for the study. The population of the study was 2550 police officers serving in Rivers State. A sample of 486 police officers were used for the study using simple random sampling technique. A researcher made questionnaire entitled "Provision and Utilization of Security Information for Maintenance of Law and Order Questionnaire (PUSIMLOQ) was used in collecting data for the study. The instrument was face validated by three experts. Internal consistency reliability was conducted for the instrument and a coefficient of 0.81 was obtained. Pearson Product Moment Correlation was used in answering the research questions and in testing the hypotheses. The finding of the study indicated that there is relationship between provision of security information and utilization for maintenance of law and order in Rivers' State. It was recommended among others that citizens should readily provide security information to police for the maintenance of law and order in Rivers State.*

KEYWORDS: provision, utilization, security information, intelligence agencies, law, order, Rivers State.

INTRODUCTION

Security like other concepts has essential or basic elements that make it what it is. Security is a comprehensive term used to describe all measures taken to discover, assess and curtail threats from hostile intruders. Security is also seen as all measures, precautions, actions and personnel put in place that ensure safety to lives and assets and provide a peaceful atmosphere for citizens and Government to pursue their legitimate activities without fear, threats or hindrances in a place or country. It thus involves the protection of lives and property and the provision of a peaceful and tranquil atmosphere in which individuals can go about their lawful businesses (David and Robert, 2011). In a broad usage, security as a concept is similar to safety. Security means that something is not only secured but has become secured (Siegel, 2002). Security is critical to the survival of any nation. It helps to forestall lawlessness, chaos and disintegration of the social system. It is

considered as a dynamic condition, which involves the relative ability of a state to counter threats to its core values and interests. The security of a nation is usually predicated on two central pillars namely the maintenance and protection of the socio-economic order in the face of internal and external threat and promotion of a preferred international order, which minimizes the threat to core values and interests, including domestic order (Adisa and Umoh, 2015).

Historically, Nigeria used to be one of the relatively secure nations in the West African sub region, not until lately when the nation suddenly began to slide into all manner of criminal acts such as bombing, militancy, terrorism, hostage taking, kidnapping, killings by Fulani herdsmen, armed robbery, dirty and bloody politics, coldblooded murders and ethno-religious conflicts traceable to numerous militant groups with conflicting political and religious ideological differences, and recently banditry in Zamfara and Yobe States. Johnson, et al. (2019), report that more than 20 people were killed in a Bornu village raid by Boko Haram terrorists, even as the Oba of Benin is furious that criminals are building camps in Edo forests (Kaasali, 2016).

In Nigeria, particularly in the northern states, killing has become a daily occurrence. Bello (2019) reports that 34 people were killed in 3 Local Government Area in Katsina State by armed bandits in May 2018. In Jos, Plateau State, a family of 5 was wiped out by Fulani herdsmen in 2018 and in Sokoto State, bandits killed 25 in 3 Sokoto villages (Bello, 2019). Orji (2019), also reports that 36 children were rescued at children torture center in Kano State. Rape, kidnapping, armed robbery, drug and substance abuse, cultism including cybercrime and sex labour are daily occurrences in Nigeria today (Eze, 2019).

These inhuman killings are daily occurrences in various parts of the country, from North to South, East to West. These annoying killings have made Bishop Onaga to accuse politicians of causing the insecurity in the country (Ede, 2019). Recently, security of lives, properties and general maintenance of law and order in Nigeria has become increasingly challenging, which seems to suggest compromise on the part of security agencies or poor security information provision and utilization, or that the aspect of human intelligence gathering is faulty.

The problem facing the intelligence community at home is further aggravated by poor community support of the security agencies. One of the manifestations of community support is the willingness of individuals to assist the security service through the provision of information. However, (Oche 2016) argues that the attitude of the security agencies to the Nigerian citizens makes community support to win the war against insecurity and other social vices very difficult. The success of the various security agents in tackling insecurity in Nigeria cannot be fruitful without the provision of reliable security information.

The provision of security information may also come from technological sources, such as the Internet and other social media platforms. This may have formed the opinion of Albert (2015) that Police officers can now access and utilize information through digital materials as well as non-digital sources. The significance of information provision is not only restricted to criminal operations during conflicts but can also be utilized during peace-keeping. Nations who are at peace

can only remain so through the consistent provision of intelligence, which they use to monitor and sustain the social, political, economic and psychological progress of the State (Oche, 2016). Aside from provision of security information by citizens, the security agents must be aware of the information on time in order to act on it.

Akpojota (2016) reports that the awareness of security information implies having knowledge about something that exists or an understanding of a situation or subject at the present time based on the use of information or experience to fight crime and bust syndicate. It can also be seen as the knowledge or perception of a situation, fact, consciousness, recognition, realization, grasp and acknowledgement concerned and a well-informed interest or familiarity in a particular situation or development. Beyond provision of security information through human efforts (human beings), human intelligence as information source is one of the least expensive intelligence disciplines, but it can be the most difficult and is undoubtedly the most dangerous for practitioners as mistakes can be fatal, embarrass the whole country, or undermine important policy goals (Oche, 2016). One of the advantages of human intelligence gathering as a detective type of security information is that it involves people within and outside country, gathering information from human sources.

The Nigerian Police Force could also become aware of security information through the use of information technological communication (ICT). This could make the provision of information easily available to the police. It will equally enhance greater use of all types of security information from other parts of the world. However, the use of ICT for utilization of the security information requires special skills and knowledge (Balogun, 2008).

The utilization of information by the police occurs when the information acquired is used in curbing or tackling social vices. Information is therefore utilized if it brings about changes in things, leads to decision making, and ultimately helps to solve the problem for which information is sought (in this case towards the maintenance of law and order. According to (Uhegbu,2011), information use varies with age, occupation, expertise, environment, demand, frequency and task level. Moreover, because the strength of these factors varies, different roles require different amounts of information to complete the necessary tasks such as those of the police.

According to Dizitise (2019), whenever law and order is broken, either due to poor police action or misinformation by the people, the society suffers. Therefore, the police are expected to perform the duties of prevention of crime, protection of lives and properties, law enforcement, maintenance of peace and public order, and providing a wide range of services to the citizens (Olawoyin and Madukoma, 2017). Security information, if adequately provided by and the local communities, act as a catalyst to effective intelligence gathering, which is meant to add greater impetus to the value of information available to the Police Force to fight security challenges, (Osagie, 2019).

However, the current situation of security information provision and utilization among the various categories of the police in Rivers State remains unexplained. There are certain police actions and decisions that seem to question the availability of proper information to the Police. For instance, there are reported cases of illegal arrest and detention of citizens by the Nigerian police in Rivers

State (Adeyi, 2019). While the police have to ensure a crime-free Nigeria where majority of the people respect the rule of law, they are also not allowed to enforce the law in such a manner that the law enforced would undermine the rights and freedom of lawful Nigerians. This is where the issue of accurate information provision and utilization comes into play. This research therefore, investigates the provision and utilization of security information for maintenance of law and order by the Nigerian Police Force in Rivers State.

Statement of the Problem

The critical duty of the Nigerian Police Force and Rivers State command in particular, is to maintain law and order thereby securing life and property. In spite of available human and material resources, well trained personnel and information communication technology resources and funds, there have been increasing cases of crime, killings and all manner of social vices across the country. Although the police command in River State in many occasions and circumstances have arrested cultists, armed robbers, foiled bank robbery attempts, foiled kidnapping attempts, and even rescued kidnapped victims, but its protection failures seem to outweigh its successes. This seems to suggest that the police force is incapable of effective policing in Rivers State. Even illegal or wrongful arrests of innocent citizens have been part of the allegations on the Nigeria police force in Rivers State.

According to John (2019), commentaries and opinions on mass media such as newspapers, radio and television on whether the Nigeria police are actually provided with the right information or whether they are aware of the available information in relation to various categories of social vices or even whether the available information provided is actually utilized to fight crime are rife. This is against the back-drop of cases of inadequate utilization on the part of the Police Force in Rivers State to adequately use information to combat crime, such as cultism, illegal oil bunkering, kidnapping etc. This is what this researcher saw and is motivated to investigate provision and utilization of security information for maintenance of law and order by the Nigeria Police in Rivers State Command.

Objectives of the study

The general purpose of this study is to investigate the relationship between provision and awareness of security information and maintenance of law and order amongst Nigerian Police in Rivers State command.

The specific objectives are to:

- i. determine the relationship between provision of security information and maintenance of law and order by the Nigerian Police in Rivers State.
- ii. determine the relationship between awareness of security information and utilization for maintenance of law and order by the Nigerian Police in Rivers State.

Research Question

The research is set out to provide answers to the following research questions.

- i. What is the relationship between provision of security information and maintenance of law and order by the Nigerian Police in Rivers State?

- ii. What is the relationship between awareness of security information and maintenance of law and order by the Nigerian Police in Rivers State?

Hypotheses

The following hypotheses are formulated for the study;

- i. There is no significant relationship between provision of security information and maintenance of law and order by the Nigerian Police in Rivers State.
- ii. There is no significant relationship between awareness of security information and maintenance of law and order by the Nigerian Police in Rivers State.

RESEARCH METHOD

Survey research design was adopted for the study. The population of the study was Two thousand, five hundred and fifty (2550). It comprises all the Nigeria Police Personnel of the Divisional Headquarters and the Police Stations in the 23 Local Governments Areas in Rivers State. The choice of the population is necessitated out of the fact that these are the set of personnel that are involved in maintaining law and order and also securing lives and property in the state. A sample of 486 police officers was used for the study. This sample was selected using simple random sampling technique. A researcher made questionnaire entitled “Provision and Utilization of Security Information for Maintenance of Law and Order Questionnaire (PUSIMLOQ). The instrument was face validated by three experts. Two of the experts were from Library Science while one was from Test and Measurement. During the validation process, none of the items written were deleted, but suggestions were given on rewording three items. All the corrections were effected before the instrument was used in collecting data for the study. Internal consistency reliability was conducted for the instrument. The instrument was administered to 30 police officers who were not part of the study sample. Cronbach Alpha was used to determine the reliability coefficient of the instrument and a coefficient of 0.81 was obtained. Hence, the instrument was considered reliable for use in collecting data for the study. To administer the instrument, the researcher obtained a letter of introduction from the Head of Department to the various police stations, which made it easy to obtained permission for the study. The instruments were administered to the police on duties. The researcher waited for the instrument to be completed and retrieved same, which ensure 100% retrieval for the instruments. Pearson Product Moment Correlation was used in answering the research questions and in testing the hypotheses.

RESULT

Research Question 1

What is the relationship between provision of security information and utilization for maintenance of law and order by the Nigerian Police in Rivers State?

Table 1: Relationship Between Provision of Security Information and Utilization for Maintenance of Laws and Order by the Nigerian Police in Rivers' State. (N= 484)

| Variables | $\sum X$ $\sum Y$ | $\sum X^2$ $\sum Y^2$ | $\sum XY$ | r-value |
|-----------------------------------|----------------------|--------------------------|-----------|---------|
| Provision of Security Information | 16875 | 596477 | 889315 | .45 |
| Maintenance of Law | 25323 | 1331005 | | |

The result in Table 1 indicates the relationship between provision of security information and utilization for maintenance of law and order by the Nigerian Police in Rivers State. The r-value of .45 indicates that there is a moderate relationship between provision of security information and utilization for maintenance of law and order by the Nigerian Police in Rivers State. This result is an indication that Nigerian Police do act on most of the security information provided for the maintenance of laws and order in Rivers' State.

Research Question 2

What is the relationship between awareness of security information and utilization for maintenance of law and order by the Nigerian Police in Rivers State?

Table 2: Relationship Between Awareness of Security Information and Utilization for Maintenance of Laws and Order by the Nigerian Police in Rivers' State. (N= 484)

| Variables | $\sum X$ $\sum Y$ | $\sum X^2$ $\sum Y^2$ | $\sum XY$ | r-value |
|-----------------------------------|----------------------|--------------------------|-----------|---------|
| Awareness of Security Information | 16594 | 575786 | 873686 | .85 |
| Maintenance of Law | 25323 | 1331005 | | |

The result in Table 2 indicates the relationship between awareness of security information and utilization for maintenance of law and order by the Nigerian Police in Rivers State. The r-value of .85 indicates that there is a high relationship between security awareness of security information and utilization for maintenance of law and order by the Nigerian Police in Rivers State. This result is an indication that Nigerian Police do act on majority of security information they are aware of, for the maintenance of laws and orders in Rivers State.

Hypothesis 1

There is no significant relationship between provision of security information and utilization for maintenance of law and order by the Nigerian Police in Rivers State.

Table 3: Pearson Product Moment Correlation Between Provision of Security Information and Utilization for Maintenance of Law and Order by the Nigerian Police

| Variables | df | r-cal | r-crit | Decision |
|-------------------------------|-----|-------|--------|-------------|
| Security Information Provided | | | | |
| | 482 | .45 | 0.138 | Significant |
| Maintenance of Law | | | | |

The result in Table 3 indicates that the calculated r-value of .45 is greater than the critical r-value of .138 at 482 degrees of freedom and .05 levels of significance. Therefore, the null hypothesis which stated that there is no significant relationship between provision of security information and utilization for maintenance of law and order by the Nigerian Police in Rivers State is rejected.

Hence, there is significant relationship between provision of security information and utilization for maintenance of law and order by the Nigerian Police in Rivers State.

Hypothesis 2

There is no significant relationship between awareness of security information and utilization for maintenance of law and order by the Nigerian Police in Rivers State.

Table 4: Pearson Product Moment Correlation Between Awareness of Security Information and Utilization for Maintenance of Law and Order by the Nigerian Police Force

| Variables | df | r-cal | r-crit | Decision |
|-----------------------------------|-----|-------|--------|----------|
| Awareness of Security Information | | | | |
| | 482 | .85 | 0.138 | * |
| Maintenance of Law | | | | |

The result in Table 4 indicates that the calculated r-value of .85 is greater than the critical r-value of .138 at 484 degrees of freedom and .05 levels of significance. Therefore, the null hypothesis which stated that there is no significant relationship between awareness of security information and utilization for maintenance of law and order by the Nigerian Police in Rivers State is rejected. Hence, there is significant relationship between awareness of security information and utilization for maintenance of law and order by the Nigerian Police in Rivers State.

DISCUSSION OF FINDINGS

The finding of the study on provision of security information and utilization for maintenance of law and order by the Nigerian Police in Rivers' State indicated that there is significant relationship between provision of security information and maintenance of law in Rivers' State by the Nigerian Police. This can also imply that when the Nigerian Police in Rivers State were provided with the right security information at the right time, they were able to do their duties properly in the

maintenance of law and order. It also goes to show that, without timely and proper security information, the Police in Rivers State may be incapable to perform their constitutional duties of maintaining law and order in Rivers State. This may have justified the arguments by Ige (2004) that effective criminal intelligence data generation and sharing is critical to protection and maintenance of law and order. The finding also supports the views of Albert (2015) that effective use of security information is crucial in combating crime and criminal groups and facilitating crime control; and that intelligence gathering is an aspect of information gathering for the sake of national security.

The finding on the awareness of security information indicated that there is significant relationship between awareness of security information and utilization for maintenance of law and order by the Nigerian Police. This is considered true from the high correlation coefficient between awareness of security information and utilization for maintenance of law and order. The reason for the finding could be that it would be difficult, if not impossible for the police without being aware of the crime. The research also agrees with the research finding of Prangya and Rabilidra (2013) and Dafiohor (2012) that sources is core to the usage of security information and that without adequate awareness of the nature of crime in any society, the police will be unable to deal with it. The capacity of any police officer to maintain law and order must first begin from his or her awareness of the case which will enable the officer to understand the nature of the crime, location, causalities (if any) and those involved in such a crime.

CONCLUSION

The study explores Provision and Utilization of Security Information among Nigerian Police in Rivers State. The overall result reflects that the Nigerian Police exhibits proper utilization of security information in carrying out their duty. Based on the findings of the study, the study concludes that Police in Rivers State need accurate and timely information in order for them to carry out their duties effectively.

Recommendations

Based on the findings of the study, the following recommendations were made;

1. Citizens should be willing to provide police with reliable security information for appropriate action.
2. The Nigerian police should make use of technology in to determine incidence of crime.

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