



Imperatives for the Establishment of a National Database to Address Security Issues in Nigeria.

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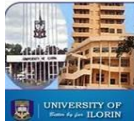
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ABSTRACT

The status of Nigerian security challenges should be one of the popular tales by moon light to all growing children in every home. This would enable them to run and fly as against crawling and walking when exposed to dangers. This paper focuses on the survey of the benefits surrounding the creation of central national database in Nigeria. Presently, Nigeria is critically facing security challenges because people are not uniquely identified and tagged. The situation has led to insecurity in Nigeria with different trends and dimensions from one geopolitical zone to the other. For example, this has led to various faceless activities such as Islamic sect popularly known as Boko Haram in Nigeria, rampant armed robbery everywhere, notorious robbery and kidnapping in the South-East and South-South, corruption and unemployment are all over, uncontrollable/unidentifiable immigrants, unaccountable birth/death rates in hospital/healthcare centers, and reckless drivers that had claimed more lives than help. To control such devastating effects in Nigeria, central national database must be created to solving identity challenges, tackle loose neighboring borders, labels sectional terrorist, detain corruption leaders, criminals will be identified through database resources. The paper therefore highlight the process by which a central database can control the above listed challenges in Nigeria.

Keywords: Central National Database, Data, Terrorism, Boko haram.



INTRODUCTION

For the past decades, the Internet has proven to be a highly dynamic means of communication, reaching an ever-growing audience worldwide. The development of increasingly sophisticated technologies has created a network with a truly global reach, and relatively low barriers to entry. Internet technology makes it easy for an individual to communicate with relative anonymity, quickly, cheap and effectively across borders, to an almost limitless audience. The benefits of Internet technology are in abundance, starting with its unique suitability for sharing information and ideas, having the ability to transfer records across database (distributive database), digital forensics for intercepting contraband among others (Abimbola et al, 2012).

Background to The Study

Terrorism is no longer news in Nigeria; in fact, it is a challenge to national security. According to Azazi (former NSA) as cited in (Obene, 2012) "The Nigerian nation is not prepared for the spate of violence we are experiencing". This paper therefore lists the impacts of national database in curbing terrorism in Nigeria. Meanwhile, McNamara (1990) made an argument which we consented to that any society that seeks to achieve adequate security against the background of acute food shortage, population explosion, low level of productivity and per capita income, low technological development, inadequate and insufficient public utilities and chronic problems of unemployment; (religious intolerance and criminal politicking) has a false sense of security.

Though Nigeria has remained a relatively peaceful and terror free country between 1967 and 1970, Obene (2012) stated that the killing of Mr Dele Giwa, in October 1986 marked the beginning of violent killing and use Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs) in Nigeria which happened to be the first IEDs used in Nigeria. Subsequently, the Movement for the Advancement of Democracy hijacked a Nigeria Airways aircraft in October 1993 following the annulment of Chief M.K.O.Abiola's presidential election. Several other incidences have occurred since then. For instance between 1996 and 1998 there was bomb attack on the Car of the former Chief Security Officer of Federal Aviation Authority of Nigeria, Dr Omoshola just to mention a few.

Meanwhile, our porous borders are not let out in terms of uncontrollable intruders who smuggles in firearms frequently as they desire because there is no check. As a result, this has contributed and continues to encourage the cross border crimes and instability in the region. It has also promoted the increasing number of illegal trade such as smuggling of contra bands goods-adulterated drugs, stolen Cars including Cars that have exceeded the permissible age limit prescribed for use in Nigeria and other goods like shoes, poultry products among others. What kind of security do we expect from a country like Nigeria using dried tree, oil drums as well as rims of tyres to demarcate the national borders? This makes the border to be disorganized, poorly managed and unsecured which further promotes the unrestrained influx of illegal migrants and cross border activities. The recent disclosure by Nigeria's Minister of Interior, Abba Moro, that there are over 1,499 illegal and 84 legal officially identified entry routes into Nigeria, confirms the very porous state of these borders which permits illicit transnational arms trafficking. In Adamawa State for example, there are about 25

illegal routes into Nigeria from neighbouring countries. Terrorists and smugglers take advantage of this leakage to smuggle small arms and light weapons (SALWs) into Nigeria. As a result, over 70 percent of about 8 million illegal weapons in West Africa were reported to be in Nigeria (Obene, 2012).

THE LEVEL OF INSECURITY OF THE ENVIRONMENT IN NIGERIA

The insecurity environment of business refers to insecurity variables that affect the performance of a business but over which the business enterprise has little or no direct control. In Nigeria, the variables range from theft to organized armed robbery, kidnapping and demand for ransom, assassination, repeated invasion and blockading of business installations, social injustice, unemployment, lack of access to livelihood resources, rising cost of living, and bombing. All these variables of crimes and social maladies have made the Nigerian security environment to be complex. A summary of these incessant insecurities are summarized in table 1 (Achumba et al, 2013)

Table 1.1: Level of Crime from 2000-2008

Year	Theft	Armed Robbery	Kidnapping	Assassination	Fraud
2000	29127	1877	243	1255	7927
2001	40796	2809	349	2120	10234
2002	35231	3889	337	2117	9134
2003	33124	3497	410	2136	9508
2004	37289	3142	349	2550	9532
2005	46111	2074	798	2074	9580
2006	41901	2863	372	2000	6395
2007	21082	2327	277	2007	5860
2008	23927	2340	309	1956	5058

Source: Summary of available crimes statistics as cited by Achumba, (2013)

Boko Haram insurgency started in 2006 and there are quite a number of publications that have reported these events on different platforms. This research work is interested with the recent reports of 2015. Therefore the table below shows their operations from January, 2015 till second week of February, 2015 when this report was written.

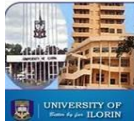
Table 1.2: Boko haram insurgencies and casualties for January to February 14, 2015

Dates	Casualties
January 2, 2015	11 people were killed and 6 injured in Waza Cameroon.
January 3-7, 2015	Boko haram seized the entire Baga Town, North- East Nigeria
January 9, 2015	Refugees flee Nigeria's Borno State following the Boko Haram massacre in the town of Baga. 7,300 flee to neighbouring Chad while over 1,000 are trapped on the island of Kangala in Lake Chad. g militants.
January 10, 2015	A female suicide bomber kills herself and 19 others.
January 11, 2015	More female suicide bombers, this time two, and again each believed to be around 10 years old, kill themselves and three others at a market in the northeastern city of Potiskum, Nigeria.



- January 17, 2015 Boko Haram militants launch a failed raid on Kolofata in Cameroon.
- January 18, 2015 Boko Haram militants kidnap 80 people and kill three others from villages in north Cameroon.
- January 20-24, 2015 Boko Haram gunmen attempted to burn down the village of Kambari near Maiduguri.
- January 25, 2015 Boko Haram rebels launch a large offensive against Nigerian forces in Maiduguri, the capital of Borno State, leading to the deaths of at least 8 civilians, up to 53 militants, and an unknown number of soldiers.
- January 29, 2015 The Nigerian military, in collaboration with Chadian soldiers, captures the border town of Michika from Boko Haram rebels.
- January 30, 2015 The African Union pledges to send up to 7,500 international soldiers to aid Nigeria's fight against Boko Haram.
- February 1, 2015 Boko Haram attacks the capital city of Borno State, Maiduguri. This time, the city is attacked from four out of the five sides.
- February 2, 2015 A female suicide bomber attacks minutes after the President of Nigeria leaves an election rally in the city of Gombe resulting in at least one death and eighteen people injured.
- February 4, 2015 Boko Haram militants reportedly raid the Cameroonian town of Fotokol in Cameroon's Far North Region with scores of people killed.
- February 6, 2015 Boko Haram forces launch raids on the towns of Bosso and Diffa, both in Niger, marking the first time that the group has attacked the country. The Chadian military assists the Nigerien Armed Forces in repelling the attack. 5 Nigeriens are killed while the government claims 109 Boko Haram militants are killed as well.
- February 7, 2015 Nigeria postpones its general election for six weeks to allow its armed forces to control parts of the country currently controlled by Boko Haram.
- February 9 Boko Haram launch a raid on a prison in the town of Diffa in Niger. Authorities repel the attack.
- February 12 The West African Allied Forces, led by Nigeria and supported by Cameroon, Chad, and Niger, invade the Sambisa Forest in Borno State, a stronghold of Boko Haram, killing scores of the insurgents. Elsewhere, the town of Mbuta, 15 miles northeast of Maiduguri, is raided by Boko Haram, resulting in the deaths of 8 residents. A dozen people are also killed in a suicide blast at Biu, 100 miles southwest of Maiduguri.
- February 13 Boko Haram militants attack Chad for the first time after 30 fighters crossed Lake Chad in four motorboats and attacked the village of Ngouboua. Chad recently joined Nigeria, Niger, and Cameroon in a military coalition against Boko Haram
- February 14 Boko Haram forces assault Gombe, the capital city of Gombe State, for the first time. The Nigerian military repels the attack, although the militants managed to overrun a checkpoint on the edge of the city before retreating. The attack coincides with the beginning of a Nigerian offensive to rollback Boko Haram forces around the northeast.
- Sources: Gardian News Paper 5 January; Wall Street Journal and Sydney Morning Herald, 2015) **LITERATURE REVIEW**

Over the decades, a lot of research work had been carried out and many computer programs had been written in order to assist the police with information



on criminals and crimes. One of such development is the Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction (www.drc.state.oh.us) where the system enables you to search for people who have been convicted in Ohio, and the information is usually about when a person is convicted, when the person was sentenced or fined, and when the person was released. Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction protects and supports Ohioans by ensuring that adult felony offenders are effectively supervised in environments that are safe, humane, and appropriately secured. In partnership with communities, it aims to promote citizen safety and victim reparation. Through rehabilitative and restorative programming, it seeks to instill in offenders an improved sense of responsibility and the capacity to become law-abiding members of society (Andy (n.d)). On September 18, 2008, the European Union (EU) Data Protection Supervisor (EUDPS) adopted an opinion that agrees on the EU Council's proposal to establish an electronic European Criminal Records Information System (ECRIS). ECRIS would be a criminal record database available to Member States, and include citizens' criminal convictions.

Yet, the EUDPS warns on the importance on adopting the appropriate privacy and supervisory measures to protect the EU citizens' rights. The ECRIS will be based on a decentralized information technology system and consisting on three elements: (1) a criminal records database in the Member States; (2) a common communication infrastructure; and (3) interconnection software. In addition to these elements, other issues are addressed by the ECRIS proposal approved by the EUDPS. First, an operational manual will set the rules for the exchange of information, including how the offenders will be identified, plus biometric information. Second, collection of statistical data will be required to assess the efficiency of the system and to supervise compliance with data protection laws. This statistical data includes information such as number of requests for access, length of the requests, updating process, quality of persons having access to the databases, and security breaches cases. Third, "coordination of supervision of data processing" is required. Data protection authorities must have available appropriate mechanisms to coordinate data collection. The final point addressed by ECRIS refers to the use of automatic translations.

METHODOLOGY

It was observed that currently the country has a database maintained by the Federal Road Safety Commission (FRSC), the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC), the Federal Inland Revenue Service (FIRS), the National Identity Card Commission and the banks also kept their own database for their clients. According to Labaran, (2012) the need for the nation to have a central database to which different agencies can subscribe, informed the ministry's quest to coordinate the programme with emphasis on the need for training as government activities are now to be treated online. There is a need to integrate these databases to have a central database that can identify the indigenes of Nigeria from anywhere in the world. This will not only perform identification, but will go a long way to take care of the new born children and death rates in Nigeria, traffic offenders would easily be identified since the database is integrated and illegal immigrant will easily be picked and identified. To achieve these, each of the components making up these sections will be examined one after another in the following paragraphs.

Sample of National Distributed Database of Nigeria

Advances in the computer and communication technologies had led to distributed database systems which interconnect many small, medium and large computer systems through twisted pairs, cables, satellites, fiber optics and other transmission media as shown in figure 1.

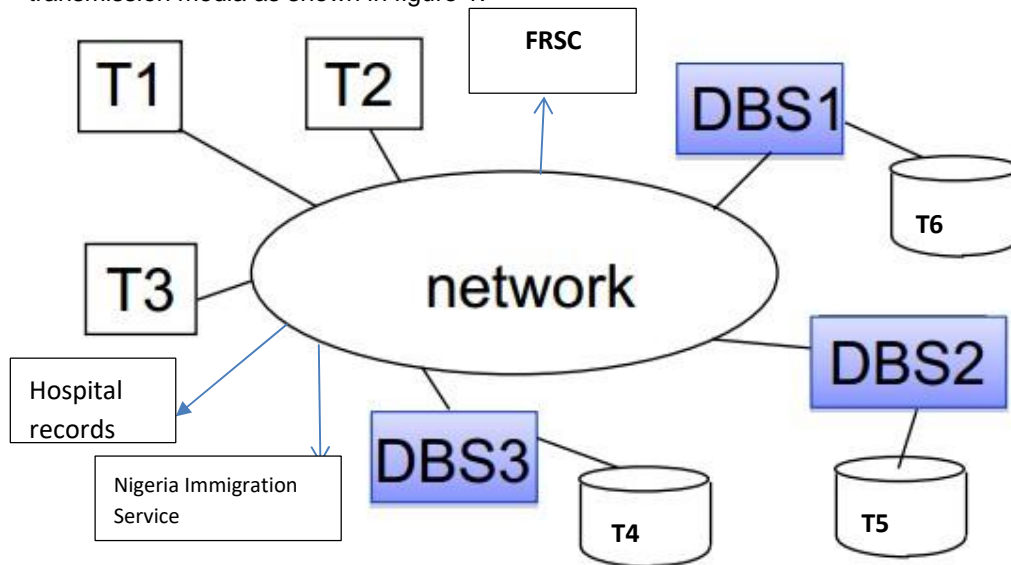


Figure 1: A diagram showing independent distributed database of the states in Nigeria

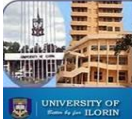
Figure 1 shows a distributed database of the expected national database of Nigeria where T1 to T6.....Tn indicates the states in Nigeria with their independent databases which is further harnessed by a central database (network) that can be updated frequently. Other units are also integrated such as Nigerian Immigration Service (NIS), Hospital Records and Federal Road Safety Commission (FRSC) to enhance their operations. Once the database is integrated and there is interoperability in the record systems, a change in one record would amount to a need for update in the other records and databases.

Central Database Systems

Additional coordination of heterogeneous computers has moved beyond the level of company's monitoring to the world at large. It is also important for nations to achieve additional coordination of diverse computerized operations. To do so, it is necessary to have database systems that can operate over a distributed network and can encompass a heterogeneous mix of computers, operating systems, communications links, and local database management systems. This section outlines approaches to various aspects of heterogeneous distributed data management and describes the characteristics and architectures of seven existing heterogeneous distributed database systems developed for managing the central database of Nigeria.

1. Heterogeneous Distributed Database Capabilities

Different types of capabilities can be provided by heterogeneous distributed database systems. They include schema integration, distributed query processing, distributed transaction management, administrative functions, and coping with different types of heterogeneity. Schema integration has to do with the way in which users can logically view the distributed data. Distributed query



management deals with the analysis, optimization, and execution of queries that reference distributed data. Distributed transaction management deals with the atomicity, isolation, and durability of transactions in a distributed system (Gomer et al. 1990). Administrative functions include authentication and authorization, defining and enforcing semantic constraints on the data, and management of data dictionaries and directories. Heterogeneity can include differences in hardware, operating systems, communications links, database management system (DBMS) vendors, and/or data models. These are all important aspects of distributed data management. In considering them, it is important to recognize there is no ideal set of capabilities for all environments or applications. A particular capability may be invaluable in certain situations while being totally unsuitable in others. The followings are the benefits of using a distributed database.

Advantages of Distributed Database

- i. Improved performance
- ii. Efficiency
- iii. Extensibility (addition of new nodes)
- iv. Transparency of distribution
- v. Storage of data
- vi. Query execution
- vii. Autonomy of individual nodes

Disadvantages

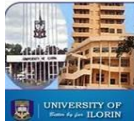
- i. Complexity of design and implementation
- ii. Data consistency
- iii. Safety
- iv. Failure recovery

2. National Database of Births and Deaths Registration

Around 51 million births go unregistered every year in developing countries, which translates to one in three children globally. One out of every three developing countries has a birth registration rate of less than 50 per cent. Sub-Saharan Africa has the highest percentage of children under age five who are not registered at birth, with 66 per cent (UNICEF, 2007). Many IT professionals have always advocated that government should create an integrated national database which will feature information about all its citizenry. The benefits of this simple idea are quite enormous. A unique database from where different public and private organizations can assess and draw information, with needed data to tackle issues bordering on security such as criminality and terrorism is extremely important. Instead of doing this, government has either completely ignored the calls or pay lip service to it by creating crash programmes of same. For example, a great proportion of the country's resources have been wasted on printing of national identity cards, registration of voters especially during elections, conducting population census and many other resource-wasting programmes.

It is befuddling to note that all the various agencies of government, such as the defunct Directorate of

National Civic Registration (DNCR), Independent Electoral Commission (INEC), and the National Population Commission (NPC) saddled with these responsibilities create different databases in the course of achieving their goals. This would have been unnecessary if only a national database exists. Same data, such as name, date of birth, place of birth, Local Government Area, state of origin, occupation, etc are repeatedly being sourced from individual citizens during the course of his/her lifetime. Examples include enrolment in primary, secondary and tertiary institutions, opening of bank account, application for employment and



other registrations. The stress that citizens are exposed to, especially during national programmes, including queuing in the sun and sometimes in the rain just to ensure that they are captured would have been avoided.

Benefits of a fully functional vital (birth and death registration) system includes:

- Providing access to health care;
- Providing access to immunization;
- Ensuring that children enroll in school at the right age;
- Enforcing laws relating to minimum age for employment, handicapping efforts to prevent child labour;
- Effectively countering the problem of girls forced into marriage before they are legally eligible, without proof of age;
- Ensuring that children in conflict with the law are given special protection, and not treated (legally and practically) as adults;
- Protecting young people from under-age military service or conscription;
- Protecting children from harassment by police or other law enforcement officials;
- Securing the child's right to a nationality, at the time of birth or at a later stage;
- Protecting children who are trafficked, and who are eventually repatriated and reunited with family members;
- Getting a passport, opening a bank account, obtaining credit, voting or finding employment.
- Store all individual's birth information in a database, automatically issue birth certificates and retrieve information on the birth record as and when required.
- Generate periodical reports on the implementation progress of the registration system for monitoring purposes.
- Develop a central database that links with other services.

Challenges to having a good registration system in Nigeria

1. Corruption
2. Lack of education
3. Lack of infrastructural development
4. Rural to urban drift
5. Government lackadaisical attitudes
6. Lack of faithfulness from parents and children
7. Lack of exposure

3. Transportation systems

Transportation systems can be enhanced by the use of traffic signal control systems, system detectors, closed-circuit television (CCTV) cameras, ramp meters, variable message signs (VMS) and bus probes to improve the efficiency of travelers on the high way.

Monitoring and Traffic Surveillance

The primary goal of traffic surveillance systems is to supply information about conditions in the field to other system components so that appropriate response and control actions can be taken. Monitoring and traffic surveillance strategies include the use of closed-circuit television (CCTV), system detectors, and communications networks. These tools can help improve incident management, inform control decision-making and determine traffic conditions for information dissemination. Surveillance can enhance traffic operations and planning by serving the following purposes (Jeffre et al. 2011). Detection and verification of incidents that have an impact on traffic operations;



Monitoring of incident clearance;
Monitoring traffic for emergencies and special events;
Monitoring of traffic operations and supporting the implementation of control strategies, such as adaptive ramp metering and automated traffic signal coordination systems (ATCS);
Monitoring pavement and environmental conditions;
Monitoring of traffic operations to generate data for planning and research purposes.
Identifying traffic offenders through the database and such offenders can easily be picked up.

4. Border control

It is a well-known fact that a professional, consistent and detailed analysis of the security situation along our borders is a non-negotiable requirement. A comprehensive, independent security audit must be done along our land borders as a priority and must provide details on the following: i) The state of border fences;

ii) Resource allocation in terms of trained personnel, as well as suitable equipment and vehicles; iii) Intelligence gathering and dissemination;

iv) General statistics gathering and analysis, in terms of crime, repatriation rates, illegal foreigners arrested and detained among others;

v) Inter-departmental collaboration and cooperation and security personnel's;

Crime Statistics and Intelligence Gathering

Until we know what is really happening on the ground, we will never be able to address the problem adequately. General statistics must be gathered and analysed on an ongoing basis and in a consistent manner. Statistics on border and rural crime, repatriation rates and the number of illegal foreigners detected, arrested and deported must come from the different departments through to a central database that allows the integration and cross references of this information. These statistics must be published at least on an annual basis and involve substantial analysis of i.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Database

Nigeria as a developing nation is technologically matured enough to have a distributive database systems that would identify its registered citizens from anywhere in the world. This is further demonstrated in figure 2. This database will also be capable of identifying any intruder entering the country/state/locality within a given country because national immigration service would also verify through the same database systems which is similar to automatic teller machines (ATMs) that works anywhere in the world. In the same manner, offenders can easily be tracked by querying the database for their existence and those who have committed one offence or the other can easily be fetched, quarantined, isolated or marked as priority criminals.

Electronic Health Record Systems

The hospitals and health care centers should ensure they have electronic records systems that would aid their data processing and storage systems. For the less developed towns and villages where there are no electricity supply or epileptic supplies, there should be a standard way by which these records would be passed to affiliated hospital for record purpose.

Database Integrated Transportation Systems

For a developing country like Nigeria, we are getting to a level where closed circuit television (CCTV) will be installed on our highways and local roads which would be integrated in a distributive national database and would do a lot helping the safety of our roads in terms of thefts, assassins, armed robbery, hit and run drivers and car snatchers and the likes.

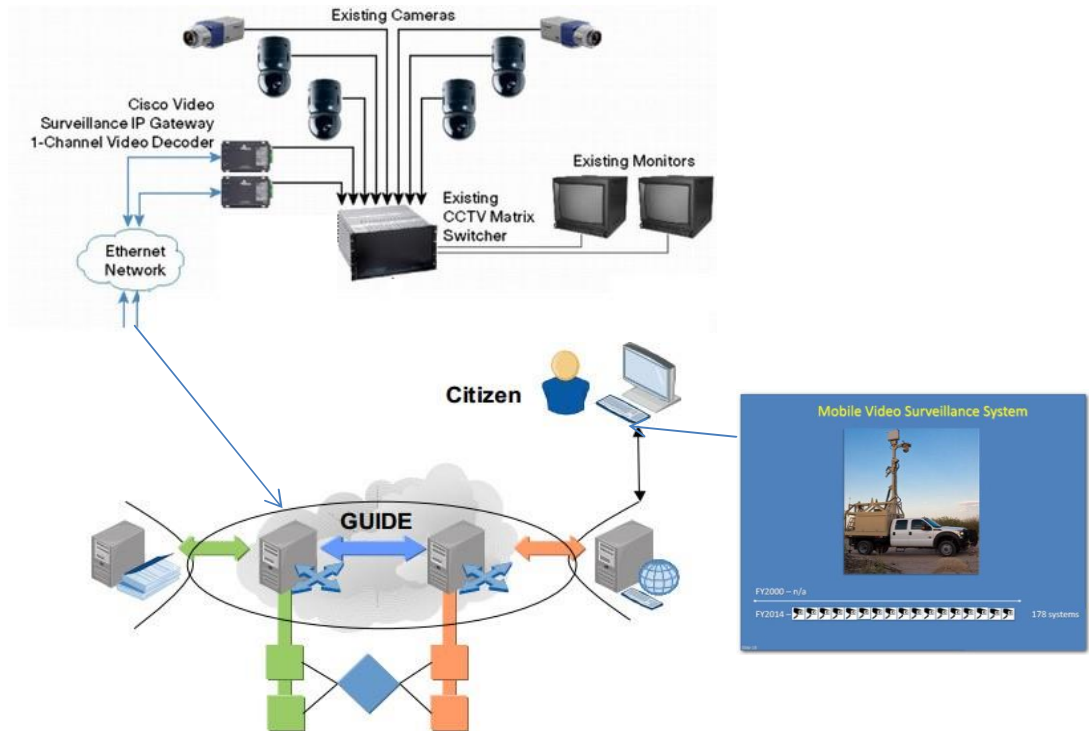


Figure 2: Proposed National Database for Nigeria that accommodates Transportation, Health Record Systems and Borders Monitory Systems

Computerized border systems

For Nigerians to attain the security enjoyed by developed countries, we have to invest more on the security of our borders in terms of personnel's developments and investments of tools and infrastructures such as underground sensors, constant electricity supply at the border among others as seen in figures 3. To achieve stable economic border systems, the following should as a matter of urgency be looked into:

- i. There should be government approved border routes.
- ii. The government should put every measure in place to eradicate illegal boarder routes by having constant border patrol men.

- iii. Our borders should be computerized and highly monitored using installed sensors, installed fences, and stationed monitoring (CCTV) among others. The computerized database is integrated and intruders would easily be identified and treated as such when there is infiltration.
- iv. Nigerian government should create a border patrol that would be responsible for preventing illegal entries into the country from all the four (4) geopolitical zones.
- v. Every immigrants should be documented and published periodically while ensuring that the database is updated regularly and the offenders should be deported.
- vi. Fences should be raised across the boarder
- vii. Electricity supply should be mounted at the borders to identify intruders at night.

The United Nations has this to say:

“In fact, over the last 15 years, the estimated number of undocumented immigrants in this country grew to a high of about 12.2 million in 2006, dropped to around 11.3 million, and has stopped growing for the first time since the 1980s. But, this is not a “mission accomplished” speech. We can and should do more to best enforce the security of our borders.” (Johnson, 2014)

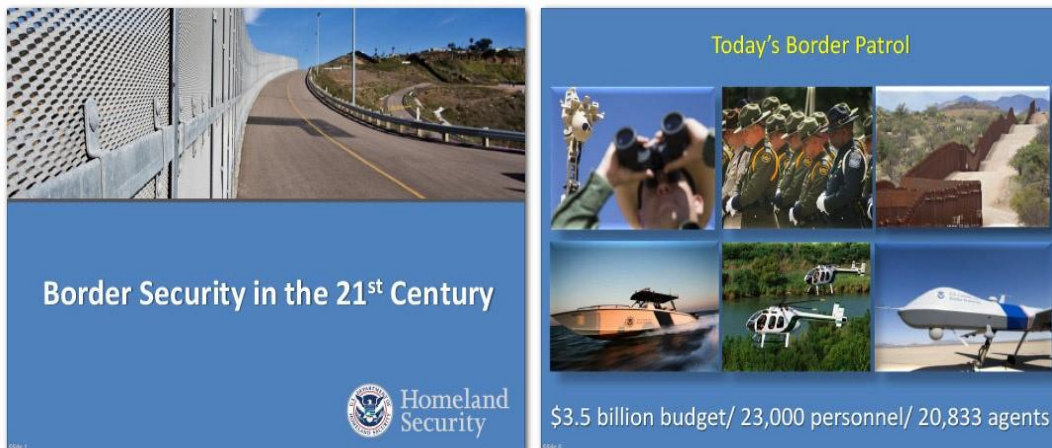
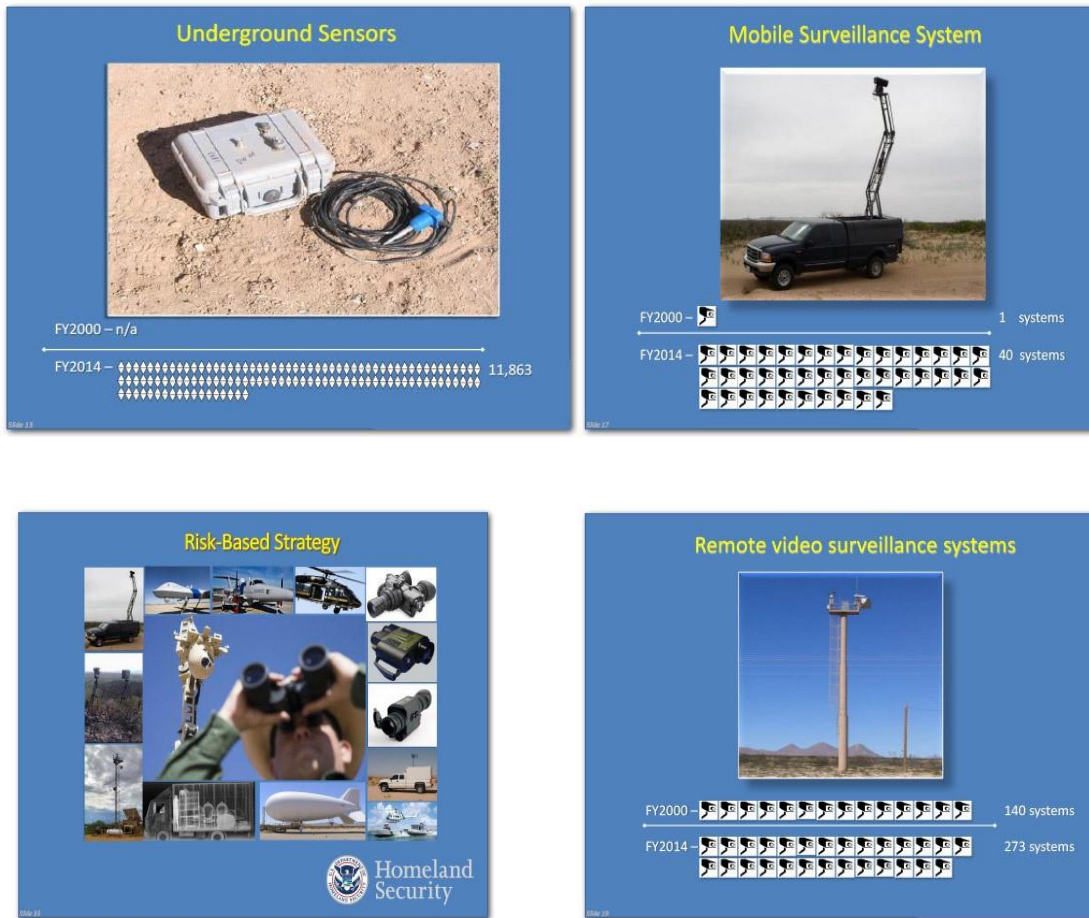


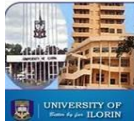
Figure 3: Century border security equipment & solution. Source Johnson, (2014)



.Figure 5: More on 21 century border security equipment. Source Johnson, (2014)

CONCLUSION

The research work has highlighted the security challenges facing Nigeria which are identity problems, porous borders, reckless drivers without records and lack of computerized hospital record systems. It also suggested measures in controlling such devastating effects which is by having a central database which should be created to solve identity challenges, tackle loose neighboring borders, labels sectional terrorist, detain corruption leaders, criminals will be identified through database resources among others.



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