Evaluating Inter- Agency Collaboration in Strengthening Internal Security in Kaduna State (2017-2023)

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Abstract

This study evaluates the role of inter-agency collaboration in strengthening internal security in Kaduna State, Nigeria. Adopting a desktop publishing methodology to synthesize and present insights. The research examines the extent to which collaborative efforts between sister agencies enhance operational efficiency, reduce severance, and address internal security menace effectively. Drawing from secondary data sources, including policy documents, academic literature, and reports from security agencies, the study identifies key factors that influence inter-agency coordination, such as communication systems, intelligence sharing, and joint operational strategies. Desktop publishing methodology enables a structured presentation of findings through visually engaging formats, enhancing accessibility for policymakers and stakeholders. The research highlights critical gaps in recent practices, proposing actionable recommendations to foster synergy among sister agencies. It concludes that improved inter-agency collaboration significantly strengthens internal security measures, contributing to a safer and more stable environment in Kaduna State, Nigeria. This approach accentuates the potential of desktop publishing as a methodological tool in security studies, offering a novel lens for analyzing and disseminating complex inter-agency dynamics.

Keywords: Collaboration, Inter-Agency, Intelligence Sharing, Internal Security, Kaduna State

Introduction

Globally, Internal Security is, no doubt, important to the survival and functions of the state. The essence of the state is the promotion of good life and the creation of peaceful and thriving society that would enhance the well-being of the citizenry. Internal security is an integral aspect of national security/development (Fagbemi & Ogunbanjo, 2023). It was for lack of security that the Hobbesian state of nature rendered life nasty, brutish and short (Courtland, 2017). The concept goes back to the cradle of nation-states themselves. Armies for domestic peace-keeping and maintaining national sovereignty, have existed since the dawn of recorded history. Civil and national police forces have also existed for millennia. However, Intelligence agencies and security services of government stretches back to antiquity, such as in the Roman, the Ottoman and that of the Kanem Borno empires (Olofinbiyi & Steyn, 2019).

Therefore, modalities and strategies to achieve and maintain the highest possible state of internal security have been consistently developed from the ancient period to present. One of these modalities that is proved to be workable is that of inter-agency collaboration (NSCDC, 2018). However, the concept of internal security is a bit difficult to define, because, the term, security, has remained a contested concept. In other words, it has no universally accepted definition due to its ambiguity arising from ideology and timeframe being addressed, as well as the locus of analysis (Evans, 2015).

Thus, Egbefo and Salihu (2014), viewed internal security as the requirement to maintain the survival of the nation-state, through the use of economic, military and political power and the exercise of diplomacy. Relatedly, internal security, which is seen as a freedom or absence of those tendencies which could undermine internal cohesion and corporate existence of a country and its ability to maintain its vital institutions for the promotion of its core values (Bodunde, 2014), is the life wire of every responsible nation. Countries in the American, European, Asian and African continents are seen to have attached utmost importance to issues of internal security, since they make or mar the very existence of a nation.

In United State of America, the idea of Homeland security, which shoulder the overall aspect of internal security, is emphasized in order to create more secure America by preventing coordinated attacks and protecting Americans from all forms of threat, on land sea and air (Department of Homeland Security, 2020). Similarly, the complex nature of Africa as a continent, requires a strong internal security network that will assist in neutralizing the myriad of threats bedeviling the continent (Perry et al., 2001). From complex issues of insecurity, such as the expansion of terrorism, banditry, kidnapping for ransom and cattle rustling across the Sahel to the dangers of health pandemics, which by extension impact negatively on the global community, Africa needs a strategic internal security partnership that will ensure and guarantee common security in accordance with the United Nations Charter on collective security.

Research Objectives:
The main aim of the study is to evaluate inter-agency collaboration in strengthening internal security in Kaduna State between 2017 - 2023. The specific objective of this study will be to:

i. To examine the impact of inter-agency cooperation in the maintenance of internal security in Zaria, Igabi and Chikun LGAs of Kaduna State.

ii. To identify the causes of lack of cooperation among security agencies in Zaria, Igabi and Chikun LGAs of Kaduna State

iii. To examine how inter-agency cooperation could bring-about effective maintenance of internal security in Zaria, Igabi and Chikun LGAs of Kaduna State.

Research Questions:

Based on the statement of the problem, the study found solutions to the following questions:

i. What is the impact of inter-agency cooperation on internal security in Zaria, Igabi and Chikun LGAs of Kaduna State?

ii. What are the causes of lack of synergy among security agencies in Zaria, Igabi and Chikun LGAs of Kaduna State?

iii. How can inter-agency cooperation bring about effective maintenance of internal security in Zaria, Igabi and Chikun LGAs of Kaduna state?

Statement of Problem:

Despite the constitutional responsibilities and other legal statutes of Nigerian security agencies to provide effective internal security, it appears that these agencies seem not to be working in synergy; instead, they are enthralled in unhealthy rivalry among themselves (Odoma & Aderinto, 2013). Instances of neglecting intelligence reports, which if acted upon, would have help in curtailing a number of threats to national security, have been glaringly evident (Fagbemi & Ogunbanjo, 2023). This leads to a number of security miseries and series of operational failures, which by extension, undermine the very national security that these institutions are mandated to promote and defend (Fagbemi & Ogunbanjo, 2023). As such, while continue to be reluctant in putting efforts together, the security agencies find it unable to, effectively curtail the lingering security threats of targeted kidnapping, rural banditry, insurgency, violent extremism, ethno-religious crises, separatist's agitations, inter-group conflicts and threat to law and order (Odoma & Aderinto, 2013). As such, the attitude of non-cooperation and perceived misunderstanding among security agencies, which distracts various security operations, remained an unresolved challenge (NCDC/UNDP, 2018). Therefore, looking at the importance of security and the dimension the inter-agency rivalry is taking, there is the need for a designed study to understand issues surrounding it with a view to addressing the problem.

Review of Literature:

Collaboration among agencies is embellished with various merits; interagency cooperation is better suited than sole or individual security agencies to identify and accurately define the target problems of priority in a given community; they are more likely to include diverse perspectives on conflict and insecurity causation (Fagbemi & Ogunbanjo, 2023). It is ideally more result oriented to developing creative targeted interventions because they include a diverse group of individuals representing a diverse group of organizations with different philosophies of interventions; joint and multiple interventions are more effective than single interventions; they hold the potential of increasing the total quality and/or better quality of the treatment (Weiss, 1987 cited in Abiodun, 2019).

In support of the above Abiodun (2019), added that "goal congruence is an essential factor in encouraging inter-agency cooperation. It is important to investigate the similarity of agency goals,

as exchange interactions between agencies are less likely to occur if agency goals are in high conflict.

Of its relevance Chukkol (2019), pinpoints some areas of advantages of inter-agency relationship which include the following:

- It brings coordination and preventive collaboration/involving issues;
- Creates a sense of confidentiality and avenue for learning opportunities;
- Collaboration can engender intervention at various levels, such as awareness raising, information sharing, resource sharing, and coordinated response to real time situations;
- It brings synergy amongst agencies.

Inter-agency work, can take time to develop. People need to come to understand and trust each other and this is best achieved by actual experience of discovering each other's skills and reliability in working with particular cases. It cannot just be made to happen by the instruction of senior management (Canton, 2011). This means government should not just give order that so and so agency work together towards solving a certain problem, rather they should undergo series of training together to know why and how crucial the union and the mission is, as their cooperation determine the success of the tasks ahead.

Canton (2011), further thought the importance of interagency cooperation is enormous as "Complex problems need the expertise and resources of different agencies. It makes no sense for agencies to duplicate the services that are offered by other experts and specialists. The whole can be greater than the sum of the parts. A collective endeavor is potentially much more efficient and effective".

Indeed, the issue of leadership in interagency works has always been what an air is to living organisms in every sphere; roles too are shared transparently to avoid contradiction, self-elevation or encroachment into another's. Since the deterioration of insecurity in Nigeria, especially with the return of democracy in the 1999, there has been rise in criminal activities across the world, especially with the rise in terrorism, banditry, excessive robbery, cultism, kidnapping, secessionists movements, religious and tribal clashes, political witch hunting amongst others; these has necessitated the merger of different security agencies to counter insecurity (Abolurin, 2011).

Arase (2018), asserts that "the statutory role of the military is basically defense against external aggression while the Police play the lead role in managing internal threats to national security. Nonetheless, in exceptional cases of severe disorder, section 217 (2) (c) of the Constitution provides that the military could be deployed to suppress insurrection and act in aid of civil authority.

The President, Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces of Nigeria, relying on this provision, has deployed the military to complement the Police in serious internal security challenges of magnitudes that have practically snowballed beyond the operational capacity of the Police including riot control, combating armed robbery, kidnapping, oil bunkering, agrarian farmers/ pastoralists crises, militancy, insurgency and natural disasters; while Sec.4 of Police Act which highlights the duties of the police states that among other functions, the Nigeria Police shall perform such military duties within or outside Nigeria as may be required of them by or under the authority of this or any other Act. This provision is unique to the extent that it imposes some level of military service responsibility on the police and by so doing, highlights the importance of inter-

agency collaboration in national security management. This could be referred to as the concept of Police Assistance to Military Authority (PAMA) (Arase, 2018).

Basically, every security agency is expected to discharge its duties of protecting person(s) when threatened or disruption of peace and order is taking place. Since every agency particularly the police and military can work in each other's domain interchangeably as situated by Arase (2018), cooperation is much expected. What is more when such interagency hybrid operations are to take place, high degree of communication between the stakeholders involved is encouraged to strengthen unity and positive result during and after the operation(s).

Getos (2017), stated that "in practice the borderline between them has never been sharply drawn, at present it has become more and more blurred. If taking into consideration the differences in legal authorization and democratic oversight, it becomes obvious that uncontrolled intermingling between classical intelligence and law enforcement measures poses a serious threat to fundamental principles in criminal law".

THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK:

The theoretical framework for this study is structural-functionalism theory. The primary proponent of the structural functionalism theory is considered to be Herbert Spencer, a British philosopher who view society as a system of interconnected parts working together to meet the needs of its members, similar to the human body (Fagbemi & Ogunbanjo, 2023).

Archibong, (2016), opined that functional analysis studies structural items of the social system in an attempt to show how they contribute towards integration or inversely dis- integration of the system by either fulfilling or failing to fulfill some needs or sets of needs of the system and in an attempt to show how these contributions bear on the existence of the item in the system.

This perspective shows the society as a system of organized network of co-operating groups operating in a fairly orderly manner according to a set rules and values shared by most members. In other words, the structural functionalists see society as an interrelated system in which each group plays a part and each practice helps the system to operate (Schaefer & Lamn 1995).

Subedi (2010) propagates that, Structuralisms proposed structural reading of Marxism in the following way (macro perspective of society):

- society consists of a hierarchy of structures distinct from one another.
- Conflict is naturally prevalent within social structures. People are the product of structural conflict.
- Conflict emerges by itself because of incompatible relationships - therefore change will come.
- Just like internal organs of a normal biological organism, society maintains its stability, order and progress only when social organs, structure and institutions coordinate and cooperate with each other (are in equilibrium) - NOT conflict with each other.
- Society cannot operate for any length of time on the basis of force. Society is held together by the consensus of its members.

Methodology:

This study is desktop research, which was conducted using the purposive sampling technique to select articles from different research engines such as Google Scholar, Science Direct, EBSCO and so on. The choice of the study: evaluating inter-agency collaboration in strengthening internal

security in Kaduna State (2017 to 2023) and the socio-economic, permissible, ethnic, and safety. The trends and factors influencing inter-agency cooperation on internal security in Kaduna State were also considered.

The research was basically investigative which was anchored on qualitative analysis of secondary data such as published articles, books, internet, almanac, year books, et cetera. Some other sources of data include government reports such as police reports, criminal justice statistics and demographic data. Media analysis; analyze new articles, documentaries. Books utilize scholarly books on criminology, counterterrorism, intelligence studies, and socio-economic factors influencing vices.

Discussion of Findings:

The analysis of inter-agency collaboration in strengthening internal security in Kaduna State, Nigeria is confronted with series of security challenges that seem to have overwhelmed the state security apparatus. Despite glaring and concerted efforts being put by security agencies, they still face resistance from perpetrators of high profile crimes such as targeted kidnapping, rural banditry, insurgency, violent extremism, ethno-religious crises, separatists' agitations, inter-group conflicts and threat to law and order (Odoma & Aderinto, 2013).

As such, this attitude of non-cooperation and perceived misunderstanding among security agencies, which distracts various security operations, remained an unresolved challenge. Scholars have studied the security challenges in Nigeria and interagency rivalry amongst security operatives has been identified as one of the factors that have incapacitated the security agencies in the country (Evans, 2015). Inter-agency rivalry and its disastrous impact have brought about concern amongst political scientists and analysts, security operatives and academicians and the government as to how such rivalry can be effectively managed. There is a general consensus that inter-agency cooperation is a panacea to inter-agency rivalry (Evans, 2015). Hence inter-agency cooperation among security agencies, especially, the NPF, the NSCDC and the DSS is a model that needs critical examination so as to ensure that it is enhanced in order for it to stand the test of time. Its success can make it a model for other security agencies within and outside the shores of Nigeria.

Inter-agency cooperation among security agencies, especially, the Nigeria Police Force (NPF), Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps (NSCDC) and the Department of State Services (DSS), involves working closely together in the aspects enforcement of the law, rendering operational support to one another, intelligence sharing, protection of lives and properties, maintenance of law and order as well as general provision of internal security in Nigeria. This, however, has been adjudged commendable, though, field responses have shown that corruption and lack of patriotism stand to be the major bottleneck for such cooperation. Other issues that bedevil effective cooperation among personnel of security agencies include superiority complex, poor education and training, especially among the junior cadre, lack of international exposure, communication gap, poor remuneration as well as lopsided welfare package. respondents also noted that the following factors were important for the successful management of inter-agency conflict (a) commitment and dedication, (b) constant interaction and communication, (c) good leadership, (d) clear mandate and understanding the culture of inter-agency cooperation (e) a platform for fair

hearing of grievances from aggrieved personnel. However, findings show that since these agencies are law enforcement agencies built on discipline and respect for superior some management staff of the various security agencies do exhibit commitment and dedication towards management of conflict among personnel of the agencies, but more need to be done in the aspect of continuous orientation, monitoring, supervision as well as discipline in order to inculcate the spirit of working together amongst the entire personnel of Nigerian security devoid of individual or parochial Interest. All the security agencies are not cooperating in discharging their statutory roles, they are working in silos which resulted unproductive in tackling the menace of insecurity in the Nigerian State (Fagbemi & Ogunbanjo, 2023).

Conclusion and Recommendations:

This study tends to evaluates inter-agency collaboration in strengthening internal security agencies in Kaduna State, Nigeria. That inter-agency cooperation impacts positively in aiding the success of security operation, serving as an instrument for managing conflict, actualizing the idea of complementary security roles among security agencies, boosting the morale and confidence of security operatives and improves the overall provision of internal security. It could further be concluded that inter-agency cooperation impacts the most in boosting the morale and confidence of security operatives. This is evidenced by the fact that this very premise recorded the highest percentage among the respondents as per as the impact of cooperation is concerned. The study further concludes that lack of cooperation among security agencies undermines tremendously, security provisioning, success of security operation and by extension, national security. The study also concludes:

That the causes of inter-agency rivalry and absence of cooperation among security agencies are; poor education and training, lack of international exposure, duplication of functions among security agencies, superiority complex, communication gap, corruption and lack of patriotism on the part of security operatives, pecuniary interest, conflict of interest, lack of sincerity of purpose, poor remuneration and lopsided welfare package. In view of the above therefore, the study concludes further that absence of cooperation among security agencies can lead to operational failure, intelligence failure, ineffective crime control, loss of target, loss of direction and general poor maintenance of internal security.

Furthermore, the study concluded that, inter-agency cooperation can be improved by the following

    i.   Organizing joint capacity building in the form of lectures, seminars and symposia among security operatives of various security agencies.

    ii.   Organizing inter-agency sporting competitions on various sporting activities such as shooting, football, basketball, Table tennis, et cetera.

    iii.   Briefing and debriefing of field security operatives by the leadership of security agencies, on the mandatory need for cooperation for effective security provisioning.

iv.   Operatives of security agencies should always refer and relay issues/ cases to the appropriate sister agency for necessary lawful action and avoid hijacking of roles/ functions among themselves.

The following recommendations have been provided on the premise of the findings of this study.

1. Building the hearts and minds of security agents towards all-inclusive patriotism. This is very important in the project of nation building generally. George Bernard Shaw (1856-1950), said that 'Patriotism is your conviction that this country is superior to all others because you were born in it'. Therefore, security operatives must be oriented to feel responsible and indebted in the task of defending their country and protecting its citizenry at whatever cost. Bearing this in mind would make all security agents to have sense of belonging and work together to achieve a better security provisioning irrespective of the agency one belongs to.

2. Security agencies should uphold the ideals of 'esprit de' corps at all time: This emphasizes on oneness which is vital for the success of inter-agency cooperation. Similarly, most of the key participants of the Key Informant Interview advised that the spirit of oneness and friendliness is key to improving the partnership among all security agencies. In addition, operatives of the respective agencies should consider one another as one in the line of duty.

3. Joint training: The Federal Government should mandate heads of security agencies to regularize the conduct of joint training, courses and other forms of capacity building on basic security tenets, especially amongst the junior cadre, where such cooperation is most needed due to more exposure to field operations. Based on this, operatives of security agencies should be exposed to foreign courses to learn international best practices on security provisioning and internal security maintenance.

4. Improve security Liaison: routine interaction among security agencies should be improved. The security agencies must liaise and interact officially amongst themselves for effective coordination and formidable decision-making. In other words, the spirit of working together must be seen to exist among the security agencies.

5. Harmonization of Salary Scale of Security Agencies: All security outfits should be made to have uniform salary scale; as lopsided pay may have the tendency of breeding jealousy among personnel of various security agencies.

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