Combating Internal Security Problems in Nigeria: The Relevance of Surveillance

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Abstract

This paper on "combating internal security problems in Nigeria: the relevance of surveillance" was motivated by the need to examine the worsening state of insecurity in Nigeria despite the number of security agencies and personnel and the failure of surveillance strategies at all levels. The objective of the paper was to draw the government's attention to the contribution of effective surveillance to solving the problems of internal security in Nigeria. The approach adopted in the paper was library research in which content analysis was used, and the study revealed that the Nigeria government hasn't really embraced surveillance in full and also she has neglected the contribution of surveillance equally, and it is as a result of this that the study recommended that, for effective surveillance strategies, government of the day must be willing and determine to support security agents sincerely in real-time monitoring and fighting of criminal elements in the country. Also, effective artificial intelligence AI tools must be adopted and put into use immediately, especially in areas where there are constant security threats. This will not only improve security in such areas, but the number of security officers we lost to insurgents will be reduced equally. And there is a need for the Nigerian government to acquire unmanned vehicles that can go into operation on their own without the physical presence of anybody, but rather, they can be operated from the head office.

Keywords: surveillance, internal security, panopticon, relevance of surveillance, and security problems.

Introduction

Nigeria, Africa's most populous country, has a population of more than 200 million. With such a vast population, security concerns are unavoidable. Also required is

a proper response from law enforcement to preserve or secure the safety of lives and properties, which remain a statutorily mandated duty on law enforcement officials and a right granted to Nigerian residents.

Digital surveillance is one of the sophisticated methods that law enforcement authorities ought to use to tackle security challenges (Ashaolu, 2012). These help them gather information sufficient to prevent a crime that is yet to be committed, intervene in one that is being committed or investigate a crime that has been committed. Security is a feeling of safety, protection, and relative freedom (Abdullahi and Mukhtar, 2022). This security is the second most important priority needs according to Maslow's order of needs besides psychological needs and as such, each nation's responsibility is to provide its citizen security. And this security has become a basic necessity of human beings and society (Abiodun, Oludotun, Chukunyere and Oladejo, 2019). Any security threats are known as security challenges (Eke, 2013). The rate at which security challenges are progressing in countries of the world is ubiquitous, Nigeria as a sovereign nation is not exempted. Many Nigerians both home and abroad will agree to the fact that many disparate security mechanisms including human and technology have been suggested and some even implemented to minimize the menace of threats in the country especially in the northern part, middle belt and even in the south eastern parts of the country, but no substantial outcome up-till now due to its pervasive nature and the huge threats it poses to human lives and material belongings. The above strategies suggested by previous writers are either insufficient or not good enough and therefore, the need for other means and strategies to curb insurgence in the country. It is at this point that the essence of surveillance to Nigeria's internal security is called for and it is treated under the following sub-headings. Introduction, conceptual clarification, theoretical framework, methodology which will focus on library research and data extracted from journal articles, text books and internet material sources, and later analyzed using narrative analytical technique. Other parts include relevance of surveillance to Nigeria's internal security, conclusion and recommendations.

This study adopted library research and data for the paper were collected from journal articles, text books and internet material sources, and they were analyzed using narrative analytical technique.

Conceptual Review

In order to avoid any form of "conceptual misrepresentation" (Obo and Ekpe, 2021, p.41), it is pertinent to place words or concepts in their appropriate definitional contexts in any academic writing. Therefore, in this paper, concepts such as surveillance and internal security will be clarified here as used in the work.

Surveillance

Surveillance refers to the constant monitoring and collection of data related to the digital activities of a person by a government or corporation related to intelligence gathering, security, or commercial purposes. Milanovic (2015, p.82) sees it as the "monitoring of behaviours, activities or other changing information to influence, manage, directing or protecting people". By this definition, surveillance has to do with focused marking or payment of keen attention on someone with the aim of observing his/her behaviour overtime. This behaviour observation is done with the purpose of fetching out intending threat from such person and for the betterment of, and a secure environment or society.

For Lyon (2001), Surveillance is the monitoring of behaviour, many activities, or information for the purpose of information gathering, influencing, managing, or directing. This can include observation from a distance by means of electronic equipment, such as closed-circuit television (CCTV), or interception of electronically transmitted information like Internet traffic (Monahan and Murakami, 2018). Greenleaf (2018) added that, surveillance is used by citizens, for instance for protecting their neighborhoods. It is widely used by governments for intelligence gathering, including espionage, prevention of crime, the protection of a process, person, group or object, or the investigation of crime. It is also used by criminal organizations to plot and carry out crimes, as well as by businesses to obtain information about criminals, competitors, suppliers, and customers. Surveillance can be done in a variety of ways, one of which is electronic surveillance, which is frequently employed throughout an investigation. Interviews are significantly less prevalent, although they might be useful in specific studies and observations, as you can learn a lot just by seeing someone (Obodoeze, 2022).

Surveillance is also the monitoring of conduct, activities, or information with the goal of obtaining data and maintaining security. It can be carried out by governments, organizations, or people, and usually involves the use of various technology such as cameras, drones, and software to track movements, communications, and online activity. Surveillance can serve a variety of objectives. For example, National Security uses it to detect risks to public safety and national interests. It helps law enforcement with their investigations and criminal prevention. Surveillance improves security in public areas such as airports and malls. Surveillance helps to safeguard organizations from theft and fraud. In health monitoring, it aids in the detection of disease epidemics or public health hazards.

Overall, surveillance creates ethical and privacy issues, especially with regard to the possibility of misuse and the violation of individual rights, even while it can improve safety and security in a community, therefore it must not be left in the hands of quacks and dubious individuals.

Internal Security

An important component of governance is upholding the rule of law and ensuring the safety and security of its people. If a country fails in this endeavour, it loses its claim to be called a nation and becomes prone to disintegration and turmoil (Hanif, nd). There may be many reasons which could lead to such a situation including political unrest, economic instability, social breakdown, or violence along ethnic lines. Many times, the forces leading these attempts are within a country, however, there may be external powers who intend to exploit the local turmoil and may foster violence or other forms of instability within the host country. All these forms a part of the internal security situation of a country.

There are various elucidations of the concept of internal security and it may mean different things to different people. We shall look at various characterizations of internal security including dictionary definitions and those proposed by various international conventions. For instance, the Committee on Centre–State Relations, Government of India (2015) has defined internal security as:

Security against threats faced by a country within its national borders, either caused by inner political turmoil, or provoked, prompted or proxied by an enemy country, perpetrated even by such groups that use a failed, failing or weak state, causing insurgency, terrorism or any other subversive acts that target innocent citizens, cause animosity between and amongst groups of citizens and communities intended to cause or causing violence, destroy or attempt to destroy public and private establishment.

Thus, internal security refers to the ability of a state to secure to its citizens peaceful and harmonious existence and safety of their life and property. Internal security was discussed by the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) during the first session of the 1971 Conference of Government Experts in Geneva. Internal disturbances are defined as circumstances in which there is an internal battle with a certain magnitude or duration and a particular amount of violence, but no foreign armed conflict. When there is an uprising against the government, this situation may be produced. It can also be formed when there is a conflict between some organised groups and those in power. In these cases, there may not be open hatred, but the state may need to deploy substantial police or even armed forces to calm the unrest.

Charles Maier, a Harvard University history professor, defined national security in terms of national power: "National security... is best described as a capacity to control those domestic and foreign conditions that the public opinion of a given community

believes necessary to enjoy its own self-determination or autonomy, prosperity, and wellbeing" (Maier, 2017).

Internal security is the act of maintaining peace within the borders of a sovereign state or other self-governing areas, typically by enforcing national law and protecting against internal threats. Internal security may be the responsibility of police, paramilitary forces, or, in extraordinary circumstances, the military itself. Internal and external security are two different approaches to safeguarding data and communications within a system. Internal security protects the system's own data and internal communications, whereas external security protects outward communications. (Wikipedia, 2019). Internal security encompasses a wide range of concepts, including the ability to preserve a country's physical integrity and territory, to maintain reasonable economic relations with the rest of the world, to protect its nature, institutions, and governance from external disruption, and to control its borders.

Digital Surveillance

According to the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (2012) cited in Elike and Anorue (2023), the use of the internet for terrorist purposes is a rapidly growing phenomenon, requiring a proactive and coordinated response. According to Elike and Anorue (2023), digital surveillance is stated as a necessary proactive measure for counterterrorism and a means of trend analysis to understudy the nature of human activities in cyberspace to ensure fair usage and protect the citizens. They further stated that, digital surveillance has proven to be very crucial in averting various acts of terror. This has led various governments such as the United Kingdom, United States, China, Russia and Germany to develop tools and strategies for combating terrorism and other crimes within and outside cyberspace. In the words of Rainie and Madden (2015), digital surveillance is the collection, analysis, and storage of various forms of communication data to understand the patterns of activities in the digital space and make predictions. They equally see it as the use of technology to monitor, track, and collect information about persons or groups. This can include everything from monitoring online behaviour and communications to identifying and analyzing people using biometric data and artificial intelligence. It generally entails the use of digital tools to observe and gather information about people's behaviours, interactions, and whereabouts, both online and in physical spaces when technology is involved. Digital surveillance involves the monitoring and collection of individuals' online activities, communications, and data by governments, corporations, or other entities. This practice raises concerns regarding privacy rights, self-determination, and the freedom to exchange ideas without undue oversight (Broadband, 2016).

Brayne (2020) sees digital surveillance as the monitoring and collection of data from digital settings, such as internet activity, communication channels, and personal digital footprints. He further emphasizes that with the increased use of technology and the internet, digital monitoring has become a major worry among privacy activists, civil liberties organizations, and the general public. According to him, the phenomenon of digital surveillance includes many types of monitoring that can be carried out by governments, companies, and private citizens. However, some of the important features of digital surveillance as presented by Feldman (2011) which include methods and implications of digital surveillance are discuss below. For methods of digital surveillance, he made reference to data collection, metadata analysis, geolocation tracking, CCTV with facial recognition and interception of communications.

Data Collection: This involves Internet Service Providers (ISPs) tracking web browsing habits, such as sites visited, duration of visits, and time spent online. Another one is Cookies and Tracking Technologies (CTT) that its websites frequently employ cookies and tracking pixels to follow user behaviour throughout the internet and create profiles based on browsing history. Next is Social Media Monitoring (SMM) that collect large amounts of data on user interactions, preferences, and posts, which can be used to identify patterns.

Metadata Analysis: Metadata includes information such as the time of contact, the people involved, and the amount of the data sent, but not the content itself. This data can provide insights on relationships and behaviours without requiring direct access to the material.

Geolocation Tracking: Smartphones and other linked gadgets routinely employ GPS and other location services, which enable constant tracking of people's movements.

CCTV with Facial Recognition: Combining facial recognition technology with Closed-Circuit Television (CCTV) systems enables real-time monitoring and identification of people in public places.

Interception of Communications: Governments can legally intercept telephonic and online conversations using devices such as wiretaps, and some firms may monitor employee communications on corporate networks.

Digital surveillance has it unique implication which according to Gilliom (2001) and Fuchs, Kees, Anders and Marisol (2012) presented as follows:

Privacy Concern: Digital surveillance raises serious worries about the loss of personal privacy. Data gathering, which is typically done without explicit user agreement, can lead to feelings of constant surveillance and a loss of autonomy.

Chilling Effect: Knowing that one's activities are being monitored can dissuade people from openly expressing themselves or engaging in dissent, resulting in a chilling effect on free speech and political activism.

Data Security Risks: The centralization and collection of large volumes of personal data increases the risk of data breaches, in which sensitive information is hacked or released.

Discrimination and Profiling: Data analytics can produce biassed results, with particular groups being unfairly targeted based on algorithms that perpetuate discrimination, such as racial profiling in law enforcement.

Power Imbalance: Increased surveillance can create power inequalities between individuals and organizations, particularly those involving government overreach and business behaviour.

Harris (2011) concluded in his study that, digital surveillance is intricate and multidimensional, reflecting larger discussions in society on security, privacy, and the distribution of power between people and institutions. The techniques used for surveillance and the reactions to it will change along with technology. A future where technology promotes freedom rather than restricts it will be shaped by laws, moral behaviour, and individual rights. In our increasingly linked world, stakeholders—including governments, businesses, and civil society—are essential in navigating the ramifications of digital monitoring.

Theoretical Framework

This paper adopted panopticon theory by Jeremy Bentham in the late 18th century and the theory holds that, the mere possibility of being watched influences behaviour (Bentham, 1791). This implies that, individuals modify their actions to conform or align with social norms and expectations when they believe they might be observed. According to Bentham (1791), the theory also believes that, internalization of surveillance leads to self-discipline. This implies that people learn to regulate their own behaviour without needing direct enforcement because they are conscious of being monitored and whatever thing that happen may result to them being arrested. According to Strub (2025), the basic idea of panoptical control is that people will obey the prevailing rules and norms when they know they are being watched. Panopticon approach holds highly that surveillance shapes individual and collective behaviour within the society and when this done there's bound to be some element of peace.

The theory hasn't survived without shortcomings. As such, Nicolazzo (2020) argued that, panopticon represents a form of oppressive control and raises ethical

concerns about privacy and autonomy in contemporary society. Even with these criticisms, the theory is applied to this study because it demonstrates surveillance's potential as a tool for risk mitigation, behaviour modification, and improved security coordination. Moreso, the approach also emphasizes the important balance required to guarantee that surveillance does not result in a surveillance state prone to oppressive behaviours. Engaging communities, assuring ethical procedures, and incorporating sophisticated technologies will all contribute to increasing surveillance efficacy while respecting individual rights. With this, the panopticon functions as both a theoretical framework and a practical lens for examining and addressing Nigeria's complex internal security issues.

Surveillance and Nigeria's Internal Security

Before discussing the contribution of surveillance to Nigeria's internal security, lets first of all take a cursory look at what the country has done so far in this area and what is really lacking that is making insecurity still remain on the high side. No doubt, Nigerian government has made some attempts to promote surveillance at all levels. For instance, according to Mugambi, Hove, Oloyede and Aishat (2024), the Nigerian government has made significant investment to ensure the procurement of surveillance technologies. That is why funding for surveillance technologies has increased over the last two decades. According to a report by the Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ) as noted by Mugambi et al (2024), between 2014 and 2017, the government spent at least 127 billion naira on surveillance and security systems, with about 46 billion naira spent on surveillance capabilities in 2017 alone. In 2020, the Nigerian government budgeted \$9 billion for surveillance related activities (Mugambi et al, 2024). According to a report by the Institute of Development Studies (IDS), Nigeria is one of five African countries that spend more than \$1 billion every year on surveillance technologies imported from countries like Germany, France, Israel, Italy, China, USA, and the UK, with over \$100 million worth of tech imported from China and France (Mugambi et al, 2024). The most common categories of digital surveillance technologies imported by Nigeria, as noted by the report, include internet interception technologies, mobile phone interception technologies, social media surveillance technologies, safe city technologies for surveillance of public space, and biometric ID surveillance technologies (Mugambi et al, 2024). Despite this amount pumped so far, it appears as if the more monies are spent in acquiring surveillance gadget, the more insecure Nigeria becomes. This is so because there is no month if not week that passes by without multiple deaths recorded in this country. This is pictured in Benue state where recently people are killed by armed men without help from either the government or security officers but rather, when it occurs and lives wasted ordinary protesters that want to call for the attention of the public are arrested and detained.

Related to the above, Sulaiman, Umar and Bari. (2018) have these to say, "surveillance is effective in combating insecurity by helping soldiers, police and navy to track, detecting, and disseminate information about the terrorist groups". In the same vein, Taiwo (2016) concludes that, surveillance is effective but there is need to understand the effects of technological change, as its crucial in contemporary policing. Kemi (2016) agrees that effective surveillance can combat insecurity but corruption, inadequate research, lack of technological knowhow, inadequate fund and political instability are challenges for its effectiveness. For Abiodun (2020), surveillance drones are equipped with sophisticated imaging technology that provides the ability to obtain detailed photographs of terrain, people, homes, and even small objects which when adequately put into action can regulate criminal activities in the area. in their study, Nosiri and Eudora (2016) revealed that issues of corruption; poor technological gadgets, porous nature of the borders etc are major challenges against effective border security in Nigeria; hence the need to adopt modern surveillance technologies. Isaac, Oritseshemeye, Ukweni, Omavuayen and Ahmed (2023) express in their study the need for constant intelligence gathering and surveillance using modern technologies to ensure proactiveness of law enforcement agents against security threats. But our concern is about how bandits, Boko haram, herders still notify communities of their coming and they still actually come, launch attacks on innocent and unarmed civilians and leave without any resistances or challenge from the security agents. As Egbejule (2025) put it, suspected Boko Haram insurgents have continued to notified and launch attacks in their stronghold regions of Yobe and Borno states. He further stated that, on September 1st last year, insurgents did not only notify communities of their coming, but launched a devastating attack in Yobe State, killing at least 128 villagers. Also, in January 2025 further occurrence took place in Borno State in which 40 farmers and 20 Nigerian soldiers were killed by ISWAP and this is as a result of lack of adequate surveillance.

However, surveillance can go a long way to play a critical role in addressing Nigeria's internal security challenges, which include issues such as terrorism, banditry, kidnapping, and communal conflicts. The importance of surveillance in enhancing Nigeria's internal security are presented and discussed below:

Surveillance Provide Early Detection and Prevention of Crime

Surveillance systems help detect potential threats and criminal activities including diseases before they escalate (Weinberg, 2005). By monitoring suspicious behaviours and gathering real-time data, security forces are likely to intervene early, potentially preventing incidents of violence or terror. Also, crime prevention is a crucial aspect of maintaining safety and security within communities. It involves various strategies, techniques, and initiatives aimed at reducing the occurrence of criminal activities (Clarke and Eck, 2003) and when detect early it goes a long way to secure lives and properties.

Surveillance Helps in Intelligence Gathering

Surveillance and intelligence gathering are critical procedures adopted by intelligence's agencies and national security that involve the systematic monitoring and collection of data for variety of reasons, including national security, law enforcement, risk assessment and even disease control. These efforts use a variety of tactics, including human intelligence (humint), geospatial intelligence (geoint), signal intelligence (sigint), measurement and signature intelligence (masint), open-source intelligence (osint) and imagery intelligence (imint) (Mugambi et al, 2024). The information gathered is then analyzed and converted into actionable intelligence to aid decision-making and strategic national planning. Moreso, effective surveillance contributes to intelligence gathering, which is essential for informed decision-making in security operations. The collection and analysis of data on criminal networks aid law enforcement agencies in understanding and dismantling organized crimes in the country.

Surveillance contributes to Deterrent Effect

As one of the basic assumptions of panopticon theory by <u>Jeremy Bentham</u>, all humans tend to behave normal when they perceived that they are being watched over. For instance, Sprigge, Timothy and Burns (2017) noted in their study that, "although it is physically impossible for the single guard to observe all the inmates' cells at once, the fact that the inmates cannot know when they are being watched motivates them to act as though they are all being watched at all times. They are effectively compelled to self-regulation." This example amplifies the earlier statement that, people all over act well whenever they feel that something or somebody is watching over them and once that is done fear enters and they tend to avoid criminal tendencies.

Weber (2024) indicates in his study that, deterring effect of surveillance cameras is both logically understandable and quantitatively demonstrated. They reduce attempted break-ins and frequently result in the stoppage of ongoing break-ins. Police crime data support this positive trend and demonstrate that surveillance cameras are an excellent tool for combating crime. In an increasingly dangerous world, surveillance cameras provide a little extra security and protection for all of us. This implies that, with the present of cameras in an area, the rate of criminality is reduced to a reasonable extent. Potential criminals are deterred by the existence of surveillance. People may be deterred from committing crimes like robbery, kidnapping, or even venture into terrorism if they are aware that their activities are being watched.

Contributions of surveillance to Community Safety

The importance of surveillance in improving community safety has grown in the quickly changing world of today. According to Monahan and Murakami (2018),

communities are using surveillance systems to make their living spaces safer for their citizens as a result of the introduction of sophisticated technology. They added that, in order to prevent crime, keep an eye on questionable activity, and give law enforcement useful evidence, surveillance—especially with CCTV cameras—is essential. Studies on the advantages and efficacy of surveillance technology have been spurred by its incorporation into community safety plans (Radsan, 2007). The function of surveillance in community safety, for example, emphasizes how the installation of CCTV cameras may greatly enhance both general safety and the prevention of crime.

As a contribution to community safety, Crocco, Cristani, Trucco and Murino (2016) put forward that, surveillance's primary goal is to discourage criminal activity. Potential offenders may be deterred from committing crimes just by the sight of cameras. Crimes like theft, vandalism, and assault are less likely to occur when people are aware that they are being observed. This preventive approach works especially well in public areas where surveillance is visible, such as parks, malls, and transit hubs, where people may feel more secure. Additionally, real-time monitoring is made possible by surveillance equipment, which enables police to react quickly to occurrences and maybe stop crimes before they get out of hand. Furthermore, citizens feel more secure when there is more surveillance. Communities are more inclined to collaborate with law enforcement, report suspicious activity, and take part in community-policing projects when they feel watched over and protected.

Surveillance helps in Mobility and Response Time

Manjeet, Deepthi, Jay, Jasbir and Pankaj (2023) discuss the contribution of surveillance to mobility and response time from the stand point of health ground, and they argue that the continuous emergence of new zoonotic diseases presents an ongoing challenge, necessitating the continuous improvement of disease surveillance systems to prevent and manage outbreaks proactively. By this they mean, strong surveillance system is a driver to timely response to either disease outbreak or conflict. According to Bedi, Vijay, Dhaka, Singh and Barbuddhe (2021), surveillance systematically generates critical data that underpin strategic efforts to confine, manage, and alleviate the impact on susceptible human populations. Early detection assumes significant importance in the containment of infections within their geographical origin and is a necessity accentuated by the contemporary global mobility of populations (Clow, Leighton, Pearl and Jardine, 2019). Furthermore, early detection is imperative for averting life-threatening conflict and illnesses, such as Zika, Nipah, Ebola, and yellow fever (Clow, Leighton, Pearl and Jardine, 2019). Timely disease detection through surveillance coupled with swift deployment of responsive interventions can effectively curtail the magnitude, severity, and financial burden associated with emergency outbreak responses (Vrbova, Stephen, Kasman, Boehnke, Doyle-Waters, Chablitt-Clark, Gibson, FitzGerald, Patrick, 2010).

Surveillance improves security personnel's response times to situations by integrating technology like drones, Closed-circuit television (CCTV) cameras, and mobile monitoring devices. Lyon (200) concluded in his study that, in times of crisis, prompt and well-informed reactions are essential to minimizing loss of lives and properties. No doubt surveillance plays a key role in improving mobility and response time since it allows for early discovery of problems, targeted actions, and resource allocation optimization. When this is optimally done, it results to faster responses and more efficient use of resources and manpower utilization. Moreso, decisions about the deployment of emergency services, law enforcement, and other resources can be influenced by real-time surveillance data. This speeds up response efforts and reduces possible harm by guaranteeing that the proper resources are available at the right time and location. Moreso, in order to improve mobility and response times, surveillance is an essential tool for information collection, making informed decisions, and enabling prompt and efficient responses to a variety of scenarios. But to an extent this is lacking in Nigeria that is why the country is still in this mess when it comes to everything that threatens life.

Other contributions of surveillance to internal security include resolving cyber security risks, creating trust and community connections, monitoring public areas and events, enhancing law enforcement capacity, and collaboration and coordination among agencies including international bodies.

Conclusion

Security is as important as life itself. No society can sustain or maintain its developmental space without adequate security measures that is why Nigeria adopted every measure including surveillance strategy to achieve the protection of lives and properties. But despite their efforts in surveillance strategies, insecurity still remains on the high side because of human factors and unwillingness from the side of government to end all sorts of threats in the country. Surveillance in itself is paying systematic attention to person or group of persons with the aim of finding out the person's intension towards a particular thing. While surveillance has to do with watching, it should also be noted that not all 'watching' is focused and systematic, but "watching over," as in the French verb surveiller. Despite the contribution of surveillance which includes early detection and prevention of crime, intelligence gathering, resource allocation, community safety, mobility and response time, deterrent effect, strengthening law enforcement capacity among others, surveillance in Nigeria still appears unsuccessful. Even though it is so in the country, the place of adequate surveillance to internal security cannot be swept under the carpet. Based on this, the following recommendation are made:

- 1. For effective surveillance strategies, government of the day must be willing and determined to support security agents sincerely in real-time monitoring and fighting of criminal elements in the country.
- 2. Effective artificial intelligent (AI) tools must be adopted and put into use immediately especially in areas where there are constant security threats. This will not only improve security in such areas but the number of security officers we lost to insurgents will be reduced drastically.
- 3. There is need for Nigerian government to acquire unmanned vehicles that can go for operation on their own without the physical presence of anybody but rather it can be operated from the head office.

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