
An Analysis Of Impacts Of Telecommunication Evolution On Economic Development And Crime Prevention And Control In Nigeria

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Abstract

This paper analyses the impacts of telecommunication evolution on economic development and crime prevention and control in Nigeria. Three specific objectives were coined to underpin the paper. World system and economic (base) development theories were systematically combined to form our theoretical framework. The paper made use of secondary data (journals, textbooks and internet materials) which were descriptively analysed. The paper reveals that the emergence of telecommunications in Nigeria has yielded positive results on our economy and in the fight against crime and criminals. Affordable and accessible telecommunication networks increase economic development and reduce security challenges in Nigeria. It paves way for enhanced economic and security policies in an ever-increasing complex and competitive world of ours. The Federal Government of Nigeria (FGN) should make telecommunication services readily available, affordable and accessible to subscribers since it is a channel through which success and progress could be made in the security and economic sectors. The FGN and its allied institutions should regulate the activities of telecommunication service providers, for this will not only encourages rapid economic development and easy and swift crime management but also guards against exploitation and extortion of end-users.

Keywords: Crime Prevention and Control, Economic Development, Impacts, Nigeria, Telecommunication Evolution.

Introduction

The world generally, and Nigeria in particular, are fast developing scientifically and technologically. The obvious success and progress in the economic and security sectors seem to have been largely necessitated or influenced by Information and Communication Technology (ICT), particularly telecommunication infrastructure. The introduction and or current advancement in the Nigerian telecommunication sector has virtually made all human endeavours, especially economic developmental plans and measures put in place to fight crime easier, faster, more effectual and timely realisable. In this regard, Adedeji (2013) argued that the world is rapidly moving towards a scientific economic system, given the continuous and ever-present availability of information. Recent advances in telecommunication technology have been an important vehicle for information exchange and knowledge to develop as valuable commodities and security-aid. Many countries and institutions equipped with the requisite telecommunication systems and skills are rapidly moving into Post-industrial and information-based expansion. The telecommunication sector across the globe has been identified as one with generic effect on almost all other sectors of the economy. The function of telecommunication in any economy is described as a strategic one, aimed at promoting economic growth and development, and as one that has linkages with other sectors (like security, both formal and informal agents of social control) (Osotimehin, Akinkoye & Olasanmi, 2010).

The world is fast becoming a global village and necessary tool for this process is communication, of which telecommunication is a key player. The quantum development in the telecommunication industry all over the world is very rapid, as one innovation replaces another in a matter of weeks. Interestingly, a major breakthrough is the use of wireless telephone system which comes in either fixed wireless telephone lines or the Global System of Mobile Communications (GSM) in the increasingly competitive world markets (Ijewere & Gbandi, 2012; Akanbi, Ogunleye & Akanbi, 2013; Chieme & Obiora, 2014). Little wonder therefore that telecommunication is described as the transmission of signals over a distance for the purpose of sharing information. It is a vital engine of any economy and an essential infrastructure that promotes the development of other sectors such as security, agriculture, education, industry, health, banking, defence, transportation and tourism (Arzika, 2000 cited in Omowunmi, Oluwaranti & Oluseyi, 2009). For instance, the use of telecommunication facilities makes the police and other security personnel responsive and proactive in guaranteeing public safety and effective policing. Telecommunication gadgets make crime prevention and control participatory and a collective effort, where the police form a synergy with members of the public to combat crime and criminals. Here, the security agents and agencies unite with the public to fight crime through mutual partnership

with such telecommunication service providers in Nigeria as ZAIN, MTN, ETISALAT, GLO, AIRTEL, and the like. The interaction between the network providers and the police/public is guided by reciprocity in information giving and taking, thus achieving maximum success in crime prevention and control in Nigeria.

Accordingly, the proper use of modern telecommunication facilities will certainly accelerates the economic development and crime prevention and control in any nation. Telecommunication equipment is *sine qua non* for manpower development, for it paves ways for people to compete favourably in the ever-increasing complex and scientific global economies and modern crime problem. In fact, telecommunication gadgets such as computer, GSM and other wireless networks are major catalyst for economic development and progress in the fight against crime. Specifically, this emerging trend in the world development scheme invariably does not only improve the local content regarding domestic economic growth of a nation but also increases the international Gross Domestic Product (GDP) over time. Like any other developing nations, Nigeria has over the years adopted and keyed into this groundbreaking innovation and global best practise for achieving rapid economic development crime-free economy and society. Chieme and Obiora (2014) acknowledged the catalytic role of wireless telecommunications in economic development in Nigeria when they said that GSM operators in the country have developed a Joint Economic Development (JED) framework to support the government in the actualisation of its objectives as spelt out in the National Economic Empowerment Development Strategy (NEEDS).

Adedeyi (2013) submitted that Nigeria is ranked the largest and fastest growing ICT market in Africa and among the 10 fastest telecommunication markets in the world markets. This is as a result of the robustness of its returns on investments (in economy and security). The impact of this on the economic development, and by extension, crime prevention and control has become impressive and phenomenal. The telecommunication sector in Nigeria, for instance, now contributes significantly to the Gross Domestic Product (GDP), which hitherto was dominated by the oil sector. Nigeria Telecommunications Fact Sheet released by the United States Embassy in Nigeria in October 2011 revealed that, “the ICT sector is the fastest and most robust sector of the Nigerian economy, contributing more than the manufacturing, banking and solid minerals sectors combined”. The same Adedeyi added that the Fact Sheet earlier revealed a service sector contribution to 2010 GDP chart, showing that ICT contributed 25 % while Utilities (17%), Finance and Insurance (20%), Transport (15%), Real Estate and Business services (10%), Hotels and Restaurants (3%), and Others (10%). Meanwhile, if statistics on the Fact Sheet are anything to go by, ICT investment spiked 700% in 2001 and received double-digit growth every subsequent year—a factor that saw investment rate rising by 31% (\$18 billion) in 2009. Driving by this, the paper sets out to analyse the impacts of

telecommunication evolution on economic development and crime prevention and control in Nigeria.

Objectives of the Study

The general objective of this paper is to analyse the impacts of telecommunication evolution on economic development and crime prevention and control in Nigeria. Other specific objectives of the paper are:

1. To trace the evolution of telecommunication in Nigeria;
2. To analyse the impacts of telecommunication evolution on economic development of Nigeria; and
3. To assess the impacts of telecommunication evolution on crime prevention and control in Nigeria.

Theoretical Framework

There is no social phenomenon that can best be examined using a single theory or model. A systematic integration of theories, to a large extent, seems best to account for any issue of academic interest. The nature of this paper does not call for the use of crime theories. Thus, the framework for this paper is premised on the basic assumptions of world system theory and economic development theories, particularly the economic base theory. The world system theory was propounded by Wallenstein (2002), who conceived the world as a global system into which every other nation is incorporated and each responds to the system in different patterns. The Euro-American nations are at the metropolitan centre while developing nations (like Nigeria) are at the periphery, but all of them are connected by the socioeconomic global networks (largely rooted in telecommunications). Ajayi (2011), in Egwu (2014: 104), affirmed that “the world system theory examines the relationship between nations in worldwide trade network system”. From the theory, telecommunication infrastructure is a central unifying force or World Wide Web (www) that links the entire world, both developed and developing, to fight a common front. The evolution of telecommunication has facilitated the economic development and recognition of Nigeria in the international economies as well as equips security agencies with the wherewithal to combat crime and criminals.

Economic development theories, on the other hand, first appeared on the economic literature immediately after the Second World War. It was mainly influenced by the reconstruction of Europe after the war (Todaro & Smith, 2009). Economic development encompasses a wide range of concerns, among which, are: an issue of more economic growth and development; improvement in the art of policing, protection of lives and property; involving wise and wide application of public policies that will increase a country's competitiveness; a code phrase for industrial policy; sustainable (economic) development that harmonises the natural and social systems; a vehicle for increasing wages, benefits, basic education and worker training; a way to strengthen inner city and rural economies in order to reduce poverty, inequality (and crime); and lastly, it

embodies the range of job creation programmes in response to the decline of federal domestic assistance (Hunt, 2007; Cypher & Dietz, 2008; Blakely & Leigh, 2009). In Nigeria, specifically, there has been a more expeditious roll out in rural areas, covering over 50% of government areas and at least 5,000 communities and villages. This development informs Nigeria's present rating as the fastest growing telecommunications market in Africa. There is no doubt that telecommunication sector has united the entire world. Within a second, business is on the wheel globally (Nigerian Business Information, 2003; Chieme & Obiora, 2014).

Economic development theory postulates that aggregate growth in development is a function of the increase in the quality, quantity and productivity of capital and labour inputs, with a long-run growth (development) being driven by technological progress. Intuitively, services such as telecommunications have a powerful influence on economic growth and development. Low cost and high quality telecommunications will generate economy-wide benefits, as the communication network is a transport mechanism for information services and other products that can be digitalised (Akanbi, 2012 quoted in Akanbi *et al.*, 2013; Chieme & Obiora, 2014). The economic base theory is a direct spinoff of economic development theories which also underpins the impacts of telecommunication evolution on other social institutions like security. For instance, Nigeria as a developing economy is swiftly extending telecommunication facilities to rural areas for effective and accelerated crime prevention and control. Apparently, there is a drastic reduction in crime and criminality with the aid of telecommunication devices. Telecommunication is an essential sector of the Nigerian economy that serves as a leeway to stimulating internal and external economic and security drive. Hence, the rationale for adopting this theory lies in its strengths to form a springboard for grappling with the subject matter. In specific terms, the theory is a necessary tool for economic prediction and projection, and a basis for explaining cybercrimes or computer-based crimes and economic and financial crimes in Nigeria.

Evolution of Telecommunication in Nigeria

There is no unified trend in the evolution or development of telecommunication in Nigeria. Telecommunication infrastructure was not uniformly developed across the country; it was and still is spatially distributed. As evident, many communities in Nigeria are yet to identify and subscribe to the 'global village' and the burgeoning market for digital economy and scientific crime prevention and control that is commonplace in contemporary societies. The quest for enhanced and speedy economic development and security arrangements informed the establishment of the first telecommunication infrastructure in Nigeria in 1886 under the British colonial administration. Ijewere and Gbandi (2012) contended that the first telecommunication facilities

in Nigeria were established in 1886. The introduction of public telegraph services linking Lagos by submarine cable along the West coast of Africa to Ghana, Sierra-Leone, Gambia and on to England was a greater priority than a robust telecommunication networks. At independence in 1960, with a population of roughly 40 million people, Nigeria only had about 18,724 phone lines for use. This translated to a 'tele-density' of about 0.5 telephone lines per 1,000 people. The telephone network consisted of 121 exchanges of which 116 were of the manual (magneto) type and only 5 were automatic.

Furthermore, Chieme and Obiora (2014) admitted that between 1960 and 1985 the telecommunication sector consists of the department of Post and Telecommunication (P & T) in charge of the internal network and a limited liability company, the Nigerian External Telecommunication (NET) limited, responsible for the external telecommunication provided the gateway to the outside world. The installed switching capacity at the end of 1985 was about 200,000 lines as against the planned target of about 460,000. All the exchanges were analogue with 1 phone line to 440 inhabitants, well below the target of 1 phone line to 100 inhabitants recommended by the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) for developing countries. The quality of service was unsatisfactory. The phone was unreliable, congested, expensive and customer-unfriendly.

From the preceding viewpoint, it is instructive to emphasize the fact that the Post and Telecommunication Department became a separate communication divisions in Nigeria in January 1985 with a new different appellations and portfolio. The former was changed to Nigerian Postal Services (NIPOST) while the latter was merged with NET to form the Nigerian Telecommunications Limited (NITEL). The rationale behind this development (particularly NITEL) was to harmonise the planning and co-ordination of the internal and external telecommunications services, rationalise investments in telecommunication development and provide accessible, efficient and affordable services that can assist in fast-tracking the economy and security networks of Nigeria. But NITEL could not achieve a maximal level of its objectives. The then monopolised public telecommunication system was characterised by exploitation of subscribers and poor management culture as well as dysfunctional, erratic and inconsistency in service delivery. All these impediments in the telecommunication firm took place under the military dictatorship in Nigeria.

Telecommunication is a major driver of any economy and a vehicle for improved crime prevention and control. By so doing, Nigeria is not left out in the race for scientific economic development and security/policing, as the years of manual device in security are fast ebbing away. Prior to the introduction of automatic and digitalised communication equipment in Nigeria, the economy and art of policing suffered reversal and major setbacks in terms of management, response to distress calls and tracking of hi-tech and high-profile

crimes. According to Ajiboye, Adeyinka, Adu and Wojuade (2007), the Nigerian telecommunication sector was grossly under-developed before the sector was deregulated under the military regime in 1992 with the establishment of a regulatory body, the Nigerian Communication Commission (NCC). Since then, the NCC has issued various licences to private telephone operators. These licences allowed Private Telephone Operators (PTOs) to roll out both fixed wireless telephone lines and analogue mobile phones. The return to democracy in 1999 necessitated the granting of licences to three GSM service providers: MTN, V-MOBILE and MTEL in 2001, with GLOBACOM joining in 2003 (Ajiboye *et al*, 2007). Admittedly, the transition to democratic rule in Nigeria on 29th May, 1999 saw the burning need to overhaul the then near-moribund and sole telecommunication sector (NITEL) in Nigeria for rapid national economic development and security. Therefore, the Federal Government of Nigeria, under the leadership of President Olusegun Obasanjo, thought it wise to deregulate the sector by granting licence to GSM service providers and subsequently privatised NITEL with a view to improving socioeconomic life/status of many Nigerians both in the rural and urban areas.

Impacts of Telecommunication on Nigerian Economy

Generally, the effects, relevance and function of telecommunication infrastructure in attracting economic development have become a subject of heated debate within the academia and in the telecommunication circle. Quite a good number of articles, seminars, workshops and paper presentations have been written and documented in various journals and media to account for this development. Accordingly, it needs only a step of academic exercise to collate, reconcile, support and strengthen these materials to reflect a robust and empirical working academic report (like this present paper) for a more critical social discourse and in-depth understanding of the subject matter. It is interesting to note that a greater version of the discussions or viewpoints of debaters/discussants on the impact of telecommunication on economic development is impressive and in the affirmative. For instance, available literature shows that an enhanced telecommunication sector is not only necessary for economic growth and development but also a precondition for effective participation in the highly competitive world markets and for attracting new investors (Salisu & Ibrahim, 2014 quoting Jacobson, 2003).

In the same vein, a plethora of scholars underscored the fact that telecommunications, especially the GSM and other wireless communication gadgets has a profound impact on the Nigerian economic development. To state the obvious, the importance of telecommunication evolution on the development of Nigerian economy is dramatic, positive and enormous. For instance, therefore, some discussants like Tella, Amaghionyeodiwe & Adesoye (2007) are of the belief that the development of a modern nation to its full potential in the contemporary world can never be attained without adequate telecommunication

infrastructure. This implies that the development of telecommunication infrastructure has significantly boosted the economic growth and development of Nigeria. Following the growing concern for Nigeria to develop and to keep abreast of the international best practices, the telecommunication industry witnessed another reform in 2000. This allows for private sector participation in the industry and also to incorporate institutional and regulatory reforms. Following these reforms, the sector appears to have experienced an impressive growth. This is because contributions of telecommunication to GDP had surged from 0.62% in 2001 when these reforms started for just one year, to about 8.53% in March 2013. ‘Tele-density’, which indicates both access to and size of telecommunication services, rose from 0.73% in 2001 to 68.68% in 2012. The installed capacity also experienced an unprecedented increase and various tariffs declined drastically by over 65% (see Nigerian Communications Commission, 2010 in www.ncc.gov.ng).

Telecommunication is becoming one of the most important industries in the world. Although, perhaps, not the intent of introducing a new technology, the implementation of the GSM standard has directly or indirectly contributed to economic growth and development, led to the creation of new employment opportunities and contributed significantly to the increase in GDP level of many countries like Nigeria (Wojuade, 2005). Clearly, contemporary Nigeria is telecommunication-driven and operates scientific and technologically-based economy, nationally and internationally wise. It is self-evidence that a significant aspect of our day-to-day activities in the country is electronically done. Such social and economic activities or services as solving crime problem, banking, shopping, medical services, entertainment, military, manufacturing, education, tourism, governance, office-work and transportation are now ICT-oriented. Unlike before where telecommunication was monopolised and grossly underdeveloped in Nigeria and the country’s economy manually structured, the acceptance of this global innovation in economic pursuits makes it possible, faster and proficient for Nigeria and many other developing countries of the world to proactively participate and favourably compete with others in the ever-changing world markets.

Telecommunication service providers have enriched the public treasury through payment of taxes to the government for public interest the common good. Was it not reported on *Nigeria Tribune Newspaper of July 16, 2004*, that government treasury has been enriched by the payment of over 200 Billion Naira in taxes and levies. National productivity has also been enhanced as travel times and associated risks have been reduced, business communications improved and the rural-urban divide narrowed down to an insignificant level. Social and family relationship and the security situation have also been significantly enhanced. A significant number of *not-for-profit* Corporate Social Responsibility (CRS) initiatives are being sponsored by the telecommunication operators (see *Nigeria Tribune Newspaper, 2004* cited in Ajiboye *et al.*, 2007).

The mobile industry is having a positive economic impact by generating substantial investment in infrastructure and employing a significant number of Nigerians, especially from the rural communities. During the past decade, approximately \$16 billion has been invested in projects related to mobile services. There are as many as 3 million jobs directly and indirectly related to mobile services in Nigeria (Chieme & Obiora, 2014).

Even earlier studies attest to the fact that the importance of telecommunication evolution cannot be overemphasized, for it has overwhelming positive impacts on the Nigerian economic development. On this note, Balogun (2000) theorised that GSM facilitates economic development as it provides easy and effective communication needs to stimulate and promote trade between Nigeria and its foreign partners in the world. Even at home, it plays an advocacy role in communicating government programmes by linking the entire sectors of the Nigerian economy together in order to achieve a common goal. Above all, it encourages investment which in the long-run promotes employment opportunities. At microeconomic level, the contribution of telecommunication to GDP in the country increased by 53% in 2003 and thus made the sector the third highest contributor ahead of the financial sector which has been in operation for about 100 years. It has attracted foreign direct investment of about \$5 billion. In respect to employment, over 135, 000 persons have been directly or indirectly employed by the telecommunication operators and their distribution chain components while the industry's support service sectors such as security, banking, insurance, consultancies (legal, accounting, Human Resources and tax) haulage, shipping and Information Technology as well as the Small and Medium scale Enterprises (SME) segment of the economy have also witnessed a significant level of increased activity and productivity, Balogun argued.

Impacts of Telecommunication on Crime Prevention and Control in Nigeria

Crime manifests in diverse and sophisticated forms or dimensions. It is an inanimate but mysterious phenomenon that can no longer be combated with only arms and ammunition. This is because most of the criminal activities are committed online, electronically. Classical example of these crimes are white-collar crime, corporate crime, examination malpractice, certificate racketeering or forgery, corruption, money laundry, school admission fraud, tax evasion and manipulation, employment fraud, and other cyber or computed-related crimes. According to the Internet Crime Reports of 2001 to 2010 published by the National White Collar Crime Center and the Federal Bureau of Investigation in the United States of America, Nigeria ranked second in 2001 among the top 10 countries in the world for telecommunication-related crimes or cybercrimes with 2.7%. In 2002, Nigeria retained the second position with 5.1% while it occupied third with 2.9% in 2003. In 2004, Nigeria still maintained the third position with 2.87%, even though this year recorded the lowest perpetration of internet crimes

involving Nigerians. In 2005, Nigeria moved to second position again with 7.9%, and third repeatedly in years 2006, 2007, 2008 and 2009 with 5.9%, 5.7%, 7.5% and 8.0% respectively. In 2010, Nigeria retained the third position with 5.8% (Amosun & Ige, 2013).

Although there is a downwards trend in the perpetration of crime using telecommunication facilities by Nigerians in 2010, this decline may not be unconnected with austere conditions caused by the global economic meltdown. Internet fraudsters could only thrive when the economic conditions of a given country is in good condition. However, it should be noted that the Internet Crime Reports only shows the ten most cyber lawless countries and leaves out the remaining countries below the global top 10 mark (Amosun & Ige, 2013)). As crime and criminals become more complex and on the increase, there is therefore an urgent need to embrace the rapid and wide information and communication coverage offered by telecommunication gadgets in order to tackle the growing crime problem in Nigeria. The evolution of telecommunication has positive impacts on our security sector, because it provides a stimulant to effective policing, protection of lives and property, law enforcement and order maintenance, and impartial justice administration. Hence, telecommunication infrastructure remains a potent social force to reckon with in the fight against crime in both the developing and the developed nations. Specifically, it is an important vehicle for crime prevention and control in Nigeria.

Crime Mapping Technology (CMT) is a strong telecommunication facility that can be used by security personnel to prevent and control crime in Nigeria. The CMT is of paramount importance to crime fighters and even the society at large owing to its extensive coverage and surveillance. This equipment enables different security agents and agencies to crack down hard on crime and criminals over wide expanse/areas. Raw data on crime can be easily extracted, collated, analysed, stored, transferred and retrieved with the aid of Crime Mapping Technology. In support of this standpoint, Ikoh (2012) noted that the importance of CMT lies in its wide coverage. It permits security personnel or analysts to view patterns and trends of crime over extensive areas. With Crime Mapping, raw data can be transformed into useful and meaningful information for effective policing as crime patterns become easily conceptualised rather than spending time to review report on statistical tables. Similarly, Nnam and Otu (2015) argued that Crime Mapping Technology makes it easier and faster for crime and security policymakers or professionals to convert crime data into useful pieces of information for effective prevention and control of crime in the society. Objective and timely application of this scientific device will certainly make for easy tracking down of criminals and quick rescue of crime victims.

Notwithstanding the tremendous impacts of telecommunication evolution in Nigeria, both formal and informal agents/agencies of crime/social

control in the country are still confronted with challenges in the prevention and control of computer or internet-based crimes. As law enforcement agents are fast becoming information and communication technology-compliant regarding crime detection, prediction, prevention and control, so criminals and their accomplice keep abreast of new anti-crime methods and patterns. Criminals devote their time, strength and resources to unravel the weaknesses of scientific crime-detection paraphernalia use by agents of social control. This shows that criminals are rational, organised and versed in computer application and manipulation to enable them beat security networks. Some of these criminals, to say the least, are even more competent in the areas of crime and security studies and ICT than many conventional security operatives and agencies. Little wonder, therefore, that Editorial on the online *pmnewsnigeria.com* stated thus: to reduce the rate of computer-related crimes in Nigeria, adequate training and retraining of those who man the forensic department of the various security agencies are necessary. In the recruitment process of the police, those who are knowledgeable in the affairs of computer science and technology should also be enlisted into the security formations in Nigeria (see Editorial, 2015).

Conclusion

The impacts of telecommunication evolution on economic development and crime prevention and control in Nigeria have been extensively discussed in this paper. Through the literature review, the evolution and impacts of telecommunications were examined, just as the basic assumptions of world system and economic development theories were integrated to form the theoretical framework for this paper. In line with the foregoing thoughtful analysis, it was discovered that Nigeria is ranked as the largest and fastest growing ICT market in Africa, as well as among the 10 fastest telecommunication growing economy in the highly competitive world markets. Regrettably, Nigeria as a nation has been consistently ranked second in the world and first in Africa in terms of perpetration of crimes using telecommunication facilities. Yet the paper reveals that the advantages of telecommunication in Nigeria outweigh its disadvantages. Based on this, we draw the conclusion that the evolution of telecommunication in Nigeria has had significant positive impacts on crime prevention and control in the country. The rationale for this impressive development is not far-fetched—the Nigerian economy and security agencies are now digitalised and computerised as well as strongly anchored in state-of-the-art science and technology—e-economies and e-security. Nigeria was able to attain this great height and status by keeping abreast of scientific economic policies and security dynamics in the complex and competitive contemporary world of ours via the application of ICT, especially GSM and other wireless communication devices. Thus, we conclude that the most effective measure to be adopted in combating crime in Nigeria is

constant and proper use of high-tech and up-to-date telecommunication accoutrements for crime and security studies.

In addition, specifically, it is established in this paper that the evolution of telecommunication infrastructure such MTN, GLO, ETISALAT, V-MOBILE, etc in Nigeria since 2001 through to the present has generated a lot of employment opportunities and wealth creation in the country. That is, the Nigerian telecommunication sector is currently employing a remarkable number of professionals, skilled, semi-skilled and even unskilled workforce/manpower to support both the public and private economies. It has equally improved the local content (economy) and Gross Domestic Product (GDP) of the country since the incorporation of science and technology into the economy for maximal performance and advancement in economic stride the world over. As a result, Private Investments (PI), Small and Medium scale Enterprises (SME) and Foreign Direct Investments (FDI) have drastically improved and accorded international recognition in recent times.

Recommendations

From the foregoing, the researchers teased out the following recommendations:

1. Given the significant impacts and indispensability of telecommunication evolution, the Federal Government of Nigeria (FGN) and its allied agencies like the Nigerian Communication Commission (NCC) and security agencies should regulate the activities of telecommunication service providers to ensure quality service delivery as and when due. This development will have far-reaching positive implications on the economy and crime prevention and control crime as well as reduction in exploitation and extortion of members of the public.
2. Since telecommunication is imperative and acts as a catalyst for rapid economic development and crime prevention and control in Nigeria, there is a pressing need for the FGN to make telecommunication networks or services efficient, readily available, affordable and accessible to both the rural and urban subscribers.
3. Efforts should be made by the NCC to close the telecommunication lacuna between rural and urban dwellers for socioeconomic equilibrium and improved cross-sectional economic development. Besides, there is an urgent need to have a central database that contains biometric data of Nigerian citizens and their visitors for easy and quick detection, prediction, prevention and control of crime and criminals.
4. The Nigerian government should encourage its social institutions, namely, education, health, banking, transportation and security agencies to key into the ever-growing scientific trends in the telecommunication industry for an improved and a rapid economic development and protection of lives and property. In other words, the ongoing cash-less policies and registration of

mobile phone numbers will assist tremendously in crime prevention and control in Nigeria if objectively and sincerely applied to the letter.

5. All financial institutions in Nigeria should establish anti-fraud department and equip such with modern fraud detection devices and specially trained manpower. But this has to be done in collaboration with formal security agencies in the country. Interestingly, there is a law against cybercrime and other crimes committed through the use of telecommunication infrastructure in Nigeria. The law, to a large extent, will serve as a deterrent to both offenders and would-be offenders who may contemplate committing cyber space crimes.

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