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TECHNOLOGY AND THE CHALLENGES OF INTERNAL SECURITY MANAGEMENT IN ANAMBRA STATE, NIGERIA

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Abstract

Anambra State has faced immense but diverse challenges, including persistent security threats such as armed robbery, kidnapping, land grabbing, violence, and a surge in separatist agitations by non-state actors. Part of these challenges is linked to the ravaging insecurity, poor leadership, corruption, and conflicts that have become recurring issues in history. While technology has the potential to enhance security operations through the use of surveillance cameras, digital communication, and forensic tools, their deployment in Anambra State remains limited due to challenges like inadequate ICT skills among personnel, lack of government commitment to deploying resources, and concerns about potential biases in predictive technologies. Hence, this study examined the role of technology in addressing the internal security challenges of Anambra State. Specifically, it evaluates the effectiveness of technology-based interventions, identifies their limitations, and explores its potential for strengthening sustainable peace and security. Adopting the technological determinism theory and relying on survey and documentary methods of data collection, this study found that the lack of technological devices in the security process is hindering effective internal security management in Anambra State. The study concluded that the restoration of normalcy and stability in Anambra State necessitates a strategic focus on technological innovation, capacity building through training, and sustainable funding of the security sector. Based on the findings, the study recommends the deployment of advanced surveillance infrastructure across multiple locations, particularly in identified crime hot spots, to enhance the ability of security agencies to monitor human activities and address the proliferation of weapons.

Keywords: Keywords: Anambra, Internal Security, Technology, Technology Determinism Theory

Introduction

Since independence, Nigeria has grappled with complex and multifaceted challenges that have undermined national stability and development. Among the most persistent are insecurity, weak leadership, corruption, and recurrent conflicts. Historically, episodes such as the Nigerian Civil War (1967–1970), the Boko Haram insurgency, banditry, kidnapping, armed robbery, communal clashes, farmers-herdsmen conflicts, and various other criminal activities have posed significant threats to the country's social and political foundations. The civil war alone inflicted extensive human and material devastation, and its aftermath arguably marked the beginning of recurrent security crises in post-war

Nigeria. Scholars such as Nwangbo and Odigbo (2013) attribute this persistence partly to the retention of colonial-era security structures, which were primarily designed to suppress dissent rather than address internal security comprehensively.

In the last two decades of democratic governance, Nigeria's security landscape has grown increasingly precarious. The persistence of insecurity underscores the inability of successive governments to adopt proactive and decisive frameworks capable of ensuring safety and stability. Igbuzor (2011) rightly contends that Nigeria's insecurity is largely a consequence of governance failure, reflected in the state's inability to deliver basic services or meet the essential needs of its population. The resulting frustration and deprivation have created a pool of disaffected individuals who are easily mobilized toward violence. The proliferation of insecurity in Nigeria threatens to unravel national cohesion. Beyond terrorism, food insecurity, financial vulnerability, and health-related threats, the state has witnessed a surge in militant groups, urban crime, ritual killings, cultism, and the erosion of moral and religious authority. Widespread corruption, a prevailing culture of impunity, and the collapse of social and political institutions have deepened these crises, necessitating urgent and sustainable interventions.

The creation of Anambra State on 27 August 1991 was initially celebrated as a milestone of socio-political progress. However, more than three decades later, the state continues to experience stunted development, which may be attributed to persistent security challenges. The situation is further compounded by politically motivated crises, the influence of wealthy elites, and the prevalence of high-profile kidnappings, which have discouraged both residents and returnees from fully engaging in local development. These internal threats have resulted in widespread loss of lives, destruction of property, displacement of populations, and disruption of socioeconomic activities. Since the return to democratic rule in 1999, successive administrations in Anambra State have struggled to provide effective responses to these challenges.

One of the greatest challenges of security management in Anambra State, and Nigeria as well is corruption and ill-equipped apparatus of security agents in Nigeria. The extent of security challenges which faces Anambra State today shows that security agencies are unable to restore peace and order in the state system. Hence, security management has been on a downward slide. The persistent security problems and the inability of security agencies in ensuring safety of life and property in the state are worrisome. The sources of security challenges in Anambra State are numerous and cannot be blamed on one part of the system alone. They vary from the government to the security agencies down to the people in the society. On the part of security agencies, there are many inadequacies and problems which stand as obstacles responsible for their abysmal performance. Most Nigerians describe security agencies especially the Nigeria police as a motley crowd of lazy, inefficient, corrupt uniformed men and women contributing to the perpetrating of crimes such as mass killing, intimidation, rape, extrajudicial killings/summary execution and other heinous crimes against citizens they are paid to protect. The

escalation of violence in the north of Nigeria perpetrated by Boko Haram today is linked with the police extra-judicial killing of the leader of the group, "Mohammed Yusuf" in July 2009 in Borno State.

The Nigeria police Force (2008) in their annual report noted that the police is handicapped because of combination of factors that plagued them, among which are; lack of resources, poor government support, poor condition of service, lack of appropriate and adequate training and ill-equipped workforce. Coupled with these, are the issue of police extortion, corruption and other vices common among the police system which contributes to their lack of efficiency. Police corruption is a serious issue because they are expected to be moral as law-enforcement agents. If the police which were employed and catered for with the people's money to protect and detect crimes are themselves corrupt and also a party to crimes, then the society is at the mercy and grace of the criminal. The above among many others contribute to the Police inefficiency and the challenges of Security management in Anambra State under the past and present administrations. However, some security problems in Anambra State are rooted in the perceived inequality in the state's political space, high rate of poverty in the land, increasing spate of unemployment, inequitable distribution of state resources, corruption among top government officials, and poor management of communal conflicts by appropriate government institutions, among others. This study therefore examines the impact of technology on internal security management in Anambra State, Nigeria.

Statement of the Problem

There is no doubt that insecurity has remained one of the contemporary challenges facing many societies as it constitutes threat to lives and property, affects economic activities and discourages local, and international investors, which invariably slow down socioeconomic growth and development. Anambra State in recent times recorded unprecedented security problems such as militancy, armed robbery, banditry, kidnapping for ransom, conflicts, land grabbing, cultism and other social vices. Thus, Friedrich Ebert Stiftung (2021) itemized how the five states in the Southeast were affected by insecurity. He explained that Anambra State recorded 37 deaths (25 civilians and 12 security agents), and 33 threatening injuries among civilians in 2021 alone (Odigbo & Odigbo, 2023).

These fatalities and destruction of public and private property have in the last few years occurred geometrically. More recently, a deadly attack in Nibo community and Nodu-Okpuno, all in Awka South Local Government Area, led to the death of thirteen persons while many people sustained various degree of injuries, and property worth of millions of naira were destroyed (Obianeri, 2024). Indeed, security personnel and security infrastructure in Anambra State was also under severe threat. For instance, police stations in Uruagu, Nnewi North Local Government Area, Ogbunaka police station in Orumba South LGA, and Ihiala LGA secretariats have been separately under varying degree of attacks. Despite these

threats, the role of technology in mitigating violent confrontations and enhancing the protection of lives and property in Anambra State has not been systematically explored.

Unknown gun men (UGM), political killers and all sorts of violence constitute danger to the economy of

Anambra State. These impediments must be more determinedly addressed to enhance internal security management in the state. Aluko (2011, p.12) argued that the major problems that confront the state are both leadership and follower-ship. Anambra State which happens to be the focal point of the study, the issue of internal security management over the years has raised more questions than answer. The condition of the state in the recent times poses a great worry especially, with the emergence of unknown gun men. Regrettably, multiple secrete hideouts are seen everywhere in the state with young men out to attack people within the axis of their operation. More worries according to Okafor are the mass exit of wealthy people from the state, the engagement of military who also find it difficult to fight the boys and the involvement of local vigilante (Ebube-agu) to assist the military under joint military action to lead in the attack. The nature of insecurity in the southeast especially, Anambra state is so alarming that so many communities were over time taken over by the unknown gun men otherwise known as non state actors occupying peoples' properties. As such, the study examined the impact of technology on internal security management in Anambra State, Nigeria.

Literature Review

Technology and Internal Security Management

The emergence of new technologies has created opportunities in peace and security, particularly in conflict prevention and internal security management. A growing body of scholarly work highlights the role of technology in enhancing the internal security of states, suggesting that its application has become indispensable for peace and stability. The persistent security challenges, often resulting in the destruction of lives, property, and the environment, call for a holistic approach through the effective deployment of technology.

Technology refers to the application of scientific knowledge to solve human or environmental problems. In the context of this study, it is understood as the use of scientific knowledge in managing internal security issues within the state. Internal security and technological environments are closely intertwined because technology shapes the nature of warfare and the missions that security agencies are expected to carry out. Consequently, state military and security agencies must integrate advanced technologies, which in turn give rise to new tactical, operational, and strategic concepts, as well as necessary organizational adaptations.

Internal security, on the other hand, refers to protection from threats or attacks by individuals, organizations, or nations that undermine the stability and well-being of a state and its citizens as a whole, rather than targeting specific individuals. Such threats often manifest in violence against people and destruction of property, although they may also include other unlawful activities. Internal security, therefore, requires governments—working with legislative bodies—to safeguard the state and its citizens against national crises through a combination of political power, diplomacy, economic strategies, military force, and other forms of authority (Kemi, 2016).

Internal security management in Anambra State under Prof. Charles Soludo, the executive governor of Anambra State focuses on a comprehensive approach, including the new Anambra State Homeland Security Law 2025. Key initiatives include Operation Udogachi, a joint task force, the establishment of a new state security outfit called Agunaechemba, and an emphasis on community policing and technological integration like mandatory tenant and hotel registration. The strategy also includes a "carrot-and-stick" approach, offering amnesty to repentant criminals while cracking down on illegal activities, including those involving fake native doctors and pastors.

Use of Technology and Improved Internal Security

High rate of crime in both urban and rural communities of Nigeria call for evaluation of the existing security architecture of the country. New technology has huge implications for policing. The advent of Technologies such as telecommunication devices, computers, GPS tracking, smart phones, and biometric etc., backed by access to large amounts of public and police-specific data. This means that the technologies will be a potential tool for officers to be better informed, improve intelligence and investigative capabilities, better access to criminal records and prevention of crime in the community.

The role of technology in police institutions and police practices has long been recognized as relevant and ambivalent (Ogunbameru, 2008). Technological advances are particularly relevant for policing because they are seen to influence the organization and practices of police in the ways that intimately connect to the police function of crime control. This will bring new and more efficient means of crime detection and control, communication among police, and police transportation, all these influence the police job of fighting crimes and affect the level of legitimate information police receive from the public and relevant bodies of governments (Simon, 2004). ICT in policing make possible the collection, storage and rapid dissemination of information, it enhances public safety and reduces crime.

In many cases, ICT defines a term in multiple ways against different contexts. Although, in principle, it is considered to a larger term, to indicate the use of communication devices such as radios and telephones. Mobile, satellite devices and channels, computers, etc. and management information aids acquisition, sovereignty, dissemination, processing, storage, and retrieval of a national security bill may indicate to a

government that the absence of anything and everything that can endanger the global peace, progress, development and peace within society. Information and communication technology has always proven itself to be a powerful double-edged sword capable of good for both sides, which all depends on the skills and values of the user or users in using that power in one or both directions.

Hofstede stated in 2002 that one of the most important features of the digital age is the use of new communication technologies for the lives of digital citizens. However, it addresses the factors that cannot be controlled, which have been left behind by people and governments. Technology can be leveraged to resolve conflicts and foster peace in regions affected by crises. Its applications include arms control, non-violent defense, disaster management, human rights protection, strengthening the global economy, advancing medical innovation, preventing wars, combating terrorism, and promoting sustainable development. The convergence of multiple technologies further enhances these prospects, making technology a powerful instrument in improving internal security.

Drones and the Reduction of Crime Rates

Drone surveillance in areas where suspicious activities occur provides valuable real-time data, Surveillance data from drones gathered in areas where suspicious activity is taking place can also provide valuable information, especially when this real time information is combined with other data sources. Information like this can help establish connections between people and events and identify the location of terrorists and even make predictions of where they may move to in the future. Drone is an unmanned aerial vehicle that is either operated by human from remote location or can work autonomously as per set mode.

Drone is something like a flying robot, the aircraft are usually controlled from a dedicated remote unit, can manage all things in air due to an intelligent software program. Drones have a long and established history that dates back to centuries, but presently, there is a paradigm shift, and drone can be used in combating crime such as carrying out surveillance, detecting crime and assisting crime investigators to locate crime hot spots and the hideouts of criminals. Drone possesses so many on board working sensors like GPS that assists the drone for proper flight mode control (Phillips, 2016). The origin of drone can be traced with special techniques designed to provide relevant information to the military. The very first aircraft with reusable type radio control mechanism was designed in the thirties and it worked like a base model. Later, the military drones were developed with classic sensors and camera units, were fixed inside the missiles. Furthermore, (Engberts & Gillissen, 2016) assert that, with so much advancement in technology, we can easily find so many variants of drones. Few are used for military applications but others are finding the potential role in many big companies.

Cavoukian (2012) stated that unmanned aerial vehicles refer to robot planes, pilotless airplanes, remotely piloted vehicles, remotely piloted air-craft, and different terms which portray airplane that flies heavily influenced by an administrator with no individual on board. Most unmanned aerial vehicles featured with camera record and transmit photograph pictures to the ground control station. Propelled video investigation can apply human-made brainpower for gathering and handling extensive measures of video information. This equipment, when combined with facial recognition (FR) programming, can be utilized to follow people while in broad daylight operations. Bento (2008) spotlighted different types of fundamental unmanned aerial vehicles innovations which include; smaller unmanned aerial vehicles, tactical unmanned aerial vehicles and strategic unmanned aerial vehicles, miniaturized scale unmanned aerial vehicles. Miniaturized scale is shorter than unmanned aerial vehicles which are the smallest unmanned aerial vehicles innovations, these devices fly at low pace (Gertler 2012).

The unmanned aerial vehicles' work in "urban ravines" or inside structures, flying along with lobbies, conveying tuning in and recording gadgets, transmitters, or small-scale TV cameras. Miniaturized scale unmanned aerial vehicles are tinier than small scale unmanned aerial vehicles', weighing as less as 100 grams; lower than usual unmanned aerial vehicles' weigh under 30 kilograms and fly at elevations somewhere in the range of 150 and 300meters. Miniaturized scale and smaller unmanned aerial vehicles are, for the most part, utilized in conventional/business applications. Moreover, tactical unmanned aerial vehicles are heavier, can fly at higher elevations, and fundamentally utilize to help military applications (Gertler 2012).

These unmanned aerial vehicles have six subcategories; close range, short-range, medium-range, long-range, continuance, and medium altitude long endurance. Long-range unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) utilize further developed innovation, regularly; this implies a satellite connection or another stage, which goes about as a handoff to defeat the correspondence issue between the ground station and UAV a problem brought about by the world's shape. Strategic UAV's at higher heights in general is more massive stage with longer flight reaches, and continuance (Carrasoca & Encorsa, 2014). The high-altitude long endurance (HALE) UAVs are the heaviest UAVs, that have maximum takeoff weight of as much as 12,000 kilograms and a most extreme flight elevation of around 20,000 meters. These enormous stages can convey bigger and heavier payloads and increasingly refined gear. Many countries have imposed restrictions on the drone usage or crew-less air vehicles for commercial purposes and have confined drone uses for military and defence functionaries. The United Kingdom, in 2010 and India in 2014 imposed a ban on the use of drones in public spaces citing privacy and security concerns (Yadav, 2019).
On the other hand, the drone in its nature has the capacity to provide information for crime detection and can help for crime reduction. For instance, the drones can assist with crowd control (Al-Sheary, & Almagbile, 2017) and perhaps crime control. Large gatherings like protests, concerts, street parties where police officers' presence is required to prevent crimes can be enhanced by drones. Monitoring on the

ground level can be exceptionally challenging but the drones can easily see everything from the sky. Furthermore, intelligence gathered by the drones can help to forestall peace and reduce crime waves. It also enables police officers to know if there is a person who needs help but unable to request for assistance or to locate the target without endangering bystanders especially in crowded areas. The drones equipped with night vision cameras can be utilized to provide support for monitoring unauthorized trespassers, pursuit smugglers, and identifying the suspects (Lega, Ferrara, Persechino, & Bishop, 2014). In this sense, crimes are reduced to the barest minimum in communities.

Thus, crime reduction is seen from the viewpoint that there is no or lesser security threats or attacks from people, organizations or countries which may likely impact negatively on the wellbeing of a nation and its citizen as a whole. No doubt, drones can promote community safety. For instance, with the advance information from their "eye in the sky," police patrol units can quickly assess dangerous situations and plan accordingly. This can protect both police officers and citizens. The drone's video feed may reveal how many suspects are present, where they are, and whether they are armed. This knowledge can provide a safer outcome for everyone involved and the community where crime is perpetrated.

Research Methodology

Population and Sampling

The population of the study consists of security personnel from the Nigeria Police Force, Department of State Security, Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps, Nigeria Army, Nigeria Immigration Services, and NDLEA. The population of the study also includes traditional leaders, and officials of Anambra State government. The sample used for the study was selected using stratified random sampling technique to ensure representation across the different demographic groups (security personnel, government and residents), and a minimum of 50 respondents will be interviewed. The purposive sampling technique was used to select the key informants from these identified security outfits due to their expertise and involvement in internal security operations and management in Anambra State.

Methods of Data Collection

The study utilized both survey and documentary methods of data collection. The survey method was implemented through face-to-face key informant interviews, aimed at eliciting information from a broad spectrum of individuals, including community leaders, professionals, and residents with firsthand knowledge of security challenges in Nigeria, and Anambra State in particular. These experts, by virtue of their specialized knowledge and practical experience, were expected to provide deeper insights into the nature of the problems and to suggest feasible recommendations for addressing them

Table 3.1 Key Informant Interview Conducted

S/N	Organization	Designation (To be interviewed)	Mode/place of interview	Date
1	Nigeria Police Force, Anambra State Command, Awka	Deputy Commissioner of Police, Assistant Commissioner of Police, Chief Superintendent of Police(3), Superintendent of Police(2), Deputy Superintendent of Police, Assistant Superintendent of Police, Police Inspectors(4).	Face-to-face, Awka	25/06/2025
2	Nigerian Security and Civil Defence Corps, Anambra State Command, Awka	Deputy Commandant, Assistant Commandant, Chief Superintendent of Corps(3), Superintendent of Corps(2), Inspector of Corps(3)	Face- to- face interview, Anambra state	17/05/2025
3	Anambra State Government Official	Commissioner for Information, Anambra State, SSA Security	Face- to- face interview, Awka	22/05/2025
4	Traditional Rulers	Igwe Lilu, Uzu Awka & Igwe Ihiala	Lilu, Awka & Ihiala	30/05/2025
5	Department of State Security, Anambra State	Assistant Director (3)	Face-to-face interview, Awka	02/06/2025
6	Nigeria Army, Onitsha	Major, Captain(2), Lieutenant(2)	Face-to-face interview, Onitsha	04/06/2025
7	Nigeria Immigration Service, Anambra State	Deputy Comptroller of Immigration, Assistant Comptroller of Immigration(2), Chief Superintendent of Immigration	Face-to-face interview, Awka	06/06/2025
8	NDLEA, Anambra State	Deputy Narcotic Officer, Assistant Narcotic Officer(2), Chief Narcotic Officer(2)	Face-to-face interview, Awka	10/06/2025

Source: Designed by the researcher

The secondary data for this study were obtained from official documents of the Government of Anambra State, Police Security Reports, as well as documentaries on Anambra State. In addition to these official sources, the study also relied on other secondary materials, including textbooks, journal articles, periodicals, conference papers, internet resources, newspapers, magazines, and other relevant publications.

Methods of Data Analysis

This study adopted content analysis and logical deduction to analyze both primary and secondary data. These methods were deemed appropriate since the survey and documentary approaches generated largely qualitative data.

Content Analysis

Content analysis was employed as the main technique for examining the data. It is a qualitative research method that involves the systematic evaluation of textual materials with the aim of making valid and replicable inferences through interpretation and coding. According to Asika (2006), qualitative descriptive analysis entails summarizing information obtained in verbal form so that appropriate analytical reasoning can be applied to uncover relationships among variables. In this study, content analysis allowed for the categorization and interpretation of views expressed during interviews, as well as the systematic review of documentary sources.

Logical Deduction

Logical deduction was applied alongside content analysis to ensure coherence and consistency in data interpretation. This approach enabled the researcher to draw reasoned conclusions from the data, moving from general observations to specific insights on the dynamics of internal security in Anambra State. Logical deduction helped in aligning findings with the research questions and objectives, thereby strengthening the validity of the study.

Results and Discussion of Findings

Use of Technology and Internal Security in Anambra State

The use of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) in the provision of solution to human, social and industrial challenges has proven successful in many nations and Nigeria should not be an exception (Prasad & Rohokale, 2020). According to the World Bank report, ICT‘s consists of the hardware, software, networks, and media for the collection, storage, processing, transmission and presentation of information (voice, data, text, images), as well as related services (Prasad & Rohokale, 2020). Over the last few years, there seems to be alarming increase in levels of crime and attacks especially in Anambra State. Unfortunately, Bassey (2020) noted that this situation is spreading across Nigeria and other Africa countries, with countries such as Cameroun, Chad and Niger has now recording disquieting increases in crime levels and attacks. Such attacks Killed over 1,000 Civilians in Nigeria in February 2015 alone (Prasad & Rohokale 2020). Thus, there have been various calls for the use of ICT tools to tackle security problem in Nigeria and specifically Anambra State. In fact, Computer Warehouse Group Plc (CWG) and Huawei have jointly advised the federal government to deploy Internet Protocol Surveillance as a technological solution to insecurity challenges facing the country.

The persistence of insecurity has been claiming precious lives of citizenry and government efforts to tackle the problem through various menial methods and approaches such as the use of police, military, vigilante and local hunters seem not to be yielding adequate success. But deploying technology, through the use of ICT devices such as computer, internet, mobile phone, close circuit television (CCTV), surveillance cameras, social network analysis, biometry surveillance, data mining, satellite imagery, and IP devices, the satellite would definitely produce the desired results. In one of the interviews, the respondent argued that the use of technology for security is cheap and it was like almost every nation except majority of African states have gone technological in the act of providing security to the populace. According to the respondent:

> Technology-driven surveillance and intelligence gathering are comparatively less costly in terms of personnel and logistics. Recent reports indicate that the United States, alongside several countries in Europe, Asia, the Middle East, and a few in Africa, are proactively addressing national security threats by leveraging advances in information and communication technologies. Nigerians, for instance, observed how the United States deployed its security architecture to track the Boston Marathon bombers in April 13, 2013, as well as its more recent use of precision strikes involving bunker-buster munitions against Iranian nuclear facilities. These developments underscore the fact that contemporary security management extends beyond the mere arming of personnel.
> (Face-to-face key informant interview, 2025)

In contemporary society, the military and other security agencies must integrate advanced technologies to address security challenges effectively. Such integration has the potential to generate new tactical, operational, and strategic concepts, as well as necessitate corresponding organizational adaptations. The cutting edge of technological development for security services is likely to focus on enhanced intelligence and reconnaissance capabilities, alongside the creation of advanced weapons systems and munitions. These include sensors and other electronic technologies, as well as modernized ships, aircraft, tanks, missiles, bombs, and ammunition—all designed to combat the multifaceted dynamics of insecurity within society.

In an interview with a traditional ruler in one of the local governments, the respondent expressed deep frustration with the prevailing security situation, stressing the urgent need for the deployment of any form of technology that could restore normalcy. According to the respondent:

> "The community lives under constant fear, as beyond the Monday sit-at-home, no one undertakes any activity without the risk of molestation, killing, or kidnapping. For instance, before organizing a burial, families must first seek permission in the bush; those who stay out late cannot safely return home; and even farming now requires permission. People are being killed like rats. The government must deploy every available technological option to end the crisis" (Face-to-face key informant interview, 2025)

Corroborating the above, another traditional ruler decried the state of abandonment of the many villages in Anambra state. From the discussion, the respondent stated:

> "People no longer return home. Fear is everywhere—fears of being killed or kidnapped. We cannot sleep with our eyes closed, and our villages have become frightening places. It is difficult to imagine the level of insecurity we face. If the

> government believes technology can help, then they must act quickly to save us. You cannot save a dead person; the intervention must happen now. Just as the state government recently launched an attack on fake traditionalists, we also expect greater efforts like that to protect our communities." (Face-to-face key informant interview, 2025)

Indeed, the Anambra State government has recently responded by incorporating technology in the fight against insecurity in the state. For instance, the establishment of Virtual Emergency Operations Centres represents a vital step toward a technology-driven security system in Anambra. The deployment of new devices for intelligent monitoring — ranging from biometric capturing and speech-recognition software to intelligent video surveillance and swipe-card access — marks a significant improvement over previous security strategy. By establishing Virtual Emergency Operations Centres, the state government also encourages the public to adopt these new advances in intelligent monitoring, particularly in safeguarding important buildings and business areas across the state. Based on the conducted interview, we validate our first hypothesis: the use of technology can improve internal security in Anambra State.

Use of Drones and Crime Reduction in Anambra State

The application of drones is premised on their potential as an innovative technology capable of conducting surveillance, detecting crimes, and monitoring criminal activities and incidents. Drones capture aerial images that can serve as legal records, which may later be used as evidence. Law enforcement agencies can utilize this technology by programming drones to fly over designated areas using Trimble propeller systems, with data transmitted in real time to electronic devices. Once a flight is initiated, the drone autonomously scans the area without requiring manual piloting.

During each flight, drones conduct accurate surveys of the environment, capturing millions of images and data points. The information collected is then uploaded into specialized computer software that filters, processes, and collates the data. Once analyzed, the results are made accessible to police services and other law enforcement agencies. In Nigeria, there is growing empirical evidence supporting drone deployment. For example, Abiodun (2020) reports that drones/UAVs are effective for aerial surveillance, mapping, and intelligence gathering in combating kidnapping, armed robbery, and communal killings. In Enugu, quadcopter have been used to monitor construction site safety, detecting unsafe conditions and preventing accidents in real time (Okaka, Nnadi & Ajaelu, 2020).

In another interview the respondent praised the efficacy of drone in detecting crimes and enabling the security operatives to police the communities. The respondent stated as follows:

> "We are in the age of technology, and since the invention of drones, societies have become increasingly safer. Drones significantly enhance the operations of security personnel in tackling crime, serving as a powerful tool and enabler in crime detection. I strongly recommend that every state government, as well as the federal government, procure as many drones as possible to strengthen security operations. In this way, crimes in Nigeria—and Anambra State in particular, which is currently under severe

> security threats—can be reduced to the barest minimum." (Face-to-face key informant interview, 2025)

Indeed, the efficacy of drone technology is not in doubt. In fact, the former governor of Anambra State once advocated the use of drones in addressing insecurity in the state. While testing newly acquired drones, former Governor Willie Obiano emphasized that deploying drones alongside other hi-tech surveillance equipment to fight crime would mark a turning point in combating insecurity in Anambra (Abimbola, 2014 as cited in Channels, 2014). Appendix 4.2 shows an image of the former governor conducting a test of the newly acquired drones designated for deployment in the state. Based on our discussion conducted, we validate our second hypothesis: the use of drones enhances the reduction of crime rates in Anambra State.

Deployment of Closed-Circuit Television (CCTV) for Surveillance and Protection of Communities

The increasing reliance on Closed-Circuit Television (CCTV) surveillance as a primary tool for crime prevention has attracted widespread attention from governments, law enforcement agencies, and scholars worldwide. CCTV has proven effective in urban areas by deterring criminal activity, enhancing public safety, and providing valuable evidence for prosecution.

Ratcliffe et al. (2009) argue that the effectiveness of CCTV in reducing crime depends on various factors, including camera placement and integration with local law enforcement. Their findings highlight that results can be mixed across different neighborhoods. Beyond crime reduction, it is also essential to consider the broader social and ethical implications of surveillance, particularly in rural communities.

CCTV is a video surveillance technology used in both public and private sectors to prevent crime. Locations with CCTV cameras often experience lower crime rates, as offenders tend to avoid areas where their actions may be recorded. According to Boss Security (2022), the presence of CCTV cameras in public spaces provides reassurance to residents, who feel safer knowing that help can be summoned in case of trouble. Additionally, CCTV systems generate video evidence that can serve as reliable proof—either exonerating the innocent or refuting false alibis of suspects—thus offering stronger reliability than eyewitness accounts. According to Welsh and Farrington (2002), CCTV is most effective in reducing vehicle crime in car parks, though it has less impact in public transport and city-centre settings. In a more recent long-term study by Piza et al. (2025) demonstrated that CCTV in Newark reduced auto theft during its 3-4 year implementation phase, though the deterrent effect weakened over longer duration.

In recognition of these benefits, the Anambra State government has enacted laws to encourage the use of technology in the security sector. For example, Section 14 of the 2025 Homeland Security Law mandates hotel proprietors to install CCTV cameras to monitor activities within their premises. Non-compliance is punishable and may result in closure of the establishment. Hotels, being commercial establishments that

provide lodging, meeting spaces, restaurants, and other facilities to both travelers and residents, accommodate a large number of people daily. Ensuring their security is therefore critical, given the reliance of diverse populations on these spaces. Based on the foregoing analysis, we validate our third hypothesis that the deployment of Closed-Circuit Television (CCTV) for surveillance enhances the protection of communities in Anambra State.

Summary, Conclusion and Recommendations

The study examined the role of technology in relation to the challenges of internal security management in Anambra State. Specifically, it investigated the role of technological innovations in addressing insecurity trends, with the aim of providing recommendations on how technology can be effectively leveraged to promote peace and stability in the state. To guide the inquiry, three hypotheses were formulated: (i) the use of technology can improve internal security in Anambra State, (ii) the use of drones can contribute to crime reduction, and (iii) the deployment of closed-circuit television (CCTV) for surveillance enhances community protection. The study adopted both survey and documentary methods of data collection. The survey involved face-to-face key informant interviews, while secondary data were obtained from official documents and gazette reports of the Anambra State government, police security reports, documentaries and other relevant materials.

Findings reveal that while technology contributes to addressing internal security challenges, it has not been adequately utilized in Anambra State. The study concludes that a holistic strategy—integrating technological tools with broader institutional, social, and community-based approaches—is necessary to effectively combat insecurity in Anambra State. In the light of the above findings, the study recommended that Anambra State government should invest massively in acquisition of technology for security purposes. Secondly, there is a need for adequate surveillance equipment to be installed in many locations in the state especially; in hotpot crime areas to enable security agencies monitor people and weapon proliferation.

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