New Media and National Security in Nigeria

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Abstract
The advancement of internet has grown social interaction across all sphere of life. The far-reaching ability and anonymity it provides have advanced the communication patterns of citizen to citizen, citizen to government and vice versa. This advancement as brought by the new media revolutionised the communication pattern of social interaction as well as government operations. National security is one of the most precarious aspects of governance in any country today. Several governments across the globe have resorted to use of social media platforms in their operations including interactions and communication with their citizens. This study examined the use of new media in enhancing national security in Nigeria. Premised on the technological determinism and structural functional theories, the researchers employed in-depth interviews conducted among communications and security experts in Nigeria to examine the use of new media in enhancing national security in Nigeria among the respondents. Findings of the study revealed that there is a link between ineffective use of new media and the spread of security threats in the country. Thus, the researchers recommended a well-coordinated communication strategic plan for the use of new media and also, the reinforcement of conflict sensitive reporting by Nigerian media.

Keywords: New media, National security, Social Interaction, Governance, Freedom of Information Act, National Communication Act