SOCIAL MEDIA AND NATIONAL SECURITY IN NIGERIA

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Introduction

Social Media

- A vital and integral part of modern life
- It has changed the dynamics of social interaction
- It avails multiple platforms for unfiltered information dissemination
- Of concern to governments as relates to their national security
UK 2001 riots – 133 million pounds of damage

Tunisia riots – 219 lives lost and 2.5 billion dollars damage

Nigeria 2012 – Kaduna 20 lives lost, 5 places of worship destroyed

Ogar – About 10000 anti national security posts per week as at October 2012
SCOPE

Conceptual Definitions
Overview
Issues
Effects
Challenges
Prospects
Strategies
Conceptual Definition

Social Media – “technologies that facilitate social interaction, make possible cooperation and enable sharing of any information”

- Bryer et al
Conceptual Definition

National Security – “the aggregate of security interests of all individuals, political entities, human associations and ethnic groups which make up the nation”

- Obasanjo
Overview of Social Media and National Security

- 2001 – introduction of mobile communications

- Emergence of twitter, youtube, fb, intagram

- Increased sophistication of phones gave more people access to social media

- Fb users grew from 4.3 million in March to 5.1 million in September 2012
Overview of Social Media and National Security

- Social media used to broadcast death of Mohammed Yusuf in 2009

- Incited sect members to more violence

- Social media used to coordinated fuel subsidy protests in 2012

- Nigeria lost over one billion USD
Some Issues Involved in Social Media and National Security

- Policy
- Multiplicity of agencies
- Manpower
Some Issues Involved in Social Media and National Security

- Policy
  - Gives an outline of government's position
  - Draft policy for ICT 2012
  - Social media not captured
Some Issues Involved in Social Media and National Security

- Multiplicity of Agencies

  - Social media in purview of NCC, NITDA, NBC

  - Little synergy between agencies
Some Issues Involved in Social Media and National Security

- Manpower
  - Skilled manpower crucial to policy implementation
  - Dearth of skilled manpower
Some Effects of Social Media and National Security

- Disaffection between communities
- Discontent with government
- Damage to Nigeria’s image
Some Challenges of Social Media and National Security

- Policy deficiency
- Inadequate synergy between agencies
- Dearth of skilled manpower
Some Prospects of Social Media and National Security

-Social media cell - DSS

-National Orientation Agency
Some Strategies for Enhancing Social Media for National Security

- Review of Policy - MICT
- Social media monitoring unit - ONSA
- Manpower development - FGN
CONCLUSION
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