# LEVERAGING CENTRALISED DATABASES FOR ENHANCED SECURITY, CONFLICT PREVENTION AND NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT IN NIGERIA

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## ABSTRACT

*This study examined the imperative of a centralized database, security, and national development in Nigeria. Secondary data was sourced from various credibly published online resources. These sources included academic books, peer-reviewed journal articles, newspapers, and relevant materials available on the internet. The study found that a centralized database system has helped in improving lives, standard of living, and has affected field of medicine, geography, immigration, security, customs, and other related fields in the developed world based on best practices. A centralized database system in Nigeria has the potential of influencing national development in Nigeria, and this will have a positive outcome in virtually all aspects of society. Furthermore, the state has neglected a centralized database system, and this has not helped the nation in national development. For instance, in the area of security, centralize data base would have had a significant impact to alleviate the constant flops experienced in the past two decades on human security in Nigeria, but the lack of a centralized data system has contributed to the incessant organized crimes and other security challenges faced in the country. Others are that the influx of foreigners at the borders is also a testimony to the issue of the failure of the centralized data system in Nigeria. The study concluded that a centralized database can bring sustainable development to Nigeria. It can aid the government in understanding statistical reports about the country's citizens, which in turn can inform the national development plan and decision-making, conflict prevention, such as budget allocation, educational policies, health policies, and other related issues that contribute to sustainable development in a country. Lastly, the study recommends, among other things, that a centralized system is needed to contain the spread of insecurity in areas such as elections, immigration, customs, and security.*

**Keywords:** Security, conflict prevention, Centralized database, National Development, Information and Communication Technology.

## Introduction

Centralized databases, such as NIN and BVN, are critical for enhancing Nigerian security, conflict prevention, and national development by eliminating data fragmentation across agencies. These systems enable intelligence-driven operations, improve inter-agency

collaboration, prevent identity theft, and support targeted social services to mitigate insecurity. Development in the Information and Communication Technology (ICT) database, if significantly deployed, has the capacity to enhance governance processes and further gives room for security and identification of citizens everywhere in the world. A national database management system that enables a secure, reliable, and authentic verification of an individual's identity anywhere across the country would facilitate service delivery both in the government and private sector, like access to consumer credit, which requires proper identification of the consumer. This new system would ensure that there is a unique way of identifying an individual anywhere in Nigeria, and the system would have high integrity, confidentiality, be accessible, and non-repudiable. It would be such that when you walk into a place, and your identity is obtained from you, it should be possible to ascertain that you are who you say you are, and this can be repeated everywhere around the country with the same result. According to Onakoya (2011), "a national database is an organized data or numerical environment where every citizen of a nation and the immigrants are uniquely identified and possess a strong national virtual identity.'' Nigeria has suffered from incessant security challenges such as the activity of terrorist groups, car theft and or hijacking, attacks and counterattacks, election thuggery, and internet fraud, among others. The reason for these crimes being prevalent is largely a result of a lack of a database management system that has the capacity to identify individuals on the basis of national records. To handle this menace, a central national residency database must be created to solve the security and identity challenge, loose neighboring borders, sectional terrorism, corruption, crime and criminalities, unemployment, poverty, and leadership distrust. There can be no serious development without a national database because there is a nexus between the database and development. A database can reduce national fraud in areas of economics, elections, security, and the national planning system.

The 2023 national general elections in Nigeria were expected to be a step toward addressing electoral issues through the creation of a database to record various voting processes, which would be made available to the public. However, it ultimately became a source of conflict during the elections. In 2022, the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) announced the implementation of the Bimodal Voter Accreditation System (BVAS) for the 2023 presidential election. BVAS utilizes fingerprint verification and facial recognition technology (INEC 2022a). The system had already been deployed in at least three mid-season elections as a pilot test, and despite some concerns, initial feedback was promising (Munya et al., 2022). The Commission announced that it would deploy over 200,000 BVAS units for the 2023 general election (Sibe, 2023). The Electoral Act 2022 provided an additional layer of legitimacy for INEC to utilize any technology it deemed appropriate, which encouraged the Commission to proceed with BVAS. Despite this optimism, there were significant concerns regarding technical challenges and the emerging threat landscape (Kanaan et al., 2025). The anticipated real-time transmission of results to the INEC Result Viewing Portal (IReV) did not occur, likely due to fears of cyber-attacks and manipulations. As a result, many voters felt disappointed in the Electoral Commission following the 2023 general elections.

The government has recognized the necessity of integrating various Identity Schemes (IDS) into a cohesive and functional National Identity Management System (NIMS). This initiative is intended to support the country's social and economic reforms. A unified system would enable reliable authentication and verification of the identities of all individuals, both Nigerian citizens and expatriates. Additionally, it would enhance national security through efficient identity verification, promote consumer credit, and reduce identity fraud. Governance, particularly regarding e-government serviceswhich is essential for Nigeriarelies heavily on improved national identity systems to enhance security, planning, and social development. Thus, developing an effective identity management system is crucial for Nigeria. This paper evaluates the current fragmentation of databases among various agencies in Nigeria. It also analyzes the role, benefits, and significance of a centralized database system for national development and security. Furthermore, the paper highlights the potential consequences Nigeria faces due to the absence of a centralized database system and its impact on national development.

## Conceptual Clarification

### *Security*

Security is as old as humanity; hence, understanding the concept of security varies from the individual level to the country-specific and even international levels. From an individual perspective, security primarily implies protection from violence and the provision of basic needs. At the national level, this can be seen as the protection of citizens and the country's territorial integrity. Ishaya (2021) maintained that security could be absolute, that is to say, freedom from all threats is the equivalent of complete security. On his part, Stuart (2008) opined that the concept of security gained prominence following the Pearl Harbour attack on the United States and other events that led to World War II, as well as the eventual passage of the United States' National Security Act of 1947, even though security mainly refers to protection from hostile forces. Robert McNamara, who served as U.S. Secretary of Defense from 1961 to 1968, had a broad and nuanced view of security. He believed that security is about protecting a nation from military attack and promoting economic and social development. In a 1966 speech, McNamara argued that "security is development, and without development, there can be no security." He explained that poverty, hunger, and disease create conditions that make nations more vulnerable to conflict and instability. He also argued that economic development can help reduce tensions between nations and promote peace and cooperation (Ayinde, 2025). To authenticate the meaning of security and a paradigm shift from the traditional definition of security away from power, the Human Development Report (2006) asserted that human security should be perceived as a child who did not die, a disease that did not spread, a job that was not cut, an ethnic tension that did not explode into violence and a dissident who was not silenced. In other words, human security is not concerned with weapons but with human life and dignity, how people live and breathe in a society, how freely they exercise their many choices, how much access they have to market and social opportunities, and whether they live in conflict or peace (Jenkins & Sugden

2006). Thus, this study adopted a human-centric security strategy that addresses the underlying causes of insecurity by concentrating on individuals and communities. This approach is best suited for challenges affecting national development in Nigeria.

***Centralized database***

Centralize usually store data or information in a particular location within a network. It allows data from existing databases to be collected and stored in a single database for sharing, analysis, or updating in an organization. A database is a collection of related data built for a particular purpose or objective. It serves as a repository that collects related records together. A Database Management System is a program used in creating and managing a database. It serves as a software package that aids the definition, creation, manipulation, and sharing of data in a database (Elmasri & Navathe, 2020). However, the database structure relies on the database model. A database model is a collection of conceptual tools for describing data, data relationships, data semantics, consistency, and constraints. It provides a way to describe the design of a database at the physical, logical, and view levels. The model is divided into network model, hierarchical model, relational model, and object-oriented model (Silberschatz et al., 2011).

Under the database is the concept of the Identity Management System. According to Claub et al. (2001), Identity Management System refers to an information system or to a set of technologies that can be used for enterprise or across network identity management. An identity management system also refers to a set of technologies that enable users to control the nature and the amount of personal information released. Identity management system in the context of privacy-enhancing technologies focused on anonymity and authenticity contains the concept of an identity protector that has been built, but in most cases not directly controlled by the user, or at least not in her own sphere of control. Implementation in the context of "security in communication technologies" focused on its reach as it contains a concept for user identification and the way users handle identity functions (Suomalainen et al., 2021). An Identity Management System is a subset of a database. The identity of a person comprises a huge amount of personal data with respect to individuals. All subsets of the identity represent the person (or components of the person). Some of these "partial identities" uniquely identify the person; others do not. Depending on the situation and the context, the person may be represented by different partial identities (Ibrahim & Abubakar, 2016).

The nature of the centralized database system being discussed in this study adopts ICT in this contemporary time. No serious-minded nation would want to adopt a manual or paper-based database to keep track of its population in any form. Information and Communication Technology (ICT) help in improving sectors like public administration (role of e-government), health, education, environment, agriculture, business, and the general security of the country. ICTs have considerable potential to cut administrative costs through the reorganization of internal administration and through alternative provision of services. It gives room for electronic delivery and points of access from homes, schools, and libraries. ICT applications can improve

clinical effectiveness, continuity, and quality of care by the full range of healthcare professionals. The employment of ICT in the health sector brings the idea of what we call telemedicine. This is the idea of providing medical or clinical health care on demand and independent of person-to-person contact through the use of telecommunications and information technology at a distance. Telemedicine can provide medical care to people in their homes, in isolated places, or in times of emergency (Abubakar et al., 2015). This has become a new feat in the field of medicine.

Through the use of ICT, immigrants are screened properly before being allowed into the country, especially at the border areas, in order to curtail the movement of people in and out of the country. This has the potential of monitoring the influx of people coming into the country in the name of pastoralists and other people being used to vote in the various elections, whose identities are not confirmed. The role of ICT is important in defining all the aforementioned.

A national database is a digital solution to the insecurity of a nation, and that should be seen as a critical national issue that attracts collective responsibility. Therefore, it must be a creation of law. For instance, in addition, it is understandable that the NIMS Act sets several government security and crime control agencies, including the State Security Service. These Agencies and Commissions include the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) and the Nigerian Police Force (NPF) to have access to the NIMS database. Interagency collaboration is needed in having a sustainable centralized database system since various agencies would want to make use of the database for one reason or another. Going by the experience of best practices such as the United States of America, United Kingdom, Germany, China, Kenya and South Africa these nations have recorded the following tremendously proving achievements due to the creation of central national database i.e. minimal level of corruption and sanity of governance, security surveillance, knowledge and data driven society, social security and welfare, data for national growth and development, immigrants control, personality integrity track and electoral value. Also, control of cyber fraud, sharp practices in the e-commerce or cashless banking, and therefore, reduces the cost of running the government. The central national database helps with statistical planning and a realistic budget. For instance, the central national database is capable of presenting residents in statistical group class such as stating the numbers of infants, young adults, adolescents, working class, and old age in the country for the provision, allocation, and performance of a realistic budget. Put briefly, the overall effects of all these factors are total attitudinal change in governance and among civil liberty societies.

### *National Development*

National development is seen as all efforts necessary for high levels of human measures of well-being by the state, through its organs. Pritchett (2022) categorized these measures into three elements: productive economy, capable administration, and responsive state. How national development delivers on human wellbeing also varies in three ways. One, economic growth is much more important for achieving well-being at low versus high levels of income. Two, economic growth matters more for ‘basic needs’ than for other dimensions of well-being, for example, social inclusiveness or environmental quality. Three, state capability matters more for

well-being outcomes depending on public production. All these, according to him, highlight the key role of national development, particularly economic growth, as instrumental to increased human wellbeing. Therefore, development is critically essential to the sustenance and growth of a nation. A country is classified as developed when it is able to provide a quality of life for its citizens.

**Conflict prevention**

Conflict prevention is a proactive, multi-faceted approach used in peacebuilding and diplomacy to identify, address, and neutralize potential triggers of violent conflict before they escalate. It involves strategies such as early warning systems, mediation, and structural reforms to address the root causes, rather than reacting to crises. Conflict prevention is about making societies resilient to violent conflict by strengthening the local capacities for peace (systems, resources, structures, attitudes, skills) (Sida, 2017). Centralised databases will serve as both a peacebuilding and conflict prevention tool.

**Methodology**

Secondary data was sourced from various published materials and credible online resources. These sources included academic books, peer-reviewed journal articles, newspapers, magazines, and relevant materials available on the internet. The secondary data provided a theoretical and contextual background to the study, offering insights into previous research findings, theoretical frameworks, and global perspectives on the benefits and importance of a national centralized database system to the national development and security system of Nigeria. Books and journal articles offered in-depth analysis and empirical evidence on the benefits and importance of a national centralized database system to the national development and security system of Nigeria. Additionally, internet sources, including governmental and non-governmental organizations' reports, supplied up-to-date information on the benefits and importance of a national centralized database system to the national development and security system in Nigeria.

**Theoretical Framework**

**Securitisation Theory:**

Securitisation theory was primarily developed by the Copenhagen School, a group of scholars led byBarry Buzan and Ole Waever at the Conflict and Peace Research Institute (COPRI) in the 1990s. Their 1998 book, *Security: A New Framework for Analysis*, formally established the theory, which analyzes how issues become security threats through speech acts. Securitisation theory shows us that national security policy is not a natural given, but carefully designated by politicians and decision-makers. According to securitisation theory, political issues are constituted as extreme security issues to be dealt with urgently when they have been labelled as ‘dangerous’, ‘menacing’, ‘threatening’, ‘alarming’ and so on by a ‘securitising actor’ who has the social and institutional power to move the issue ‘beyond politics. So, security issues are not simply ‘out there’ but rather must be articulated as problems by securitising actors. Calling

immigration, a 'threat to national security', for instance, shifts immigration from a low-priority political concern to a high-priority issue that requires action, such as securing borders. Securitisation theory challenges traditional approaches to security in IR and asserts that issues are not essentially threatening in themselves; rather, it is by referring to them as 'security' issues that they become security problems

**Legal Framework**

Since gaining independence in 1960, Nigeria has made several attempts to identify its citizens. Unfortunately, these efforts have often left the country worse off, creating a series of failures and multiple databases that have not contributed to national progress. More concerning is the fact that billions of Naira have been spent on various data-capturing initiatives for identification purposes, none of which have resulted in a reliable database for national development. In this context, the establishment of the National Identity Management Commission (NIMC) through the NIMC Act of 2007 offers a promising pathway for Nigeria to develop a comprehensive national identity database. It is essential for the country to focus its efforts on this crucial agency to establish a world-class identity database. The NIMC Act empowers NIMC as the primary legal, regulatory, and institutional body responsible for implementing the governmental reform initiatives in the identity sector, as outlined in the National Policy and NIMC Act, particularly in Sections 1, 2, 5, and 6. The agency is mandated to operate and manage the National Identity Management System (NIMS), conduct the enrolment of citizens and legal residents as stipulated in the Act, create and maintain a National Identity Database, and issue unique National Identification Numbers to eligible citizens and legal residents.

**Stakeholders in centralized database system in Nigeria**

The centralized database is understood to mean: *"…an electronic register of all Nigerian citizens,"*with the following government agencies represented as stakeholders and being producers, or users of population-related data, notable of which are:

a. **National Population Commission (NPopC)** - with prime responsibility for the national census and population projection and policy

b. **National Identity Management Commission (NIMC)** - with responsibility for managing the national identification scheme.

c. **National Immigration Service** (NIS) – with responsibility for issuing passports and recording the movement of Nigerians and foreigners entering or leaving the country.

d. **National Bureau of Statistics (NBS)** – conducting surveys to inform about socio-economic and living conditions in Nigeria

e. **Others** including the Federal Inland Revenue Service, the Federal Road Safety Corps, National Health Insurance Scheme, Joint Admissions and Matriculation Board, Independent

National Electoral Commission (INEC), security agencies, EFCC etc. each of which produces or utilizes population data for its specific purposes.

The above agencies, among others, will benefit from the centralized database system in managing and planning their projects for one thing or the other. Instead of collecting data from the public every time, the centralized system can be of help to them, either to use it to verify the information supplied or to ascertain the veracity of such information.

**Social and Economic Dimension**

The social and economic dimensions of a centralized database system are closely entwined and hard to map out as they encompass a large variety of issues. The issue of public trust, for example, has both social and economic implications and is a recurrent concern amongst people involved in developing solutions and services around the Identity Management System, both in the public and the private sectors. Public trust in the security and reliability of an IMS is critical to its success, which can have important economic implications, particularly for businesses. Without a foundation of trust, acceptance, and use of the services and processes facilitated by IMS in the public and private sectors may not reach optimal levels. Conversely, promoting confidence in the identity management framework can contribute to the creation of new commercial opportunities for the business sector and the expansion of existing ones. Whereas both security and (commercial) convenience are attractive options, these advantages should be balanced with the requirement for privacy. There is a trade-off involved, and it is very important that this trade-off is recognized and discussed.

**Technical Dimension**

The specific technical architecture of an Identity Management System has enormous implications for society, it architectures respond to different requirements and approaches to management. They can be centralized and managed by the organization or institution implementing it, or decentralized and user-controlled. They often prioritize certain types of interactions and interfaces, in particular administration to administration (A2A), administration to business (A2B), or administration to citizen (A2C). They may or may not utilize 'trusted third parties' for authentication processes. Where they involve electronic identity (eID) or smart cards, they can include different kinds and combinations of biometric data, have different lengths of validity, and incorporate chips with diverse information and applications.

The specific objectives of a system to manage identity create the need for appropriate, fit-for-purpose technologies. Clearly elucidating the objectives early on ensures that the development and deployment of technology will be much more effective and less prone to problems. When considering a national IMS system with obligatory participation, for example, the requirements are different from those of more limited systems based on voluntary participation. Also, technologies for enhancing privacy protection of personal data (such as privacy-enhancing technologies or PET) are much less effective and often more complex when added as an "add-on" to an IMS rather than incorporated from the project's inception.

**Principles for Demographic Database**

A demographic database is a system that stores records of personal information of all citizens and non-citizens residing on the territory of a nation that meet the requirement for registration as set out in the relevant legal framework. The data stored in the database is registered in a unique, uniform and transparent way, based on documentary evidence certifying vital life events. Registration is unique and uniform in determining *what kind* of information is stored and *how* information is stored in the population register, and transparent in a manner that ensures citizens' trust in the nation's handling of their personal data. Multiple uses of stored personal data by other agencies ensure that all public administration institutions perform their tasks using the same information coming from the population register (demographic database).
A demographic database provides benefits to the entire nation's public administration by allowing it access to legally valid personal information required to improve services and provide quality products to citizens in all policy areas, i.e., health, labour, justice, education, welfare, property ownership, electoral purposes, driver licenses and emergency services, etc. In return, citizens are provided with quicker and better-quality services (Rosenbloom et. al, 2022).

In order to establish a database that delivers these benefits, it is important to adopt a high performance universal inter-operability database with the following objectives and principles, which are considered common practice in most countries with a functioning electronic population registration system (database). Two main objectives should be achieved to run an efficient population register. First, it requires that for each individual residing on the territory should be only one file in the register containing his/her personal information: "*one person-one file."* Secondly, for the purpose of providing access to the data for individuals and other agencies, it is necessary to create conditions for the subsequent multiple uses of registered data by electronic means: "*register once - multiple use of information"*. The solution gives: universality, uniqueness, permanence, measurability, acceptability, scalability, dependability and security on a centralized data warehouse enterprise-wide approach. This standard format is in line with international Best Practices.

Establishing the first objective for running a demographic database should ensure that a person is only registered once in the database, and any duplication of data should be prevented. Once the "*one person, one file"* objective is ensured, only then does the second objective, "*register once - multiple use of information",* become important. The use of personal information stored in a population register by public institutions (as defined by law) should ensure optimal use of personal data within the public administration and within the framework of data protection and other legal safeguards. The first objective ensures data quality; the second objective ensures the proper use of data by all public institutions, thus leading to an improvement in state services.

## Benefits of centralized database system to Nigeria

### Adequate Security

Insecurity has been a significant issue in Nigeria, and it has a cascading effect on national development. Security is a key indicator of development and investment; without security, it becomes extremely challenging to achieve meaningful progress. Insecurity deters development, while security fosters it. The activities of Boko Haram in the Northeast, banditry in the Northwest, and the Eastern Security Network (ESN) in the Southeast, along with widespread incidents of kidnapping and organ trafficking, have created formidable barriers to development in those regions and throughout the nation. Issues such as kidnapping, abduction, herders' conflicts, and attacks by 'unknown gunmen' have tarnished Nigeria's reputation among the international community (Ayegbusi, 2024). These criminals often utilize mobile phones and maintain bank accounts where they receive transfers from the families of their victims or deposit cash, managing to do so without detection by security agencies. This situation is alarming. The notorious '419' scam, also known as 'yahoo plus,' thrives in an environment lacking an adequate data system to track down perpetrators. In a well-structured system, financial transactions can be traced quickly, which would bring much-needed order to online businesses. For example, the Cybercrime Act of 2015 cannot be effective unless supported by a centralized database.

The ongoing attacks and retaliatory violence in various communities across Nigeria could have been managed or reduced if a centralized database system were in place. Reports indicate that identity cards were found at crime scenes; however, due to the absence of a system to trace these identities, many perpetrators could not be apprehended. Therefore, implementing a national database is crucial for addressing insecurity in Nigeria. Currently, the country lacks accurate statistics on its population, annual birth rates, and death rates, which can be attributed to the deficiencies in its database system. Without an effective database, the government faces significant challenges in planning and addressing the needs of the population.

The increasing activities of bandits involved in kidnapping and abduction have highlighted the urgent need to enhance our database system. This improved system would allow for the identification and tracking of both the locations of their hideouts and the criminals responsible for these acts. Enhancing our database will significantly support security agencies in their efforts to monitor and apprehend these criminals. In many countries, maintaining accurate records is a crucial part of their security infrastructure; it is rare for an offense to occur without being traced either immediately or eventually. Therefore, it is essential to address the database issue seriously to help alleviate criminal activities in various communities across Nigeria

### Decrease in the rate of corruption

Corruption is a significant barrier to national development. Establishing a centralized database in Nigeria could help eliminate loopholes that facilitate corrupt practices. One of the

primary benefits of creating a central national database is the implementation of anti-corruption measures that would naturally combat corruption in various forms. Every legitimate government policy should utilize an existing and reliable database; otherwise, dishonest political officeholders may create fictitious databases for their gain. Issues related to contract inflation, inflated population figures, electoral fraud, and other forms of defrauding the system could be significantly reduced. With accurate data, the government can determine the true population of an area, allowing for better national planning. In the absence of reliable figures, officials might manipulate the data to suit their agendas. Additionally, other crimes such as car theft, which are currently difficult to trace and track, could become easier to manage with a centralized database. By monitoring every registered vehicle through a tracking device, the government could combat this issue more effectively. Abraham et al. (2006) emphasized the necessity of a unique identifier to avoid confusion between customers who may have the same name, street address, and city. They recommended assigning a unique customer identifier to each individual, similar to how the United States uses Social Security numbers as unique identifiers. This system has proven to be a powerful investigative tool for the US government. Data collection and security management in the Central National Database rely on a primary key, which is a unique numerical identification assigned to each resident, thereby reducing the possibility of mistaken identity. An individual's records are captured and stored sequentially based on their national security (NS) code and state of residence. Conventionally, a primary key serves as a record pointer. Bopp et al. (2019) also recognized the need for a unique identifier as a primary key for the database, and the NS code serves this purpose. It is crucial that this unique identifier remains the legitimate means of identification in both private and public transactions. Achieving this goal may require an extensive data capture process; therefore, special attention, funding, work-free days, and public registration days should be declared by the federal government to facilitate the registration exercise.

**Poverty reduction**

The government cannot measure the level of poverty in Nigeria just because there is no database to track the indices. The various poverty policy implemented by the government has no convincing records, both at the state and federal levels. The chunk of graduate from various universities in Nigeria have no data as to how many of them have been engaged in the last ten years in Nigeria, everything is based on assumption, that is the reason why public office holders can divert resources meant for social development into private account without government been able to trace them, centralized database will reduce duplication of projects in Nigeria.

**Training and re-training in ICT related skills/ computer education**

There is virtually nothing that can be done today globally without the use of a computer system. Yet, in Nigeria, the population of people who are not computer literate is very high. Even among the elites, a high number of people who have no idea of computer applications is on

the increase; therefore, if the government can increase awareness of information technology, society will move to the next level. There is a shortage of ICT manpower in the country, and presently, there is no Government training institute for database experts in the country. To promote capacity building, a regulatory body must be established to encourage continuity and sustainability of the brilliant idea because it is important that the central national database "must have high storage space and a great Database Administrator (DBA) to handle it." However, the regulatory body will be charged with the duty of regulating the creation of databases and websites in the country. Cyber constrains and recommendations must be articulated for the rule of law. Legislatures should enshrine in law the use of NS code, for the Judiciary and Law enforcement agents to enforce the application and personalise the use of the national security codes within the government, between and among residents in Nigeria and the global environment.

## Conclusion

A centralized database allows records and information to be collected and stored in a single location, facilitating easy sharing, updating, and analysis. With a centralized database, the government can access citizens' data and records for decision-making as needed. To sustain this system, it is essential to create a Central National Database and issue all residents of Nigeria, including inmates, immigrants, and the diaspora, a National Security Code (NS Code). Despite efforts by the government and various agencies to implement a database management system for record-keeping, the databases currently in use are still distributed among individual organizations. Consequently, each agency frequently collects data from the public, as no centralized database has been established to compile and harmonize the diverse data collected by different agencies and organizations. This lack of coordination leads to numerous inconsistencies and redundancies within these entities.

Additionally, the National Security Code must serve as an official identifier in the country and should be included in relevant documentation. It is essential that all existing decentralized databases from various interests and Ministries, Departments, and Agencies (MDAs) are updated to incorporate the National Security Code attribute. This will ensure that entities can be clearly identified within their relationships with the public and each other. The central national database, along with its associated security measures, is the only means to effectively minimize security crises in the country. As previously stated, "We have no better security option than to change the attitude of our countrymen." It has also been established that "The government is the security agent, while all citizens are the security guards." We firmly believe that if the Central National Database is managed as recommended, significant improvements in security will be achieved in Nigeria. A centralized database can facilitate sustainable development in the country. It enables the government to access statistical reports about its citizens, which can inform developmental decision-making processes, such as budget allocation, educational policies, healthcare, and other issues that contribute to sustainable development.

## Recommendations

Finally, the study makes the following recommendations:

i. The government should look at the possibility of adopting a centralized database, such as INEC registration, banks' data, National Population Commission data, International Passport data, driver license data, and National Identity Card data, that can harmonize records of various organizations and agencies, which helps in ensuring security and sustainable development in Nigeria.

ii. A model of a centralized database should be designed in order to explore the feasibility of implementing a centralized database in Nigeria that can always be updated while also being sensitive to hacking, and having a single database.

iii. Thorough research should be conducted to ensure compatibility between organizations and agencies with the centralized database for data sharing and other accessibility issues.

iv. For a centralized database to be achievable, there is a need for agencies' collaboration, such as National Population Commission, the Independent National Electoral Commission, the Federal Road Safety Corps, and a host of other agencies that collect one form of data or the other.

v. Agencies saddled with the responsibility of managing data should work together with the National Communication Commission (NCC) to manage the data to avoid the possibility of people committing crimes and absconding without being tracked.

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