

# **Management of Crime In Nigerian Business Environment During Covid-19 Period**

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## **Abstract**

*The paper examined the role of Crime Management For Economic Development And Financial Sustainability In Nigerian Business Environment. A basic survey conducted across Bayelsa State from five public and private organizations chosen at random. A well-structured questionnaire administered to 100 respondents but 56 were retrieved for analysis. The study showed that crime can be adequately prevented in such Nigerian business environments. It is therefore concluded that crimes of various kinds can be prevented easily to ensure financial sustainability and peaceful economic developments. The study eventually recommended that both Government and individuals should be involved in sustainable crime management.*

**Keywords:** *Crime, Criminals, Crime Management, Social Crime, Development Crime, Financial or Economic Crime.*

## **Introduction**

One may understand the nature of crime in Nigeria through this academic paper. In addition to the conventional crimes of armed robbery, murder, kidnapping, assault and so on. Nigeria has been on the global crime map since 1980s. Drug trafficking, advance fee fraud (419), human trafficking and money laundering have been particularly identified with Nigerian transnational criminal syndicates or networks.

For example, advance fee fraud, oil bunkering, ritual killings, human trafficking, student cultism and armed robbery are crimes of concern in Nigeria. Therefore, any research and discussion on crime in contemporary Nigeria must take into account these crimes due to their overall impact on the society as a whole. In terms of time and space, such crimes may not be relevant in other nations, even within Africa. For instance, a nation without oil cannot be bothered about oil bunkering.

White collar crimes on the other hand, also known as business/economic and financial crimes, tend to be civil law related (regulates economic affairs between private parties), although they are also criminal in nature.

This study was carried out, so as to manage future occurrence of crimes in Nigerian business environment.

### **Review of Related Literature**

To actually understand the literature of crime, the plethora of concepts that exerts investigation into the real meaning of crime. The conceptual framework, theoretical discourse and empirical review must be used.

### **Conceptual Framework**

The term “crime” is difficult to give a universally accepted conception but several people attempt by studying it must be preceded by a definition (Reid, 1982). However, in the concise Oxford Dictionary, it refers to acts (usually grave offence) punishable by law. As a major societal malady, many scholars have attempted its definition. Haralambos thinks of crimes as those activities that break the law of land, and are subject to official punishment (Haralambos, 1980).

United Nations Research Institute observed that: “Crime in the sense of a breach of a legal prohibition is a universal concept but what actually constitutes a crime and how seriously it should be regarded varies enormously from one society to another. Perceptions of crime are not determined by any objective indicator of the degree of injury or damage but by cultural values. A crime in law consists of two basic elements, the actus reus and the mens ren. The actus reus is the physical element or the guilty act and it requires proof. Where there is no actus reus, there is no crime. It includes all the elements in the definition of the crime which the exception of the mental element. The actus reus could be made us of conduct, its consequences and the circumstances in which the conduct takes place. The second element, mens ren, is the mental element or the guilty mind. It is basically the intention and a man is said to intend doing something if he foresaw and desired it. The desire for the consequences is the basic factor of intention. Mens ren is not required for all crimes. There is no singular definition of mens ren because every crime has its own mens ren. To demonstrate mens ren, it must be proven that an individual intentionally, knowingly, recklessly or negligently behaved in a given manner or caused a given result. Crime can be dichotomized into serious and minor, felony and misdemeanor, malainse and malaprohibition crimes against persons and crimes against property, government etc.

The sociological definition of crime offers a broader perspective. It views crime as any act which is considered socially injurious and which is punished by the states regardless of the type of punishment (Clinard, 1999) Thus, civil matters that are regulated by the state are included in this definition. Sellin is also of the view that there is the need to study both

normal and abnormal behaviours and issues that motivate individuals to conform or break the norms of society.

### **Theoretical Discourse:**

Different theories inform the study of crime in society. These are categorized into biological theory, psychological theory and sociological theory.

- a) **The biological Theory of crime:** The most ancient and oldest of all the theories and it locates the crime problem within the individual's biological make up. This theory was propagated by a physician named Lombroso and his colleague Ferrero in 1898. They talked about criminal man which they identified with certain biological features like extra-chromosome, extra nipple, depressed forehead and so on. Many of these identifications have long been disputed except for genuine reasons of brain damage or mental illness which might make an individual commit crime unconsciously.
- b) **Psychological Theory of Crime:** It lays emphasis on the early socialization of the individual, arguing that when a child fails to assimilate the norms and values of society, it can lead to maladjustment which can later lead to crime in adulthood (Bowlby, 1946). For instance, lack of proper socialization could be due to broken homes, long absent of one parent from home and so on. However, psychological theory tends to lay too much emphasis on early socialisation without given much consideration for adult socialisation.
- (c) **Sociological Theory of Crime:** It lays emphasis on the environment that denied the individual the opportunity to realise himself or herself, hence the individual involvement in criminal activities (Merton, 1957, Durkheim, 1966, Cloward and Ohlin, 1960). For instance, the society set goals for its citizenry and at the same time deny them equal and legal opportunities for achieving these goals. So those who cannot achieve their goals through legal ways resort to illegitimate ways what Merton call "innovation (Merton, 1957).

### **Empirical Review**

There is no problem of keeping accurate crime statistics. The available ones are unreliable and classified as confidential. They are difficult to obtain, even by institutionally sponsored researchers. As a result, studies on crime use scanty data and paid it up with available literature on social, political and economic situations in the country. This is also because the national philosophy and criminal policy are very strict on the release of crime statistics.

The study of crime has for a long time been carried out from the criminal's standpoint. Early in the 19<sup>th</sup> century, Lombroso undertook a study of the types of criminals and was popularly known for his "born" criminal type.

**Other crimes prevention are:**

➤ **Situational crime Prevention:**

This aims at reducing crime through the management, design and augmentation of the physical environment by reducing the opportunity or making it harder to commit crime. For example, installation of surveillance cameras in public places, increasing the risk of detention, for example baggage screening at airports, and reducing the rewards of crime, for instance, making it difficult to dispose stolen items

➤ **Social Crime Prevention**

This prevention measure seeks to social environmental. The aim is to strengthen community bonds, increase levels of informed social control and thus defer actual and potential criminals. Social crime control measures could focus on integrating into the community, those are at the risk of committing criminal acts.

➤ **Development crime prevention**

This focuses on the individual, because prevention is based on attitudinal and/or behavioural change of the criminal and his victim. It involves the early identification of potential offenders or victims and intervenes to keep them from realising that potential. It also works with those who have already committed crime or been victimized to prevent further crime or victimisation.

### **Methodology**

The survey investigation was carried out to find out how crimes affect national development and individual persons lives. The population of the study is made of 56 middle level management staff presently active from the five selected public institutions in Bayelsa State. Though, Likert Scale method structured questionnaire as administered to 100 respondents but 56 copies of the questionnaires were retrieved for analysis.

### **Data Analysis.**

Analysis of the collected data was done using mean statistics. A mean of 2.50 was chosen as the cut off point for determining adequacy and mean rating of 2.50 and above were accepted while those below were rejected.

### **Research Question One**

Is there any relationship between crime and the achievement of Economic development projects.

**Table I: Responses from the Respondents**

| <b>S/N</b> | <b>Questionnaire Items</b>  | <b>Mean Rating</b> | <b>Decision</b> |
|------------|---|--------------------|-----------------|
| 1          | Crimes does not have any relationship with the achievement of economic developments projects  | 3.68               | Accept          |
| 2          | The achievement of economic development projects does not relate to causation of crimes   | 2.55               | Accept          |
| 3          | Crime management and economic development are both socio-economic concepts that ate related to financial sustainability of the government   | 4.29               | accept          |
| 4          | Crimes committing lead to society insecurity for development, no peace and thereby truncates meaningful economic developments as well as personal life and property are safe in the society | 2.18               | Reject          |

### **Results and Discussion of Findings**

The results showed that there is a relationship between total crime reduction and the achievement of economic development projects. Can crime be safely reduced in Nigeria? it is a fact that measures to deter criminals and thus reduce crime are embodied in the Nigerian criminal law or code of Decrees. Government ought to take a drastic crime prevention measure in every environment. Even the Nigerian criminologists proposed that there is a need to adopt a comprehensive, integrated approach to planning crime prevention and crime justice policies as a way to enhance viability of National Economic Development plans and actions by providing necessary security gadgets at strategic locations to reduce the crime in Nigeria.

### **Conclusion and Recommendations;**

Crimes of various kinds can be prevented in Nigerian business environment, thereby enhances the achievement of national economic development projects as well as to ensure financial sustainability in the country. This is also to address such crime situations, then the researchers therefore recommended that both the Government through all law enforcing agencies must always be on deck to combat crime in the society as well as every individual should equally involve in curbing crime by reporting crime cases to the law enforcement agents. Similarly, all civil societies should also join the crime combating train by enlightening the general public at regular intervals the dangers of crime to national and individual developments.

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