ASSESSING THE ROLE OF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE IN CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION IN NIGERIA: CHALLENGES AND PROSPECTS

By

Kekere, Alaba Ibironke and Matthew, Godfree.

ABSTRACT

Criminal investigation is the bedrock of prosecution. It is the early stage of discovering facts in their freshness. It is the stage where information is gotten from persons who physically witnessed the incident. It is also a process where investigators are opportuned to tidy up their evidence, preserve their exhibits from been spoilt or stolen, evaluate them, appraise the pros and cons of their evidence and have pre-trial conferences with their witnesses. This is imperative because in criminal trial, the strength of the prosecution case lies with strong and cogent evidence garnered during investigation. Advancement in science and technology in the 21st century has led to high rates of sophisticated crime that cannot be detected by manual investigation, thus, justifying the saying that the more scientifically advanced a society is, the more criminally inclined it is likely to be. Today Nigeria is rated as one of the countries with high rates of crime. Incidentally, advanced and sophisticated technologies were deployed by Nigerians in committing those crimes. A specific crime that Nigeria is becoming notorious for is the cyber crime. According to Statista.. Nigeria is the leading nation in cyber Crime. Now since criminal has advanced in their tasks, the question then is how is the state prepared in deploying technology to combat crime? It is response to this question that motivated the writing of this paper.

Therefore, this paper is aimed exploring the imperative of deploying Artificial Intelligence (AI) in crime investigation in Nigerian criminal justice system. In doing so, the paper shall:

(a) Engage in conceptual clarification of terms such as meanings, types, and function of AI

(b) Examine the legal framework relating to deployment of AI in criminal investigation in Nigeria.

(c) Examine the institution responsible for the deployment of AI in criminal investigations, relating

(d) Discuss the challenges associated with the deployment of Artificial Intelligence in criminal investigation in Nigeria, and

(e) Chart the way forward on how to bolster the deployment of Artificial Intelligence in Criminal investigation.