The Adoption and Extent of Use of Social Media Intelligence Tools in Mitigating Cyberterrorism in Mindanao

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Abstract

Cyberterrorism has become an escalating global threat, leveraging digital platforms to conduct attacks, disseminate extremist content, and instill fear. As terrorist organizations exploit the anonymity and reach of cyberspace, governments and international bodies have intensified efforts to strengthen cyber defenses. This study assessed the adoption and extent of use of Social Media Intelligence Tools (SMITs) in mitigating cyberterrorism in Mindanao. Utilizing a descriptive-evaluative research design, the study examined the effectiveness, operational integration, and collaborative efforts surrounding SMIT deployment among law enforcement agencies, cybersecurity experts, and relevant stakeholders. Findings revealed that while agencies such as MAPIO and Cybercrime Units have fully embraced SMITs, overall adoption across other units, particularly Security Units and Local Government Units (LGUs) remains inconsistent. SMITs were found effective in areas such as cyber patrolling, threat detection, and intelligence sharing, but gaps persist in predictive analytics and inter-agency coordination. Perceived effectiveness varied significantly, with LGUs reporting lower utility due to limited training and operational resources. The study underscores the need for capacity-building initiatives, standardized training programs, real-time intelligence sharing, and interoperable technology platforms. Strengthening policy frameworks and ensuring sustained funding are likewise essential to promote a cohesive and effective regional cyberterrorism response in Mindanao.

Keywords: Cyberterrorism, Social Media Intelligence Tools, Counterterrorism, Technology Adoption and Digital Security, Descriptive-Evaluative Research Design, Mindanao, Philippines