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KADUNA STATE

### **Editorial**

The **Editor-in-Chief**, on behalf of the entire **Editorial Board** is pleased to present to the academic community, the **Volume 2, No 2 of Journal of Political Inquiry**. A publication of Department of Political Science, Nigeria Police Academy, Wudil Kano. The *Journal* creates a platform for both national and international scholars and professionals to publish their works on social, economic and political issues and provides an ample opportunity for researchers, academia and professionals to publish their researches for knowledge sharing and cross fertilization of ideas and views. The uniqueness of the *Journal* is based on its quick review process, committed and rich **Editorial Board**, double-blind review process and its publication in both print and online. ([www.jopoli.org.ng](http://www.jopoli.org.ng)).

The **Editor-in-Chief** is indeed grateful to the members of the **Editorial Board** for their commitment and painstaking towards the success of the *Journal*. The contributions of authors cannot be expressed by word. We are equally grateful to all those whom their contributions in one way or the other ensured the successful production of this Volume.

I wish you happy reading.

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## **The Police And Insecurity Threat To Nigeria Political Entity: An Inquiring For Effective Policing**

**BY**

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### **Abstract**

*Nigeria is a political entity facing internal security challenges. Every security conscious Nigerian is worried about the internal insecurity in the country. Nigerians are cautious about moving freely within the country both in the day and at night. This insecurity is as a result of the ineffectiveness of the Nigeria police force that is in-charge of protecting lives, properties and prevention of crimes. This paper combines community policy as the theoretical framework, observational and secondary methods of data gathering to examine among others the causes of police ineffectiveness in providing internal security in Nigeria. The paper reveals among others that lack of members of the public collaboration with the police force is the chief cause of internal insecurity as well as non-proactiveness of the police force in combating crimes and other related issues in Nigeria today. Consequently, the paper suggested proactive technique as a path way to effective policing, which can eliminate fear of crime(s) of Nigerians and to ensure security of lives and properties in Nigeria. It equally recommended state police and police community partnership to promote and ensure public security and safety in Nigeria.*

**Key words:** Police, policing, insecurity, community-policing, proactiveness, effective policing.

### **Introduction**

Globally, every society develops mechanism that could be used to ensure peace and security of lives and properties of its citizenry. This is because the expansion and continual increase in population as well as human relationship, and development causing serious crimes in the recent times as evident in the modern societies.

However, the emergence of state (modern societies) with its notion of social contract and total submission of citizens altered the traditional policing which philosophically regarded by the people as everybody's business particularly male adults, and this led to the establishment of formal police institution.

In every political entity (state), there are deviants whose behaviours need to be corrected in order to protect the laid down customs, norms, values and laws of the land, in which Nigeria is

inclusive. In Nigeria, police force is created by the law to be responsible for regulating the deviant behaviour. Section 4 of Police Act specifies the following as the Nigeria Police Force general duties; (a) prevention and detection of crime (b) protection of properties, enforcement of all laws and regulations which they are directly in-charge of and perform such military duties within or without Nigeria as may be required by them.

The aforesaid section 4 of the Police Act indicates that police force is basically in-charge of internal security of Nigerian state, just as it is all over the world. This is why Oko and Iwu (2015) noted that this responsibility makes the police institution very central to the delivery of public security. This paper is concerned about the challenges of the Nigeria Police Force in providing internal security and the place of the community in providing effective policing in Nigeria.

### **Statement of the Problem**

Human activities in every state occasioned by socio-economic and political relationship which create room for deviant behaviour that constitute insecurity in the state. In Nigeria today, Nigerians are cautious about moving freely within the country both in the day and at night. The police that is conventionally in-charge of public security and safety as entrenched in section 215 (4) of the 1999 constitution (as amended) as well as section 4 of the Police Act, could not provide effective policing to ensure internal security of Nigeria.

The Nigeria police often admitted their weakness toward effective policing with the excuses of acute shortage of modern crime control equipment. It seems that the weight of the insecurity of the country has sunk the police force towards ensuring public security and safety in the country. In his consciousness, Arase, the Inspector General of Police (IGP) reported by Nnadozie (2015) lamented that the scale of kidnapping, robbery attacks, ritual killings, murder and other devious crimes appear to continue on the upward trajectory as well as the worrisome situation of the Boko-Haram insurgency in the Northern part of the country. In addition to the said aforesaid crime situations in Nigeria, is the killing by Fulani Herdsmen across the country (Akinyemi, 2016) and the bombing of oil facilities by the Niger Delta Avengers in the Niger Delta Areas, which affect among others the Shell Petroleum Development Corporation (SPDC), where production of about 90,000 barrels of crude oil per day has been halted (Amaize, Oyadongha, Yafugborhi and Youdeowei 2016). These crimes and killings across Nigeria are threats to the existences of the political entity.

Consequently, the incapability of the Nigeria Police Force for effective policing is also one of the factors that fuel insecurity across Nigeria, which has passed the alarming and entered the fatal stage, and Nigeria may wither if proper measures are not employed to complement the Nigeria Police Force. Emphatically, some Nigerians and security experts express the need for communities

and the police partnership to ensure protection of lives and properties as well as to checkmate crime rate in Nigeria.

Hence, this paper surveys through observational and secondary methods of data collection to examine among others the causes of poor performance of the Nigeria Police Force in providing public security and the search for suitable and possible technique to be employed by Nigeria Police Force for effective policing in Nigeria.

### **Objectives of the Paper**

Below are the objectives of the paper:

1. To highlight the duties/roles of the Nigeria Police Force
2. To identify the causes of poor performance of Nigeria Police Force in management of internal security in Nigeria
3. To suggest a technique for effective policing in Nigeria.

### **Theoretical Framework**

The theoretical framework for this paper is community policing. Community policing (CP) is adopted to explain the chief cause of the inability of Nigeria police force in policing Nigeria. CP entails community partnership with the police in creating a safe and secure society for people to live in. In this regard, the police is not seen as a stranger whose presence stands for danger but trustworthy partner in progress.

The evolution of community policing (CP) could be traced to the United States when Crime Control Act was enacted, called "violence crime control and Law Enforcement Act of 1994", which resulted to the creation of the office of Community Oriented Policing Service (COPS) within the justice department to promote CP (en. [Wikipedia.org/./community-policing](http://Wikipedia.org/./community-policing)). According to COPS, community policing is a philosophy that promotes organizational strategies, which support the systematic use of partnership and problem-solving techniques, to proactively address the immediate conditions that give rise to public safety issues such as crime, social order and fear of crime (en. [wikipedia.org/./community-policing](http://wikipedia.org/./community-policing)).

The ultimate need for community policing (CP) as a strategy is that it permits for flexibility to address policing needs and priorities at the community level by involving the citizens/residents in efforts to improve the overall quality of lives in the community. CP also allows for a fundamental shift in police work from the traditional response to call for service to more holistic approach that builds upon localized community capacity to address the risk factors associated with crime and victimization ([www.haltonpolice.ca/./History.aspx](http://www.haltonpolice.ca/./History.aspx)).

The adoption and proper practice of community policing will not only prevent crime but also

reduce social disorder rate in Nigeria. In order to achieve aforesaid situation, the police should be integrated into the community they should serve and interact in a friendly manner with the people. The friendly manner of the police is capable of alleviating the hostile perception the members of the public have conceived about the officers. This is why Alemika and Chukwuma (2000) noted that the relationship between the Nigeria Police and citizens are characterized by suspicious, prejudice, mutual disrespect, conflict and violence. The friendly atmosphere will make the people have confidence in the police force such that crime information provided by anybody will not be made known to the criminals by the police.

For effective policing in Nigeria, the police force can do more of visitation and interaction regularly with community leaders, religious leaders and other social groups' leaders rather than their usual traditional patrol with their pick-up vans which indicate alienation of the police from the community meant to serve. This is because it would be difficult for any police institution to succeed in its maintenance of law and order as well as prevention of crime without the cooperation of the public being policed (Alemika & Chukwuma, 2000). Therefore, the police should appreciate the community's values, beliefs and share in their goal particularly the efforts toward effective policing. The police should be relatively visible and available as a friend and protector of the community, while the community on its part provide useful information bothered on crime, support, filter and screening of problems to focus police actions.

Conclusively, Community policing (CP) ensure synergistic relationship between the police and the public for an effective and efficient method of preventing or reducing crime and social disorder to not noticeable level in a community. CP requires proactiveness by seeking partnership with the community rather than the police usual practice of policing of hasten to crime scene with the hope of either arresting the criminal(s) at crime spot or together evidence that would lead to later arrest.

#### **Causes of Poor Performance of the Nigerian Police Force**

Below are some of the factors observed that cause the poor performance of Nigeria Police in providing internal security.

- **Under-funding and inadequate management:** the resources allocated to the police are often mismanaged and this has affected the police force efficiency negatively. According to Alemika, (1997), Osoba, (1994) and Balogun, (2003) cited in Etannibi, Alemika and Chukwuma (2006) low commitment, indiscipline and involvement in crime or collusion with criminals, poor remuneration and general condition for service perversion of the course of justice by procuring and supply false evidence are critical among the inadequacies.

- **Corruption:** Corruption appears to have become a legal attribute of the Nigeria Police Force. Aver, Nnormm and Targba (2015) submit that corruption has become completely legalized into the culture realm and value-system of the Nigeria Police Force. The Nnormm and Targba assertion is evident in the public outcry against the Nigeria Police Force by surveys carried out which reveal that the unwholesome practices in which officers of the Nigeria force extort money from Nigerians under the guise of discharging their statutory responsibility at checkpoints mounted by them. The extortion habit has caused the officers and men of the institution neither to show interest in identifying the passengers of the vehicles stopped nor verifying the particulars of the drivers and vehicles. It is immaterial whether the vehicle is occupied by criminals or wanted persons on a mission to wreck havoc or escape justice (dailyindependent Editorial, 2014).
- **Inadequate cohesive co-ordination:** The goal of the Nigeria Police Force is to prevent crimes and maintain law and order. This goal can only be achieved if the Police officers work collectively and co-operatively toward the common goal. But observationally, there are division and subordination among the officers and men of the Police Force in course of carrying out their duty. In his consciousness, Arase, the Inspector General of police (IGP) noted as reported by Nnadozie (2015) that the Nigeria Police seems to be working for himself and his unit, team or station head. This acute inadequacy causes distortion in the discharge of their duty for effective policing.
- **The foundation of the Nigeria Police Force:** Nigeria Police Force perform poorly in policing as a result of its unfriendly manner. The aforementioned situation is due to its birth as noted by Ojomo (2012); and Iyang and Abraham (2013) that Nigeria Police has its root from colonial police which was not people-oriented. They noted that the police was designed as "force occupation" meant to be unfriendly, stern and bruted in order to deal with the people fearlessly and repressively as well as to effectively protect the commercial interests of the colonialists and their missionary ventures. Rotimi (2001) submitted among others that the colonial Nigeria Police operate under the philosophy of stranger policing strangers, that they were oriented to enforce codified British laws with little efforts to adopt these laws to Nigeria context.
- **Inadequate collaboration between the Police and the public:** The Police Force suppose to have been working in collaboration with the members of the public/community where they serve in order to succeed in their operations. Dickson (2007) noted that the biggest obstacle to the success of community policing introduced in Nigeria in the year 2003 was hostile



relationship between the Police and informal policing machinery (ethnic militia group among others) in the country due to non-adjustment of community policing idea to Nigeria context given the long-stand antagonism between the Police and the public.

- **The usage of the Nigeria Police by politicians:** The Nigeria politicians use the Police to fight their political opponents. The aforesaid situation was evident in Benue State as revealed by Akuul (2011) that operation Dzenda which was combating crimes and ensuring public safety particularly in the rural areas was used by politicians to fight opponents especially those in executive positions.
- **Other Causes:** They are; inadequate arms and ammunition, acute shortage of modern gadgets and equipment, inadequate provision of useful and credible information from members of the public for police to act upon, lack of constant re-retaining of officers.

#### **The Nigeria Police Force Efforts in Ensuring Security in Nigeria**

The Nigeria Police Force has admitted their weakness towards effective policing Nigerians, though with excuses earlier mentioned in this paper. However, Nigeria Police Force has initiated various crime control strategies/programmes by different Inspector General of police in ensuring effectiveness in the maintenance of public peace and security, which did/do not yield much of the expected results. Some of these crime control programmes from 1990's are identified by Akuul (2011) as following;

- Operation sweep
- Operation flush
- Operation fire for fire
- Operation Dzenda (in Benue State).
- Serve and to protect with integrity
- Anti-crime patrol
- Additionally, as observed, Special Anti-Robbery Squad (SARS)

A cursory look at the aforementioned crime control programmes, apart from Anti-crime patrol, the other programmes also relied on the traditional policing approach/technique of hurrying to the crime scene with the hope of either arresting the criminal(s) on the spot or together evidence that would lead to a later arrest. While, serve and to protect with integrity programme aimed at redeeming the police negative image which members of the public have on them, the Anti-crime patrol strategy which by name reflects proactiveness could not achieve much expected result(s) due to corruption and extortion of money from transporters by the officers and men of the institution, as well as the manner of their patrol with pick-up vans. Therefore, there is need for more effective

measure(s) for effective policing in Nigeria.

### **The Path to Effective Policing in Nigeria**

No doubt that Nigeria political entity lacks internal security as kidnapping, Boko Haram insurgency among others threaten the security of lives and properties in the country in recent times. The Police Force has also given reasons such as inadequate modern policing equipment to arrest the insecurity situation as criminals always employ technological approach to their criminal operations. But there is an adage that says "prevention is better than cure". Therefore, Nigeria Police Force should adopt proactive technique in policing the country rather than their often excuses.

The insecurity in Nigeria in recent times call for preventive measure(s) rather than the holistic fire for fire approach. In this regard, the writers suggest a measure, named proactive technique to arrest the ugly insecurity in the country.

Proactive technique is two words, proactive and technique. The word proactive is an adjective qualifying a noun. According to oxford advanced learner's dictionary, proactive means controlling a situation by making things happen rather than waiting for things to happen and then reacting to them. While technique is a noun, and it means (special) skill with which somebody is able to do something practical.

So, furthermore, proactive technique is a strategy of deterring crime/criminal activities by visibility and availability of the police officers with their policing weapons, thereby preventing crime from happening or reducing its rate of happening to a noticeable level in a society. The non-availability of modern policing equipment may be contributory factory to the insecurity situation in Nigeria but the major factor is non-availability and invisibility of the officers and men of Nigeria police force due to the ratio of one police officer to hundred people (as observed in Nigeria general elections), which has resulted to not proactiveness in their operations in policing Nigerians. Proactive technique is an advocate of relationship between the police and the citizens/community build on trust and confidence in handling insecurity situations. This technique to policing is a "crime-cide" because it will kill/discourage crime initiative in people, as it emphasizes that crime can best be prevented by the police proactiveness in their operations.

Significantly, proactive technique can only succeed in preventing or reducing crime with the following conditions;

- **Common goal:** The basic duty of the police force is to prevent crimes, protection of lives and properties, and maintenance of law and order in the country. So, this laid down objectives of the police force should be strictly adhere to in order to avert crime as well as prevention of its occurrence.

- **Mastery:** According to Oxford advance learner's Dictionary, mastery means great skill or complete knowledge. The police officers must be skillful in handling criminal investigations. This is vital in the implementation of proactive technique because often times as observed, police on patrol to a large extent are unsupervised; most times they use their discretion in an attempt to arrest crime situation(s). The officers and men of the Police Force must be guided by the rules and regulations stated in the Police Act and other police investigation principles.
- **Geographical Patrol:** Nigeria operates centralized/unitary police system. In this regard, Nigeria police authority should assigned police team(s) to particular station/beat of operation. The assigned team(s) of officers should share with members of the community their lawful values and beliefs, so that the people can see them as part of community and have confidence in them. The teams assigned to particular area should be made up of more officers with cultural affiliation of area(s) of operation. This measure is not aimed at ethnicising or politicizing the Nigeria police force but for effective operations as this will enhance understanding of the area(s) of patrol and speed interaction which the proactive technique is advocating. It will also enhance the level of rendering moral and logistic support to the police by the people.

Concerning patrol, the Police should embark more of foot and motor-cycle patrol in their area/beat of operation rather than vehicle patrol which does not aid police understanding of their area of operations. With adoption of geographical patrol, the Police officers will be visible and available, which will signify their readiness to combat crime as well as indicator of the people's friend and protector. So, frequent changing or posting of police officers from one area of operation to another should be drastically reduced except it is done as punishment on the officer(s).

- **Police and public partnership:** There should be synergistic relationship between the police and the community. There should be Police collaboration with the members of the public in order to identify and give useful information to counter and prevent crime on the Nigeria streets and other places to ensure public security. The Police should also commend the efforts of the community toward provision of security.
- **Police-citizen structure:** The Police should strategize systematic way(s) of consulting the community leaders and other concerned bodies for the purpose of generating crime related information to ensure effective policing. For instance, the Police can visit or invite chiefs, landlords, market associations, leaders of concerned security bodies for information that will

promote effective policing.

Proactive technique place emphasis on Police Community relations/partnership and usefulness of engaging the community members in crime problem identification and resolving efforts.

### **Measures to Avert Resistance to the Adoption of Proactive Technique in the Nigeria Police Force**

The following are measures to avert resistance to the implementation of proactive technique in Nigeria police force as some officers may wish to maintain the status-quo and resist the change.

- Any Police officer who has five years either by age or years of service to retire should be given compulsory retirement with all their entitlement paid without delay.
- Nigeria Police officers should be trained and retrained on the type of patrol needed in achieving the proactive technique and training allowance should be paid while on the training.
- Risk allowance should be paid at when due to all deserved serving Police officers.
- Good welfare-health packages should be given to the officers
- Special body from the Police force should be created to monitor the Police officers/teams on duty to ensure strict compliances to guiding rules and regulations.
- There should be interval upward review of the Police basic salary and allowances to curb corruption, extortion of money from the public as well as to spur them in their operations.

### **Conclusion and Recommendations**

Nigeria Police Force was established to ensure among others prevention of crimes, protection of lives and properties. However, the Police Force has failed to ensure the public security and safety as Nigerians are afraid of moving freely in their fatherland.

The afore-discussed ugly situation continues to exist due to among others lack of the members of the public collaboration with the police force for effective policing. This lack of partnership between the police and the members of public is the major cause of Nigeria internal insecurity, without it, protection of lives and properties may not be possible in Nigeria. Police brutality as evident among others, the case of killed twin brother, their friend and killed himself (the police) in Lagos and that of Mrs. Adegbite Damilola a pregnant woman was beaten to pulp (Ameh, 2015; Oriere, 2016, respectively) and corrupt practices have earned the Police Force bad image and perception from members of the public, which is negatively affecting the willingness of the people to collaborate with the police.

Below are recommended tips to ensure effective policing operations by the Nigeria Police in

## Nigeria.

- \* The Police Force should be well equipped with modern policing equipment. Special budget should be made by the Federal Government for ammunition acquisition for the Police.
- \* Police Service Commission should organise compulsory workshop regularly for its officers with emphasis on the Police Act and other guidelines for operations. This exercise will help to promote cohesive coordination in the Police Force as well as to reduce if not to eradicate the use of Police by politicians against their political opponents.
- \* State Police should be created by Federal Government. The practice of State Government will enhance the operation of proactive technique suggested in this work.
- \* Police community partnership should be encouraged through the practicing of well structured community policing adjusted for Nigerian context. This will bring about proactiveness of the Police Force as useful crime information will be given to the Police.
- \* Police Service Commission should embark on sustainable ethnical re-orientation to give the institution a new life that will redeem its bad image which the public has conceived about it.
- \* The Police officers should be monitored by the Police authority against inappropriate behaviours and brutality on the members of the public. The Complaint Response Unit created by Inspector General of Police, Mr. Solomon Arase in 2015 as reported by Omonobi (2016) as a multi-platform reporting mechanism through which citizens complaints, concerns and queries address and dispatch should be strengthened and strictly executed to ensure the Police commitment to prompt, efficient and public orient service delivery to the members of the public.

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