

REVIEW ARTICLE

INTERNAL SECURITY AND STATE POLICING IN CONTEMPORARY NIGERIA: THE NEXUS**Atairet Clifford Atairet*, Sunday Effiong Ibanga, Elensi Etim Asuquo***Department of Public Administration, Akwa Ibom State University, Obio Akpa Campus, Nigeria.***Corresponding Author: Atairet Clifford Atairet*

Abstract: Nigeria in recent time has been experiencing several forms of insecurity across the different geo-political zones, ranging from BOKO Haram, Banditry, Terrorism, Kidnapping, Militancy, Secessionist activities, Armed Robbery, Ethnic conflicts, Herders farmers conflicts, etc which has brought untold hardship to the citizens. Internal security challenges in Nigeria has been so real that it brings to question if the Federal Police alone can tackle it, some quarters are of the opinion that federal Police may have been overwhelmed by the level of insecurity hence, the glamour for decentralization. Accordingly, this paper seeks to critically analyze the nexus between internal security and state Police in contemporary Nigeria. The paper adopted descriptive method of research and data were obtained from secondary sources. Economic theory of conflict was used as the theoretical framework. The findings reveal that the Nigerian Police is under staff and that chain of command from the centre, seems to affect quick responses to criminal calls amongst others. Consequently, the paper recommends amongst others that adequate number of personnel should be recruited and that the Nigerian Police should be decentralized.

Keywords: *Nigerian Police, State policing, Security, Internal security, Decentralization.*

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INTRODUCTION

Provision of security is one of the primary functions of government in any society. Every society operates a form of government to maintain order, peace, security and general well-being of its citizens (Ngonso, Atairet, Esuk and Williams, 2023). The government considers security as a key responsibility that must be addressed. Issues concerning security have received considerable critical attention in the public discourse in recent time in Nigeria. This is so because Nigeria has suffered various forms of alarming security challenges.

Security of life and property is a constitutional responsibility of government. Human beings by nature need orderliness to co-exist (Atairet, 2021) and policing plays a vital role in this direction. According to the Guardian Newspaper editorial of July 18, 2012, “security is the foremost problem confronting the Nigerian nation. At the time of writing, security of lives and property, a

primary function of government has all but failed. The chronic insecurity is occurring in an unsavory atmosphere of a nation awash with all sorts of weapons”. Of recent, the high incidence of insecurity in Nigeria has made scholars and public commentators to question the responses of the Federal Police to the security challenges of the various states of the federation. National security occupies a central place in the country as the activities of unscrupulous elements tend to threaten the continuous existence of the entity called Nigeria, despite effort of the central government. On yearly basis there are continuous released of funds (Mark & Atairet, 2022), the security situation seems unchecked.

Nigeria, a plural society adopted Federal System of Government to cater for the various interest as such several structures are decentralized with some still within the powers of the central government which

Nigeria Police is one of such. There is growing debate that the current insecurity in Nigeria would have been effectively handled if state policing is introduced. Accordingly, the central thesis of this paper is to examine the nexus between internal security and state policing in Nigeria.

THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

The paper is anchored on Economic Theory of Conflict. This theory was promoted by the work of Paul Collier, an American World Bank Economist. The theory is of the view that conflict are caused by elite competition over valuable natural resources. This is largely because people in conflict are assumed to be fighting over, not about, something that is material.

Additionally, this theory also further encapsulate that war, civil wars or other forms of conflicts supported by natural based rents or proceeds like diamond or crude oil or gold are more likely to last very long because peace processes are always jettisoned by the war entrepreneurs that are “making it big” in real conflict situations (Osah, Ogundiwun and Eti, 2017; Mansoob and Muhammed, 2007). Therefore, during conflict situation, some people tend to be on the benefitting side thus thwarting all efforts geared towards putting an end to the conflict situation. Bredal and Malone (2000) opined that social conflicts are generated by many factors, some of which are deep-seated. For them, across the ages, conflicts have come to be seen as having a “functional utility” and are embedded in economic disparities.

Collier (2003) pointed out that some people (commonly referred to as ‘conflict entrepreneurs’) actually benefit from chaos; while the overwhelming majority of the population are affected by the negative impacts of conflict; leaders of armed formations that are actually perpetrating the violence often profit from the chaos.

Economic theory of conflict can best be applicable to the present case of insecurity in Nigeria. Apparently, the prevalent insecurity challenges in Nigeria are not exacerbated by natural factors rather they are pioneered by certain groups and individuals who might directly or indirectly benefit from the response of government towards putting an end to the accelerating conflict situation. In this regard, the continuous outcry by the

public to salvage the country from her current quagmire of insecurity have generated the idea of establishment a state Police which will collaborate with the federal police in fighting crime. Unfortunately, the idea of creating state police has for some years generated lot of controversies and resistance from some quarters mostly the elites who may directly or indirectly be benefiting from the present state of insecurity ravaging the country.

Hence, efforts by various stakeholders have been jeopardized and the moves towards establishing state Police in Nigeria like other climes have to some extent been marred and decimated by these elites. Despite the pools of financial allocation by the government on security, there have been no desirable results hence, and citizens are left in the mercies of criminal elements who continue to perpetuate their heinous crimes without any resistance from the security agents.

CONCEPTUAL EXPLICATION

Internal Security

The concept of national security vis a vis internal security is seen as a national discourse among scholars. Right to life is fundamental (Atairet, 2021). However, different scholars have conceptualized internal security in various dimensions though there is no consensus definition of the concept. For the purpose of this paper, it is pertinent to define the term “security”.

Umede (2011) define security as a dynamic condition, which involves the relative ability of a state to counter threats to its core values and interest. Similarly, Kraham (2003) sees security as activities that ensure the protection of a country, persons, and properties of the community against future threats, danger, mishaps and all other forms of perils.

Also, Otto and Ukpere (2012) averred that “security means protection from hidden and hurtful disruptions in the patterns of daily life in homes, offices or communities”. They further state that security must be related to the presence of peace, safety, happiness and the protection of human and physical resources or the absence of crises, threats to human injury among others. The concept of national security has often been taken to merely connote the preservation of

sovereignty, territorial integrity and internal stability with the focus on the coercive power of the state. In today's complex and interdependent world faced with many non-traditional threats like pandemics, climate change, etc it must, however, be seen in a more holistic manner. Such an all-encompassing view of national security demands that the determinant of security is not just the coercive elements of state power but its comprehensive national power with the latter being a composite of many factors across all facets of national life.

These factors, inclusive of leadership, if quantified, can help develop a national security index which in comparative terms could serve as an indicator of the relative security of a country and its peers. The holistic nature of national security demands that appropriate structures are in place to manage it. India is fortunate to have such structures which, of course, need revitalisation. Internal security is a deliberate act of maintaining peace within the boundaries of a sovereign state or other self-governing territories, by upholding the national law and protecting against internal security threats.

In the same vein, Babangida (2011), views national security as the physical protection and defence of the citizens and a nation's territorial integrity. National security aside from the physical protection of the nation's territory, it also connotes economic, social and prosperity of the citizens and also foreigners residing in the country.

State Police

Police is derived from the Greek word "polis" and from the Roman word "politia" the two combined together means Police. Police are constituted body of persons empowered by the state, with the aim to enforce the law, to ensure safety, health and possessions of citizens, and also to prevent crime and civil disorder (Merriam-Webster dictionary, 2020).

For the purpose of this paper, the concept "state police will be meticulously elaborated. Aremu (2014:33) describe state policing as "territorial policing". It is also seen as a sub-national form of policing in which there is devolution of security operations in the hands of the federating states or regions. Operationally, it is seen as a form of policing

in which all operational logistics are controlled by other government other than the national or federal government.

Nigerian Police

Nigerian Police is an organization that its functions to the general public are very crucial for the co-existence of humanity. The operation of the Police has a lot to do with the interaction with the public; no Police can function effectively without interaction with the public since most of the information for effective policing comes from the public because they are not ubiquitous. The Police always need witnesses in order to prosecute cases and bring offenders to justice. Therefore, the power to perform their constitutional functions is dependent on public approval of their existence.

Historically, the origin of the Nigerian Police is dated back to the pre-colonial era. The act of policing from time immemorial in Nigeria were seen as the need for the resolution of conflicts, prevention of crime and the maintenance of law and order. Human being in the face of the above have employed different strategies to ensure that conflicts are resolved and law and order are maintained. Most communities in Nigeria did actually perform Police duties before the arrival of the European.

The arrival of the modern Police Force in Nigeria is the product of British colonial experience, because Nigerian Police Force is modeled on the British system which then had as its main objective to checkmate the reactions of the indigenous people to their political and economic hegemony. The involvement of the British in policing in Nigeria dates back to 1861. The present day Nigerian Police Force after independence in 1960, was established by the provision of section 105 of the Nigerian constitution order in council, as a unified Force to exercise authority in all parts of the country.

The Republican Constitution of 1963 marks the evolution and the emergence of Nigeria as an independent and sovereign nation. The Force under the control of a sovereign nation took oath of allegiance to the Federal Republic of Nigeria, unlike in the previous occasions. Since then, the constitutions of 1979 and 1999 have modified the Police in line with the changing realities. Section

214(1) of the 1999 Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria as amended in (2011) provide thus: “There shall be a Police Force for Nigeria which shall be known as the Nigerian Police Force, and subject to the provision of this section no other Police Force shall be established for the Federation or any part thereof.”

With the establishment of Nigeria Police, the constitution clearly spelt out that no other Police Force shall be established in any part of the county. The Police Force has the main objective of maintaining peace and harmony in the country and its functions includes:

- The prevention and detection of crime
- The apprehension of offenders
- The preservation of law and order
- The protection of life and properties
- The due enforcement of laws and regulations with which they are directly charged
- The performance of such military duties within or outside Nigeria as may be required of them by the Federal Republic of Nigeria, or under the authority of Police act or any other act.
- The preservation of liberty of the subject
- The control and regulation of traffic
- Grant bail to suspects pending completion of investigation prior to court arraignment
- Serve summons
- Regulate or disperse procession and assemblies etc.

To accomplish the above numerous functions, the Nigerian Police Force is structurally organized in two ways: The command structure includes:

- The Force Headquarters
- The Zonal command
- The State command
- The Area command
- Divisional Police command
- The Police post

While the operational and administrative structures are as follows:

- The directorate of finance and administration
- Directorate of operations

- Federal investigation and intelligence bureau
- The directorate of logistics and supplies
- The directorate of training and command

Challenges of Nigerian Police Force

Nigerian Police Force like most organization of government is faced with many challenges that affect its daily operations and the discharge of their constitutional duties. The challenges faced by Nigerian Police are categorized thus:

Endemic Corruption: Corruption has constituted an unrelenting bane (Atairet, 2022) in Nigeria. Like every other organization, Nigerian Police Force has over the years labeled its name on bad light. Personnel of the Nigerian Police are apparently perceived by the public to be highly corrupted. The issue of corruption has become a rampaging phenomenon affecting the operation of the Nigerian Police. Divindi, citing Aluko (2012), argued that corruption includes; several wrong behaviours such as nepotism, favoritism, bribery, graft and other unfair means adopted by government employees and the public alike to extract some socially and legally prohibited favours.

Despite the effort of government since the returned of democracy in 1999 to abate the increase rate of corruption among police personnel, the menace has become of increase on daily basis. Some prominent corrupt behaviour prevalent in the Nigerian Police include, extortion of money from motorist, bribery and gratification, engagement on illicit activities, leasing of riffle to robbers for operation and other form of questionable behavior. Human Rights Watch Report (2011) posit that:

“As in previous years, the undisciplined Nigerian Police Force was implicated in frequent human right violations, including extra-judicial killings, torture, arbitrary arrests, and extortion related abuses. The Police routinely solicit bribes from victims to investigate crimes and from suspects to drop investigations. Embezzlement of Police funds is rife among senior Police officials who also often demand monetary “returns” from money extorted from the public by their subordinates.”

On the other hand it is observed that poor funding of the Police by the central

government has plunge Police personnel into some corrupt practices earlier mentioned. Thus these acts of corruption have rendered the Nigerian Police Force porous and vulnerable in the face of increasing security challenges bedeviling the country.

Wrong Perception of Officers: Another critical challenge affecting the performance of Nigerian Police is wrong perception of officers. This particular scenario has its root from the origin of the Nigerian Police from the colonial era. It is observed that one of the reasons for the establishment of Police Force by the colonial masters was because of the fear of resistance and violent attitude on the part of the indigenous populace.

The establishment of a 30 man constable which was later changed into the Nigerian Police Force was aimed at suppressing, brutalizing, coercing and maltreating the populace who showed resistance to their activities. This perception is still being held by some police officers. Consequently, in our present society, Police Officers are badly perceived as enemies of the people, they are seen as been violent in nature because of the brutality they sometime meted to innocent citizens. Hence, these bad perceptions have expose officers to high level of risk in their various areas of responsibility especially violent prone States.

Unitary Status: Over centralization of the Nigerian Police Force has also contributed to one of the problem faced by the Police. As enshrined in Section 214(2) of the constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria 1999 (as amended in 2011), it is stated that the Nigerian Police Force shall be under the command of Inspector General of Police (IGP). This Section of the Constitution has bestowed enormous power to the Police to operate mostly on order given by the central government.

Being listed at the 45 items on the Exclusive List (second schedule), the Federal Government exercise absolute control over all the security apparatus. Thus leaving the State Governors who are the Chief Security of their respective States at the mercies of the Federal Government who rely on the central government for the provision of security when need arises. Some governors seems overwhelm with the level of insecurity, these challenges have made States Governors

like Benue and Katsina to openly called the civil populace to purchase arms and defend themselves (Nosike, 2022). Consequently, the primary function of the Police Force which is protecting of life and property and the maintaining of order are jeopardized and these have also rendered various political unit vulnerable to threat of criminal attack.

Inadequate Manpower: Inadequate manpower has over the years marred the operational capability of the Nigerian Police Force. According to Nosike (2022), the total personnel strength of the Nigerian Police stands at about 371,000. This figure with over 200 million Nigerian is below the United Nation minimum ration of a police officer to civilian. The implication is that the current manpower of the Nigerian Police is far below the UN standard rating. Hence, shortage of manpower has limits the effectiveness and efficiency operation of the Nigerian Police. This has further widened the gap for criminal element to infiltrate the society since there are shortages of Police personnel in their respective duty post.

Also, as noted by Shu'aibu (2022), Undoubtedly, most of the villages and towns raided by Boko Haram, banditry and kidnapers among other insurgent groups happened as a result of the inadequacy of police personnel to give the needed protection to the people during the onslaught. Meaning that the Nigerian Police is unable to give the current population security due to its small number of officers.

It is also worthy of note that the prevalent uprising in various parts of the county and inability to curtail the civil unrest are as the result of under policing. Hence, there are called from different stakeholders on the need to decentralize the Police structure of the Nigerian policing system to give room for the recruitment of competent personnel in order to meet the current security challenges in different part of the country.

Lack of Equipment and Low Level of Technology: Inadequate weapons and ammunition, coupled with the ill-deployment of modern technology have over the years derail the operations of Nigerian Police in tackling ever increasing insecurity situation in Nigeria. Much is expected from the public which is ill-equipped to combat criminal elements. Most weapons handled by Police

officers are outdated and outmoded when compared to sophisticated weapons handled by criminals. There are also cases of lack of Police vehicle and other security gadget that would have help in effective performance of their duties. Barnabas (2013), assert that Police officers in most stations have always complained of lack of basic working materials such as statement forms, bail bonds, case jackets, Police diaries and other items of stationery.

Apparently, deployment of modern technology like installation of CCTV camera, modern crime monitory gadget, intelligence and surveillance tools for tracking criminals are not utilized for effective policing of the country. Consequently, there is a call from all quarters to effectively equip the Police Force with modern weapons and ammunition and also the deployment of technological gadget to assist the Police Force lives up to its expectation.

Factors Propelling the Quest for State Police Creation in Nigeria

The prevalent discourse and debate by various stakeholders and political actors on the creation of State Police have called for a serious concerned on the necessity of the subject matter. In this regards, some of the compelling factors that necessitated for the institutionalization of the State Police are explained below:

Need for Effective Internal Security: The upsurge and rising cases of crime has necessitated the call from various stakeholders insisting for the creation of State Police. The exercise is coming against the backdrop of dismal failure of the National Security apparatus to effectively deal with the myriads of security threats that have engulfed the country in recent years. The present state of insecurity rampaging the nation territorial integrity has raised serious concern on whether the centralized Police structure can adequately combat the rising menace of insecurity.

Section 4 of the Police Act (Laws of the Federation, 1990) has outlines the functions of the Nigerian Police to include among others; crime detection and prevention, protection of life and property etc. however, on the contrary, the overall primary responsibility of the Nigerian Police Force which is the protection of life and property

seems to have been maligned. Of recent, there have been increase criminal activities, armed robbery, kidnapping, assassination, arson, killing, civil unrest, banditry and terrorism etc. The rise in these social vices have painted the Nigerian Police Force black as their operations seems to ineffectively address the rise on internal security concerns the nation is currently facing.

Indeed many political analysts are of the opinion that Nigeria is fast degenerating into the Hobbesians state of nature where life is short, nasty and brutish and living has become an issue of survival of the fittest (Adebakin and Raimi, 2012). Similarly, Okechukwu and Anyadiko (2013) posit that most Nigerians now sleep with one eye open as those who are lucky to escape burglars are kept awake all night by booming sound of gun shots or dins of bomb explosions by those too powerful to be stopped. Consequently, the creation of State Police will enhance adequate security and with the collaboration of the Federal Police and other security outfit will help protect and safeguard the nation territorial integrity.

Quick Respond: One of the salient factors that prompt the quest for the establishment of State Police is quick respond during emergency and time of crises. It is a known facts that insecurity thrive where there are absent of security personnel. But with the present of State Police at various designated Police post coupled with their quick intervention when they are called, criminal activities will be reduced drastically.

Implementation of True Federalism: The implementation of Federal ideological perspective is one of the call and glamour for the creation of state Police. Enogholase (2012:2) noted thus:

“The Nigerian federation is very dysfunctional and requires urgent restructuring and the creation of the State Police is one of the fundamental requirements for the operation of true federalism in Nigeria. In other Federations, especially in the United State of America where we copied this idea of governance from, they have their own State Police department and there is the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) that is in-charge of the whole country.”

Consequently, the decentralization of the Force into Federal and State categories, as is obtainable in America and other developed nation will enhance the performance and efficiency of the Nigerian Police. Segun (2014), also argued that if Nigeria is to operate a functional Federal System of Government, it must not be done partially as all the basic tenets of federalism must be put in place. True Federalism entails sharing of constitutional power to federating unit for effective administration of the country.

However, the Nigerian Police Force is strictly under the control and supervision of Inspector General of Police (IGP) who is appointed by the President and also takes directives from the President. It is also worthy of note that Commissioner of Police posted to various States of the Federation are require to takes order from the Chief Executive of their respective State, but their total loyalty lies with Inspector General of Police (IGP). Furthermore, Okonkwo (2014), argued that the State Governors can only be Chief Security Officers when the State Police exist and they are effectively in-charge of the security apparatus in their respective state. Similarly, the former deputy senate president senator Ike Ekweremadu quoted by Aziken (2014)

“...Nigeria is the only Country he knows operating federal structure with a central police system. The decentralization will significantly help the campaign against crime including the insurgency mounted by the Islamic Boko Haram group.... Decentralized policing gives the police the advantage of knowing the environment in which they operate geographically, culturally, socially, politically and even economically.”

The implication of this lies on the nexus that Commissioner of Police sometimes fail to take order from the governor, thus the state executive being the chief security of their state are helpless in tackling the security situation in their domain.

Effective Intelligence Gathering: Establishment of state Police will no doubt guarantee intelligence gathering at the grass root level. Crime detection, investigation and prosecution requires adequate intelligent gathering and information. The establishment of State Police will not be restricted to the

protection of life and property, but will also involve plethora task of collecting useful information from locals that will help in crime investigation and the arrest of offenders. It is also averred that since the personnel of the Police Force will be recruited with the locality of its operation, detection, investigation, apprehension and prosecution of crime becomes effective and easy.

Effective intelligence gathering will be more efficient especially where the officers speak and understand the language of the locals, understand their cultures and mingle with the people. Whereas this is not obtainable in the federal structure where Police officers are constantly posted to areas they encounter language and cultural barriers. As a result of not understanding the language of a community, constant communication and interactions with the people for the purpose of tackling prospective crimes and apprehension of offenders are impaired.

Nexus between Internal Security and State Police

Establishment of State Police has become a contending and topical issue among scholars and various stakeholders. Many Nigerians consider State Policing essential to solving the deteriorating insecurity in the country, which is threatening diverse critical sectors, down to the very fabric holding the country together (Nosike 2022). Some scholars are of the view that creating a State Police will go a long way in reducing crime to its barest minimum while some are at the opposing side that Nigeria is not yet matured for the creation of state Police.

In approaching such herculean task of this nature, it is pertinent to take cognizance of the overall benefits and advantages of State Policing especially as regard the current security challenge bedeviling the country and also taking comparison of other countries that adopt state policing if its advantages surpass its shortcoming. Nigeria has continued to receive a low ranking by Global Peace Index (GPI. 2012) due to the high level of internal threat to national security being recorded in several parts of the country (Achumba, Ighomereho and Akpor-Robaro, 2013).

To further buttress the efficacies of State Policing, it is imperative to notes that most developed countries of the world have

consider State Policing as one of the methods of fighting crimes in their respective domain. These countries though they practice Federal System approach, their constitutions allow for the adoption of state Police to fight local crimes. Some of these countries are United State of America, Canada, Germany, Australia, Brazil, India, Mexico etc. Hence, Nigeria will not be the first sovereign state that will to introduce State Police. Similarly, Conklin (2007) argues that the State Police is peculiar to Federalist States.

Apparently, Nigerian Government adopt Federal System of Government as practice in the United State, in this regard state policing becomes sacrosanct and imperative especially with the heterogeneous nature of the country. It will further help to decongest administrative stress at the Federal level, and the State Governor will take full responsibility of internal security within their area of jurisdiction. Federal Policing System is a fundamental abnormality of Nigeria's unbalanced and defective federalism, which that predisposes it to insecurity, and should be reversed (Nosike 2022).

In spite the bad perception generally attributed to Police personnel, it is argued that the introduction of State Police will help change the narratives. Sequel to the above, the challenge of poor funding, ill-equipping and poor condition of service will become a history as the welfare of Police Officers and their families which are one of the main reasons for their misconduct will be addressed by the State Chief Executives.

The problems of inadequate arms and ammunitions and communication gadget will be address since the improvement of security situation in a particular state is a credit to the State Governor. It is also observed that financial allocation to the security sector is insufficient to combat the every growing security challenge.

Okonkwo (2014) posits that Federal Government of Nigeria do not pay much attention on the salaries and pensions, while infrastructure which are in varying stages of disrepair, with unsanitary and decay Police Barracks, Police Stations, Police Posts, rickety vehicles and clapped-out uniforms. Most times Police are trained in an unfriendly and unhealthy environment.

Indeed, the inability of the Federal Government to properly fund and equip the Nigeria Police Force to fight crimes has been given as the reason for the sustained high rate of insecurity in Nigeria (Eboh 2014). These are as a result of over centralization of Nigerian Police. Consequently, if the Federal Government takes it as a full responsibility of protecting its citizens, then State Policing should be given greater priority and also be given constitution backing.

Moreover, the gigantic nature and large geographical landmass of Nigeria coupled with different tribes and languages have concomitant relationship with establishment of State Police. Nigeria is an heterogeneous society with diverse languages, ethnic affiliations and different cultures. There is an imperative need to decentralize the Nigerian Police, because it has become practically impossible to police a country the size of Nigeria from Abuja the FCT (Okuta, 2022).

In consonance to this, maintaining a peaceful and a crime free society requires strategic planning. Is like crime have become a culture in Nigeria that almost all the tribes are noted for a particular criminal practice. Interestingly, the Niger-Delta are noted for kidnapping and pipeline vandalism, the North are noted for banditry, kidnapping and insurgency, while the East are noted for disturbance of public peace, agitation for independent State and also kidnapping. In all, it should be noted that kidnapping is common to all the region in recent time as well as Armed Robbery. Kidnapping seems to have become a lucrative business and it is common to all the regions in Nigeria.

The security challenges in different state appear to have overwhelm the state governors as such, they are trying to develop their security outfit which are still subject to the federal security in its operations have not allowed proper policing of the state. States have peculiar security challenges that should be handled as such and not at the mercy of the federal police.

These are all internal security challenges that can be well handled by the Police if they are decentralized, since each State knows have a particular security challenges, the State can as well create and train people in their locality who are well vested with the knowledge of their terrain and can maneuver

and tackle local criminal practices within their jurisdiction while the major crimes like terrorism can be well handled by the Federal Security Outfit. Regional outfit like the Amotekun, Ebube Agu, Niger Delta Hawks appear more attractive alternative to leverage on the strength of the security apparatus (Nosike 2022).

In the area of unemployment, Kunle Awoloja posits that “approving State Police would lead to the creation of jobs for the unemployed youths since the Force must be made up of people from the state, and would give the Governors good reason to invest in their Police” (The Compass, 2011). The issue of unemployment which has become a national discourse will be reduced to its barest minimum with the adoption of State Police.

CONCLUSION

Decentralization of Nigeria security outfit vis a vis the Nigerian Police Force is the most commendable way of combating crime in contemporary Nigeria. Nigerian Police Force as earlier stated is a product of British Colonial Masters hence their shortcoming is traceable to the intent behind their establishment. Nigeria being a vast multi-ethnic and heterogeneous country coupled with the adoption of Federal System of Government as copied from other developed countries should not have any reason not decentralizing her Police Force because of her nature.

Though the antagonist of State Police are of the view that devolution of this security outfit will even leads to more arbitrary and excesses use and misused of power by State Executive. They further claimed that State Police will be used by Governors as political tools to oppress their opposition and also actualize their selfish, parochial and partisan political objective.

This conceptions though might seems palpable, but with some form of attitudinal orientation and reformation, this trajectory can be changed through adequate funding, welfare services, procurement of modern and sophisticated arms and ammunition and the raise of income of the Nigerian Police. Judging from the previous ugly experience and the current state of insecurity in Nigeria, it is pertinent and indisputable fact that State Policing is the most suitable means of

tackling the high rate of crime thus making Nigeria one of the safest and peaceful country in the world.

RECOMMENDATIONS

In order to effectively achieve these, the following recommendations become imperative towards better policing in Nigeria:

- Establishment of State Police to combat insecurity in Nigeria
- To tackle insecurity in Nigeria, adequate number of personnel should be recruited
- Establishment of national regulatory body just like National Judiciary Commission (NJC) to check, screen and discipline those to be appointed by State Governors, as heads of their respective States Police formations
- Research and development and the introduction of high tech intelligence gathering should be made a priority in the Nigerian Police Force and decentralized.
- Improvement of condition of service and also the provision of adequate remuneration to Police officers in order to reduce low self-esteem, aggression and corruption that seems to have become a norm in the Nigerian Police

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