

CHALLENGES OF THE NIGERIA POLICE IN CRIME PREVENTION AND CONTROL, MAINTENANCE OF PEACE AND CONFLICT RESOLUTION

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Abstract

This study examined the role of the police in crime prevention and control, maintenance of peace and conflict resolution in Nigeria. The general aim of this study is to identify the challenges inhibiting police performance with a view to finding/proffering solutions. The paper adopts qualitative research method (Content analysis) which relies on secondary data collected from peer reviewed journals, edited books and credible online resources. The paper reviews the Functionalist and the Conflict/Marxist perspectives and adopts the Conflict/Marxist approach which provided a more realistic insight on the nature of the police roles by placing it within specific socio-economic and political context of the Nigerian society. The non-performance of the police is due to many factors such as military intervention in government, poor funding and mismanagement of the available funds, organized corruption and inadequate manpower, lack of modern equipment, inadequate welfare and training among others. It has been found that these challenges are related to the whole socio-economic structure of the society, this paper therefore recommends among others the provision of adequate welfare and social services such as education, owner occupier housing scheme, protective and supportive health care system and appropriate training programmes to the Nigeria Police as well as fundamental change in the socio-economic structure of society to ensure equal opportunities to all segments of society, respect to the rule of law, fundamental human rights, justice, equity and fairness in the distribution of wealth, transparency, accountability and good governance, protection of life and properties and provision of essential services for all and not for the few, which should form part of the central agenda of the state.

Keywords: Crime prevention and control, Conflict Resolution, Peace, Police.

Introduction

Peace and security of life and property are the primary conditions for progress and development of any society. All over the world, police force is an indispensable organ established to watch over the society. Since there is no society that is crime-free, police is the principal agency charged with the responsibility of crime prevention and control. The Nigeria Police are the biggest and most noticeable and important agency of criminal justice system which consists of the police, the courts and the correctional service. The police are the main institution which provides regular, direct contact with the public, a situation that makes it unique among other components of the criminal justice system. The policeman is the gatekeeper of the criminal justice system since he set in motion a criminal case and decides who goes into the system and this decision has wider implications for other components in the system. The major tasks of the police include selectively enforcing the law, protecting the public, arresting suspected law violators and preventing crime.

However, when the police are besieged by behaviors that are antithetical to the purpose for which they were established, then the society is set for anomie (Karimu, 2014; Chinawokwu, 2013).

The presence of police personnel at a gathering, community along the street, at strategic positions etc, sends warning signals to any member of the society who may want to unleash terror on fellow members. As the society develops, there is tendency for the influx of people to such community. It is pertinent to note that people of questionable characters will want to create their own world to perpetrate evil, and police will exercise their rights by making sure that such undesirable elements do not disturb the defenseless people. They do this by applying in full fledge the wrath of law on the culprits. The existence of police in the society, especially in Nigeria supports the effort of the government to ensure security of life and property, apprehension and prosecution of criminals and maintenance of law and order. When one considers the important roles assigned to the police by the constitution, one may be inspired to seek enlistment to perform the noble service (Chinawokwu, 2017).

In the developed world, the police are respected, cherished and loved because of their invaluable contributions to the wellbeing of the citizenry. In the case of Nigeria, the police are not given such accolades because of their antecedents. The police-community relations that would have been rosy are characterized at best by deep suspicion and at worst by violence, abuse of office, illegal arrest, bribery, prejudice, nepotism, human right violation etc.. The challenges of the police include among other things external factors (military intervention, poor funding and creation of parallel security organizations) and internal factors (inappropriate deployment, non-observance of rule of law, organized corruption, in-fighting, indiscipline and poor training (Alemika, 2008; Osayande, 2008).

This paper is divided into six (6) sections: section one provides the introduction and conceptual clarification of the police, crime, crime prevention and control, peace, conflict and conflict resolution. Section two presents the Conflict/Marxist/perspective as the theoretical framework of the paper. Section three is the history of the Nigeria Police Force. While section four reviews the roles of the Nigeria Police in crime prevention and control, maintenance of peace and conflict resolution. Section five discusses the challenges of the Nigeria police in the performance of its constitutional duties and the sixth section discusses conclusion and presents recommendations.

Conceptual Clarification

Crime prevention and control

Crime is the intentional commission of an act usually deemed socially harmful or dangerous and specifically defined, prohibited and punishable under criminal law. In ordinary language, a crime is an unlawful act punishable by a state or other authority. The term crime does not have any simple and universally accepted definition, though statutory definitions have been provided for certain purposes. One of the most popular definitions of crime is that which violates the criminal law and is punishable by fine, imprisonment or even death (Dambazau, 2007). To be considered a crime, behavior must constitute a more serious threat to the formal rules of the society and the violation of these rules must be punished by the agencies of the state. Caldwell and Nardini (1977) defined crime as any act or omission which the law forbids and for which it prescribes punishment to be administered by the state through a proceeding in its own name. Similarly, Wolfgang et al (1970) defined crime as an act that violates the social norms and its prohibition is buttressed by a punishment administered by the state through a proceeding in its name. This paper adopts Paul Tappan's legal definition of crime as an intentional act of commission or omission in violation of the criminal law (statutory or case law) committed without defense or justification and sanctioned

by the state as felony or misdemeanor (Tappan, 1966 cited in Ozo-Eson, 2004). This legal definition gives an indication of the various factors that must be considered before an act can be classified as a crime. It should be noted however that this definition is sometimes at variance with popular definitions. Some acts that are defined by law as criminal may not be so defined by the public. Similarly, some acts may be considered abhorrent, undesirable and criminal by the public but may not be so by law.

There are various types of crimes such as personal crimes, property crimes, violent crimes, victimless crimes, white-collar crimes, organized crimes, cyber crimes economic and financial crimes etc. However, according to Dambazau (2007) the police categorized crimes based on the grievousness of the offence and the severity of the punishment. Crimes are therefore divided into three (3) classes or categories; felonies, misdemeanors and simple offences. Felonies are very serious offences like armed robbery, murder, rape etc. punishable by death or life imprisonment. Misdemeanors are less serious offences like driving without license or stealing a goat which is punishable by imprisonment for not less than six (6) months, but less than three years. Simple offences are those which neither fall within felonies nor the misdemeanors such as the traffic offences in our cities which are punishable by a fine. Several factors contribute to crime but the most important ones are socio-economic factors which include poverty, unemployment, peer pressure, drugs, politics, religion, family conditions and the society.

Crime prevention and control refers to the methods taken to reduce crime in the society. These are strategies widely implemented in some counties through government police and in many cases, private policing methods such as private security and home defense. They are not only to prevent crime and victimization, but also to promote community safety and contribute to the sustainable development of the countries. Effective crime prevention and control enhances the quality of life of all citizens. It has long term benefits in terms of reducing the costs of crime associated with the formal criminal justice system as well as other social costs that result from crime

Conflict Resolution

There is no consensus among scholars on the definition of conflict as each defined it according to the writer's perspective but what seems to be common in the scholarly definitions is that conflict occurs when there is a state of struggle, opposition, incompatibility, interference, divergence of interest, tension, interaction and interdependence among others (Miller, 2005). Conflicts can simply be defined as a fight, battle, struggle or overt confrontation between and/among parties. It has been defined as the opposition between individuals or groups on the basis of competing interests and aspirations as well as different identities and /or attitudes. It is also conceived as a disagreement between/among parties that have real/ perceived incompatible interests, aspirations, values or strategies for achieving desired ends. Miller (2005) conceived conflict as a divergence of interest, or a belief that the party's current aspirations cannot be achieved simultaneously from gradual interactions between the parties. However, for the purpose of this paper, conflict can be defined as a struggle over status, power, and resources in which the aim of the conflicting parties is not only to achieve the desired values but also to neutralize, injure or eliminate their rival groups or contender (Coser, 1956). Generally, conflicts can be ethnic, religious, political and economic disagreement.

Resolving conflict or otherwise conflict resolution is aimed at nipping such conflict in the bud by identifying the underlying and root causes of such conflict. Conflict resolution is an act of resolving a clash or disagreement that is usually violent between two or more opposing groups. Muhammad-Baba (2014) posits that conflict resolution is generally conceptualized as the

methods and processes involved in facilitating the peaceful resolution or ending of conflict. Conflict resolution is an expected situation where the deep-rooted sources of conflict are addressed and resolved and the behavior is no longer violent, nor the attitudes are hostile any longer and the structure of the conflict has been changed (Binus, 1977:42). In the same manner, Mitchel and Banks (1996:130), sees conflict resolution as an outcome in which the issues in an existing conflict are satisfactorily dealt with, through a solution that is mutually acceptable to the parties, and self sustaining. In the long run and productive of a new positive relationship between the parties that were previously hostile adversaries. It is also a process or procedure by which such an outcome is achieved..

Peace

Peace is a concept of social friendship and harmony in the absence of hostility and violence. In ordinary sense, peace is commonly used to mean a lack of conflict and freedom from fear of violence between individuals or groups. In the early years of peace studies, it was assumed that peace is the opposite of war. Peace was defined as the absence of war, partially because peace was strongly motivated by the reflection on the tragedies of the Second World War and by a sense of crisis of human survival caused by the danger of a total nuclear war between the two super powers (Collier, 2003). The values are additional components/conditions for peace that are omitted in the definition of peace as absence of war. This implied that absence of inter-state or inter-community wars is insufficient to be regarded as the only condition for peace. The definitions of peace by Best (2006) revealed new values of peace, which are government, social relation, better economy, justice, law and order. It was Albert (2005) who first extended the definition of peace above 'the absence of war', when he asserted that peace is not only the absence of war but also the presence of justice, law and order i.e. the existence of government. Best also expanded the definition of peace beyond the 'absence of war' by proposing the concept of "peacelessness" which refers to the absence of non-war situations, where people suffer just as much as in war from social disorganizations (poverty, deprivation, malnutrition, disease, illiteracy, discrimination, injustice, oppression) and deviant behaviors (crime, delinquency, insecurity, drug abuse). Furthermore, Reardon (1988) sees peace as the absence of violence in its entire forms; physical, social psychological and structural forms. Albert (2006) conceives peace as a process that involves some activities which are directly and or indirectly linked to rise in human development and to reduction in conflict at group, societal, regional, or global spheres. The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO, 2013:5) stated that peace is beyond the absence of war, because it is about living together irrespective of social differences such as sex, race, language, religion or culture and also about promoting universal respect for justice and human rights, which are the bedrock of peaceful coexistence. Peace is a choice to be made on each situation and in everyday life decision.

Police

The word 'police' – according to the oxford mini reference dictionary, is defined as a civil force responsible for keeping public order. Literally the word 'police' is derived from the Greek word 'politia' which means government or citizenship but technically, the concept of police refers to that phase of government having to do with the protection of life and property, preservation of public peace and maintaining public order and safety, enforcing the law, preventing, detecting and investigating criminal activities. These functions are known as policing (Trojanewics, 1974). Jike (2003) rightly observed that it is problematic to define contemporary police in terms of their supposed role and functions. This is because the police are called upon routinely to perform a bewildering miscellany of tasks, from traffic control to fighting terrorism. The untiring feature of

police work is not a particular social function, whether it is crime prevention and control, maintenance of peace or conflict resolution. Rather, it is that all demands on the police to involve in something that ought not to be happening and about which someone had better do something “now” (Tamuno, 1970). The distinctiveness of the police tasks lies in their being the specialist repositories for the states monopolization of legitimate force. In other words, policing tasks arise in emergency situations, usually with an element of social conflict, and for effective performance of their duties and functions, they are given wide discretionary powers. This should not be construed to imply that all policing is about the use of force. On the contrary, good policing has often been seen as the craft of handling trouble without resort to coercion, usually by skilled verbal tactics. The police promote liberty, equality and fraternity in human affairs and reconcile freedom in ideal democratic setting (Jike, 2003).

Theoretical Framework

This paper reviews the two popular but dialectical theoretical frameworks in an attempt to understand the nature of police roles in the Nigerian society. These are the Functionalist and Conflict/Marxist traditions. Each discourse will be centered on Nigeria’s social system, which will be narrowed down to the role(s) of the police. Functionalism according to Wilmot (1985) is associated with the works of Talcott Parsons (1967) and Robert K Merton (1968) who developed it to its highest level. But it had its origins in the evolutionary theories of Charles Darwin (1859-1871) Auguste Comte (1798-1857), Herbert Spencer (1820-1903) and Emile Durkhiem (1858-1917). Basically functionalism regards society as an organism or a mechanical system made up of parts which work together for the benefit of the whole.

Functionalism argues that society is like a living organism survived by certain functions performed by some major institutions. For example, every society needs a system of economic organization in order to survive through production of goods and services. Political organization is also necessary to set goals and priorities and to allocate scarce resources, while the legal system regulates conflicts, establishes and enforces norms of conduct essential to the stability and survival of the system. Society also needs to maintain its identity and structure through culture, shared value systems and beliefs without which the social edifice would crumble. Value consensus is obtained through the process of socialization by the family, educational institutions and religion. Parsons cited in Ozo-Eson (2016) refers to these functional prerequisites as adaptation performed by the economic system, goals attainment by the political system, integration (legal) and pattern maintenance (socialization, family, education and religion).

The functionalists like Merton (1968) and Parsons (1967) used the idea of functional equivalent i.e. different parts performing similar functions and functional interdependence whereby each part depend on another to function effectively as well as to keep the system as a whole for instance. Poor economic performance may result in change of government through ballot or bullets, in general strikes, political instability or revolution. Conversely disturbances in the political system may have profound effects on economic performance, education, religious institution or the legal system. Thus, according to Smah cited in Jike (2003) the police as an important institution in the society as well as the laws that they enforce are therefore products or expressions of the collective or consensus values, norms and interests of the desperate classes or social groups existing in the society. The police are perceived as the neutral agents of government who deal with people of different social classes, status, gender and age impartially and thus promote the common interest of members of the society. Arguing from the point of view of functional interdependence therefore, it means that institutions like political, economic, cultural, educational institutions among other socializing agencies are functional imperatives that make or

mar the police in Nigeria. Functionalism has been accused of being resistance to change, giving a rubber stamp impression of the society and hence strife to maintain the status quo. To this extent, it may not be a veritable tool for understanding the police roles within the socio-economic, cultural and political context of Nigeria. Therefore, the view of society from the Conflict/Marxist perspective will be the anchor of analysis for this paper.

The Conflict/ Marxist theory as propagated by Marx and Engels, Dahrendorf, Mills, Coser, Lenin, Quinney etc postulates that society is divided into groups and classes with common interests in some areas and conflicting interests in many fundamental areas, including the organization, mobilization and distribution of economic and socio-political resources. The theory argued that society is composed of antagonistic social classes and groups whose interests, values and norms are often both divergent and contradictory. The Conflict/ Marxist perspective assumed that society as a system is divided into infrastructure and superstructure. The infrastructure is made up of the means of production and the relationship people enter in the course of production. The superstructure consists of political, social, legal, education relation in society. The infrastructure is assumed to exert profound influence on the superstructure of the society (Giddens, 2000).

Conflict is therefore inevitable in society as a result of inequality in economic and political resources. It assumed that since the polarization of society into classes, there has been class struggle, which has been the source of social change. Marx and Engels (1974) noted that the history of all hitherto existing societies is the history of class struggle. Inequality is therefore unnatural and it can only be maintained by force. It follows that violence or its threat is seen as the crucial element that sustains the unequal relationships that are found in virtually all contemporary societies (Jacobs and Britt, 1979).

The Conflict/Marxist theorists see the social system with the state moderating in terms of domination, power, violence and the material conditions of administration. They argued that the state is a product of class contradiction and class struggle; it is a body of armed men (the repressive apparatus), as well as the administrators (the bureaucracy), which rules in favor of the bourgeois class (Wilmot, 1985). The state provides a mechanism for the violent control of the rest of the population. In the course of class struggle the law enforcement agencies particularly the police serve as a force for the protection of domestic order. Hence the state and the security agencies like the police reflect and serve the interests of the ruling class (Smah cited in Jike, 2003).

The Conflict/Marxist theory is critical of the official reality of criminal codes and law in class divided society. It regards criminal law as part and parcel of the strategy of social control and repression induced by the challenge of the status quo. Quinney (1977) noted that the criminal law as the foundation of legal order is a coercive instrument of the state by the ruling class to dominate and perpetuate the status quo. He argues that to understand the nature and character of criminal laws, we must appreciate the nature of the state which includes:

- a. The state is organized to serve the interest of the dominant economic class i.e. the capitalist ruling class
- b. Criminal law is an instrument of the state and ruling class to maintain and perpetuate the existing social and economic order
- c. Crime control in capitalist society is organized through a variety of institutions and agencies established and administered by a governmental elite representing ruling class interest for the purpose of establishing domestic order
- d. The contradiction of advanced capitalism, the disjuncture between existence and essence requires that the subordinate classes remain oppressed by whatever means especially through the coercion and violence of the legal order

- e. Only with the collapse of the capitalist society and the creation of a new society based on socialist principles, will there be a solution to crime problem

Thus, police as part of the state institutions have the function of law enforcement, which is ipso-facto, a mechanism for ruling class domination. The state is a committee for managing the affairs of the bourgeoisie. The police are the major security agencies in the state that are saddled with the protection of the interests of the bourgeoisie (Wilmot, 1985). The conflict theorists assumed that force or its threat is the fundamental element that holds unequal societies together. They hold that the state monopoly of violence is controlled by those who benefit from inequality. It follows therefore that the police are the control agents of the state most likely to use deadly force in the most unequal states (Jacobs and Britt, 1979).

The Conflict/ Marxist theory argues that the police were not created to serve society or the people, but to serve some part of the society and some people at the expense of others. The police were created primarily in response to rioting and disorder directed against oppressive working and living conditions. The main function of the police has been to protect the property and wellbeing of those who benefit most from an economy based on the extraction of private profit (Smah cited in Jike, 2003). In a free market economy without efficient social welfare services to mitigate the effects of poverty and inequity, police crime control efforts, especially in the control of economic crimes, are likely to be significant. Also, where economic efficiency and equity are not given due considerations; where corruption and distribution of wealth is highly skewed, police will not only have to contend with high rate of economic crimes without much public support for their control, but also with hostility towards the police by those who consider themselves oppressed and exploited. There can be no peace in a society where wealth-largely ill-gotten is concentrated in the hands of a few while the vast majority of its toiling masses are condemned to destitution and poverty (Alemika and Chukwuma, 2000).

Alemika and Chukwuma (2000) observed that the roles of police include the repression of the poor and powerless in order to protect the interests of the ruling class. The police roles therefore, include standing as a “buffer between elites and *masses*” and to perform the essential holding operation against the mal-contents until military force could be applied in a punitive and salutary manner. Although there are certain areas of common interest among the desperate existing social classes in the society such as the need for security and peace (Smah cited in Jike, 2003), conflicts, arising from inaccessibility to political economic and social resources are so fundamental as to undermine substantially existing relations between among classes. This also explains the domination and exploitation of the proletariat (working class) by the bourgeois using all the instruments of production at their disposal.

In essence therefore the organization/structure, role, function and performance of the police institution within Nigeria’s social context are better appreciated against the backdrop of the conflicting nature of the social relationships of society and its law enforcement institutions. In other words the police are created to enforce laws and maintain order in a conflict laden social order characterized by unequal and inequitable economic and political power relations. Smah cited in Jike (2003) further observed that even though the values and sentiments of the general public may find their way into crime control laws, their enforcement policies and actions are imbued with and largely to oppress the poor and powerless who experience more frequent and greater violence from the police and sundry security operatives. He also observed that the police in Nigeria can easily be seen as more of instrument for controlling the “dangerous and perishing classes” that occupy the lower strata of society and more often than not are powerless.

In Nigeria, the origin of police force has been traced to the oppressive attitude of the colonial masters who felt that the people they colonized should not challenge their actions. The Marxists believe that in a bid to claim what belongs to them; many actions are taken by the colonized people which the ruling class perceives as criminal activities. If all have access to means of production and are equally treated the Marxists believe that there will be a peaceful society, which invariably means that there will be no need for the law enforcement agencies. This prediction in the Marxist perspective is yet to materialize due to the fact that they either overemphasized or underestimated the role of some institutionalized organizations such as the Police who ensure that crime and criminality are detected on time as well as to prevent it from resulting into a revolution.

Be that as it may, the Conflict/Marxist perspective provided a more realistic account of police force as repressive and service organization. Police repress and at the same time serve the public. The priority attached to repressive and service functions vary across societies and even government within a society. As has been argued, police work embodies ironies. Police are instrument of oppression and exploitation in totalitarian and unjust social systems. Yet they are essential to the preservation of justice and democracy. The police are guardians of social order. As an institution, the police force help to preserve, fortify and reproduce the prevailing social order, and are hardly catalysts for its change. Thus, when a social order is oppressive, exploitative and unjust, the police preserve it by suppressing and diffusing demand for democracy and elimination of oppression and injustices. Similarly, in a democratic, just and equitable society, police have greater chances of serving as vanguard for social democracy, human rights and socio-economic justice (Alemika and Chukwuma, 2000).

History of the Nigeria Police Force

The police in Nigeria and other commonwealth countries originated largely in Britain where the system of law enforcement was formally introduced in the Nineteenth century, when the British colonialists came to Nigeria during the Seventeenth and Eighteenth centuries, they brought with them the law enforcement structure of the mother country and made them a part of our legal tradition. Before the advent of the British, there were local law enforcement agencies operating under the control of our natural rulers in different parts of the country. Cheap and quick justice was in fact dispensed from the palaces. Traditional law enforcement developed in pre-colonial communities in order to correct breaches of customary laws, local communities by policing themselves and adopting such restraints on anti-social behavior as traditional religion, moral compulsion, customary law and values, maintain law and order (Ehindero, 1986).

The Nigeria Police Force (NPF) had its origin in Lagos more than a hundred and thirty years ago. In April 1861, the British Consul in Lagos obtained permission from his principal in London to establish a Consular Guard comprising of 30 men. Two years later in 1863, this small body of men became known as the 'Hausa Guard'. It was further regularized in 1879 by an Ordinance creating a constabulary for the colony of Lagos. An Inspector – General of Police commanded this force recruited mainly from Hausas and are known as the 'Hausa Constabulary'. On 1st January 1896, the Lagos Police Force was created and armed like the Hausa Constabulary. While these developments were taking place in Lagos in part of Yoruba land, the areas now known as Edo, Delta, Akwa Ibom, Rivers and Cross River States respectively were declared the Oil Rivers protectorate in 1891 with Headquarters at Calabar, where an armed constabulary was formed in 1893 the area was proclaimed the Niger Coast which existed for six years and featured prominently in the British expedition to Benin in 1896 (Tamuno, 1970; Ehindero, 1986).

In the Northern parts of the country the Royal Niger Company, which was granted a Royal Charter in 1886 by the British government, set up the Royal Niger Constabulary in 1888 with Headquarters at Lokoja to protect its installations along the banks of the River Niger. It had mounted company known as Carrol's Hoses. The Royal Niger Constabulary played an important role in British campaigns against Bida and Ilorin. Following the amalgamation of the Northern and Southern protectorates in 1904, the Royal Niger Constabulary was splited by the British government into the Northern Nigeria Police Force and the Northern Nigeria Regiment. In the South, the Lagos Police Force and part of the Niger Coast Constabulary became the Southern Nigeria Police force in 1906 while the bulk of the Niger Coast Constabulary formed the Southern Nigeria Regiments.

Until the first half of 1906, the three (3) separate police forces existed in what is now known as Nigeria (Ehindero, 1986). These were the Lagos Police Force, the Southern Police Force and the Northern Police Force. In 1914, the Southern and Northern police forces were amalgamated. Under the ordinance No. 2 of 1930, came the existence of the Nigeria Police Force with its Headquarters in Lagos (Alemika and Chukwuma (2000). In 1954, the Nigeria Police Force became a federal force in line with the 1954 constitutional provision.

Under Republican constitution of 1963, the police was administered under five (5) command level-Lagos, Northern Region, Western Region, Eastern Region and Mid-western Region, each having commissioner of police with Inspector-General as overall head at the force headquarters (Ehindero, 1986). By 1972, the local government police in different parts of the country were merged with the Nigeria Police Force. The 1979 constitution made a significant contribution to the development of Nigeria Police Force through its provision in section 212 (4) which states that:

There shall be a police force for Nigeria, which shall be styled the Nigeria Police Force and subject to the provisions of this section no other police force shall be established for the federation or any part thereof (Ehindero,1986).

It is important to state that the colonial government established the police force as an instrument of riot opposition and suppression. They were not established as agent for promoting the rule of law, human rights, community safety or delivering social services. The colonial police force was therefore used in punitive expeditions to further the actualization of colonial annexation of territories, namely to suppress opposition against colonial exploitation (Chukwuma, 2002).

The Nigerian Police organization follows the British hierarchical pattern. It is set up as a national and unified force; its organization and administration are the responsibility of the Federal Government. At the head of the Nigeria Police Force is the Inspector – General. Other ranks exist in the following order: Deputy Inspector- General, Assistant Inspector–General, Commissioner of Police, Deputy Commissioner of Police, Assistant Commissioner of Police, Chief Superintendent of Police, Superintendent of Police, Deputy Superintendent of Police, Assistant Superintendent of Police, Chief Inspector, Inspector, Sub-Inspector, Cadet Sub-Inspector, Sergeant Major (obtainable during the colonial era) Sergeant, Corporal, Constable and Recruit. The ranks from the Inspector-General to the Assistant Superintendent are considered Senior Officers while those below the rank of ASP are considered junior or Non-Commissioned officers (Rank and File) (Momodu, 2002).

The Nigeria Police today has seven (7) Deputy Inspector-General of Police (DIGs) who head various Departments at the Force Headquarters. There are twelve (12) Assistant Inspector General of Police (AIGs) who head the twelve (12) zones, made up of three (3) states in each zone. A squadron of the force is stationed in each of the 36 States and Abuja (FCT) under the command of a

Commissioner of Police (CP). The Commissioner of Police is Subject to the authority of the AIG, DIG and finally the Inspector- General of Police. The Inspector-General has command over all of the police commands in Nigeria in addition to the maintenance and security of public order and safety. The Inspector General is accountable to the Minister of Police Affairs and ultimately the President and Commander in Chief of the Armed Forces of Nigeria.

The Commissioner of Police in each state is similarly subject to the authority of the State's Governor. The Commissioner of Police in each State administers the commands of State and Local Government levels. Daily and monthly reports of police operations are transmitted from the police units in various Commands, Divisions to the State headquarters. These reports are then sent to the Force Headquarters in Abuja. There is Mobile Police Force Unit which is a paramilitary branch of the NPF (which used to be an all men affairs in the past but now open to women) created to operate under a strategic law enforcement system. They are well trained in tracking down hardened criminals such as highway robbers, international smugglers and quell riots of any magnitude. Two other major Nigeria Police Force auxiliaries are the Special Constabulary and the Traffic Warden Service. The Special Constabulary helps the Nigeria Police to fight crime and assist in the maintenance of law and order. In 1975, the Traffic Warden Service was initiated in Lagos for traffic control duties. Today, many States have established similar units to aid the Nigeria Police Force in crime prevention and control (Ehinder, 1986).

By virtue of the roles of NPF section 194 (2) (b) of the 1979 constitution, members of the Nigeria Police Force are vested with such powers and duties as are conferred on them by law. Under the Police Act and Regulation of 1968 section 4 as amended by Police Act No.23 of 1990, the Nigeria Police Force is expected to carry out the following general duties:

- I. The prevention and detection of crime
- II. The protection of life and property
- III. The apprehension of Offenders
- IV. The preservation of law and order
- V. The enforcement of all laws and regulations made by the Federal and State governments as well as bye-laws made by the Local governments authorities
- VI. To perform such military duties within and without Nigeria as may be required of them by or under the authority of the Head of State or President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

Thus, the constitutional role of the police is that of maintenance of law and order, ensuring security of life and properties, detection of crime, apprehension of offenders and prosecution of criminals. The police is inherently the most visible symbol of any government's power and authority and the primary enforcers of laws; an institution of social control in the hands of those who are managers of the state (Obaro cited in Jike 2003). In addition to these roles, the police force have been conferred with wide powers in accordance with the provisions of the Police Act, Criminal Procedure Act (CPA) and the Criminal Procedure Code (CPC), the police have the powers to take measures to prevent and investigate crime; to interrogate and prosecute suspects; to search properties and persons in order to prevent crimes, detect or investigate crimes, detect and apprehend offenders, and collect evidence of prosecution; to grant bail to suspects pending investigation or arraignment in court; to serve summons; to regulate processions and assemblies and to disperse 'illegal' or unlawful procession and assembly. The police prosecute most of the criminal cases in the country handled by the lower courts, especially the magistrate courts (Alemika, 2008).

Strategies or Methods of Policing in Crime Control and Prevention

Among the basic functions or duties of the police, law enforcement function is the one most directly related to crime prevention and control. The question that is most frequently asked is: What are the methods or strategies employed by the police for preventing and controlling of crime? From the police viewpoint the policing system is the major operational device for the prevention and detection of crime. According to Karimu (2014), the police have three (3) strategies of policing, namely primary, secondary and tertiary strategies. The primary strategy of the Nigeria police for crime prevention and control is the system of beats and patrols, surveillance, raid on criminal hideouts, stop and search, intelligence gathering and liaison, manning of vulnerable and flash points. According to Dambazau (2007), the beat and patrol system is of two kinds, namely; the static or point beat and the beat-patrol. The static or point beat involves a policeman standing on sentry duty at a post assigned to him for a fixed period of work hours. Such beats may be points or sites which are either vulnerable to crime or places of strategic importance such as banks, oil installations, electric power stations, television and radio stations etc. The beat-patrol on the other hand involves a policeman patrolling an assigned duty area of roads and streets of about two kilometers radius by going up and down the length of duty area. Patrols involve making a regular, constant, repeated circuit of a duty area with a view to guarding the area from criminal victimization, and to spotting crime signals. Patrols ensure the all important police visibility on the streets and within the neighborhoods. Such police presence by itself constitutes potential deterrent force as it increases the perceived likelihood that criminal offenders will be promptly detected and apprehended. That is to say, regular and constant police patrols increases the risks of apprehension and arrest. Not only that, patrol policemen can actually stumble on crime scenes, on run away or fleeing criminals or on criminal hideouts and make arrests. In the course of patrols the patrolling police team makes contact with the public, obtains crime relevant information, and enforces the law (Igbo, 2006)

There are many types of police patrols which include team-policing, foot patrol, motorized patrol, aircraft patrol, boat patrol, motor-cycle, bicycle, horse, camel patrols, canine patrol (the use of police dogs) and Tactical Operation Department (TOD) patrol. The last type refers to a team of about 4-5 policemen led by a police inspector who are assigned to patrol and neutralize crime 'black spots' i.e. places known to be prone to crime or criminal hideouts. The TOD patrol focuses on sites where criminals meet either before or after operation. The police attach great importance to beats and patrols. The essence or philosophy behind the beat and patrol system is simply that "the only obviously practical protection which can be given to persons, property or installations against attack, victimization and vandalization is the instrumentality of the provision of properly trained and equipped guards to create a visible practical omnipresence of guards twenty four hours a day" (Suleiman, 1996 cited in Igbo, 2006). The usefulness of beats and patrols can never be over-emphasized. However, for police beat patrols to be effective, there must be a full complement of support equipment such as robot cars, radio communication equipment, radio control room consol with direct links to patrol vehicle established in major locations and cities within the country, police distress call numbers made available to the public etc (Ekoko et al., 1994, Igbo, 2006; Danbazau, 2007).

Other methods of policing employed by the police for crime prevention and control are; the use of police check points and road blocks on roads and highways to cordon off the outlets and inlets in the area where a serious crime has been committed while the suspects are believed to still be within the area. The police also carry out raids on criminal hideouts, underground businesses and joints which harbor criminals make use of police informants and police mail bag (e.g. the Nigerian PMB A22 system) for securing confidential information about crime and criminals. There is also the police telephone distress/emergency call line for public reporting of crimes especially when

in progress. The police also mount surveillance operations on suspected and known criminals to monitor their activities and track them down while committing a crime. There is also the police security and intelligence service whose members dress in mufti and dissolve into the unsuspecting crowd of citizens for the purpose of gathering intelligence information on crime and public security through surveillance, covert monitoring and penetration of criminal groups and elements whose organized criminal activities threaten internal security (Ekoko et al., 1994; Igbo, 2006; Dambazau, 2007).

The secondary strategies on the other hand are taken when a crime has already been committed. This involves applying the techniques that are applicable in investigating the type of offence committed. We have general and specific techniques of investigation which depends on the type of crime committed. Whereas the tertiary strategies or methods are applied in order to prevent reoccurrence of crime. As the application of the conventional methods of policing failed in the prevention and control of crime, community oriented policing emerged. This is the involvement of the community in crime prevention and detection. One of the most potent means of involving the community in exploring creative ways to enhance public safety is to provide them with a community policing officer, who acts as a problem solver and as an ombudsman to other public and private agencies that can help (Trojanewics, 1983). It is believed that community policing may increase police accountability to the community, and increase police–community relations. In community policing, emphasis is on control and prevention of crime before it happens. Community policing brings police and citizens together to prevent crime and solve neighborhood problems. In a community policing environment, the police become part of the neighborhood and residents join the police force, so to speak. This helps police get a better sense of residents needs and helps residents get to know the police as people. Together, they are able to achieve a common goal-a safer community (Banton, 2000).

Lastly, the police have been known to periodically organize media public enlightenment programmes whose major aim is to educate and inform the public on strategic issues concerning crime prevention, personal and neighborhood safety. Such media campaigns emphasize the necessity for the public to report crimes and suspected criminals within the neighborhoods to the police. A further goal of the police media campaigns is to sell an image of the police force to the public as a people friendly organization which needs the active support and cooperation of public in order to succeed in its statutory task of crime prevention and control (Ekoko,et al., 1994; Dambazau, 2007).

Role of the Police in the Maintenance of Peace Through Conflict Resolution

Conflict Resolution is a problem-solving process which includes the values of human rights, a deep respect for human dignity and for the legitimacy and capacity of every person; from democracy, the values of participation and responsiveness within a changing world environment; and from peace, the value of acceptance of the other and satisfaction in non-violent interaction. Conflict resolution is a process of decision making whose objectives are to handle, manage, settle or resolve conflict in ways which enhance the values of the four (4) major peace processes; a) peace keeping; b) peace enforcing; c) peacemaking and d) peace building (Reardon, 1988:1). a) Peace keeping is the act of maintaining peace, keeping law and order and also making sure that the society is in a state of tranquility, no disturbance politically, socially and economically. It is the use of law enforcement agencies and police officers to intervene in adversaries or to separate aggrieved parties so as to reduce the extent of damages in conflict. b) Peace-enforcing is the use of force and other forms of legal coercion and means to effect public peace and social order. c) Peacemaking is the application of a series of diplomatic process through negotiation, mediation

and reconciliation, arbitration and judicial settlement, economic sanctions and military interventions to end violent actions between /among conflicting parties and subsequently to achieve a peace agreement. d) Peace building is a means of securing harmonious social relations in post conflict situations and societies by altering structural contradictions, improving relationship between conflicting parties and changing the attitudes and behaviors of individuals. It involves building a network of opportunities in the transformation of conflict attitude between the parties through restoration of communication and genuine reconciliation. It is however, important to note that peace and conflict resolution is the function of law. In upholding the law in the society the criminal justice system i.e. the police, courts and prisons have a role to play in keeping peace and resolving conflict.

However, there are two methods of conflict resolution: The Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) and the Regular Dispute Resolution (RDR) which constitute the focus of this paper. The RDR method is a formal process by which disputes and conflicts are treated and solved. It involves the application of law enforcement, such as police and other agencies of the criminal justice system, like the courts and prisons. Basically, RDR entails litigation, wherein a trial will be conducted by a jury or judge, who decides winner and loser of the case during court hearing and adjudication. The process starts from the point, where one of the aggrieved or conflicting parties makes complain to the authority especially police. The police will in turn interrogate the complainant (plaintiff) and take down his or her statement word by word. After this, a warrant of arrest will be issued against the second party (defendant) who will also be interrogated before charging the case to court, if the two parties could not reconcile. In sum, this method involves regular system of reporting a case to the police, getting the offender prosecuted, convicted and sentenced. It also covers civil litigations in court that is through legal process. Under this system there is always a winner and a loser, and the winner takes it all. The method is also called traditional method of dispute and conflict resolution.

To articulate fully the role of the Nigeria Police in peacekeeping operations, the Nigerian government established a peacekeeping Department headed by an Assistant Commissioner of police in January 2005 in the office of the Inspector General of Police. According to Ehindero (2006) the schedules of the Department include:

- I. Developing general and specific policy guidelines in support of Nigeria Police peace initiative
- II. Defining standards for local recruitment of potential peacekeepers
- III. Selecting, screening, training and equipping Nigeria Police officers for present and future deployment to mission areas
- IV. Preparation of Nigeria Police officers for United Nations Selection Assistance Team (SAT) Test.
- V. Developing an electronic database of Nigeria Police for United Nations /African Union international peacekeeping deployments for record, planning and policy formulation purposes.
- VI. Liaising with UN, AU and other sub-regional bodies on matters relating to Nigeria participation in peacekeeping operations.
- VII. Liaising with credible international donor agencies with a view to sourcing donor support for the activities of the department.
- VIII. Act as the clearing house for all Mission related enquiries and activities involving the Nigeria Police (Ehindero, 2006).

The involvement of the Nigeria Police in international peacekeeping operations dates back to 1960, when some police officers were deployed to then Congo (now Democratic Republic of Congo). Since then, the Nigeria Police has consistently and creditably participated in several other international peacekeeping missions. Through these operations in countries around the globe, the Nigeria Police has evolved to become a major force for the pursuance of the foreign policy thrust of the federal government towards enhancing world peace and stability under the auspices of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), the African Union (AU) and the United Nations (UN). Nigerian involvement in peacekeeping operations on the continent is in line with its Foreign Policy Afro-centric posture. This commitment undergirds its determination to participate actively in conflict resolution in every part of the world through the instrumentality of the UN peace keeping operations or that of the AU.

Challenges or Factors Inhibiting Police Performance in Nigeria

Alemika (1991) summarized the challenges or factors inhibiting police performance to include poor and declining economic performance, large scale and worsening problems of corruption and burglarization of the nation's wealth and public treasury. Others include economic and social insecurity and external dependence, contempt for the rule of law and disregard for the protection and enforcement of fundamental human rights. Similarly Aliyu Atta argues that greed on the part of the senior officers, overconcentration of duties at the headquarters, lack of power training and professionalism, lack of equipment, poor welfare and dilapidated barracks are most of the common problems resulting in corruption and indiscipline within the rank and file of the Nigeria Police Force.

However, according to Parry Osayande (2008) the challenges or factors inhibiting police performance are two dimensional; external and internal factors. The external factors include the military interventions in government; poor funding and mismanagement of available funds; under budgeting and release of estimated budget funds in full; creation of parallel security organization. The internal factors are inherent in the Nigeria Police Force and includes the inappropriate deployment of police personnel for proactive security; Non-observance of the rule of law and fundamental human rights by the police; organized corruption; in-fighting among senior officers for promotion/posting; unlawful exercise of authority; Non-compliance with some laid down regulations, procedures, manuals and traditions at all levels of police operations; unacceptable and decayed state of discipline and inadequate basic and continuous training of police personnel. The challenges are divided into external and internal factors:

External Factors

Military interventions in government

This results to the neglect of Nigeria Police by the past military governments. Nigeria since after independence has been administered mostly by the military who imposed themselves on the people. The military used air power, naval power and land army to subjugate people. So they see police as a threat, because police too has marine police, Air police, and mobile force that have been put in place to deal with any act of lawlessness. To perpetuate themselves in power, they crippled all these police departments by way of under-funding that is responsible for poor police performance till today.

Non-Observance of the Rule of Law

Some policemen during the military rule on a number of occasions performed their duties with total disregard for the rule of law. Whenever fellow Nigerians were arrested at the instance of the

military without committing any offence against the laws of the land; able-bodied men were arrested on our streets, in their homes etc and incarcerated without trials in prisons and places like Ita-Oko, a wet-land infested by crocodiles around Epe area. Those who opposed military rule were detained without trial, under the obnoxious (Detention of Persons) Decree 2, 1984. Some of these Decrees contained ouster clauses and prevented those whose rights were trampled upon from going to court to get redress. These events distanced the Police from the people they were employed to serve.

Creation of Parallel Security Organizations

The creation of parallel security organizations with powers for investigation, arrest and detention is not only a violation of section 214 of the 1999 Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria but also make nonsense of the powers of the police as the primary law enforcement agency in the country. Such other security organizations which perform some of the duties that the Nigeria Police Force is established to perform are better funded. In some instances these parallel security organizations have challenged the Nigeria Police openly while performing such duties. Examples are the National Security and Civil Defense Corps (NSCDC) and the Federal Road Safety Corps (FRSC) on control and registration of private security guards and traffic control.

Weak Institutions for Oversight Functions

Although there are institutions meant to enhance oversight and police accountability in Nigeria, they are weak, ineffective and uncoordinated.

Internal Factors

In-fighting among Senior Officers

One of the worrisome problems which has impeded effective relationship amongst senior officers and hampered co-operation among such officers is in-fighting for promotion and posting. Efforts are being made to correct this by ensuring that fairness, seniority, federal character, good performance and above all, merit are observed in promotions, postings, appointments and discipline by the Police Service Commission.

Inappropriate Deployment of Police Personnel

Another practice which in recent times has been inhibiting the effective performance of the Nigeria Police is the deployment of large percentage (70%) of its personnel to personal protection and guard duties. It has become a status symbol for the Nigerian elites to pay for the services of policemen and women to be attached to them on guard duty, and by so doing deny majority of Nigerians the police protection. This has greatly affected the deployment of policemen to beats and public place, and thus portends danger for policing.

Inadequate Manpower

The increasing growth in population calls for corresponding increase in the manpower of the police. On many occasions they had thrown down peoples call for police intervention because of short of men to combat crime. According to Olanisakin (2008) the police – population ratio in Nigeria is 1: 540 based on the population estimate of over two hundred million (202,176, 065 and over 371, 800 police officers in the country. This ratio is below the United Nation's police population standard ratio of 1:400. The implication of this is that Nigeria is grossly under-policed which partly explains the inability of the Nigeria police to effectively combat crime and indicates that Nigeria Police Force is in need of more manpower to function with optimal efficiency.

Inadequate Equipment and less sophisticated Arms

One of the major challenges of the Nigeria Police Force is inadequate equipment. The police are in possession of less sophisticated arms compared to what criminals carry during operation. On many occasions policemen had to abandon their beats to give way for superiority arms. The standard operational gadgets expected for policemen are still elusive. The policemen too are human beings who will like to live long even when they are assigned to secure life and property.

Lack of Adequate Training

The decline in the fortune of the Nigeria Police Force started when training courses for officers were sopped, and recruitment was suspended. Since that era, training has not quite been given the priority it deserves. Considering the challenges of crime prevention and detection, the Nigeria Police cannot afford to lag behind in the training of its personnel. Overtime, some lapses have been observed in the areas of murder investigation, stop and search, detention and arrest search, investigative and interview techniques, crime scene preservation and management, surveillance and briefing skills, cultural diversity training, forensic science and fingerprint technologies, intelligence report analysis, emergency response plans, prosecutorial methods and tactics among others which deserve to be corrected through specialized training programmes to enhance police effectiveness and efficiency.

Indiscipline in the Police Force

Over the years, Policemen had been found to be indiscipline in the discharge of their duties. Many factors may have been responsible for this, which include low morale and remuneration in the past, delayed consideration of disciplinary cases and absence of a level playing ground as well as an effective system of reward and punishment. Many Policemen had been instruments in the hands of criminals. There had been cases of Policemen selling firearms to armed robbers. In addition, some of them had been found to dispossess defenseless citizens of their goods. Cases of extra-judicial killings being perpetrated by the Nigerian Policemen had reached alarming proportions (Onyeozili, 2005). A case of four mobile policemen who were on checkpoint at Okene robbed cattle traders of their money and set the vehicle on fire. Unknown to them, two of the people escaped through the vehicles window and reported to the police. They were arrested, tried and sentenced to death. Similar incident also happened in Abuja at Apo where the police indiscriminately killed six (6) traders on the pretext that they were armed robbers.

Organized Corruption

Corruption which crept into the Nigeria Police Force has gradually assumed greater dimension in recent times. Today not only are individual factors involved in corrupt practices, evidence abound of officers' involvement with unknown persons to perpetuate organized corruption such as mounting of illegal road blocks/ check points and collecting illegal tolls from motorists, killing motorists and passengers and burning evidence; falsification and exaggeration of evidence in court and in the police first information report, collecting bribe before granting bail to suspects and introduction of class bias in the process of arrest, investigation, detention and prosecution of offenders (Alemika and Chukwuma, 2000). Corruption within the police high command and the use of uniform and gun to terrorize, intimidate and harass citizens. Corruption seems to be so evident within the force that the junior officers had to embark on a nationwide strike in February 2002 in order to get some of their outstanding allowance released (Smah, 2002 cited in Jike, 2003).

According to Karimu (2014) the Police institution is the most corrupt in all the African nations surveyed on issues related to police performance and effectiveness. Human Rights Watch (2005) reported that about 900 Police officers were dismissed in the year 2004 from the Nigeria Police Force on the ground of extortion. In another report, 51% of Nigerians expressed dissatisfaction with the police, a figure higher than the Africa average of 45%. While of all security institutions in the nation, the Nigeria Police has the least trust of the citizens with 59% indicating that they have no trust in the police.

Another study conducted in 2003 by CLEEN foundation reported that the Nigeria Police's incompetence to curtail corruption, brutality and unruliness undermines public opinion of them. Equally, there are incessant reports of police officers violating their code of conduct and the fundamental human rights of citizens. A look at newspapers and other online media publications exemplifies some of the atrocities perpetrated by some officers of the Nigeria Police Force. The following are excerpts from the media on police misdemeanors. "The Nigeria Police on Monday said it has arrested an officer.....Mr Chiyem for demanding money in dollars from a Nigerian-American and his two friends. Mr Chiyem had apparently detained them for alleged traffic related offences also there was a heavily drunk policeman was spotted Thursday morning at a popular bus stop in Surulere area of Lagos the man was so drunk that he could barely work.....this happened around 8.45am. A police officer of Mobile Police (Mopol) wing was caught on camera brutalizing two women who dipped one severally in mud water and later pointed his rifle at her and threatened onlookers with a shot in the air (Nigeria Police Watch, 2014). Former Inspector General of Police (IGP), Mr Tafa Balogun was sentenced to a six months imprisonment for concealing vital information to the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) over his alleged business concerns amounting to over N17.7billion (Onyeozili, 2005).

Distrust between the community and Police

Nigeria public is skeptical of police cooperation. They find it difficult to approach the police to expose criminals because most of them are in alliance with criminals. Experience of some people had shown that, when information is divulged to police, they in turn tell the criminals who unleash terror on such people. When police calls for information, many people prefer to keep mute to avoid unnecessary attack on their life.

Conclusion

Throughout the ages the role of the Police the world over has been that of crime prevention, maintenance of public peace and resolving conflicts so that daily business of life – social, political and economic may continue without hindrance. Preservation of public peace therefore entails the protection of life and property, prevention and detection of crime, apprehension of offenders and maintenance of law and order generally. The degree of peace, or the state of law and order maintained at any given time or period as evidenced by the absence of crime whether against persons or property is the yardstick by means of which the decency of a society as well as performance of the police as a law enforcement agency may be rated. The police are Nigerians with quest for wealth and comfort who desires good life like opulence, good school and health for the family, deserves chieftaincy title and other good things of life like other Nigerians. The Police is not probably supposed to be entirely different from the institution that created the force and the society that socializes them. The role of the police must therefore relate to the nature and character of the society which it polices and should be examined conjointly with the social, economic and other factors that are responsible for crime, criminality and civil disorders.

The core functions of the police are crime prevention, crime control, maintenance of peace, conflict resolution, law enforcement, prosecution and assistance to citizens in distress. The police are the primary law enforcement institution in any democracy. Consequently, every hand should be on deck to give it a necessary support and assistance to enhance its performance through training and retraining, improvement of welfare packages for members of the Force, and provision of up to date and adequate logistics support. This is because there is no alternative to the maintenance of internal security in achieving peace, development and sustained democracy. The relative neglect of welfare of the police in the country is due to several factors including absence of comprehensive and sustainable welfare policy, inadequate and improper budgetary allocations by government and corruption both in the budgetary and expenditure processes. High level corruption in the force is partly due to poor welfare and service conditions and associated deprivations. The performance of the Nigeria Police Force personnel will remain sub-optimal for as long as their welfare is not given due attention.

Recommendations

This paper recommends among others:

- i. Fundamental change in the socio-economic structure of the society to ensure equal opportunities to all segments of the society, rule of law, fundamental human rights, justice, equity and fairness in the distribution of wealth, accountability, transparency and good governance, protection of life and properties, provision of essential services for all and not for few, should form part of the agenda of the state.
- ii. There is need to speed up the process of police reform to strengthen its capacity, deepen the democratic process, make it more accountable and to perform its functions effectively and efficiently.
- iii. Provision of adequate welfare and social services such as education, owner occupier housing scheme, protective and supportive healthcare system as well as appropriate training programmes for the Nigerian police to enhance their job satisfaction and morale as well as their operational efficiency and behavioral integrity.
- iv. Training in the Nigeria Police Force should take into cognizance the need of the Force in specific tasks and expertise, the skill and interest of officers, the need to match skills acquired in the course with deployment thereafter and the requisite infrastructure, facilities and supplies for effective use of skills acquired by officers during the training for the purpose efficiency in the Force and career development of the personnel.
- v. Government should strengthen the institutions for oversight in terms of human resources, capacity building and funding to effectively carryout their mandate. The civilian oversight of the police is necessary in calling the police to account for their actions, formulating and implementing policies aimed at efficiency and discipline within the force among other functions.
- vi. The operation of police powers and duties must be carried out within the context of rule of law. This involves a recognition of the supremacy of the law over any form of arbitrary power or discretion; equality before the law and respect for human rights.
- vii. Government should provide a good working environment for the performance of police duties. Adequate working tools and facilities, working space, convenience (water, toilet) should be provided. Most police formations and stations lack working tools, including stationery, working space, toilet facilities and other conveniences.
- viii. The Force Order governing the use and deployment of police orderly should be strongly adhered to. The Inspector General of Police should set up a special protective unit for Very

- Important Persons (VIPs) who are entitled to them in line with Force Order 281 and Presidential directive on the matter.
- ix. In order to instill professionalism and integrity in members of the Nigeria Police Force, we must insulate the leadership and all members of the police force from partisan political control which has denied Nigeria credible elections; caused mayhem in various parts of the country has made it difficult for the people to conclusively investigate crimes that have political undertones.
 - x. Government should adequately equip the police to enable them cope with the security challenges. It should provide more uniform and accoutrement, arms and ammunitions, weapons patrol vehicles, modern communication and security gadgets, bullet proof Armored Personnel Carriers (APCs), bullet proof cars, vests, ballistic helmets, surveillance cameras, GSM tracking devices, bomb detectors among others
 - xi. In order to fight crime with results the police should move away from old methods of policing and adopt a new policing method in line with the global best practices. The police should deemphasize reactive or aggressive policing which is characterized by violence or force in confrontation with criminals but give more attention to strategic oriented proactive policing which include beat (foot) patrol system, intelligence gathering, community policing, democratic policing, e-policing and informal policing.
 - xii. Police officers deserve adequate remuneration, especially salary and allowances. The remunerations of the police should reflect the dangers and inconveniences associated with their tasks. Prompt payment of severance benefits and regular payment of pensions enhance morale Government should provide adequate funds for the logistics, transportation, communication, criminal investigations and other requirements of the police. Because of the high cost of maintenance of law and order, government should look for alternative sources of funds.
 - xiii. There is need for the motivation of the police with regular promotion which should be determined by performance. Officers should be deployed on the basis of their competence and to areas where they are likely to be most effective and efficient. and motivate performance. Government should adopt a system of rewarding policemen with outstanding performance to encourage hard work. Any policeman who has waded through all dangers to save the lives of Nigerians by smashing a criminal gang or gathers an intelligence report that leads to the arrest of a gang of suspected armed bandits or armed robbers and kidnappers should be rewarded handsomely both with cash and the conferment of national honors.
 - xiv. On the other hand officers involved in corruption and organized crimes including abuse of office will in proven cases be shown the way out, and in addition be made to face criminal prosecution. Officers found to be guilty of unlawful duties like the escort of contra-banned goods and/or receiving bribery, accepting gratification, should be disciplined and prosecuted where necessary.

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