

## THE ROLE OF NIGERIAN POLICE FORCE IN MAINTAINING PEACE AND SECURITY

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### Abstract

Security of life and property are of the primary purpose of government. 1999 Constitution emphasize that the security and welfare of the people shall be the primary purpose of the government". The government through the Nigeria police fulfill its obligation of security the nation. This paper examines the role of Nigerian police force in maintaining peace and security in Nigeria. The paper adopted survey method. 200 respondents were randomly selected from two local government areas in Plateau state namely; Mikang and Shendam. Frequency and simple percentage were used to analyse the data. The findings reveal that poverty, unemployment, leadership and religion are the root causes of insecurity in Nigeria. The paper recommends that the effort of the Nigeria police alone cannot curb the rate of insecurity in the nation.

**Keywords:** Nigeria Police, Insecurity, Border Control, Crime rate, Poverty, Unemployment.

### Introduction

There is no doubt that the spate of insecurity in the country is alarming. There are several security challenges which cut across the nooks and crannies of the country. The most common one is the terrorists' attacks in major parts of the Northern region. This according to Achumba, Ighomereho & Akpor-Robaro (2013:79) has made national security threat to be a major issue for the government and has prompted huge allocation of the national budget to security. The rate of violent crimes such as terrorism, kidnapping, armed robbery and banditry, suicide bombing, religious killing, ethnic clashes, politically-motivated killing and other forms of criminal activities in the country is becoming increasingly regular occurrence that characterized life in the nation. Nigeria has consistently ranked low in the Global Peace Index (GPI, 2012), signifying a worsened state of insecurity in the country (Achumba, Ighomereho & Akpor-Robaro,

2013). In the same vein, Onifade, Imhonopi and Urim (2013) assert that the challenges of

insecurity have assumed formidable dimensions forcing the country's political and economic managers and indeed the entire nation to the rue, the loss of their loved ones, investment and absence of safety in most parts of the country. The rate at which innocent blood is wasted on a daily basis and the display of bottled-up frustration by the citizens remains a cause for concern. Nwaze (2011) explains that the rate of blood shed during the Nigeria civil war is a Child's play compared to the terrorist attacks in few months.

The problem of insecurity in the country seems to have grown beyond government capacity. Uhunmwuango & Aluforo (2011) in Achumba, Ighomereho & Akpor-Robaro (2013) are of the view that the efforts of the government have not yielded enough positive result. In looking at the causes of this

abnormality, Onifade, Imhonopi and Urim (2013)'posited that there is connection between increasing ethnic hate, religious bigotry, political rivalry, and a growing population of disgruntled citizens in the country who feel short-changed and having limited or no access to the common inheritance. The observation of Egwu (2001) in Onifade, Imhonopi and Urim (2013) express the fact that the primordial tendencies of various eruption of various ethnic militias and the pre-ponderant religious fundamentalism in places, given expression to by some sections of the dominant religious establishments in Nigeria have inevitably aggravated the scale and propensity of insecurity and widened its scope in various ramifications.

In addition to the above revelations, various scholars such as Adelakun, (1990); Egwu, (1990); Odekunle, (2005); Aderinde, (2007); Arinze, (2010); and Ajibade, Olapade and Erinsho, (2011) pointed out same factors that are responsible for the spate of insecurity in Nigeria. They argued that the response of the Nigerian state to the crisis of the mass unemployment and fuel crisis have led to the worsening of the crime situation in Nigeria. Also, poverty, unemployment declining income and low savings, which has pushed many retrenched people into a struggle for survival, high rate of inflation, political intolerance on the part of the ruling party as pointed out have contributed not in a small measure to the rate of insecurity in the country.

One of the primary purposes of government of any nation is the provision of security. The role is emphasized in the 1999 constitution of

the Federal Republic of Nigeria that "the security and welfare of the people shall be the primary purpose of the government" (Section 14(2) (b)). In performing this role, the government delegate the duty of maintenance of internal security to the Nigeria police. The Nigeria police are by law saddled with the responsibility of preventing and detecting crime, preserving peace and order and enforcing all laws and regulations. They are expected to perform these roles efficiently and effectively. with the high rate of insecurity in the country, the question that borders every mind is whether the police performed these roles as expected of them? Majority of the people are of the opinion that the Nigeria police falls below their standards of performance. They are seeing as a toothless dog that can only bark but not bite. Odekunle, (2014) argued that there is no need to prove the non-performance of the Nigeria police in the present condition. Rather, what is needed is the identification of the major inadequacies, problems and obstacles that are responsible for the situation. The Nigeria police are part and parcel of the civil society. Therefore, aside from other numerous problems which have incapacitate their performance over the years, they have human problems that not only aggravate its material insufficiencies but are also of tremendous adverse import on its general performance from one day to the next (Odekunle,2004). Poor funding for major development of the force such as training, logistics, arms and ammunitions etc. and under-utilization of funds are cogs in the wheel of adequate police performance. Morality among the police is not a virtue. Alemika (1999) discuss that corruption and extortion among the police is a serious issue

because they are expected to be moral as law enforcement agents. In the quest of officers to meet up with mate in the society they ended up slaughtering efficient and effective performance of duty on the slab of corruptions and extortions. Consequently, the paper aim towards contributing to various studies on the activities of Nigerian police force, its challenges and the challenges of insecurity and the failings of the force in checkmating insurgents in the country.

### **Statement of the Problem**

The persistent security problems and the inability of the Nigeria Police Force (NPF) in ensuring security and safety of life and property in the country are worrisome. The sources of security challenges in the country are numerous and cannot be blamed on one part of the system alone. They vary from the government to the police down to the people in the society. On the part of the police, there are many inadequacies and problems which stand as obstacles responsible for its abysmal performance. Most Nigerians describe police as a motley crowd of lazy, inefficient, corrupt uniformed men and women contributing to the perpetrating of crimes such as mass killing, intimidation, rape, extrajudicial killings/summary execution and other heinous crimes against citizens they are paid to protect (Uhunmwangho and Aluforo, 2011). According to Ikeji (2013) that the escalation of violence in the north of Nigeria perpetrated by Boko Haram today is linked with the police extra-judicial killing of the leader of the group, "Mohammed Yusuf" in July 2009 in Borno State.

It is also common with the police to falsely label innocent people as armed robbers, while the real criminals are working freely in the society doing what they know to do best. They falsified post mortem result and to worsen the matter, people either criminals or none criminal disappear from there custody without good explanations and families of the innocent victims are faced with extortion. The Nigeria police Force (2008) in their annual report noted that the police is handicapped because of combination of factors that plagued them, among which are; lack of resources, poor government support, poor condition of service, lack of appropriate and adequate training and illequipped workforce. Coped with this are the issue of police extortion and corruption and other vices common among the police system which contributes to their lack of efficiency. Alemika (1999) posit that police corruption is a serious issue because they are expected to be moral as law-enforcement agents. If the police which were employed and catered for with the people's money to protect and detect crimes are themselves corrupt and also a party to crimes, then the society is at the mercy and grace of the criminal. The above among many others contribute to the role of Nigerian Police force in maintaining peace and security in the country.

### **Objectives of the study**

The main objective of the study is the role of Nigerian Police force in maintaining peace and security in Nigerian and the specific objectives are to;

1. Examine connection(s) between police inefficiency and insecurity in Nigeria.

2. Analysis the factors that contribute to insecurity in the country.
3. Examine the causes/challenges facing the police force.

### **Research Questions**

1. Is there any connection(s) between police inefficiency and insecurity in Nigeria.
2. Are there factors that contribute to insecurity in Nigeria?
3. What are the causes of challenges facing Nigeria police ability to curb insecurity?

**The Emergence of the Nigeria Police:** The establishment of today's Nigeria police came as a result of 30-person consular guard under the authority of the then governor of British West Africa in October 1861. In 1861 governor of Lagos colony, McCoskry, organised and established the nucleus of the first police force- Hausa constabulary of 30 men (Tamuno, 1970; the Nigerian police, 1981). This formation marked the beginnings of the first modern police in the history of Lagos. It was also the first modern police force in the territories later designated Nigeria by the British (Tamuno, 1970). In 1879 there was the establishment of the constabulary of Lagos colony, with the appointment of the first commissioner of police in 1896. There come the royal Niger constabulary in 1886 which was established by the royal Niger Company for the northern territories. The British colonialist established the police institution for the purpose of advancing the European colonial commercial and strategic interests against the natives especially in the colony and the protectorates (Odikalu, 2004). Allure (1991) argue that the emerging ruling

class in colonial Nigeria was a foreign and illegitimate one which sought to dominate and exploits the indigenous people in the interests of its own metropolitan (British) economy. The effort of this foreign ruling class to subdue the indigenous people and to impose a careful surveillance over them in order to forestall any popular resection created an obsession with the policing of public order.

By 1900 the royal Niger constabulary spitted into two groups, the northern Nigeria police force for the colony and police force and regiment for the protectorate. The force of the colony later emerged with the southern Nigeria police force. 1914 amalgamation had two different police formation for both Northern and Southern Nigeria. In 1930, colonial government established Nigeria Police force headed by an Inspector-General. However, regionalization of police formations remained (Ochikalu, 2004).

Section 4 of the police acts of 1967 provides that "the police shall be employed for the prevention and detection of crime, the apprehension of offenders, preservation of law and order, the protection of life and property and the due enforcement of all laws and regulations with which they are directly charged and shall perform such military duties within or outside Nigeria as may be required of them by, or under the authority of this or any other act". Aina (2014) postulate that the duties are stationary and the police owe these duties to the generality of Nigerians and all other persons lawfully living within Nigeria. They are therefore answerable to the law in performance of their duties. The question then is does Nigeria police perform these duties effectively and effectively as they ought to.

Majority of Nigerians are of the opinion that police performance has been below good commendation.

What does effectiveness and efficiency mean to police work? Effectiveness means task performance. Effective organisations are those which meet challenges put to them and satisfy demands for services or solve problems. Also, Efficiency is defined in terms of processing costs. Efficient organisations are those which convert inputs into outputs with less organisational efforts. Efficient organisation gives us more for our money. Etzioni (1964) explain that efficiency is a concept by which we assess the processing activity of organisation, how they go about facing problems, while effectiveness is a concept which denotes their goal matching, their ability to solve substantive problems. Odekunle (2004) posited that effectiveness is the ability of the force to successfully perform its assigned tasks; and by efficiency it is the capacity to perform its functions with the least amount of "waste", in terms of time, material, personnel public good will, and lives. Therefore, efficient police is the one that achieve a level of input-output conversion with less effort on the part of the organisation: fewer men, less equipment, or lower expenditures (Skogan, 1976). In lieu of these, the importance of policing the society and the people's perception of the government which the police represent cannot be overestimated. Odekunle (2004) gives three points that when considered, it will make it become clearer.

1. Policemen are the government officials most proximate to crime, temporally and procedurally, and the leading figures in crime

prevention or control and in the law enforcement process.

2. Policemen's honesty, integrity and observations of procedural laws in handling offenders and non-offenders have deep implications for the citizens' perceptions: fairness and justice and for the degree of respect the average citizen has for the law;

3. Being highly visible (compared to courts or prisons) and being the primary or main government authority legally authorized to use force on citizens, policemen's behaviour affect the citizen's opinion about their government. For the purpose of this study, it is appropriate to discuss what constitutes security. Ejogba (2006) assert that explaining security in modern times is a question that has never been answered satisfactorily by scholars. Its perception even within one community varies in time. Thomas Hobbes (1652) sees security as the protection of lives and property and entire law and order through political sovereignty and monopoly of violence which state/ government provide. As defined by South African White Paper on Defence (1996), security is an all-encompassing condition in which individual citizens live in freedom, peace and safety, participate fully in the process of governance. Enjoy the protection of fundamental rights, have access to resources and the basic necessities of life, and inhabit an environment which is not detrimental to their health and well-being. This definition presents that security cuts across all human existence. Until now, most of the definition on security literally tends towards the arguments of Thomas Hobbes as pointed out above. Okwori (1995) postulate that it is a state's capabilities to defend its territorial integrity from threats,

actual and imagined, as well as acts of aggression from other potential enemies. This is what state's built and equips armed forces to achieve. At the domestic level, the belief is that internal law enforcement agencies and other instruments of domestic intelligence are all that is required for a state to be secured (Katsina, 2012). This is where Nigeria police comes into play. The internal security is primarily the business of the police. Basically, the Police are to fulfil government's primary obligation of catering for the security and welfare of the people. Escalation of social disorder and instability in the country challenges the role police in combating crimes and criminality.

Insecurity according to Achuba, Ighomereho and Akpor-robaro (2013) is the antithesis of security and has attracted some common description and want of safety, danger, hazard, uncertainty, want of confidence, state of doubt, inadequately guarded or protected, instability, trouble, lack of protection and being unsafe, and others. Achumba et al in Onifade et al argue further that these common descriptors point out to a condition where there exists a vulnerability to harm, loss of life, property and livelihood. So, insecurity is therefore considered as a state of not knowing, a lack of control, and the inability to take defensive action against forces that portend harm to danger to an individual or group, or that make them vulnerable. Furthermore, Beland (2005) aver that insecurity is "the state of fear or anxiety stemming from a concrete or alleged lack of protection. Putting all the above stated explanation together, the state of Nigeria security can be seen clear as one that is under threats. The nation is undergoing a serious state of insecurity challenges that have

bedeviled the affairs of the state such as terrorism, kidnapping, militancy, religion upheaval. These papers consider the challenges of insecurity in Nigeria alongside with the factors that contribute to it.

### **Theoretical framework**

The paper is anchored on structural functionalism theory. The theory has a broad perspective. Scholars like Emile Durkheim, Malinoskiwi, Talcott parsons among other have contributed to the development of the theory. The theory addresses the society as an organic whole in which each of its element like institutions work together to maintain the other. Various parts of the society are seeing to be closely related and taken together as a complete system. The security agencies like the Nigeria police work to support the existence of government to providing security for the live and property of its people and all that is in it. Therefore, any lapses in the police system directly or indirectly tells on the general security and well begin of the people which will on long run lead to state of insecurity. Hence, the proper functioning of each part of the society ensures the well begin and the survival of the whole society (Bothamley, 2004).

### **Sources of Insecurity Manifestation in Nigeria**

Poverty has been identified as one of the factors that have contributed to the rate of insecurity in the country. Aigbakhon (2008) define poverty as a state of long-term deprivation of wellbeing, a situation considered inadequate for decent living. Decent living in this context can be narrow down to mean access to things like qualitative education, safe drinking water, affordable

health care and sanitary facilities, nutrition, shelter and clothing. Katsina submit that poverty is a situation where majority members of a country lack access to these indices that make their life distinguishable from that of animals.

Poverty is a complex phenomenon with multi-dimensional facts. It is a dynamic process of socio-economic, political or other form of deprivations, which affects the individuals, households, or societies and usually brings back lack of access to basic and elementary requirements of human survival. Adegba, Ugwu & Eme (2012) in Achumba et al (2013) aver that outcome of high level of unemployment and poverty among Nigerians, especially the youths, adversely attracted violent crime. Nwagboso (2012) in the same vein argued that failure of successive administration in Nigeria to address challenges of poverty, unemployment and inequitable distribution of wealth among ethnic nationalities is one the major causes of insecurity in the country.

Poverty and unemployment are like Siamese twins. They give support to each other. In Nigeria, unemployment is one of the most enduring social problems (Aigbakhon, 2010). Katsina (2012) argues that employment means the number of people working for wages in cash or kind in public and private enterprises. This includes those that are gainfully employed or engaged. The above stated differences or categories of unemployment can be found in large quantity in Nigeria, this can be blamed upon the government in ability to equip its people with requisite skills that will help them get employment and also the

creation of necessary environment for meaningful employment opportunities. The effect of these on Nigeria securities are beyond what we can cover in this paper. As the saying goes that “the idle hand is the devils workshop”. It is a fact that people that are daily recruited by the Boko Haram terrorist group to unleash mayhem on the nation are crop of youths who are not gainfully unemployed vis-a-vis other criminal activities that pose threat to national security. All of these can be directly or indirectly link with unemployment situation in the country. For these people to meet up with their demand for livelihood, they resort into illegitimate means. And once they have tasted the handsome reward that come from such illicit engagement to stop it then become a problem. Looking at the age range of those that engage in criminal activities in Nigeria one will see that they are between the ages of 21-40 or there about these is the most productive segment of Nigeria populations. ElRufai (2011) posits that the labour market is ever expanding with about 3 million people joining annually. Then, if 1 per cent of this group resort into series of criminal activities every year as a result of unemployment will we see that in no distance time Nigeria will be inhabitable and the fact that police inability to contain crime will be out question

Border is a boundary that exists between one or more countries and the other or other areas. The border in Nigeria with other neighbouring countries has been categorised as being porous. It stands as a major boost for the influx of criminal activities into the country which overtime has continued to engender instability and insecurity within the country. Hardly can one identify any violence or

criminal acts that are not directly or indirectly link with the easy way in which armed gangs move in and out of the country. It has been reported overtime that the loose nature of Nigeria border at the north-east region contributes largely to the success of the operation of Boko Haram terrorist group in Nigeria. Willie, (2008) aver that the predicaments that Nigeria faces with insecurities call for critical investigations of border entry points whether they are performing their strategic functions. Nigeria is confronted with myriad of security challenges that has a direct link with the loose nature of its border. The crime ranges from terrorism, kidnapping, trafficking, small arms and light weapons proliferation or smuggling, armed robbery to political assassination and the likes.

### **The Challenges of the Police Which Hinder Their Effective Performance**

Taking into account the amount of quality protections provided by the Nigeria police for the entire population and the level of confidence and encouragement it enjoys from these people, one cannot but conclude that the Nigeria police performance is far below the expectation many people place on them. There are several cumulative problems that contribute to the abysmal performance of the Nigeria police. This ranges from material to human and external challenges.

Widespread of corruption among the members of the Nigeria police is alarming. This has greatly soiled the image of the police. Alemika (1999) postulated that the police corruption is a serious issue because they are expected to be moral as law enforcement agency. The issue of police corruption is an

undeniable fact with several evidence of their involvement. These among many others are; police connivance with some individuals to help offenders out of police custody after obtaining money from suspects, closure of case files, escorting vehicles loaded with contraband goods and stolen items, stealing from suspects and or accident victims, stealing from crime scenes, supply of police arms and ammunition with police uniforms to criminals for monetary gain etc. Olurotimi (2012). Corrupt and indiscipline socio-economic environment among others are some of the poor salaries. Furthermore, Odekunle (2004) gave some categories of obstacle that hinder the optimum performance of the Nigeria police thus;

Poor police remuneration for both officers and men of police command is another notable factor that has created abysmal performance for police officers in performing their constitutional duties. The issue of police corruption as discussed above does not only occur between the police and the public but also with the strata of police structure. There have being cases whereby senior police officers have deprived other officers especially junior once the right of increment in salary for some time. These people have been alleged to have stacked the money in a fixed deposit out which will yield some interest for them before releasing it fund. Odekunle (2004) argue that the Nigeria police has human problems that not only aggravate its material in sufficiency's, but one also of tremendous adverse import on its general performance from day to day among them is discouraging salaries. It has been noted that the Nigeria police lack adequate equipment and



ammunition that can help in assisting them combating crimes in the society. Abdulkadir (2004) argue that the Nigeria police force lack adequate communication gadgets, vehicles, computers and patrol boats.

### Research Methodology

This research work adopted survey research method and made use of primary data as the main source of data collection through the use of the instrument of questionnaire. The study randomly selects two hundred (200) respondents from two major local government area of Plateau state, namely, Mikang and

Shendam. These local government areas are commonly known as the hot bed of various criminal activities like seizure of motor cycles, armed robbery, rape, etc. carried out by the Vagabonds in the states. Out of 200 questionnaires sent out only 195 were returned. The questionnaire sought information on questions that were relevant to the Nigeria police and the challenges of insecurity in Nigeria. The data collected were statistically analysed through Frequency and simple percentage method with table presentation.

### Data Presentation Table

**Table1: Respondents Bio-data**

<b>Age distribution</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
21-30years	40	20.5
31-40years	46	23.6
41-50years	42	21.5
51-60years	35	17.9
Above 61 years	32	16.5
Total	195	100
<b>Sex distribution</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Male	112	57.4
Female	83	42.6
Total	195	100
<b>Religion affiliation</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Christianity	69	35.4
Islam	66	33.8
Others	60	30.7
Total	195	100
<b>Marital status</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Single	60	30.7
Married	53	27.2
Divorced/separated	39	20.0
Widow/widowers	43	22.1
Total	195	100
<b>Educational background</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
No western education	38	19.5

Primary	47	24.2
Secondary	40	20.5
Tertiary	37	18.9
Others	33	16.9
Total	195	100

**Source: Field Survey, 2016**

As shown in table 1 above, the socio-demographic data of the respondents, the age distribution reveals that 40(20.5%) of the total respondents of 195 were between the age of 21-30years, 46(23.6%) were between 31-40years, 42(21.5%) were 41-50years, 35(17.9%) were 51-60years, while those from 61years and above were 32(16.5%). Hence, the analysis showed that the categories of the respondents who gave information on the research comprises of adults with the experiences to know the state of security in their areas and the efforts of the police towards security. For the sex distribution, it reveals that 112(57.4%) were male, while 83(42.6%) were females. Hence, both sexes were equally represented in the research. A cursory look at the table also shows the religion affiliations of the respondents in which 69(30.4%) were Christians, 66(33.8%) were Muslims, while 60(30.7%) belong to other religious beliefs.

This indicates that major religious settings were duly represented. The marital status of the respondents was also considered, 60(30.7%) were singles, 53(27.7%) were married, 30(20%) were either divorced or separated, while 43(22.1%) were widowed/widowers. Hence, the larger percentages of the respondents were responsible individuals of the society. The educational background of the respondents from the table analysis above reveals that, 38(30.7%) did not go through western education. Therefore, they cannot read or write, these categories of people were assisted by the research by reading what is in the questionnaire to them in other to their own opinions. 47(24.2%) had elementary education, 40(20.5%) had secondary education, 37(18.9%) tertiary education, while the remaining 33(16.9%) had other forms of educational qualifications. Hence, the analysis showed that the majority of the respondents were educated.

**Table 2: Respondents' views concerning the role of Nigerian Police force in maintaining peace and security in Nigerian**

Is poor welfare a factor for police inefficiency?	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	126	84.6
No	69	35.4
Total	195	100

<b>Is mobility a problem to police efficiency?</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Yes	136	69.7
No	59	30.3
Total	195	100
<b>Are police command poorly funded?</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Yes	100	51.3
No	95	48.7
Total	195	100
<b>Does police inefficiency create a lead to insecurity?</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Yes	105	53.8
No	90	46.2
Total	195	100
<b>Does poverty contribute to insecurity?</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Yes	110	56.4
No	85	43.6
Total	195	100
<b>Do porous borders encourage insecurity?</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Yes	102	52.3
No	93	47.7
Total	195	100
<b>Is unemployment a factor to insecurity?</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Yes	148	75.9
No	47	24.1
Total	195	100
<b>Does inflation/reduction in income contribute to insecurity?</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Yes	101	75.9
No	94	24.1
Total	195	100
<b>Does religious/ ethnic crisis contribute to security challenges?</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Yes	126	51.8
No	69	48.2
Total	195	100
<b>Does regional crisis like militancy/ terrorism pose serious threat to security?</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Yes	168	86.1
No	27	13.9
Total	195	100
<b>Is corruption a challenge to police in curbing</b>		

crimes in the society?	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	156	80.0
No	39	20.0
Total	195	100

**Is police poor remuneration a contributory to police challenge in security maintenance?**

	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	142	72.1
No	53	27.2
Total	195	100

**Is lack of adequate arms and ammunitions a challenge to police ability to maintain security?**

	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	160	82.1
No	35	17.9
Total	195	100

**Source: Field survey, 2016**

**Data Analysis and Discussion of the Findings**

**Research Question 1:** Is there any connection(s) between police inefficiency and insecurity in Nigeria. The table as shown above reveals the views of the respondents as per the challenges of the security in Nigeria and the Nigeria police as agency of government saddled with the responsibility of internal security in the country. Response to the first question shows that 126 (84.6%) agreed in their opinion that poor welfare package is a contributory factor to the hindrance of the police efficiency, while 69(35.4%) disagreed. The larger percentage (84.6%) of the respondents' opinion tally with the assertion of Abdulkadir (2004) that the inadequacy of suitable welfare amenities and even accommodations make some police officers especially junior one to interact with criminals of various types and thereby resulting in the loss of arms and ammunition, uniforms and most importantly the erosion of discipline in the force.

Question 2 centres on whether inadequate facility that can balance police officers movement from a point to another constitute to their efficiency in providing the needed security or combating insecurity in the area of study. 136 (69.7%) said yes, while 59 (30.3%) said no. Abdulkadir (2004) onetime police deputy inspector-general argue that Nigeria police lacks of adequate vehicles, patrol boats and the likes. He said though things have improved in the area of vehicles, a lot more is needed especially in fuelling and maintenance. The force still needs the services of helicopters, dogs, and horses etc, which are currently grossly inadequate. The general public have on several occasions criticize the police of not responding to their distressed calls on time. And the police in return laid complaints of inadequate of vehicles to convey them to the scenes. Therefore, on several occasions when the assistance of police officers are needed most they have always responded by saying "no vehicle".

Question 3 asked if police commands are poorly funded. 100(51.3%) agreed, while 95(48.7%) disagreed. Going by the highest percentage of the respondents' responses to the question, it infers that the police commands in the area of study are poorly funded. The efficiency of any law enforcement agency is influenced by the degree of input at its disposal. Odekunle (2004) argued that efficiency is the capacity to perform functions with the least number of wasters in term of time, material, personnel public goodwill and lives. It further explains efficiency with references to cost and benefit analysis of "protection" output relative to monetary, human and material input. Most police commands that stand as the headquarters of the police in states are not well taking care of to properly undertake their constitutional roles in such state. Instead they are found being used by the government. It has been suggested by various scholars and well-meaning Nigerians that Nigeria police should be autonomous in such that there will be no interference of external forces like the government on how they should carry out their duties. Proper funding should be made available for the police. Abdulkadir (2004) submit that the truth is that the situation should actually be attributed to the inadequate provision of funds necessary to finance the operations of the force. Question 4: The data concerning the question on if police inefficiently creates a lead to insecurity reveals that 105(53.8%) agreed, while 90(46.2%) disagreed that it does not create a lead to insecurity in the area. The central function of police as an organisation is to fight crime. Crimes constitute the raw materials for police work. One will then ask how effective and efficient is police carrying

out this assignment in the country? Even with the provision made possible for the police are they making judicious use of it in stemming-down the spate of insecurity in the land? An efficient department is those that achieve a level of input-output conversion with less effort on the part of the Organization: fewer men, less equipment, or lower expenditures (Skogan, 1976). **Research Question 2** states that are there factors that contribute to insecurity in Nigeria? Question 5 queried whether poverty contributes to insecurity? 110(56.4%) of the total respondents said yes, while 85(43.6%) said no poverty according to Aigbakhon (2008) is a state of long term deprivation of well-being, a situation considered inadequate for decent living. One of the reasons as given by people behind the taken up of arms by the Niger delta youth against the government in militancy form is mainly due to extreme poverty that has grouped the land and it people despite wealthy nature of the land. Crimes offer a way in which improvised people can obtain material possessions that they cannot attain through legitimate means. The picture of Nigeria society today is that an elite minority of its citizens are living in affluence, while the majority is wallowing in poverty. This is rather a product of greed injustice and selfishness (Ngwube, 2013). Question 6 investigates whether porous borders encourage insecurity. 102(52.3%) agreed, while 93 (47.7%) disagreed. Although the main border that the area of study has is towards the ocean. There are several reports that arms and ammunitions used by the militant youth of Niger delta region of the country came in through the high-sea. Nigeria is confronted with myriad of security challenges that has a direct link with those loose natures of its borders. The likes of

prevalent in likes such as terrorism, kidnapping, trafficking, small arms and light weapons proliferation are thrilling by the unsecure nature of our border security. The predicaments that Nigeria faces with insecurities call for critical investigations of border entry points whether they are performing their strategic functions (Willie, 2008) The result of the

Question 7 i.e. is unemployment a factor to insecurity? Shows that 148(75.9%) of the respondents agreed, while 47 (24.1%) disagreed that unemployment constitute to insecurity in the area. The majority of the respondents on this question agreed that it does. As the saying goes thus “an idle hand is a devil’s workshop”. The effect of unemployment on the security of Nigeria is beyond what this paper can comb thoroughly. The known fact around is that people that are daily recruited by the Boko Haram insurgent groups to unleash mayhem on the nation and its people are crops of youth who are not gainfully employed this is also similar to the Niger Delta militant groups. El-Rufai (2011) argues that the labour market is ever expanding with about 3 million people joining annually. These suggest that year-in year-out, the rate of unemployed youth in Nigeria is increasing; hence, the rate of insecurity in the country will also increase at the same proportion.

Question 8: Does religious/ethnic crisis contribute to security challenges? 126(64.6%) agreed, while 169(35.4%) disagreed. The majority of the respondent supports the fact that in all parts of Nigeria, ethno-religious conflicts have assumed alarming rates. Groups and communities who had over the years lived together in peace and harmony now take up arms against each other in gruesome “war”

(Eme and Onyishi, 2011). The claims over one religious doctrine by the Christian, Muslim and other religious entities have resulted in large scale killings and violence amongst groups in Nigeria. A typical example is the case of boko haram, which claim the reason behind their maiming and killing is to uphold the tenet of Islam. Although several Islamic organisations have distance the ideology of this deadly group away from the principle of the religion.

Question 9: Does violent crimes such as kidnapping/insurgency and the likes pose serious threat to security? 168(86.1%) agreed, while 27 (13.8%) disagreed. For instance, terrorism is explained as any acts of violence or threat thereof, notwithstanding its motive or interests perpetrated to carry out any individual or collective criminal plan with the aim of terrorising people. Kidnapping has become a very serious crime. It is a becoming rampant in contemporary Nigeria, comparing favourable, of recent to robbery, burglary and other forms of social crimes (Adegoke, 2013). There are several cases in which the Niger delta militant groups like movement for the emancipation of the Niger delta (MEND) and others kidnap oil company workers in order to press home their grievance about a renegotiation of Nigeria and Niger delta region in it (Abati, 2009). These have in one way or the other contribute to the rate of insecurity. This has been the case of the inhabitants of the Niger delta, the south east regions and the entire Nigeria.

**Research question 3** states that what are the causes of challenges facing Nigeria police ability to curb insecurity?

Question 11 investigates whether corruption is a challenge to police in curbing crimes in the society, 156(80%) agreed, while 39(20%) disagreed. it is a fact that corruption has greatly

soiled the image of the Nigeria police. Alemika (1999) postulated that the police corruption is a serious issue because they are expected to be moral as law enforcement agency. The issue of police corruption is an undeniable fact with several evidence of their involvement. Not only did the police perform acts of corruption in their dealings with the public but they also use it to affect their development. There are times in which officers in the helms of affairs of the police embezzled funds meant for the development of the police in general. A typical example is the case of the erstwhile Inspector-General-of-Police Tafa Balogun, who was sacked on the ground that he embezzled the money meant for the development of police.

Question 12 asked if poor remuneration a contributory factor to police challenges in security maintenance. The result of the analysis reveals that 142(72.8%) agreed, while 53(27.2%) disagreed. Poor police remuneration for both officers and men of police command is another notable factor that has created abysmal performance for police officers in performing their constitutional duties. The issue of police corruption as discussed above does not only occur between the police and the public but also with the strata of police structure. There have being cases whereby senior police officers have deprived other officers especially junior once the right of increment in salary for some time. These people have been alleged to have stacked the money in a fixed deposit out which will yield some interest for them before releasing it fund. Odekunle (2004) argue that the Nigeria police has human problems that not only aggravate its material in sufficiency's, but one also of tremendous adverse import on its general performance from day to day among them is discouraging salaries.

Question 13 asked if lack of adequate arms and ammunitions a challenge to police ability to maintain security. The result of the analysis reveals that 160(82.1%) agreed, while 35(17.9%) disagreed. It has been noted that the Nigeria police lack adequate equipment and ammunition that can help in assisting them combating crimes in the society. Abdulkadir (2004) argue that the Nigeria police force lack adequate communication gadgets, vehicles, computers and patrol boats.

### **Conclusion**

The paper examines the Nigeria police and the myriad of challenges of security in the country focusing on some local government areas in River state. It identifies some of the challenges of the police which hinder their effective and efficient performance and sources of insecurity manifestation in Nigeria. Furthermore, the study explains that security has gone beyond the protection of lives and property and entire law and order through political sovereignty and monopoly of violence which state provide as posited by Thomas Hobbes in 1962 but with the collaboration of all and sundries within all-encompassing condition in which individual citizen live in freedom, peace and safety, participate fully in the process of governance. Enjoy the protection of fundamental right, have access to their health and will being (South Africa white paper on Defence, 1996). The quality of training and welfare, logistics and some other materials given to police personnel has significant impact on their performance. Even with that the study believes that if the little resource at the disposal of the police is judiciously put to proper use the rate of crime in the society will be as high as we have it.

### **Ways forward**

The study recommends the following:

- The police should at least make judicious use of the available resources given them to create a secure environment.
- The government and the police authorities should provide adequate logistics means that will contribute to the effective and efficiency delivery of the Police Service.
- The government should make priority to meaningfully engage the youth in the county thereby reducing the rate of unemployment There should be religious tolerance among the people.
- Police should be funded adequately and remunerated well as this will encourage their performance on the job. Also, our border should be manned thoroughly by the necessary security so that the influx of weapons into the country will be checked. Government should create and implement policies that will reduce the rate of poverty among its people.
- Finally, government should endeavour to provide a stable political environment in the country that will not encourage insecurity or that the youth and the poor will not be used to fuel insecurity in the land.

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