

The police in Nigeria – recruitment, formation and responsibility – legal instruments to improve the role of the police to establish security

Darlynton Okiemute Ofekeze*

Abstract

Every society functions on law. These laws establishes acceptable modes of conduct and prohibits certain actions and inactions. These laws ensures the security of lives and property. One major character of law is that it also provides sanctions for its violators. These sanctions are usually enforced by a Police system. Hence, policing is an intrinsic aspect of any society. This is because the security of any society is dependent largely dependent on the effectiveness of its policing system.

This work is an analyses of the Police in Nigeria. The works details the formation, recruitment and responsibility of the Nigerian Police Force. It also reviews the effectiveness of the Nigerian Police based on its present structure and operations as allowed by the relevant laws and makes recommendations for an improved Police Force to meet the nation's present security challenges.

Introduction

The Nigeria Police Force is the principal law enforcement agency in the country.

Sections 214 to 216 of the Constitution of Nigeria¹ provides for the Nigeria Police Force. Section 214 of the Constitution categorically states that, "There shall be a Police Force for Nigeria, which shall be known as 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". The Police Act 2020 is the extant regulation for the Police Force in Nigeria. Section 4 of the Police Act provides that, ' "The Police shall be employed for the prevention and detection of crime, the apprehension of offenders, the 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"

History

It had its origins in Lagos following the creation of a 30-man Consular Guard in 1861. The small guard was subsequently expanded to 600 men in 1891 and renamed "Hausa Police",

* Managing Partner, Onyx & Bricks(Barristers and Solicitors), www.onyxandbricks.com.ng.

1 1999 Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria (as amended).

because of the enlistment of some captured run-away Hausa slaves at Jebba by Lt. Glover R. N. Again in 1879 the Hausa Police was further enlarged by the recruitment of more men and renamed the "Hausa Constabulary". It then consisted of 1,200 officers and men commanded by an Inspector-General of Police.

The duties of the Hausa Constabulary entailed attending to security needs of the colonial administration which encompassed both military and civil police functions. It however, was largely military in character and posture, one of such military duties was the provision of a detachment of 8 officers and 51 men for the Arochukwu expedition.

On January 1, 1896, the Lagos Police Force was established. Like the Hausa Constabulary, the Force was armed and consisted of a Commissioner of Police, 2 Assistant Commissioners, 1 Superintendent, 1 Assistant Superintendent, a Pay Master, Quarter Master, Master Tailor and 250 other ranks. The Force operated mainly in the Lagos area, while the "Hausa Constabulary" was in the hinterland.

A similar Force, the Niger Coast Constabulary was formed in Calabar in 1894 under the newly proclaimed Niger Coast Protectorate. It was modeled after the Hausa Constabulary but with emphasis on the military role. During its six years of existence, the force mainly engaged in active service and formed part of the major expedition against Benin in 1896.

When the protectorate of Northern and Southern Nigeria were proclaimed in the early 1900s, part of the Royal Niger Constabulary became the Northern Nigeria Police and part of the Niger Coast Constabulary became the Southern Nigeria Police.

During the colonial period, most police were associated with Local Governments (Native Authorities). However, in the 1960s, under the First Republic, these forces were first regionalized and then nationalized. The British merged Lagos colony and the Southern and Northern Protectorates in 1914 and named the new colony Nigeria. The Northern and Southern Regional Police Forces were later merged in 1930 to form the colony's first National Police.²

Formation

The Nigeria Police Force is a federal police force with officers and men deployed across the 36 states of the Federation and the Federal Capital Territory (FCT), Abuja to fight crimes and ensure the maintenance of law and order.

The operational command and control of the Nigeria Police Force is under the Inspector General of Police. Section 215 (1) (a) of the Nigerian Constitution states that, "There shall be an Inspector-General of Police, who, subject to section 216(2) of this Constitution shall be appointed by the President on the advice of the Nigeria Police Council from among serving members of the Nigeria Police Force.

2 <https://www.npf.gov.ng/xn/index.php/about-us/history-of-nigeria-police> assessed on August 20,2022.

There are three structure of the Nigeria Police Force namely the Command Structure, the organizational structure and the administrative structure.

The command structure of the Nigeria Police Force is the hierarchical/rank structure of authority within the police force. The Command structure is as follows:³

1. The Inspector-General of Police
2. The Deputy Inspector-General of Police
3. The Asst. Inspector-General of Police
4. The Commissioner of Police
5. The Deputy Commissioner of Police
6. The Asst. Commissioner of Police
7. The Chief Superintendent of Police
8. The Superintendent of Police
9. The Deputy Superintendent of Police
10. The Asst. Superintendent of Police
11. The Inspector of Police
12. Sergeant Major
13. Sergeant
14. Corporal
15. Constable

The organizational structure of the Nigeria Police Force mainly deals with the structuring of the Nigeria Police Force in accordance with the geo-political structure of Nigeria while creating provision for supervisory formations.⁴ The organizational structure of the force in hierarchical order is as follows:

- (a) Force Headquarters
- (b) Zonal Headquarters
- (c) State Commands Headquarters
- (d) Divisional Police Headquarters
- (e) Police Station
- (f) Police Post
- (g) Village Police Post

The administrative structure is for ease of administration. The Nigerian Police Force is structured and divided into 7 departments: ‘A’ – ‘G’ with each department saddled with its own distinctive duties. They are as follows:⁵

- 3 Regulation 273 of the Nigeria Police Regulations of 1968.
- 4 *Ann I. Ogbo*, ‘Strategic Restructuring for Effective Police System in Nigeria’ [2014] 3(4) Journal of Governance and Regulation <https://pdfs.semanticscholar.org/5a9e/ffc804b8a73ec77b0e9f5bde3e7c9b50f058.pdf> accessed 11 August 2022.
- 5 ‘Force Structure’, (Nigeria Police Force) https://www.npf.gov.ng/aboutus/Force_Structure.php accessed 13 August, 2022.

1. 'A' Department: Administration

This department is concerned with the following:

- (a) Direction, supervision and co-ordination of the various departments within the Directorate;
- (b) Standardization of policies and procedure of administration and finance of the Force;
- (c) Periodical review of all standing force Orders, Regulations and other relevant instruments;
- (d) Maintenance of Force discipline by directing and reviewing relevant policies and instructions;
- (e) Convening of conference of the Directors, Zonal Police Commanders (Z.P.Cs) and the Command Commissioner of Police with the Inspector-General of Police;
- (f) Planning, administration and monitoring of the budget and finances of the Force;
- (g) Organization, planning and supervision of Research programmes, Management Information;
- (h) Collating data for and publication of Annual Police Report;
- (i) Convening the Force Tenders' Board;
- (j) Planning and Administration of welfare schemes;
- (k) Liaison, co-ordination and interaction with other Directorates of the Nigeria Police Force;
- (l) Preparation of Annual Budget for the Directorate;
- (m) Police computers and;
- (n) Police Co-operatives;

2. 'B' Department: Operation

This department is concerned with:

- (a) Planning and organizing internal security measures and monitoring the execution of such security measures in times of emergency;
- (b) Direction and co-ordination of Force policies on crime prevention;
- (c) Utilization of Force animals;
- (d) Formulation of Force policies on traffic control;
- (e) Planning coordinating and monitoring of the Force communication network;
- (f) Reviewing and formulating policies on tactical operation schemes for crime control and prevention;
- (g) Periodical inspections of various units for effective implementation of the operational policies of the Police;
- (h) Planning and coordinating joint operation;
- (i) Formulating policies, planning and management of incidents such as disturbance, riots, national disasters, elections, suppression of insurrections and trade union disputes or conflicts;

- (j) Formulation and implementation of policies on anti-terrorism;
- (k) Liaison, coordination and interaction with other Directorates of the Nigeria Police Force;
- (l) Preparation of annual budget for the Directorate.

3. 'C' Department: Logistics and supply

This department concerns itself with the following duties:

- (a) Purchase of stores, clothing and Accoutrement;
- (b) Planning of building programmes;
- (c) Construction and maintenance of Police Buildings and quarters;
- (d) Arrangement of Board of Survey and Disposal of unserviceable/Boarded vehicles, equipment etc.;
- (e) Determination of costs of all equipment, e.g. vehicles, planes, Helicopters; Wireless equipment, Bomb Disposal equipment, Force Animals, Arms & Ammunition and other riot equipment, Boats, Medical, Stationers, Spare parts, Printing equipment;
- (f) Responsibility for the procurement of all technical equipment, Aircraft, Wireless, Medical, Armaments, Transport etc., clothing and accoutrements, Stationers and office equipment;
- (g) Responsibility for the allocation and distribution of the equipment procured for the various Police Commands and Directorates;
- (h) Organization and direction Board of survey;
- (i) Responsibility for the planning and execution of building projects and accommodation;
- (j) Erection and supervision of the maintenance of Barracks, quarters, office buildings and equipment;
- (k) Preparation of annual budget for the Directorate;
- (l) Liaison, co-ordination and interaction with other Directions of the Nigeria Police Force.

4. 'D' Department: Investigation and intelligence

This department is concerned with;

- (a) Criminal Investigations
- (b) Interpol duties
- (c) Antiquities
- (d) Crime Prevention Policies
- (e) Narcotics
- (f) Forensic Matters
- (g) Crime Records

- (h) Prosecution and
- (i) Criminal Intelligence

5. 'E' Department: Training and command

The duties of this Department includes the following:

- (a) Formulation and implementation of supervision of Force Training policy;
- (b) Supervision and coordination of the activities of the Police and Police Staff Colleges;
- (c) Liaison with Police and Civilian Institution of higher learning at home and abroad for effective interchange of ideas;
- (d) Establishment of effective staff development programme;
- (e) Formulation training, research to keep pace with modern thought in the field of training, staff development and equipment;
- (f) Formulating a uniform standard of training in all in all Police Colleges/Training Schools;
- (g) Preparation of annual budget for the Directorate and;
- (h) Liaison coordination and interaction with other Directorates in the Nigeria Police Force.

6. 'F' Department

This department concerns itself with:

- (a) Research;
- (b) Planning;
- (c) Inspectorate Division;
- (d) Management Information;
- (e) Organization and Method

7. 'G' Department (Ict)

Considering the fact that technology plays an important function in law enforcement these days. It only becomes imperative that technology is employed to ensure that agencies saddled with the task of law enforcement harness it to the better advantage of the society. It therefore follows that the importance of law enforcement agencies in recent times to keep and manage electronic databases and communication systems in order to combat the ever growing sophistication of global crime cannot be over emphasized. It is in the pursuance to this need that the "G" Department of the Nigeria Police Force was established.

SECTIONS OF 'G' DEPARTMENT (ICT)

The various sections of this department are as follows:

- (i) Communications Section from 'B' Department;
- (i) INFOTECH Section from 'F' Department;
- (ii) Police Computer College, Abeokuta, 'F' Department;
- (iii) Communications Training Schools in Kaduna & Ikeja;
- (iv) Police Biometric Central Motor Registry (BCMR) from 'B' Department
- (v) Automatic Fingerprint Identification System from 'D' Department
- (vi) Tracking & Intercepting Device Unit from 'D' Department

OBJECTIVES OF 'G' DEPARTMENT (ICT):

The objectives of this department are as follows:

- (a) To develop an ICT Policy for the Nigeria Police Force in line with National ICT Policies such as policies on procurement, use and maintenance of ICT equipment;
- (b) To develop and empower the Nigeria Police personnel with ICT skills for operational efficiency and improved service delivery;
- (c) To provide tools that will help accomplish efficient modern policing;
- (d) To introduce ICT innovative solutions centered on strategic policing that will facilitate public participation in the policing;
- (e) To develop technological driven Citizen and Law Enforcement Analysis and Reporting (CLEAR) program, that is designed within the context of police-community-partnership for efficient and effective law enforcement;
- (f) To provide and maintain a system for data collection, input analysis and necessary output;
- (g) To provide and maintain security for all levels of access and privilege to information systems and technology in all Police formation;
- (h) To ensure that Nigeria Police acquire the best ICT equipment that complies with global law enforcement standards;
- (i) To evolve law enforcement technological solutions that will set pace for other security agencies globally and;
- (j) To periodically conduct ICT related need assessment and advise the Force accordingly.

8. OFFICE OF THE FORCE SECRETARY

The office of the Force Secretary is responsible for the following:

- (a) Promotion and appointment of Superior Police Officers;
- (b) Deployment of Superior Police Officers;
- (c) Records of Superior Police Officers;

- (d) Discipline of Superior Police Officers;
- (e) Police Council meeting;
- (f) Inter-Ministerial matters; and
- (g) Promotion Boards

Each of these Departments is headed by a Deputy Inspector General of Police, supported by an Assistant Inspector-General of Police. The Force is further divided into 17 operational Zonal Commands. Each Zonal Command is headed by an Assistant Inspector-General of Police with two, three or four state commands under the AIG to superintend. The 36 States of the Federation including FCT, Abuja have Police Commands headed by Commissioners of Police. The State Police Commands have Area Commands, Divisions and Police Outposts. The Area Commands are manned by Assistant Commissioners of Police. The Police Divisions are headed by Divisional Police Officers between the Ranks of DSP to CSP. The Police Outposts are headed by ASPs and Inspectors. This decentralization of the Police structures is to ensure adequate protection of lives and properties.

Responsibility of the Nigeria police force

The Nigeria Police Act⁶ outlines the following as the responsibilities of the Police Force;

- (a) Prevent and detect crimes and protect the rights and freedom of every person in Nigeria as provided in the constitution, the African Charter on Human and People's Rights and any other law;
- (b) Maintain public safety, law and order;
- (c) Protect the lives and property of all persons in Nigeria;
- (d) Enforce all laws and Regulations without any prejudice to the enabling Acts of other security agencies;
- (e) Discharge such duties within and outside Nigeria as may be required of it under the this Act or any other law;
- (f) Collaborate with other agencies to take any necessary action and provide the required assistance to support persons in distress, including victims of road accidents, fire disasters, earthquakes and floods;
- (g) Facilitate the free passage and movement on highways, roads and streets open to the public; and
- (h) Adopt community partnership in the discharge of its responsibilities under this Act or under any other law; and
- (i) Vet and approve the registration of private detective schools and private investigative outfits.

⁶ Section 4 of the Nigeria Police Act, 2020.

Under section 5 of the Act,⁷ it is provided that:

“(1) The Police Force is responsible for promoting and protecting the fundamental rights of persons in police custody as guaranteed by the constitution.

(2) For the Purpose of subsection (1), the Police Force shall collaborate with and maintain close working relationships with any government agency or relevant private initiatives in the establishment of schemes or mechanisms offering legal services to accused persons, detainees or accused persons in police custody in need of legal services to ensure that they have full access to justice as laid down under the relevant positions of chapter IV of the Constitution.

(3) In addition to the provisions of subsection (1) and (2), the police force is also charged with the responsibility for promoting and protecting the fundamental rights of all persons as guaranteed under the African Charter on Human and Peoples’ Rights (Ratification and Enforcement) Act and other international legal instruments on human rights to which Nigeria is a signatory.”

Furthermore, where a crime is alleged to have been committed, the Act empowers the police to effect arrests as well as launch investigations with respect to the alleged crime and in accordance with due process of law and report its findings to the Attorney General of the Federation or the states, as the case may be, with intent of getting legal advice.⁸ The power to arrest also extends to situations where a private citizen arrests someone suspected or accused of the commission of a crime. The police is empowered to receive such suspect, make a re-arrest and proceed to conduct its investigations as it borders on the alleged crime.⁹ Upon arrest, the police also has to duty to take the finger prints of a person in its custody¹⁰ and as well as take the statement of a suspect in the event where the said suspect opts to make a statement.¹¹

The Nigeria Police Force also is empowered to carry out/conduct searches. A police officer is backed by law to seize and retain anything for which it is necessary that a search be conducted upon. The power to conduct searches extends to search of persons, search conducted on premises and searches conducted on things such as motor vehicles etc.

The Police is also empowered to release suspects on bail (where such alleged offence is not such that is deemed to be a capital offence or where it may not be reasonably practicable to bring the said suspect to court within a period of 24 hours) without or without such suspect presenting sureties before it.¹² A police officer may also as required, effect the

7 The Nigeria Police Act, 2020.

8 See Sections 31 and 32 of the Nigeria Police Act, 2020.

9 Sections 39 and 40 of the Nigeria Police Act, 2020.

10 Section 68 (1) of the Nigeria Police Act, 2020.

11 Section 60 of the Nigeria Police Act, 2020.

12 Section 62 of the Nigeria Police Act, 2020.

service of a summons issued by a court. The police is also vested with the powers (although limited) to prosecute criminal offences before Nigerian courts.¹³

The Nigeria police has a statutory responsibility especially with respect to lost items which may be found by a police officer. In such a case, the police is to take into its custody, such missing items and make reasonable efforts to inform the public of the missing item for the purpose of reclamation by the owner.¹⁴ The police is further saddled with the responsibility of receiving reports of missing persons.¹⁵

Recruitment

There are various entry levels into the Nigeria Police Force. They are as follows;

1. Constable
2. Cadet Inspector
3. Cadet Assistant Superintendent of Police
4. Nigerian Police Academy degree programme.

Under the recruitment as Constable, Cadet Inspector and Cadet Assistant Superintendent of Police, there is the recruitment for general police duties and technical duties, hence the criteria for recruitment for technical duties like drivers, mechanics, store keeper, etc has special requirements. Our focus in this work will be for recruitment for general police duties.

1. Constable

Only citizens of Nigeria are accepted for enlistment. The qualifications of a male candidate seeking enlistment in the Police Force as a recruit constable shall be as follows-

- (a) Age-not less than seventeen nor more than 25 years of age;
- (b) Height-not less than 1.67 meters in height;
- (c) Chest measurement-not less than 86 centimeters when fully expanded, and having an expansion of not less than 5 centimeters;
- (d) Physical fitness-must be certified by a government medical officer as being mentally and physically fit for service in the Force;
- (e) Must be in possession of a Secondary School Leaving Certificate
- (f) Character-must be of good character and must not have been convicted of any criminal offence (other than any offence which the Inspector-General accepts as being of a minor nature)
- (g) Financial status-must be free from any pecuniary embarrassment.

13 Section 66 of the Nigeria Police Act, 2020.

14 Section 88 of the Nigeria Police Act, 2020.

15 Section 90 of the Nigeria Police Act, 2020.

A candidate for enlistment suffering from anyone of the abnormalities or deformities listed below shall not be accepted for enlistment-

- (a) Impediment in speech;
- (b) Gross malformation of teeth or jaw preventing proper mastication of food; (c) knock knees;
- (d) Bow legs;
- (e) Bent knees; i.e., knees which cannot be straightened when standing at attention;
- (f) Flat feet;
- (g) Bent arms, i.e., arms which cannot be straightened at the elbow;
- (h) Deformed hands, or hands which cannot perform the full functions of the hand; defective eyesight, or squint eyes; amputation of any member

Successful applicants undergo 3–6 months training before enlisted into the Force.

Terms of Service

A member of the rank and file shall be enlisted into the Force for an initial period of two years and, subject to satisfactory conduct and service, may be re-engaged for a period of eight years and subsequent periods of five years up to a total of twenty years' service. Thereafter, and subject to conditions specified in regulation 108, he may be allowed to continue service until he is sixty years of age: Provided that no member of the rank and file may withdraw his service or voluntarily retire until he has completed the period for which he was last re-engaged.

The prescribed qualifications for a woman seeking enlistment in the Police Force shall be as follows-

- (a) Age-not less than nineteen years and not more 25 years of age;
- (b) Height-not less than 1.67 metres in height;
- (c) Physical fitness-must be certified by a government medical officer in the prescribed Form as being not pregnant, and as being physically and mentally fit for service in the Police Force;
- (d) Must be in possession of a Secondary School Leaving Certificate
- (e) Character-must be of good character and must not have been found guilty of any criminal offence (other than any offence which the Inspector-General accepts as being of a minor nature);
- (f) Financial status-must be free from any pecuniary embarrassment;
- (g) Marital status-must be unmarried.

2. Cadet Inspector

The general qualifications required of a male or female candidate for appointment as a cadet sub-inspector of police are as follows-

- (a) Physical fitness-must be certified by a government medical officer as being physically and mentally fit for service in the Force;
- (b) Education-must be in possession of- (i) a General Certificate of Education with passes at the Ordinary Level in at least four subjects including English language and mathematics; or (ii) the West African School Certificate, with credits in at least four subjects, including English language and mathematics;
- (c) Character-must be exemplary;
- (d) Financial status-must be free from pecuniary embarrassment.

A male candidate shall be not less than 1.67 meters in height, and shall have an expanded chest measurement of not less than 86 centimeters.

A female candidate shall be unmarried, and shall be not less than 1.67 meters in height.

3. Cadet Assistant Superintendent of Police

The general qualifications required of a male or female candidate for appointment as a cadet assistant superintendent of police (general duties) are as follows-

- (a) Age-not below 23 years or above 28 years;
- (b) Physical fitness-must be certified by a government medical officer as being physically and mentally fit for service in the Force;
- (c) Education-must be in possession of a pass degree from a university recognized by the Federal Ministry of Education;
- (d) Character-must be exemplary;
- (e) Financial status-must be free from pecuniary embarrassment.

A male candidate shall be not less than 1.67 meters in height and shall have an expanded chest measurement of not less than 86 centimeters.

A female candidate shall be unmarried, and shall be not less than 1.67 meters in height.

4. Nigeria Police Academy degree programme

The Nigeria Police Academy is a tertiary institution dedicated to the training of superior police officers. Graduates from the Nigeria Police Academy are commissioned as Assistant Superintendent of Police of Police.

Generally, enlistment in the Nigeria Police Force is done by a federal character system where each state or region is allowed to produce a certain number of persons. However, in practice it has been observed that that is not always the case.

Effectiveness of Nigeria police force

Nigeria police performance is unsatisfactory; the police are ineffective and inefficient in their job of crime prevention, criminal investigation, and response to distress calls by citizens. The poor performance is due to several factors, but mainly to due to lack of deve-

lopment of productive and social infrastructure in society; inappropriate policing strategies; inadequate intelligence gathering, analysis and utilization skills and facilities, inadequacy of officers in terms of quality and training at various ranks; poor training and conditions of service; lack of public co-operation; grossly inadequate logistics (especially transportation, telecommunication, arms and ammunition etc); poor remuneration and lack of motivation by the force and superior officers. The challenge is that an ineffective police force cannot command the respect of the public.

Challenges of the Nigeria police force in tackling Nigeria's insecurity

The following are a few of the challenges of the Nigerian Police Force;

1. Centralization of the Police Force.

Nigeria is a very large territory with a land mass of 923.768 Square Kilometer, a population of around 220,000,000 and a people of diverse cultures with each region or community having its own peculiar security challenges. Yet, it operates a central police structure with an Inspector General of Police in the Federal Capital Territory dictating policing policies from Abuja. The centralization of the Police Force does not allow for development of policing policies suitable and peculiar to particular communities and regions. Hence, the inability to properly prevent and investigate crimes.

2. Under Policing.

There are approximately 370,000 police men for a population of approximately 220,000,000¹⁶, i.e 595,000 to 1 policeman, it falls short of the UN projection of 1 police man to 100,000 persons. This also affects the quality of policing as there are not enough policemen to handle the nation's numerous security challenges.

3. Inadequate Educational Qualification for Recruitment

The present criteria for recruitment allows for very minimal educational qualifications for the rank and file of the police force which form bulk of the Police Force. This situation allows for very unintelligent persons to become responsible for the security of the country.

4. Lack of Efficient Technology for Combating Crimes

Crime constantly evolves. Criminals have develop better and efficient ways of carrying out their enterprise. Yet, the Nigeria Police have failed to evolve in its crime fighting techniques. The Nigeria Police have not taken advantage of the avalanche of technology to combat crimes.

5. Corruption

Corruption in the Nigerian Police Force is endemic. While there are many reasons that can be adduced for the ugly situation, these reasons are not enough justification for the ugly trend and the resultant inefficiency of the Nigeria Police. The corruption

16 Bola Bakare, Perspectives on the Nigerian Police Force, <https://www.vanguardngr.com/2021/07/perspectives-on-the-nigeria-police-force/>.

ranges from bribes to cover up investigations, payment for money before investigation, payments for bail etc.

6. Lack of Adequate Training

It does not appear that there is adequate training and re-training to meet the constantly changing security challenges as the Policemen seem stuck in certain ways that affects the efficiency of the Policing.

7. Nepotism and Lack of Merit in recruitment process

The recruitment process is very faulty as it is usually not based on competence but on nepotism. Hence, incompetent and unintelligent persons are recruited to accommodate some tribal or ethnic bias. This certainly affects the output of the Police Force as there are then less competent officers to actually deliver on the mandate of the Police Force.

8. Political Interference and Lack of Independence

The executive arm of Government do have overwhelming control of the Police Force and usually exerts this influence negatively. They have been known to interfere with investigations for their benefit and interests. This does not augur well for the overall interest of peace and security of the Nation.

9. Lack of Public Confidence

Almost every Nigeria have had an unpleasant experience of the Police Force so the average Nigerian perception of the Police Force is that it is an incompetent, inefficient and corrupt organization. Hence, every action of the Police Force is viewed from the prism. This lack of confidence does not allow for synergy between the civilian population and the Police Force to combat crime. The average Nigeria is weary of reporting suspicious activities as they do not trust the involvement or connivance of the Nigerian Police Force in most crimes. This has largely affected intelligence gathering which is a fundamental aspect and determinant of efficient policing.

Recommendations

1. Decentralization of the Police Force by allowing state and community policing.

Considering the land mass of Nigeria, its population, cultural diversity and heterogeneous set-up, a single Federal Police Force is inadequate to address the resultant complex and peculiar security challenges of the various units of the Nation. It is recommended that State and Community Policing be established to allow for a more robust and locally driven policing. This is because crime is local and there are crimes peculiar to a particular locality and the people from that locality are best suited to combat such crimes.

2. Digitalization of Police protocol and procedures.

The operations of the Nigerian Police Force is still largely manual. There is very limited use of technology in crime prevention, detection and investigation. Despite the avalanche of technological devices for crime prevention and investigation, Policing in Nigeria is still largely manual. It is recommended that huge investment be made on

procuring the relevant technological devices that will aid crime prevention, detection and investigation.

3. Raising the Bar of Educational Qualification for Enlistment into the Police Force.

Due to the quality of the personnel of the Police Force, the work output most times is abysmal. It is important that the criteria for entry into the Police Force at all levels be reviewed upwards and ensure that a merit based recruitment process be adopted for recruitment into the Police Force. This will certainly enhance the productivity of the Police Force.