

Tackling The Challenges of Human Security and The Quest for State Police in Nigeria

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Abstract

This study investigated the necessity and feasibility of the establishment of state police system in the face of mounting challenges of human security in Nigeria. A cross-sectional research design and the probability sampling technique were adopted. The population for this study was derived from the records of the National Bureau of Statistics for the six states plus the Federal Capital Territory. A questionnaire was employed as the research instrument for this study with 1927 respondents deemed usable. Data collected were analyzed using descriptive and inferential statistics. The socio-demographic characteristics were analyzed using descriptive statistics, while the hypotheses of the study were analyzed using inferential statistics of correlation and simple regression analysis with the aid of Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS) software version 23.0. The results of the study revealed that police inefficiency positively and significantly influences human insecurity in Nigeria. Equally, the present security challenges in the country positively and significantly influences the clamour for state police in Nigeria. The structure of the Nigeria current police positively and significantly impacts on the ineffective police security service delivery in the country and the institution of state police positively and significantly influences improved security situation in Nigeria. The study concludes that the most important existential threats facing the Nigerian federal arrangement are the heightened insecurity and rising criminalities. While the federal government and the security institutions that it controls strive to address the security crisis, their efforts had not aligned with the Nigerians' expectations. Thus, the study recommends among others that there is need to redesign security architecture in Nigeria through improved security budgets, communication equipments, better training and orientation as well as constitutional and political restructuring. The introduction of state police will go a long way in addressing or correcting Nigeria's current security deficit.

Keyword: State police system, human security, mounting challenges, Nigeria

1. INTRODUCTION

The Nigeria Police Force (now better called, the Nigeria police) has been one government agency that has evolved with the socioeconomic and political development of the country. Suffice to state here that the present Police force in Nigeria was inherited from the British colonial masters' design. The establishment, organization, control, command and management of the Nigeria Police Force are governed by colonial legislation (Police Act (CAP 359) of the laws of the federation of Nigeria 1990 and the 1999 constitutions. The law was initially enacted in 1943 by the British colonial government in Nigeria. With the stark realities of socio-political development experienced by the country today, especially with regard to the issue of human security, the Police in Nigeria appear to be out of tune with contemporary realities as it concerns providing and ensuring maximum human security in the country. Undoubtedly, Nigeria is currently bedeviled by myriads of worrisome challenges. The most recurring of these are bribery and corruption, unemployment, poverty and insecurity. Since independence in 1960, Nigeria has not experienced the nature and magnitude of insecurity she is enmeshed in, since her return to democratic form of governance in 1999. The return of democracy has witnessed an upsurge in violent crimes because of the withdrawal of the military personnel from security duties within the states (Ihekire 2014). Obviously, the level of violent

crimes, such as militancy, armed-robbery, ritual killings, child and women trafficking, rape, politically motivated killings, ethno-religious rivalry, on one hand, and non-violent crimes, such as prostitution, bribery and corruption, public disorder, gambling and so on, on the other hand, appear to have defiled all known criminal justice system solution. The Boko Haram terrorism has further aggravated already the tensed security situation in Nigeria. This current state of crime and insecurity has given rise to Nigeria being on the security watch-list of many industrialized countries and has sternly warned their citizens about doing business in Nigeria. For instance, in its 2014 predictions of countries with likelihood of social unrest, the Economic Intelligent Unit, a subsidiary of the Economist, has warned investors of higher than normal level of social unrest in Nigeria in the current year. They also categorized Nigeria among the “Very high risk” countries along with Afghanistan, Egypt and Somalia (Agwanwo, 2014). For those already operating in Nigeria, a good number of them have started relocating to other safer countries to avoid losing their lives and investment. In the northern part of Nigeria particularly in the North East, the Boko Haram terrorists have destroyed life and property, driving out investors both local and foreign. In other commercial cities like Lagos, Kano, Port Harcourt, Ibadan, Aba, among others, armed-robbery attacks, kidnapping for ransomed, Fulani herdsman’s attacks among other social vices are on the increase. This situation has made Nigerians to live in fear in their own country.

Also, the increasing incidence of violent and non-violent crimes have led to the formation of various vigilante group like the Bakassi Boys, Egbesu boys, the Oodua people’s congress (OPC), Amotekun boys and the emergence of neighbourhood watch in some communities that have been denied peace by criminals and also the spread of private security companies. The Nigeria police force, in all these mounting security challenges has not been able to provide respite to this ugly menace. Constitutionally, the provision of security for life and property is entrusted on the police. Based on daily occurrence, the police have been ineffective in fighting or curbing the high level of crime in the counties. They have been ignobly defected in the very task they were created for. In the face of novel human security challenges in the country, prime among which are armed robbery, kidnapping, internal insurgency or terrorism, assassinations and cyber crime and because of this, significant questions are raised about how Nigeria got to where we are now in terms of high rate of insecurity as well as the articulation and understanding of security options for the country. The question of state police has remained one of the unanswered constitutional issues in Nigeria. Yet, the question of security challenge and policing are issues that have direct bearing on the status of Nigeria as a federal state. As it appears today in Nigeria, there seems to be general expression of despair among Nigerians (Ekweremadu, 2014) on the high level of insecurity in the country as well as the lack of trust in the capacity, capability and integrity of the Nigeria police as it is presently constituted to protect life and property. It is argued here, that, apart from low police motivation that is at the root the force being immersed in bribery and corruption; poor public perception; dearth of modern policing technology; criminal elements in the force; among others, the growing monster of insecurity and crime in Nigeria and the inability of the Nigeria police to curb it, is due to the centralized structured of the police in Nigeria. This situation has obviously made a lot of people to lend their voice in the call for a state police as means reducing the disturbing and heart breaking issue of crime and insecurity in Nigeria. What then constitute problem for the proposed study is the challenge of identifying the point where and how Nigeria started to experience human security challenges and policing conventions that exposed the inefficacy and mounting challenges of the existing centralized police system in Nigeria. This enlists the challenge of attempting a critical investigation and analysis of the comprehensive effects of the failure of the existing police system and therefore a justification for the necessity of state police in Nigeria. The general objective of the study is to examine the necessity and feasibility of the establishment of state police system in Nigeria. While the specific objectives are to: (1) Examine the epistemological connection between inefficient policing and human insecurity in Nigeria (2) Ascertain the level of security challenges under the present central controlled police system in Nigeria (3) Explain the variables that account for the perceived or real failure of the central-controlled police in providing efficient and effective policing in Nigeria (4) Highlight the adequacy of state police as alternative to ensure improved policing in Nigeria.

2. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

Research Design

This study adopted the Cross sectional research design and the Key Informant Interview (KII) method of gathering information. The KII is a qualitative in-depth interview with people who know what is going on

in the community. The purpose of KII is to collect information from a wide range of critical stakeholders or people including community leaders, professionals or residents who have firsthand knowledge about the community or about what is happening around (Black & Champion, 1976). However, in deriving aggregate data for the study, both secondary and primary sources were relied on. The secondary data sources include information sourced from published scholarly journals, textbooks, magazines, newspapers' reports and the internet. The survey questions was administered to selected academics, security operatives and educated and well-informed politicians in six states in Nigeria, namely Delta, Ogun, Anambra, Benue, Adamawa and Kaduna to represent the six geo-political zones plus the Federal Capital Territory (FCT) of Nigeria.

Population of the Study

A population is made up of all conceivable elements, subjects or observations relating to a particular phenomenon that a researcher is interested in studying subjects or elements are individual item that make up the population. They may be observed or physically counted (Asika, 2014). A population of 21, 409, 679 Nigerians drawn from the six states randomly selected from each of the six geopolitical zones of Nigeria constituted the population of the study. 384 respondents each were drawn from the six states and the FCT. The population is derived from the records of the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS, August, 2019) for the six states plus the Federal Capital Territory.

Table 1: Population Figures of States

Geo-Political Zone	State	Population
North Central	Benue	4,253,641
North East	Adamawa	3,178,950
North West	Kaduna	6,113,503
South East	Anambra	4,177,828
South – South	Delta	4,112,445
South West	Ogun	3,751,140
FCT	Abuja	1,405,201
Total		21,409,679

Source: (NBS, August, 2019)

Sample Size

A sample size is a representative of the entire population from which it is drawn. This study used the geo-political zones in Nigeria as the sampling frame of the study area. The study used the simple random sampling to select six states from the six geo-political zones of Nigeria plus the Federal Capital Territory for the purpose of eliciting information. The sample size for the study is 2,688. This is derived from the sample size table developed by the Research Advisors in 2006. Various formulae can be used to calculate the required sample size for a given population. The study used

$$n = \frac{x^2 * N * P * (1 - P)}{ME^2 * (N - 1) + (X^2 * p * (1 - P))} \dots \dots \dots (Equation 1)$$

Where:

- n - Sample size
- X² - Chi-square for the specific level at 1 degree of freedom
- N - Population size
- P - Population proportion (...in the Research Advisors Table)
- ME - Desired margin of Error (Expressed as a proportion)

Source: Kothari and Garg (2014)

Table 2: Required Sample Size

Geo-political Zone	State	Population	Required Sample Size
North Central	Benue	4,253,641	384
North East	Adamawa	3,178,950	384
North West	Kaduna	6,113,503	384
South East	Anambra	4,177,828	384

South – South	Delta	4,112,445	384
South West	Ogun	3,751,140	384
FCT		1,405,201	2,688

Source: (NBS, August, 2019)

At a confident level of 95% and a margin of error (degree of accuracy) of 0.05% would be 384. (see appendix 1, page....) consequently, 2688 respondents was randomly selected from each of the six states plus the FCT and from whom information was elicited.

Sampling Technique

There are two main categories of sampling techniques in survey research. They are probabilistic and non-probabilistic techniques. The choice is deliberate. It represents our intention to purposely select a few critical stakeholders only to interview while we administered questionnaire to the other respondents. The choice owed to the fear of insecurity in the sampled states. For this study, the probability sampling technique was employed. The import of the probabilistic technique is that the technique makes it possible for the researcher to estimate the chances that a given population element will be selected to be members of the sample. Probability sampling is also known as random sampling or chance sampling (Kothari & Garg, 2014). Under this method every item of the population has an equal chance of inclusion in the sample.

Method of Data Collection

The study adopted combination of methods of gathering data. Data for the study were procured from both primary and secondary sources. The primary sources include the use of questionnaire items and interview guide for a broad information and interview, which were conversational and inquisitional to give in-depth information on the issue under problem that was studied. The structured questionnaire type was adopted. The questionnaires were administered to the respondents by the researcher personally with the help of field assistants. On the other hand, the secondary sources of data include information sourced from published scholarly journals, textbooks, magazines, newspapers, reports, unprinted materials, seminar papers and the internet. It has been emphasized that what surveys are to the behaviouralist, documents are to the traditionalist (Kothari & Garg, 2014; Ikenga, 2016) and so are indispensable in the prosecution of political science research. Anchored on this premise, we adopted a detailed unobtrusive consultation of relevant secondary materials. Also, information from personal observations and experiences was utilized.

Validity of the Research Instrument

A research instrument is said to be valid if it enables a researcher elicit the correct responses from the sample subjects. In other words, before an instrument can be said to be valid, it means the instrument is appropriate for measuring what it is intended to measure. Validity therefore, is expressed as the degree to which a measuring instrument measures what it is designed to measures accurately. In this research, survey questionnaire administered to the selected sample subjects with the hope and belief that responses got from them are original and authentic. This is in addition to the fact that the instrument was subjected to the scrutiny of the researcher's supervisors and other research experts.

Reliability

This is concerned with the consistency obtained from the results of the application of the research instrument. An instrument is reliable if it consistently gives the same or similar result (Asika, 2012). In this study to test the reliability of the research instrument, a pilot study was conducted.

Table 3: Validity and Reliability Results

Construct	Number of items	Composite Reliability	Cronbach's Alpha	Average Variance Extract
Structure of the Nigeri police	5	.841	.780	.628
Police inefficiency	5	.837	.773	.621
Institution of state police	5	.825	.770	.618
Human insecurity in Nigeria	5	.819	.746	

Police security service delivery	5	.810	.739	.609
Security situation in Nigeria	5	.803	.721	.600

Source: Field Survey, 2023

Table 3 shows that the values range from 0.803 to 0.841 for composite reliability and 0.721 to 0.780 for Cronbach’s alpha respectively for the three constructs. This implies that all the constructs are reliable as the values of composite and the Crombach’s alpha coefficients are above the threshold of 0.70 (Hair, Hult, Ringle & Sarstedt, 2017). The reliability results are supported by the discriminant validity values of Average Variance Extract (AVE), which are also above the standard of 0.50 (Hair et al., 2017). Therefore, all the six constructs for this study showed high reliability and internal consistency.

Method of Data Analysis

Method of analysis is the technique for ordering and breaking down of data into constituent parts. It constitutes the statistical calculation performed with reference to raw data to provide answers to research hypotheses that are raised. The socio-demographic characteristics were analyzed using descriptive statistics, while the hypotheses of the study were analyzed using inferential statistics of correlation and simple regression analysis with the aid of Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS) software version 23.0. As for the secondary data, the historical and content analysis approach was used for the analysis of data generated.

3. RESULT AND DISCUSSION

This study investigated the necessity and feasibility of the establishment of state police system in Nigeria. To achieve this, two thousand six hundred and eighty eight (2,688) questionnaires were administered across the six states plus the FCT. Of the two thousand six hundred and eighty eight (2,688) questionnaires distributed, only one thousand six hundred and twenty seven (1,927) were found usable, representing seventy one point seven percent (71.7%) response rate.

Description of Respondents’ Demographic Characteristics

The table below shows the presentation of data and analysis for the sample background information in terms of sex, age, marital status, educational qualification and working experience.

Table 4: Socio-demographic Characteristics Result

Items	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Sex		
Male	1007	52.3
Female	920	47.7
Total	1927	100
Age		
20-30	506	26.3
31-40	538	27.9
41-50	491	25.5
51+	392	20.3
Total	1927	100
Marital status		
Single	795	41.3
Married	939	48.7
Widowed	156	8.1
Divorced	37	1.9
Total	1927	100

Qualification		
SSCE	543	28.2
NCE/OND	405	21.0
B.Sc./HND	619	32.1
MBA/M.Sc./Ph.D	360	18.7
Total	1927	100
Work experience		
1-5years	335	17.3
6 - 10years	498	25.8
11-15 years	558	29.1
16 years and above	536	27.8
Total	1927	100

Source: (Field survey, 2023)

Table 4 provides an overview of the socio-demographic data. Out of the 1927 respondents 1007(52.3%) were male and 920(47.7%) were female. This implies that the majority of the respondents were male. In terms of age range, the average age of the respondents 538(27.9%) was between 31-40 years. Most of the respondents 939 (48.7%) were married; majority of the respondents 619(32.1%) had B.Sc. /HND while majority of the respondents with 11-15years work experience were 558 which accounted for 29.1% of the entire respondents. This implies that the vast majority of respondents had been in their current jobs for 11 to 15 years.

Testing of hypotheses

Table 5: Summary of a Simple Regression Analysis of Police Inefficiency and Human Insecurity

Model	R	R Square	Adjusted R Square	St. Error of the Estimate	Change Statistics					
					R Square Change	F Change	Df1	Df2	Sig. F Change	D.W
1	.950 ^a	.912	.910	3575	.912	301.207		325	.000	1.955

a. Predictors: (Constant), Police inefficiency.

Source: SPSS Output, 2023

From the result, the R value of 0.950 indicates a good prediction level. The R^2 value of 0.912 or coefficient of determination which is the proportion of variance in the dependent variable is explained by the independent variable. Hence, 8.8% (100% - 91.2%) of the variation is caused by factors other than the predictor included in this model. Thus, 91.2% proportion of variance in human insecurity can be explained by police inefficiency in Nigeria. The Durbin-Watson statistic, which is 1.955, implies absence of serial autocorrelation in the regression analysis and the model can be relied upon in making policies related to the subject matters.

Table 6: Summary of a Simple Regression Analysis of the Present Security Challenges and the Clamour for State Police

Model	R	R Square	Adjusted R Square	St. Error of the Estimate	Change Statistics					
					R Square Change	F Change	Df1	Df2	Sig. F Change	D.W
1	.963 ^a	.905	.900	3872	.963	767.121		325	.000	1.938

a. Predictors: (Constant), Present security challenges in Nigeria.

Source: SPSS Output, 2023

From the result, the R value of 0.963 indicates a good prediction level. The R^2 value of 0.900 or coefficient of determination which is the proportion of variance in the dependent variable is explained by the independent variable. Hence, 10.0% (100% - 90.0%) of the variation is caused by factors other than the predictor included in this model. Thus, 90.0% proportion of variance in the clamour for state police can be explained by the present security challenges in Nigeria. The Durbin-Watson statistic, which is 1.938, implies absence of serial autocorrelation in the regression analysis and the model can be relied upon in making policies related to the subject matters.

Table 7: Summary of a Simple Regression Analysis of the Structure of the Nigeria Police and Ineffective Police Security Service Delivery

Model					Change Statistics					
	R	R Square	Adjusted R Square	St. Error of the Estimate	R Square Change	F Change	Df1	Df2	Sig. F Change	D.W
1	.897a	.812	.805	3658	.812	740.105		325	.000	1.935

a. Predictors: (Constant), Structure of the Nigeria police.

Source: SPSS Output, 2023

From the result, the R value of 0.897 indicates a good prediction level. The R^2 value of 0.812 or coefficient of determination which is the proportion of variance in the dependent variable is explained by the independent variable. Hence, 18.8% (100% - 81.2%) of the variation is caused by factors other than the predictor included in this model. Thus, 81.2% proportion of variance in the ineffective police security service delivery can be explained by the structure of the Nigeria police. The Durbin-Watson statistic, which is 1.935, implies absence of serial autocorrelation in the regression analysis and the model can be relied upon in making policies related to the subject matters.

Table 8: Summary of a Simple Regression Analysis of the Institution of State Police and improved Security Situation

Model					Change Statistics					
	R	R Square	Adjusted R Square	St. Error of the Estimate	R Square Change	F Change	Df1	Df2	Sig. F Change	D.W
1	.968a	.927	.914	3702	.927	329.200		325	.000	1.925

a. Predictors: (Constant), Institution of state police.

Source: SPSS Output, 2023

From the table 8, the R value of 0.968 indicates a good prediction level. The R^2 value of 0.927 or coefficient of determination which is the proportion of variance in the dependent variable is explained by the independent variable. Hence, 7.3% (100% - 92.7%) of the variation is caused by factors other than the predictor included in this model. Thus, 92.5% proportion of variance in improved security situation can be explained by the institution of state police in Nigeria. The Durbin-Watson statistic, which is 1.925, implies absence of serial autocorrelation in the regression analysis and the model can be relied upon in making policies related to the subject matters

The study investigated the necessity and feasibility of the establishment of state police system in Nigeria. Findings revealed more male than female respondents in the study; majority of the respondents were between the ages of 31 - 40 years; there were more married respondents; most of the respondents had first degree and have good knowledge of the problem of the study. Majority of the respondents also had 11 - 15 years' life/work experience. There were four hypotheses formulated for the study and the result of hypothesis one was supported by the findings of Ugwu Ngige and Ugwuanyi (2013) which to them improving police efficiency will enhance improved human security in Nigeria. Shettima (2012) collaborating with this finding affirms that police efficiency remains fundamental to the human insecurity in Nigeria and for this reason,

placing emphasis on what can help enhance police efficiency in Nigeria is imperative. This finding is also consistent with the study of Onyeozili (2005) “obstacles to effective policing” conducted in Nigeria that police efficiency increases human insecurity and maintenance of law and order in the country. Consistent with the findings of this study, Baba (2012) demonstrated that today’s Nigeria police witnessed unprecedented insecurity more than the civil war period (1967-1970). Since 1999 and 2009, thousands of lives and properties of billions of naira were lost to insecurity. Many more have been injured, maimed, traumatized and displaced from their abodes. It was argued that, the major problem of Nigeria police and its inability to carry out its responsibilities of protecting the lives and properties of the citizens was its leadership problems. Various reforms were advocated by previous regimes on how to reposition Nigeria police force and its leadership. Although, these reforms came out with good white papers, but the implementation of their recommendations remained the major problem on the side of government on one hand and the police leadership on the other (Alemika & Chukwuma, 2000). Among the problems that affect Nigeria police force in the discharge of its duties are favourism, ethnicity, god fatherism, etc. which have become prominent criteria for appointments, promotion and posting within the rank and file of the police.

Moreover, Achumba, Ighomereho and Akpor-Robaro (2013) opine that Nigeria has consistently ranked low in the Global Peace Index (GPI, 2012), signifying a worsened state of insecurity in the country. In the same vein, Onifade, Imhonopi and Urim (2013) assert that the challenges of insecurity has 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. The rate of bloodshed during the Nigeria civil war is a Child’s play compared to the terrorist attacks in Nigeria in recent times. The problem of insecurity in the country seems to have grown beyond government capacity alone due to police inefficiency in the country. Achumba et al. (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, they argue 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 Onifade et al. (2013) expresses 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. With respect to the second objective of this study, it was revealed that the present security challenges had significant and positive influence on the clamour for state police in the country. This finding validates the work of Adegoke (2014) on the Nigeria police and the myriad of challenges of security in the country focusing on some local government areas in River state. Adegoke found that the quality of training and welfare, logistics and some other materials given to police personnel have significant impact on their performance. It is his belief that if the little resources at the disposal of the police are judiciously put to proper use the rate of crime in the society would not be as high as we have it today.

In support of this, Eme and Anyadike (2012) study on security challenges and the imperatives of state police revealed that state police is sine-qua-non to genuine principle of true federalism. In the immediate post independent era when regional government was in direct control of its affairs, each region had its own police structure independent of the power at the centre. Regardless of the pros and cons of the debates, creation of a State Police structure would also be a major leap in the nation’s march towards the much cherished true federalism that has eluded the nation for a long time. Creation of state police is seen as a step towards actualizing the sustained campaign for community policing. However, some stakeholders have described the call by the Governors’ Forum for creation of state police and special intervention fund as self-serving. Many have even questioned the governors on how they spend security monthly security votes they get. Under the present arrangement, state governors are entitled to certain amount of allocation as security votes which are unaccounted for. Without doubt, there is urgent need for state police to enable states meet the requirements of public order, public safety and democratic governance. This finding is also in line with Aleyomi (2013) who demonstrated that the sustenance of order, security of life, legality, development and democracy may be difficult without the roles of the Police in a given polity. If these roles are assessed vis-à-vis the security challenge in Nigeria, it will be right to say that the performance of the Federal Policing arrangement falls short of Nigerian citizen’s expectation. The heterogeneous nature of Nigeria in terms of tribes and diverse culture has been the major reason for the protagonists of the state police. Aleyomi (2013) concludes that as

one of the major imperatives for an enduring peace and security in Nigeria, an alternative police arrangement is of utmost significance. As a country operating a federal system of government, all the basic tenets of federalism should be put in place. A functional federalism is necessary in a heterogeneous society, such as Nigeria, and not to be practiced partially. Therefore, the need for state police cannot be overemphasized. The concerns that state police could be misused by state governors or with the fear that this could become dangerous with a political history of witch-hunting and intimidation of political opponents, and by extension, the 'do or die' political philosophy, which successive leaders have passed down the line, can be constitutionally addressed.

Furthermore, hypothesis three showed that the structure of the Nigeria police had significant and positive influence on ineffective police security service delivery. This corroborates with Adesoji, Jide and Ifedayo (2013) who argue that the structure of the Nigeria police increased the ineffective police security service delivery in the country. Primarily, the aim of government is to protect life and properties of the citizens through its security agencies which include the police, the military, civil defence, road safety, etc. The role of police in the protection of life and properties of the citizens is indispensable, particularly in the democratic era when the citizens reserve enormous power to determine the relevance and continuity of any government in power. They further argue that police is a visible government agent through whom its character and political systems are assessed. Therefore, the strategies and structure that established police force require constant re-visitation due to dynamic nature of human society. As a tool of maintaining law and order, operational structure required making the activities of police force adequate for twenty first century crime prevention, detection and prosecution cannot be over emphasized. To a large extent, the performance of the police force depends strongly on the strategy and structure of the organization and the mission, political terrain and the economic character of the society, and so, the strategy of police force in Nigeria cannot operate in isolation of the culture and identity of the nation, (Adesoji, Jide & Ifedayo, 2013). In contrast, Aleyomi (2013) argues that there is no practice without advantages and disadvantages. On the issue of establishing state police, judging from the argument for and against, it is clear that the good side of state police outweigh the bad side. Even at the federal level, there are pockets of cases where the government uses the police as agents of intimidation. This is not to say that the present police force in Nigeria is castly ineffective. Hence, there is need to unbundle police institution that we have presently because of the multi-cultural and multi-ethnicity of Nigeria. To check the excesses of the state governors and other state officials when state police is established, there is need to construct the laws that would effectively recognize the challenges and put necessary safeguards in its operation to prevent abuse. More so, the fact that there is state police would not in any way abolish the federal police. It should be concurrently practiced by reviewing the constitution of Nigeria and the outdated Police Act of 1943 and laws of the federation of 1990. The police being the symbol of the state, its efficiency and disposition determine the perception of law and order from within and without. As the argument for state police continues to gain momentum, it is imperative that the existing police structure should be well funded and equipped for better service delivery, especially now that the country is facing serious security challenges. There is obvious need to equip and reposition the force to checkmate acts of terrorism, armed robbery, kidnapping and other sundry criminalities which have all eaten very deep into the fabric of the Nigerian society and threatening the country's existence.

Lastly, the result of hypothesis four was supported by Aleyomi (2013) who argues that every state that has the power and can give judgment through its state high courts and Magistrates Courts and make laws through its state assemblies should have the concomitant powers to enforce its law and police its state. It is important to state that the essence of the adoption of a federal framework is the need to constantly adapt to changing political realities. Thus, institutional and constitutional frameworks in federations are often not cast in stone. But as Agbaje has highlighted (Agbaje, 2018), federal systems whose constitutional and institutional frameworks contained serious inherent problems that seem to contradict and negate the core assumptions underlying federal systems would not but be prone to constitutional and institutional crises. This seems to be the case in Nigeria since the return to civil rule in 1999. The contradictions and inherent problems that predispose the Nigeria federation to crisis at present might have informed Jega's position (Jega 2021) that while Nigeria is technically and substantively a federation, it is one of the worst models of political accommodation of diversities, as well as power and resource sharing. One of the important proposals espoused on the Nigerian public space is that which call for constitutional reforms. Key in the argument of proponents of this option is the contention that the 1999 federal constitution placed too much political power, legislative authority and competency, as well as, resources at the disposal of the federal

government, thus stifling the capacity of the thirty-six federating units. For proponents of the state police arrangement the best option is to devolve power, authority and resources away from the central and invest such at the federating states (Agbaje, 2018). The argument has been that doing this will stimulate competition, raise the potential for innovative ideas and promote sub-national units' development and by extension, overall national development. Key on the agenda of those calling for devolution especially on security and notably policing is the argument for the sharing of policing power between the federal government and the governments of the federating units (Saka & Oladejo, 2022). Protagonists of the agenda for the devolution of policing authority and competence as means for addressing Nigeria security crisis cut across the strata of the Nigerian society making the case for the creation of state police as away to improve security situation in the country. Indeed, proponents of state police have argued that different regions of Nigeria had peculiar security challenges. Because of the peculiarity, it is better if personnel recruited to serve as police officers have a better grasp of the geography, and environment peculiarity of the area; including their knowledge of the criminal elements in the area that they have even lived with. This can better be achieved when state governments are allowed by law to establish local police authority and draw recruits from within their localities against the posting of officers and men from disparate geographical and cultural backgrounds all around the country as currently practiced by the Nigerian Police Force (Eme & Anyadike 2012).

4. CONCLUSION

Since the beginning of the Nigeria's Fourth Republic, robbers, kidnappers, and other criminal gangs have intensified their activities. They are everywhere, on street, and highway, in our homes, and banks, party officers and campaign and voting centres. They rob, kill, and maim. All the security outfits in Nigeria, especially Nigeria police bark without the ability to bite. Even if the Nigerian federal system is going through a trying time, the challenges faced by the country are surmountable. In conclusion, the most important existential threats facing the Nigerian federal arrangement are the heightened insecurity and rising criminalities. While the federal government and the security institutions that it controls strive to address the security crisis, their efforts had not aligned with the Nigerians' expectations. The worsening security environment has resulted in a call for restructuring with the view to decentralize policing power, authority and competency to Nigeria's thirty-six federating units. The argument is that the federal and state governments should constitutionally share the exercising of policing power so that the states be allowed to establish, operate, fund, and control police agencies. The belief is that this approach will relieve the federal government of some of the burden of policing Nigeria, encourage local policing, address the differing security problems of the different states and their localities, and ultimately help in addressing Nigeria's security crisis. Today, the question most Nigerians ask everyday is: who will be the next victim? The security outfits whose constitutional duties and responsibilities is to control crime appear helpless. So many factors are said to be responsible for their inactivity. Among them are poor funding, lack of motivation and poor welfare services. They lack equipment and functional vehicles for their operation. Arms and ammunition are problems too. Faced with the upsurge of crimes, these security outfits are unable to perform. Some of the fallouts of this kind of situation include: social and political displacement and dislocation, social tensions, citizenship question, deepening of hunger and poverty in society and political insecurity and instability in the polity.

In spite of the alluring structures and programmes of the Nigeria police force, the image has largely not resonated with the kind of police force desired by the civil populace- a force that eschews inappropriate use of lethal force, illegal arrest and detention, extortion, intimidation, corruption, sexual violence and extra-judicial killings, robbery collaboration and exploitation. No doubt, the fact in practice is that decentralization encourages specialization and efficiency. Hence, a decentralized system of law enforcement agency must be regulated and understood. As such, there is the need to have knowledge of matters that affect multiple police in a federal system of government and also to hastily address the leadership crises and corruption in the society. If not, security threat is inescapable whether the proposed establishment of state police sees the light of the day or not. On the basis of findings of this study and conclusion, the following recommendations for policy-making are made:

- i. There is need to rejig the current security architecture in the country through provision of improved security budgets, communication equipments, better training and orientation as well as constitutional and political restructuring. The introduction of state police will help in guaranteeing improved

security system in Nigeria.

- ii. State government working in synergy with local vigilante groups within the state will create an atmosphere of fairness, equity and collaboration that would eliminate the security challenges in Nigeria today. This can be achieved through the institution of state police.
- iii. The effort of the federal police alone cannot curb the rate of insecurity in the nation and this justifies, the case for the creation of state police as a way to improve security situation in the country.
- iv. State governments should be allowed by law to establish local police authority and draw recruits from within their localities against the posting of officers and men from disparate geographical and cultural backgrounds all around the country. This will go a long way in helping to affectively track down state peculiar security challenges.

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