IMPACT ASSESSMENT OF NIGERIA POLICE FORCE ON THE SECURITY MAINTANANCE IN NIGERIA

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ABSTRACT
The Nigeria Police Force is a body established by the constitution and empowered to promote, protect and safeguard the interest of the Nation, values of the various society and protect individuals and groups from each other and ensure civility. TheNigeria Police force is the major agency thrust with the internal protection of the state internal vices. However, the pessimism and negativism surrounding the police force has continued to be on an increase. Rising from the corruption, pervasion of justice, extortion, bribery, extra judicial killings, malpractices etc. the Police force have therefore been tagged amongst the bad eggs of the country. According to transparency international (2022) Nigeria was ranked 150/180 in the corruption index with a 24/100 score, and the Nigeria Police was ranked most corrupt agency in the Nigeria Polity. Despite the fact that resources allocated to the police force to carry out their functions effectively, the police have not been able to deliver professional and worthwhile results. Consequent upon this, the paper investigated the challenges facing the Nigeria police force in promoting security in Nigeria. The paper adopted qualitative research method with the application of the constructive theory for better explanation of issues relating to the security in Nigeria. Findings of the research work revealed that the Nigeria Police Force do not possess adequate new technologies and enough ammunition cum the inadequate remuneration and benefits payment of police officers.The study recommends that procurement of advanced technologies, ammunition and discipline for the purpose of promoting security in Nigeria.

Introduction

The coming together of individuals to end the state of nature and give rise to the social contract that happened in Europe can also be likened to the divine rule system that was practiced in the African society. The idea of law and order in Nigeria, can be traced to the pre-colonial era traditional rulers. The rulers were seen as high in wisdom, and divine mandated to rule the kingdom. The maintance of law and order was a collective responsibility, however the Kings and Traditional rulers had a standing force similar to the police force of present age which carries out maintance of law and order.

Nigeria a country blessed with so many resources both human and natural resources. The nature of the country Economic, political and social system has been characterized with slow development. There is no doubt that the spate of challenges to the security in the country is alarming. The peace and prosperity of a state lie on so many factors ranging from international relationships, intra-relationship between and amongst its citizen, security, the judicious and economical management of scarce resources by the government along with the harmonious advancement in the various sectors of the nation. In other for there to be peaceful co-existence, amongst the various sectors and individuals, security is therefore paramount and this Security ranges from the economic, political, social and international relationship. (Lambe 2022). The presence of insecurity is not a concept that has condescended to only third world countries, but a general and worldwide phenomenon

One of the primary purposes of government of any nation is the provision of peace and security. This function 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. Fundamentally, this functions envisages the presence of peace, safety and the protection of human and physical resources or absence of crisis or threats to human dignity all of which facilitates development and progress of human and societal lives.

The Nigeria Police force and the mirage of security in the globalized world seems to be an optical illusion. Nigeria has a serious problem with police corruption, at all levels. At the top, senior police officials embezzle staggering sums of public funds. To take just one example, in 2012, the former Inspector General of Police, Sunday Ehindero, faced trial for embezzling 16 million Naira (approximately US$44,422). Meanwhile, at the lower levels, rank-and-file police officers regularly extort money from the public, and crime victims must pay bribes before the police will handle their cases. As a 102-page report by Human Rights Watch documented, police extortion is so institutionalized that Nigerians are more likely to encounter police demanding bribes than enforcing the law. No wonder Nigeria's police force was ranked as the worst of those included in the 2016 World Internal Security and Police Index, and that Transparency International's Global Corruption Barometer survey found that a staggering 69% of Nigerian citizens think that most or all police officers are corrupt. (ihehukreme 2019)

There are many factors that abound to be the factors responsible for the incessant challenges to the security, and one of them include the challenges facing the Nigeria police. The problems facing the police include: poor welfare, poor salaries and remuneration, inadequate funding, inadequate equipment, negative image, lack of respect, corruption, inadequate number of police officers, legal/ establishment challenges, operational challenges and political challenges.

Statement of the Problem

The main agents of the government in the maintance of civility and orderliness is the Nigeria Police. However, time without number the police have been shortcoming in the carrying out of its functions. Problems of funding to carry out their functions, to bribery and perveasion of justice, un-professionalism, political control etc.

The non-performance of the Nigeria police in the present condition has been noted by various thinkers to be due to internal impedimentson the part of the Police force and these includesthe funding for apparatus, training and other logistics has not been adequate. The Nigeria police are part and parcel of the civil society. 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. According to Stephen **(**2022**)** At least $277,153,670,501 are spent by the USA on security. In which he said two main categories to count are 1) spending on federal law enforcement and prisons, and 2) spending on police and prisons by state and local governments. Total federal spending on law enforcement and prisons totaled $71,931,937,501 in fiscal year 2021. While The Nigeria Senate on Wednesday approved N11.3 billion (11,352,457,101.70) as the budget of the Nigeria Police Trust Fund (NPTF) for the 2020 fiscal year. About N1.3 billion (1,362,814,243) of

the amount was allocated for the procurement of teargas. Only 0.5 per cent of the total revenue that accrued to the Federation Account and 0.5 per cent of the total Value Added Tax were remitted to the NPTF account; Compared to the amount spent on other agency and infrastructure which amounts to higherpercentage of the budget shows that the police budget is very low.

More so, 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 for officers to meet up withmates in the society they ended up slaughtering efficient and effective performance of duty on the slab of corruptions extortions. According to Transparency International's Corruption Perceptions Index 2019, Nigeria is the second most corrupt country in West Africa and 34th most corrupt country in the world. Transparency International in a new report also affirmed that corruption now worse in Nigeria.

Research Objectives

The main objectives of the research are to investigate the challenges of the police force in combating insecurity. The specific objectives of the research are toascertain if the structural organizational of the Nigeria police are adequate and investigate the training method and conditions for recruitment of the police.

Methodology

Data were sourced from literature such as textbooks, articles, research papers, Journals, newspapers, Television reports, Internet sources and qualitative methods was employed to analyzed contending issues in the security matters of the country. It is important to note that this research is descriptive and analytical.

Theoretical Framework

Constructivism

The **Constructivism** was expounded by Ernst Glaserfeld.Constructivism argues "that the structures of human association are determined primarily by shared ideas rather than material forces, and that the identities and interests of purposive actors are constructed by these shared ideas rather than given by nature". Constructivism is 'an approach to learning that holds that people actively construct or make their own knowledge and that reality is determined by the experiences of the learner. Constructivism is the claim that significant aspects of relations are historically and socially constructed, rather than inevitable consequences of human nature or other essential characteristics of world politics. To this theorist's relations are based on shared ideas which becomes a theory.

Relevance of the Theory

These theory explains the problem of the Police has a shared idea that has been passed from generations of officers to the new ones. The ideas surrounding the Nigeria Police force have been negative overtime. And this has built a pessimistic and distrust relationship between the citizens and the Police. The Police are therefore known. The culture of the police corruption and how money making tactics are being made are passed from senior officers to the junior ones who takes up the idea. More, the citizen's lack of trust on the Police is duly to the constructiveidea of mistrust and negativism shared among the citizens pertaining the Police force.

Conceptual Clarification

Concept of Security and national security

Security can be viewed from many perspectives and prisms but no single definition can lay claim to universality and perfection. In any case, the common element to all definitions of security is that of protection against threats (Akinyeye, 2001). Security is the protection of the wellbeing, values, interest and freedom of all individuals in the state from internal or external forces. Security is a multi-dimensional concept which can be likened to mean different things at different times. The notion of security is safety, well-being, freedom and protection. Security is a state of well-being both mentally, physically and economically.

Security is the process of being safe from danger or harm; more, security is the freedom of ideas, values, decisions, and actions without fear of infringements and threats of freedom.it can also be viewed as the protections, defense, and preservation of values as well as the

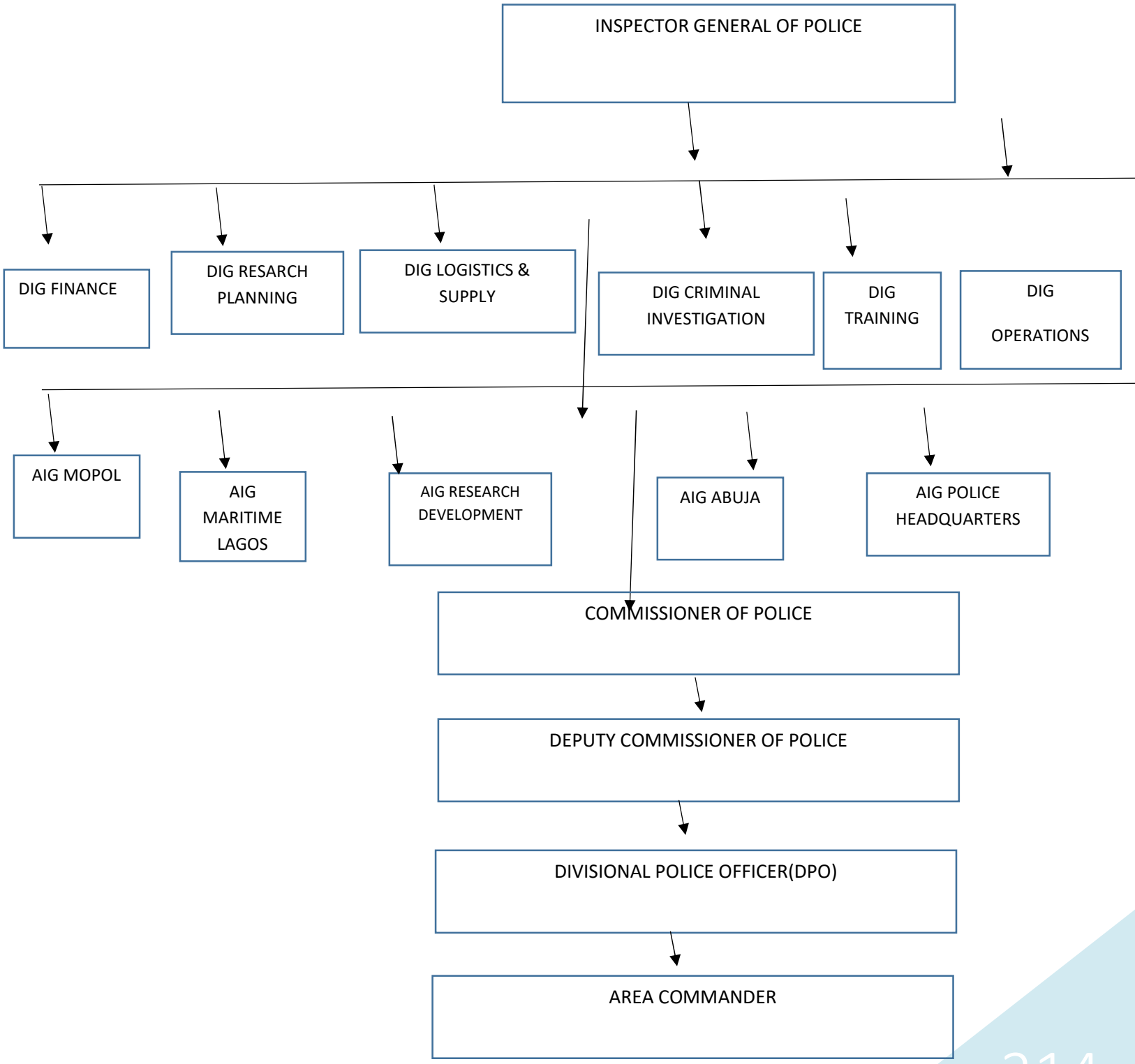
absence of threats to acquire values. This safety, freedom, well-beingare sustained through internal security mediums, constitutional provision, law and orderliness etc. Based on the above definitions of security therefore, insecurity can be deduced as when an individual, community or nation is faced with threat or danger. It can also be referred to as the state of being exposed to danger or threat from internal or external forces.

National security, is the overarching safety of a state at the micro and macro level.it involves both economic, social, political and state survival. National security most of the time is used to expound military and territorial survival of a state, however, the survival of a state has gone beyond just military and territorial protection.

The Nigeria police trust funds

The Nigeria Police Trust Fund (Establishment) Act, 2019 ("the Act") established a Fund for training, providing modern state-of-the-art security equipment and other related facilities for personnel of the Nigeria Police. Section 4(1)(a) and (b) of the Act provides for an amount constituting 0.5% of the total revenue accruing to the Federation Account, and a levy of 0.005% of the net profit of companies operating in Nigeria respectively to be remitted to the Fund. Based on this provision, the Federal Government (FG) deducted 0.5% of the total revenue accruing to the Federation Account for the month of March 2020 and remitted to the Fund.

Structure of the N.P.F



Challenges Faced by the NPF in Fighting Insecurity

The pessimism and distrust faced by the Nigeria police force despite the protection rendered by the force can be likened to be caused by some salient problems which has germinated to be thorn. The challenges facing the Nigeria police force is both historical, structural, financial and individual. The problems of the Nigeria police forceis not a contemporary issue buta problem that metamorphosed into what it is now.

Structural problems

The Nigeria police force structure does not give room for accountability, proper transparency and its human laden. Situations whereby human intuition are the only check for accountability and transparency corruption will not be farfetched. Overtime the Nigeria police has been faced with some cumulative problems that contribute to the diminishing performance of the force. 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. The police have over time been seen or known for the pervasion of justice, bribery, misrepresentation of justice, false allegations, evidence bunkering etc. this has been one of the characteristics issues that has made the people lose trust in the police. A structure that gives room for unaccountability will endeavor the thriving of corruption. The presence of accountability and bureaucratic procedures is very little in the police force. For example, if a citizen's complaint is not recorded by the police under whatever guise, the citizen should have the option of going to an independent regulator that is empowered to check the police and ensure compliance to minimum standards of service delivery to the public.

More, Automation of Crime and complain reporting the present system where the recording of crime and complains of the public is left at the discretion of officer is grossly inadequate. This has contributed to the growing rate of 'dark figures' of crime as well as increased corrupt practices among the officers. Since the registration of complaint is the first step towards receiving justice, citizens are compelled to pay bribe in order to get their complaints registered. The wregistration of crime is sometimes left at the hands of officer decreetion which often than not negates professional activities. "I can kill you or make you disappear" are one of the statement usually spoken by officer which portrays the lack of accountability and regards for due processes in the Force

Security is a matter of intelligence, technology and outreach. These three elements the Nigeria police lacks. The citizens and the police are in a paradoxical relationship. Without intelligence from average citizens who knows what's going on in the society, the police cannot be promptly informed. The structure of the police gives room for unaccountability and transparency. Police officers can do and un-do at their willingness. Evidence, injustice can be easily undertaken because officers can easily beat the system. According to Are Babalola (2022) Accurate information about the prevalence of police corruption is hard to come by, since the corrupt activities tend to happen in secret and Police Organisations have little incentive to publish information about corruption.

Financial Problems

The perceived poor salary and low welfares in the police to some scholars is the perceived beginning of the corruption in the police force. Furthermore, looking at the issue of funding, salary determination, welfare benefits and remuneration The Nigeria police force members have been faced with the poor remuneration which some have seen to be the cause of their negative actions. 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. Currently, new recruits in the Nigerian Police Force earns 608,702 naira annually (infoguide 2022). Though some thinkers argue that compared to other civil servant the police force are well paid, therefore salary is not the issue.

Rank	S
Inspector General of Police	₦
Deputy Inspector General of Police	₦
Assistant Inspector General of Police	₦
Commissioner of Police	₦
Deputy Commissioner of Police	₦
Assistant Commissioner of Police	₦
Chief Superintendent of Police	₦
Superintendent of Police	₦
Deputy Superintendent of Police	₦
Assistant Superintendent of Police	₦
Inspector of Police	₦
Sergeant Major	₦

Source: VICTOR USIFO (2023)

More, equivalent of these money to dollar are as follows;

S/No	Rank	Salary per month	Salary per annum	$ Equivalent per month	$ E
1	CP	#39,649.00k	#475,788.00k	$287.3	$3
2	DC	#34,993.00k	#419,916.00k	$253.5	$3
3	AC	#31,605.00k	#379,260.00k	$229	$2
4	CSP	28.801.00k	#345.612.00k	$208.7	$2

However the salary payment cannot be concluded to be the cause, as the salary structure appears to be more appealing compared to other civil service structureThe 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. Olurotimi (2012). Corrupt and indiscipline socio-economic environment among others are some of the poor salaries. In 2022 a popular skit maker who also happens to be a naval officer was apprehended for the unauthorized usage of Official property. More in 2023, a Pastor of a church was arrested by

the Police force for the unauthorized handling of a police issued weapon whom he allegedly borrowed from a Police officer who is a member of is church to use as an illustration. With this we can see that proper accountability and security on the ammunition of the police force is Zero and these ammunitions can be easily converted or supplied to the wrong hands for misdeeds.

The spiral effect of the Nigerian police corruption has overtime snowballed into other public and private institutions. The poor and lower-class people without political connections are majorly at the receiving end of the police corruption.

More, it has been noted that the Nigeria police lack adequate equipment and ammunition that can help in assisting them combating crimes in the society. The necessary ammunitions and intelligence facilities needed for the adequate dissemination of functions are not well provided. Abdulkadir (2004) argue that the Nigeria police force lack adequate communication gadgets, vehicles, computers and patrol boats. The Nigerian Police Force, NPF, is indeed, in dire need of fundamental reforms and recharge targeted at vision actualization and rapid results in its mission/goals achievement drive. The level of inadequacy and preparedness of the Nigeria police to combat crime is totally unbelievable. Poor equipment's, or rather lack of modern day equipment's or gadgets and proper technology suitable for the police in this 21st century and era of technology is as a result of inadequate funding of the Nigeria police force

Political influences

People with political backings, or economic or social influence are most times protected from the menace of the police, however the poor or low class citizens with little or no political leaning are mostly at the helms of the police corruption and brutality because of the profound effects that unlawful detention, or the mere threat of arbitrary arrest, have on their livelihoods. Considering the ways and manners that the police operate on Nigerian roads, questions have been raised as to the level of conscience and professional ethics possessed by the institution. In respect of the police coverage of the society, this is grossly inadequate as ordinary Nigerians are denied equal protection under the law. This is as a result of a widespread practice whereby senior police officers sell police protection to Nigeria's wealthy elites for their own benefits and gratification. This further depletes the already low number of police officers available to provide protection in the society. By the accounts of inspector general of police, in 2009 at least 100,000 police officers were working as personal guards for the wealthy, at the expense of the majority (The Africa Report, 2014).

Majorly, political control and influence as over time been the reason for the misconducts of the Nigeria police. During electoral activities and processes the Nigeria police are sometimes used as a tool for oppression and advancement of certain political interest. The misuse of the force gives room for spiral effect and continuity in the vices of the police.

More, the welfares of the Nigeria police force have not been worthwhile. The police force are individuals laden with weapons and intelligence informations of people and institutions in the country. The welfare absence makes them hunt for victims and money to provide for themselves. The police barracks in this country are in bad conditions and are bad sight for the eyes. The clothing's and neatness of most officers are nothing to write home about.

Ironically, government agencies that are expected to monitor and ensure that the police perform its constitutional duties, oversight functions; discipline and reform have failed to root out systemic corruption. Mechanisms for public complaints, internal police controls, and civilian oversight has continued to be weakened, underfunded, and largely ineffective. The Nigeria Police commission has not been proactive overtime in the protection of the citizens from the excesses of the Nigeria police force. It seems even the commission is handicapped in the monitoring and management of the Nigeria Police force.

Policy Recommendations

To combat a deep-rooted and systemic problem, salient steps must be undertaken which includes;

Constitutional/Philosophical Reform. The constitution which serves as the overarching body that promotes and guidesand all agencies and parastatals for government is the first step

towards achieving a reformed police force. The Nigeria police act have been updated and reenactedhowever the police philosophy and the fundamental problems in the act have not been addressed. A need for proper check and accountability in the act. Like the internal affairs in the USA and the Protocol office in the Military. More so, security phenomenon has metamorphosed into a new order of cyber-crime, social crimes, organized crimes etc. Therefore, a modification of cyber and social rules to accommodate, promote and then protect the cyber and social spaces. Litigation is not enough for false information, preventing the employment of employment of misinformation is the core issue.

More, Open justice system from the doctrine of Jeremy Bentham will help ensure appropriate accountability, non-sweeping of cases under the carpet, misappropriation, professional and official litigation system.

Ethical Reform. The Nigeria police force, over achingly is not the problem, however the individual officers are the problems. The code of conduct has not been well established. The practicability and application cannot be established because from the recruitment, training and mode of operations, daily lives of the force moral ethics have not been well established. Therefore, a revised Code of Conduct should be employed to accommodate and prevent salient acts of officers that no longer portraysofficial and professional police acts. Value reorientation of Police officers to ensure justice, fairness and humanity. From the recruitment processes to the training, and admission into the police force strict adherence to rule of law, ethical matters and enforcement matters.

Internal Oversight Reform. To enforce the more stringent ethical standards outlined above, the Nigerian Police Force an internal provost office like the internal affairs in the USA. The present Police service commission has showed inadequacy in preventing, curtailing and preventing the continuous rise of police officer misnomaility and unprofessionalism. The Nigeria police force needs a provost office that will be closer to the officers and the people. The closeness and accountability ensuring force will help reduce the freedom, corruption, extra judicial activities etc.

More so, leadership plays cognizance role in internal control, if the top hierarch allows for the thriving of wrong doing without consequential follow ups therefore corruption will thrive. So, the leadership of the police needs to be looked at succinctly.

Political Autonomy Reform. The political side of the Nigeria police force more, constitutes a problem the police force as presently constituted gives room for political influence die to insufficient independence. The elite and influential people access to the police implicates and compromise the force officer into doing the biddings of the elite individuals. More, officers also fear to investigate matters of concern to the elite due to fear of employment. Therefore, appointment, selection, promotion of the Nigerian Police Force, needs to be reorganized in other to breed independency and equality.

The present Nigeria Police commission is only an administrative head which the political elite still has influential control over. There is a dire need for the police to be given adequate autonomy to operate without interferences from the political class in the country. Employment of the police force for selfish, unprofessional and political objective defeats the purpose of the force. Consequently, the selection of the leadership and management of the police such as the inspector general of police, state commissioners, their transfers and redeployments should be entrusted to an independent expert committee that are apolitical and bureaucrats.

Transparency Reform. The key to an official and professional police force is laying under the carpet of transparency. Transparency in activities, duties, litigation, investigation, arresting, processes etc. the international convention which stipulates the international rules and standards for policing, international human rights standards for law enforcement, code of conduct of the UNODC etc all establish that transparency is key to professional conduct in the police force. So far an accountable and transparent process of actions and inactions has not been well established by the police force, therefore adoption of bureaucratic, technological and official procedure of force engagements, investigation, litigation, and dispute resolution must be established into the police act.

More**,** Operations and performance monitoring Though, there are intra and inter monitoring agencies should be put in place to monitor and check the excesses of the force officers, independent and civil society groups should also be co-opted into the system by the government. Measures of performance as used in private organizations can also be adopted.

Salary Reform. Remuneration, welfare and benefits plays a major role in motivating for or against. The salary structure of the Nigeria police is not the problem, the benefits and protection for on the job risks is a core and salient matter. The benefit weighing to the cost of risk of life the police force officer has to go through shows that the motivation of the staff to ensure adequate and loyal work input matters. Financial incentive is a one of the major reasons citizens go into the force therefore to get their undiluted concentration and dedication the financial aspect of the police officer has to be restructured. This is to say that salary increase with working on other aspect of the financial aspect will not yield good results. More, for the daily carrying out of Police force activities, finance and funds are needed for the day to day activities such as fueling, electricity bills, tracking of criminals, purchase of papers and stationaries etc. therefore a standing order funds must be earmarked separate from the budget to meet the day to day activities of the police force.

While a comprehensive reform agenda like that sketched above may seem like a huge undertaking, it is the only way to disrupt the entrenched police corruption that has taken root in Nigeria over a period of decades. With a problem this serious, bold and far-reaching reforms, not half-measures, are essential. **(iheuhkrume 2019)**

Conclusion

Security is an exponential factor that has resulting effect on the various sectors of the society. Individually, nationally and internationally, the inability of the Nigeria police force can be traced to so many factors which has engulfed the society in a tragedy of mirage. Therefore, in a society where police brutality, corruption, mismanagement, unaccountability and uncontrolled force exist peace and unity becomes an illusion. The Nigeria police has been engulfed in a crisis of trustworthiness and positivity. The average Nigerians no longer trust the government, they see the government and its agencies are not existing for their own good. A situation whereby the citizens and the Police force becomes a paradox insecurity will ensue. The misuse of the police for political gains, the inability to curtail bribery and pervasion of justice, the unaccountability and lack of transparency in the Police has created a contagious and attendant effect on the image of the force and the nation globally.

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