

Calls For State Police In Nigeria: Options For Sustainable National Security

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Abstract

The quest for a decentralized police force operations in Nigeria in tandem with the adopted federal system of governance and for the effective containment of rising crime rate has continued unabated. Adopting a historical research methodology, this study interrogates the dynamics of this consistent quest and its security implications in the country. In the context of the use of this methodology and the related review of literature, the study relied on the balance of evidence and hypothesized that, instead of the wholesome decentralization of Nigeria police operation; a compromised mid-point approach in the form of increased state and community participation in matters of police affairs is preferred. This according to the study will engender higher sustainable national security in a divergent and ethnically oriented complex country like Nigeria.

Keywords: Nigeria, State, Police, National, Security, Quest

Introduction

The arrangement of any country's police system bears no standardized format to be imitated by other countries. In other words, the arrangement of the policing system of any country is implemented within their contextual size, population, political, legal, ethnic and cultural identities and developmental levels. In agreeing with this assertion, myriad of social analyst have commented on this phenomenon. Among them are Bunyard (1978), Adefi (2010) Olowokere et. al. (2011) and Ewepy (2012). In acknowledging this notion Bunyard (1978:7) have stated that:

Even if policing stems from the same necessity to primarily secure life and property, police practices are as diverse as there are police forces, not necessarily in the methods of policing...but in the relationships with the society in which they exist.

For Nigeria, some of her contextual peculiarities especially its geographical and demographic features borders on the fact that Nigeria is a great nation, the most populous black country in the world, with an estimated (NPC, 2006) population of over 140 million people and landmass measuring over 923,768,000 square kilometers. This prevalence of a

large population and large land mass situates the policing challenges facing the Nigeria Police Force in proper perspectives.

In the context of the present policing scenario in Nigeria, it is estimated Inter Pol (2012) that Nigeria Police Force comprises of about 350,000 (Three Hundred and Fifty) able bodied men and women. This size of the Nigeria's national police force demonstrates a low approximate means score of (UN 2012) minimum international rating of 300 police officers per 100,000 citizens for UN member states. Despite the United Nation's recommendation, it is observed that Nigeria's police force national rating is only 205 police officers for 100,000 Nigerians for the year 2012.

From the above, it is to be noted that Nigeria's police force manpower capacity, exposes Nigeria's to under-policing phenomenon compared with standard international rating. In terms of comparison with other country's police force's national manpower ratings, Nigeria still showcases inadequate policing. For instance, among African countries, Botswana boasts of 418 police officers for every 100,000 citizens, South Sudan's police manpower demonstrates 629 policemen per 100,000 people, Zimbabwe presently records 401 per 100,000 citizens and even smaller African country like Swaziland has 351 police officers per 100,000 citizens. For other countries like Trinidad and Tobago, it is observed that the country boasts of 529 police officers per 100,000 people, Spain on the other hand equally records 494 policemen per 100,000 of their citizens and Argentina records 558 police officials per 100,000 citizens.

In view of the above poor under policing, there have been the phenomenons of Nigeria's police force inability to ameliorate the security crisis in Nigeria. These security crisis have bordered on excessive kidnapping incidences, high rate of politically inclined killings, uncontrollable electoral violence leading to loss of many lives, ethno-religious violence that claims thousands of lives, many ritual murder oriented killings without police trace, cultism related killings in many tertiary institutions of Nigeria and armed robberies operations in urban and rural areas of Nigeria that are hardly checkmated etc.

These and many more of these rising wave of crimes and violence that have proved difficult to control, have resulted in several clarion calls for an expanded and decentralized structure of the Nigerian policing system. For these groups of callers, it is expected that expanded and decentralized police force mechanism in Nigeria will ensure adequate containment of this burgeoning social malaise of rising crime and violence. This quest for expanded police system have taken the shape of creation of state and local government police structures in Nigeria, to add to the already existing federal government controlled Nigeria Police Force.

This study which is situated in the purview of the above backdrop interrogates the dynamics of this police force decentralization quest in Nigeria. However, the particular scope of the study covers the demands for creation of state police commands only, especially from 1999 onwards. In this respect, this paper shall attempt a detailed analysis of the following as its objectives:

- To examine the historical overview of the quest for police force decentralization in Nigeria.

- To ascertain the catalytic factor orchestrating this recent quest for state police creation in Nigeria
- To analyze the dynamics of the pre-1966 federated police operations in Nigeria
- To interrogate the dynamics of the post-1966 to date unitarily structured police operations in Nigeria; and
- To marshal out best implementable agenda within the context of decentralization quest that will enhance sustainable national security in Nigeria.

To accomplish the above objectives, this study adopted the historical research with emphasis on secondary sources of data collection. A key relevance of utilizing this method is that it allowed the study the opportunity of a detailed explanation of the historical trajectories surrounding the quest for police operation's decentralization in Nigeria. In using this methodology, generalizations on the implications of this unending contention, as it relates to maintenance of law, order and security in Nigeria were undertaken. These generalizations on the subject matter also benefited from intense descriptive and analytical approach.

Historicizing the Quest for Police Force Decentralization in Nigeria

Since the inception of the colonization of Nigeria in 1861 through the annexation of Lagos, the colonizing country Britain, had always maintained a decentralized policing system in Nigeria. It started with the enacting of the 1861 police ordinance law that established the Lagos Consular Guard police system recruiting about 30 men in that year, with subsequent enlistment in other years that made it up to 600 men by 1863 and by 1879 reached 1,200 officers, under the administration of an Inspector-General of Police. By 1896, the same Lagos Consular Guard was transformed into the then inaugurated Lagos Police Force with officers as a commissioner, two assistant commissioners, a superintendent, two assistant super-intendents, a pay master, a quarter master, a master tailor and 750 other ranks (Olowokere et. al. 2011).

In demonstrating the decentralizing spirit of the British colonial administration towards police operations in Nigeria, the Northern Nigeria police formation known as the Royal Niger Constabulary was established for the Northern region in 1886 with Lokoja as its headquarters. By 1900, this Northern Royal Niger Constabulary was disbanded following the creation of Northern Nigeria protectorate. To ensure safety of lives, property and maintenance of law and order, the Northern Nigeria police force was formed in 1903 consisting of a police commissioner, 23 officers and 100 officers of the rank and files.

For the southern part of Nigeria, the colonial government in 1894 also established the Niger Coast Constabulary for the oil River protectorate with headquarters in Calabar. This particular constabulary took charge of the policing duties in all parts of the Eastern and the present South-South areas of Nigeria. Then, with the proclamation of the colony and protectorate of Southern Nigeria in 1900, both the Niger Coast Constabulary and the Lagos Police force were merged into the known Southern Nigeria Police Force in the year 1906.

By the period of the amalgamation of the Northern and Southern protectorate in 1914, it is to be noted that both the Northern Nigeria Police Force and that of the

Southern Nigeria police were still autonomously managed showcasing the regional decentralization of the police operations in Nigeria. It was only on April 1, 1930, that both the Northern and Southern police forces were amalgamated to form the present Nigeria Police Force under one control.

In spite of the 1930 merger of the Northern and Southern protectorate police forces and its constitutionization in the 1954 Lytteton constitution into a Federal Police Force with regional commands, the colonial administrative policies never discouraged the operation of a decentralized policing system in Nigeria. In this sense, there existed according to Adefi (2010:214).

Multiple police systems existing with the Nigeria Police Force, including the local government authority police and the Native Authority Police of the Western and Northern regions respectively.

With the 1954 Lytteton arrangement of federally controlled police operations in Nigeria arose contending views Nwakwocha (2003) and Adeboye (2006) on the relevance of this 1954 police arrangement for Nigeria. This contention on the nature of police operations in Nigeria in term of its decentralization or otherwise according to Owemena (2006) continued even among the delegates and members of the Willinks Commission of 1958 and the Nigerian Constitutional Conference of 1958 in London. The result of these debates of the Willinks Commission and that of the 1958 Constitutional Conference shaped the outcome of the 1960 Independence Constitution and the 1963 Republican constitution of Nigeria, which allowed the creation and maintenance of regional, Local government and Native Authority systems of police operations. In recognizing this 1960 and 1963 constitutional provision for decentralized policing system in Nigeria, Olowokere et. al. (2011:146) did remark that:

Section 105(7) of the 1963 Republican constitution permitted the legislature of a region to make provision for the maintenance by any authority or local government authority established for a province or a part of a province, a police force for employment within the province. This made it possible for the northern and western regional governments under the constitution to retain and expand the local police forces established and maintained by some of their native authorities, under the Native Authority ordinance of 1943. For example, the local government police law 1959 of the Western Region confirmed existing police forces in the region.

From the above cited Olowokere's seminal study of the historical analysis of the operations of Nigeria police force, it could be gleaned that the three major regions in Nigeria along with their local governments and native authority systems were constitutionally empowered to establish their own police system relevant to their circumstances and environment. Though, the East region did not take advantage of this constitutional provision, it is of note to state, that this provision along with the decentralized operational practices continued in Nigeria until 15th January, 1966 military coup of Major General Aguiyi-Ironsi. In the course of the Ironsi's short tenure, a committee called Working Party on Nigeria Police, Local Government, Native Authority

and Prisons was inaugurated with the objectives of examining the feasibility of the unification of the decentralized police forces and that of the regionalized prisons system in Nigeria.

However, this committee did not come out with its deliberation during the life span of the Ironsi regime. With the presentation to the Gowon regime of the unification outcome of the Working Party's recommendations, both the various regionalized and local police and prison formations in Nigeria were disbanded and brought under the sole control and supervision of the federal government of Nigeria. This exercise marked the beginning of the unified system of police operations under one Inspector-General of police in Nigeria, answerable only to the executive President of Nigeria till date. To constitutionalize this unified police operations in Nigeria under the management of the federal government, the 1999 constitution in its section 24(1) has provided that:

There shall be a Police Force for Nigeria which shall be known as the Nigeria Police Force, and subsequent to the provisions of this section, no other police force shall be established for the federation or any part of thereof.

Causative Factors to Recent Quest for State Police Creation in Nigeria

The prevalent debate and consequent demand for the continued centralization or decentralization of police operations in Nigeria is underscored by several casual factors. While some of these factors are ideological in their configuration, others are financial and security oriented among others. Some of these are explained below:

- The Imperatives of Implementing the Ideology of Federalism in Nigeria: The ideology of federalism and its praxis involves Awa (1978) Elaigwu (1983) the political system of dividing powers among constituent regions and states in such a manner that both the central government and the regional and state governments are within their sphere, coordinate and still independent, with each having a final say on matters belonging to their sphere.

In Nigeria, the political ideology of federalism have been adopted since independence, dividing political powers among her regions and states. Based on this adopted political principles, most calls for the decentralization of the Nigeria Police Force, have hinged on keeping faith with this national ideological creed, in terms of allowing each state in Nigeria to create and maintain their own state police, that will satisfy their peculiar cultural and social environment.

In the above regard, proponents of the creation of state police on the basis of federalism, such as Enogholase and Obeta (2012) and Ewepu (2012) have argued that Nigeria police should be decentralized in the interest of the practice of true federalism in Nigeria. On this note, Enogholase et al (2012:2) have conceded that:

The Nigerian federation is very dysfunctional and requires urgent restructuring and the creation of the state police is one of the fundamental requirements for the operation of true federalism in Nigeria...in other federations, especially in the United States of America, where we copied this idea of governance from, they have

their own state police department and there is the Federal Bureau of Investigations (FBI) that is incharge of the whole country.

In support of the above, Ewepu (2012:2) have asserted that:

The Nigeria police force has central control from Abuja which is unacceptable. Crimes are essentially better controlled by local communities because it is easy for the people to know the geography, culture and crime history of the community. It is incongruous to bring somebody from afar to police a strange environment.

- The Financial Factors: A preponderant aspect of the demands for state police creation borders on the need for adequate financing of police operations in Nigeria. Part of the arguments for poor policing system in Nigeria has always been associated with the scenario of inadequate budgetary allocation to the force by the federal government, leading to lack of equipments and motivation for effective national policing. In concurring with this position on the financing of Nigerian police, an Editorial Commentary of the Sahara Reporters Newspapers (2009:1) notes that:

It is true that the operational overhead of the Nigeria Police Force is too heavy and this has always been so. The creation of state police will in a very big way cut down on overhead as little resources and little effort will be required to accomplish more. The state based remuneration of the police can also become more competitive as buoyant states will pay better salary. This will shore the other states to want to pay something more thereby ensuring adequate security for the whole nation...Hence...state police become indispensable.

In his own contribution to the emphasis that state police should be created on the basis of effective financing of police operations in Nigeria, Adefi (2010) contends that events in Nigeria have demonstrated that even in the present monopoly of police affairs by the federal government, most state governments in Nigeria still invest substantial resources in upkeeping federal police, posted to their own jurisdiction. For Adefi (2010:220):

Most state governors have provided vehicles and logistic support to the police in their states. Even the burden of building or rehabilitation of police stations has been carried out by some state Governors...thus funding by the states, it is claimed is inequitable without any parallel control over the police. With the creation of state police, states can constitutionally appropriate funds for the police force under their jurisdiction and the citizens would know where the funds went.

- The Need for Effective Security of the Nation: The Nigeria police duties as it relates to the security of the country emanates from the re-acted Police Act of the federation (2004 cap p 19) which states inter-alia:
The police shall be employed for the prevention of crime, the apprehension of offenders, the preservation of law and order, the preservation of life and property and the due enforcement of all laws and regulations with which they are directly charged....under the authority of this or any other Act.

Despite the provisions of these legal duties of the Nigerian police, questions have arisen as to the efficiency and effectiveness of this federally controlled agency in the achievement of its assigned objectives. To a lot of Nigerians, the police is far from achieving these objectives. In his firm agreement with the antagonist of police effectiveness, Olowokere et. al. (2011:151) did confirm that:

Unfortunately, the inefficiency of the police, in performing these functions are glaring in many ways. Armed robbery and high casualties as well as incidences of ethno-religious conflicts persist....it is revealed that less than 20% of reported crimes are ever solved. In cities like Lagos, Port Harcourt, Benin City and so on, murder and car snatching are common place occurrences with slow responses of policemen....what is worrisome however is that the police which is meant to be antidote to criminality appear to be getting overwhelmed by the phenomenon.

In response to these noted inefficiency of the Nigerian police force, are calls by Nigeria citizens for the creation of state police formations under the control of state Governors for effective control of the policemen for purposes of achieving national security. On this note, Sahara Reporters Editorials (2009:2) suggests that:

One way out of this phenomenon, is to introduce state police where every policeman and woman must be productively employed and accounted for. Again, there is unevenness of the states in size, population and needs. These peculiarities are better appreciated and officiously served by a state police that knows the terrain better. Above all, better quality service and sensitivity, to the aspirations of the communities and the state can only come from a police force that has its origin in the state and feels more committed to the state.

Apart from the above discussed catalytic factors orchestrating the demand for state police creation in Nigeria, there are numerous other factors not mentioned here, but are relevant to the demands for state police in the country. However, in the discourse of the request for police force decentralization in Nigeria, it is necessary to ask questions as to the operational dynamics of pre 1966 and post 1966 police activities in Nigeria. The investigation of these operational dynamics becomes necessary, as the pre 1966 represented the decentralized era of Nigeria police operations, while the post 1966 till

date represents the centralized era of Nigeria police operations in Nigeria. The seeking of answers to the above question will be handled in the next section of this study.

Trajectory of Nigeria Police Operations in Decentralized and Centralized Era in Nigeria

The Pre-1966 Decentralized Era: The Pre-1966 decentralized era of Nigeria police demonstrated the participation of different levels of government in the implementation of police duties. In the assessment of police activities during this era, it has been observed by some analysts that much of police functions were geared more towards oppression of the masses than the maintenance of law, order and security. Reflecting on his experience of Native Authority and local government police activities prior to independence of Nigeria, Shettima (2012:1) maintains that:

The police were instruments of reactionary local despots. Any one who disagree with those in control of the police could be banished in the land. Opposition political parties found it extremely difficult to operate. Permits for holding political parties were denied. Individual liberties and rights were trampled upon. All forms of trumped up charges were brought against individuals for no other reason but for belong different political parties.

Apart from the above observation of Shettima, it is of note of stress that in the Northern region, the Native Authority police and their district correlates were particularly notorious in the use of the obnoxious “unlawful assembly” act to hamstring and frustrate the political rallies of their opponents. According to Philip (1993) in Olowokere et al. (2011:148):

These excesses of Native Authority police force in support of the ruling party in Northern Nigerian prompted a loud outcry which eventually led to their extinction.

In his seminal study of the operations of the decentralized police activities in the western region of Nigeria during this era, Rotimi (1993) recorded detailed incidences of the brutality of the native authority police against their fellow citizens. Rotimi (1993) in Olowokere et. al. (2011:147) in nothing these oppressive mechanisms did mention that:

A wedge was driven between the Native Authority and the public because the policemen also used their status to oppress their fellow citizens through bribery, blackmail and intimidation. Naturally, the Native Authorities and their colonial mentors, the Resident and District officers, applauded the policemen for their ‘good work’. They only occasionally frown at misdemeanours such as: misappropriation of taxes and brutal treatment of culprits.

However, a critical assessment of these review author on the subject indicate that no credit was given to the National and local government police on the maintenance of law and order during this era. This based assessment of the native authority and local government police of the pre-1966 decentralized era is far from satisfactory as it is

known that some into of law and order existed within this period that checkmated criminal incidences like thief, armed robbery, murder and other crimes that are not politically oriented. These positive activities of the police force during this era significantly to the security of Nigeria.

The Post 1966 Centralized Era: The post 1966 centralized police operations in Nigeria started with the military incursion into politics in which the military institution completely took over the affairs of governance. From the Ironsi administration to the Gowon's administration up till 1978 showcased a unified programme of police operations in Nigeria. The Inspector General of police (the highest ranking police officer in the country) take direct orders from the military Head of state and executes these orders to the specification of the Head of State. Apart from the military era of the period of 1966 to 1978, the second, third and fourth republic governance in Nigeria also continued with the centralization of police duties.

For instance, during the Shagari administration (1979-1983) the centralized police force system in Nigeria orchestrated biased use of the Nigerian police by the ruling NPN party. In their averment of this biased policing system, Oluyede (1982) and the National Concord Editorial (1983) among other commentators have volunteered their views. Oluyede (1982:441) particularly in acknowledging this politically motivated policing during Shagari's administration admitted that:

The police force abandoned its proper constitutional role, renounced neutrality and donned the cap of partisanship...High ranking officers of the force made little efforts to camouflage their strong partisan loyalties to the central government.

An instance of the strong partisan loyalty of the Shagari administration controlled police activities were demonstration during the 1982 Archbishop Runcie of the Anglican Communion's official visit to Enugu (Anambra State then). The then Anambra State police commissioner Eytene disregarded the instruction of the then state Governor Jim Nwobodo on security protocols at the Enugu Airport, which led to the forceful ejection of an NPP party official from the Airports. Eytene later refused answering the official query issued to him by the then Governor Jim Nwobodo on the matter, and was not sanctioned by the federal government either (Okere, 1991).

During the Obasanjo democratic era of 1999 to 2007, there were also myriad of cases of politically motivated policing with the backing of the federal government. A glaring example of this biased policing was observed in the case of Anambra State under the auspices of Governor Chris Ngige. In his observation of the Governor Chris Ngige oppression by the federally controlled Nigerian police, Okafo (2007:12) has admitted that:

The central government used the police as an instrument of oppression. An example of such oppression could be seen during the regime of Chief Olusegun Obasanjo (1999-2007) were Obasanjo, directly by action or indirectly by inaction, used the Nigeria police force to embarrass Governor Chris Ngige. Such was the case in July 2003 when Ralph Ige, Assistant Inspector-General of Police, without legal

authority to do, informed Ngige that he was no longer the Governor of the state for hours; the police detained and prevented him from performing his duties. Ige and other participating police personnel got doing with their unlawful actions. It is believed in some quarters that Chief Obasanjo approved of their actions.

This abduction and attempted sacking of Governor State Chris Ngige by the federally controlled federal police runs against the legal opinion on the matter as stated by the judgement of the Nigerian Supreme Court in the case of A.G Anambra State V. A. G Federation. In his lead judgement, as observed in the Guardian Editorial of (2005:16) Kastina Alu J.S.C of the apex court pointed out that Anambra State Governor Chris Ngige:

Represents and embodies the public of the state and has the power to give direction to the commissioner of police of the state on security matters without the interference of the federation government or the president.

Other areas of biased and oppressive policing as occasioned by the centrally controlled policing system of this period were also demonstrated in the various electioneering exercises conducted in Nigeria. In these elections, the party in power at the federal level-the People's Democratic Party (PDP) utilized the advantage of being the party that produced the presidency to engage the services of the federally controlled police officers in the rigging of elections. This, the PDP party does, through intimidation and victimization of political opponents and other acts of election malpractices. In addressing this phenomenon, Okafo (2008:15) remarks that:

The unitary structure of the Nigeria police force permits monumental corruption. The ruling Peoples Democratic Party extensively deployed policemen to perpetrate massive rigging in 2003 general election. As if these were not enough, the 2007 general election further interested massive rigging by the same ruling party.

Agenda for the Future

In the philosophy, origin, features and dynamics of the state, it is observable that the trinity of the contractarian philosophers like Hobbes, Locke and Rousseau have indicated the dangers of living in non-state societies that demonstrates not only "*every man against every man*" but a terrible state of nature that envisages a life that is *solitary, poor, nasty, brutish and short*. In this non-state living conditions, there exist no government, no law and no definition of justice and injustice but only that might is right.

To ameliorate the above social conditions, authority and government was instituted with its correlates of law and law enforcement agents, among which is the police force. In other words, the police force is one of the major physical expression or symbol of the state authority, which link intertwiningly with the people's politics. Implicit from this statement is that any society's policing system is a reflection of the political system at play.

Theoretically and constitutionally, Nigeria is practicing the federal system of governance. However the questions attendant to this claim and issues relating to our discourse are: In concrete praxis, is true federalism operational in Nigeria? If the police force is truly decentralized in Nigeria today, are Nigerians safe from the oppressive mechanisms of state governors and local government chairmen? Are opposition political parties safe from suppression and brutality? What has happened with the operations of State Electoral Independent Commission (SIECs) that derived its functions from the federally centralized INEC responsibilities? How many opposition parties have won elections in SIECs conducted elections since its inception? What will basically happen to local elections in Nigeria if states are allowed to combine the powers of conducting elections and policing at the same time? With the state of insecurity in Nigeria caused by ethnic and religious violence, will minority groups be protected by police force dominated by majority ethnic and religious groups? Are the present local government systems free from state's hegemony and domination even in the decentralized federal governance? If the state police force is created in the present political situation in Nigeria, is there guarantee that there will not be the dangers of inter-governmental security conflict in the nation? In the current centralized policing system, is the dominant party in power, not using their authority to cause biased policing to their electoral favour in Nigeria?

The answers to the above questions as demonstrated in our discussion on the trajectories of decentralized and centralized policing phases in Nigeria suggest neither an unequivocal approval of decentralization or centralization of police operations in Nigeria. This is because the balance of evidence discovered in this study and the lessons there from, suggests the adoption of a hybrid philosophical platform as agenda for sustainable national security. In this regard, this study recommends the adoption and practice of a compromised mid-point approach that will accord Nigerians an unbiased and unpoliticized policing system. To do this effectively the following recommendations becomes imperative towards better policing in the country:

- 1) **Resuscitation of the Moribund Nigeria Police Council:** The 1999 constitution of Nigeria, in section 153 provided for a National Police Council, that is charged with organization, administration and advising the president of Nigeria on matters of the appointment of the Inspector General of Police and other police matters in that section. According to this section of the constitution, membership of the council consists of the President as chairman, the governors of each state, the chairman of the police service commission and the Inspector General of Police. Following from this constitutional provision it is recommended by this study that such forum as this council can be used by state governors to reduce the hegemonizing influence of the presidency on police matters in the federation. This can be achieved through mandating constitutional provision that all appointed Inspector General of police for the Nigeria, should be supported by two-thirds of Nigerian state governors among other requirements before assumption of office. The suggestion implemented will reduce the strong control of the federal arm of government over police operations in the country.

- 2) **Enlargement of Membership of National Police Council to Include Representatives of States:** There should be an amendment of the National Police Council to include, apart from the governors, a representative of each state of the federation. The emphasis on this extra state representation is to ensure that all details of the functioning of the council are well known to all states with quarterly mandatory meeting of the council enforced.
- 3) **Enthronement of Zonal, State and Divisional Police Community-Relations Committee into the Constitution:** There is the need to constitutionally enshrine the existence and operations of community policing system in the Nigerian constitution. This stress has become necessary as it has been noted that sound understanding of the culture, geography and characteristics of citizens are imperative to effective policing of any community. Such legalized community police committees should represent the interest of all communities making up such zones, states or divisions. With this close watch over communities by their indigenes and representatives, and reporting same to the police, it is taken that adequate national security will be assured.
- 4) **Increase in Budgeting Allocation to the Police Force in Nigeria:** The level of criminality and violence in Nigeria is almost outmatching the resources of the Nigeria police to counter them. In this sense, it is suggested by this study that additional financial and logistical resources be made to the force to acquire advanced technological equipments that will track down increasing crimes and violence in Nigeria.
- 5) **Increase in the Manpower and Training Requirement of the Force:** The Nigeria police force is highly under-staffed compared to the population of the country. This noted deficiency in the needed staffing is also noticed in the inadequate training of policemen/women in the country. To achieve this recommendation, it is expected that additional employment of highly educated Nigerians in the force be made while increased national, international and in-service training be encouraged.

Conclusion

The issue of consistent demand for the decentralization of police force in Nigeria has reached a stage where any pretence of its non-existence and danger signals courts as the embers of national socio-political crisis and insecurity. Implicitly, the accomplishment of sustainable national security through efficient and effective policing can make or mar the development process of the country. In this regard however, it is contended by this study that approaching such crucial and sensitive national variable as “sustainable national security” through the decentralization of the police force should be re-examined in the light of the reality on ground. This assertion stems from the fact that the balance of evidence in Nigeria, has demonstrated that both decentralization or otherwise has its pros and cons. On the basis these therefore, a shift in the present arrangement of strictly federal monopoly of police operations in Nigeria towards less monopolizing structure through the greater involvement of state governors and representatives like in the National Police Council among others measures adumbrated in the discourse, should be

adopted for greater sustainable national security in Nigeria. With this done, Nigeria will be moving gradually like other developed nations towards the 21st century mechanism of effective and efficient policing operations.

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