

Nigeria Police And Crime Prevention In Enugu State (2007-2012)

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ABSTRACT :-This paper examined the role of Nigeria police in crime prevention in Enugu state. This research used the method of secondary sources of content analysis. The Nigeria police played a very vital role in its attempt to purge out crime and criminal activities in the society, crimes such as armed robbery, bribery and corruption, embezzlement of public funds, unemployment and wrong value system display of wealth by the rich etc. All these factors contributed to the high rate of crime in the country. Worse still, police corruption and brutality have seriously dented the image of the police. This has resulted in a vast number of the member of the general public in being reluctant to help the police with crucial information about crime and criminals.

Keywords:- *Crime, olice, Criminals, Robbery, Bribery, Embezzlement and Corruption.*

I. INTRODUCTION

The vital and indispensable roles peace and security play in all facets of human development and existence, especially in our society incontrovertibly cannot either be swept under the carpet or dismissed with mere wave of hands. This is true because in any society, be it simple or complex, developed or developing and rural or urban, man in his state of nature is a wanting animal, and insatiable, who is always confronted with the problems of diverse interest and goals, at times insolvable, unless infringement upon other people's right is employed [1, 2, 3 and 4].

According to [8], citing Thomas Hobby's history of an ordered social life, using the theory of " selfishness of man", man in his state of nature anything goes and the world was jungle in which self-interest was the only thing which kept each man from slitting his neighbours throat, and stealing his possessions. During that primitive society crime was neither frowned at, given much clarification [5].

It involved no official action, but was private matters. Individuals who were wronged would seek compensation from the wrong doer or the wrong doer's family. This system got broken down when the family structures changed as the society became more complex. And as people became more and more mobile, the private vengeance became difficult, if not practically impossible to enforce. In order to put an end to the prevailing chaotic state of affairs, men agreed to up certain ground rules so as to survive. The only reason however, for the establishment of these rules was based purely on personal selfishness. If I am to live I have to let others live too, and if am to have any secured possession of property, I must let others have same security as well. Therefore, the concept of crime was developed but confined acts committed against the king who was eventually representing the state. And on the realization that the peace of the community was at stake, the king decreased that the act of offending a person should be reported to him for necessary action. Yet the private revenge still remained the only punishment of acts against private compensation as punishment for wrong doing replaced the family fending and other swaying forms of private revenge to enforce the King's laws and decree, the agents of informal policing in which all members of a community were responsible for maintaining order was put in place. This system of informal policing went on uninterrupted over the years, until the society became much more complex, making these informal methods of policing grossly transparently ineffective [6].

Finally, increased division of labour a more heterogeneous solidarity led eventually to the establishment of modern police. General, according to [9], there are basically four theories to explain the rationale behind the emergence of police. Firstly the disorder control development of police was necessitated by the need to control mob violence. This theory contends that since human being are by nature insatiable as against limited and scarce resources increase in crime rate is based on the belief that individuals violate the criminal law, they do so because they lack self-control and a sense of morality such individuals kill because they cannot their anger they steal because they do not have or because they are unwilling to wait they desire. This theory viewed human being the rational animals that deliberately and willfully chose the course of action they follow which is principally based on hedonism or pursuit of pleasure and avoidance of pains. Secondly, the crime-control theory, which suggested that the perceived needs for a new and formidable type of policing, was necessitated by unprecedented increase in criminal activities. Because as threats to social order such as high-way robbers and other violent crimes created a climate of fear, concern about the dialing thieves and property

offences were spreading precipitating the establishment of modern police, from where NP got its spring board [7 and 8]. Thirdly, class-control theory was of the contention that the development of the police was based on economic exploitation. The advocates of this theory noted that urban and industrial growth coincided with the development of the new police outfit. The disrupting of social life arising from scarce opportunity prompted the middle and upper classes to develop means of controlling the people involved in the struggle and competition usually the poor immigrants. Those proponents of the theory were of the view that modern police were merely fools created by the industrial elite to suppress the laborers, who were being used as the "fuel" for the engine of capitalism. Fourthly, urban dispensation theory considers police as an integral part of the government structure needed to provide a stabilizing influence in the community. These groups viewed human nature as selfish whose insatiability and desire need to be put into check, and to bring ending ones to order. Sequentially as corollary from the above, their view of the evolution of the Nigeria policy and now renames Nigeria police and its primary duties will either strengthen or debunk these theories [9, 10, 11 and 12].

II. OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

This research has the following objectives;

- To explain the effects of moral decadence in our society on effective personnel utilization in the Nigeria.
- To describe the impact of lack of public co-operation on the effectiveness of the Nigeria police.
- To explain the relationship between population explosion and ineffectiveness of public personnel in Enugu State.

Significance of the Study

This research on the Nigeria police and crime prevention in Enugu State may be good starting point towards the role of the Nigeria police and crime prevention in Enugu State. This research is an original contribution towards the growth of literature on the Nigeria police and crime prevention in Enugu state. The study will be relevant to police officers, ministries of Internal Affairs and the general public.

III. MATERIALS AND METHODS

Theoretical Frame Work

Theoretical formulation, analysis and application to the studying of personnel utilization or other areas in the NP are cumbersome tasks because; police we know is an organization with dual characteristics. It is both paramilitary and civil oriented force. This makes for the significant difference between popularly advocated administration theories approaches and practices prevalent in the other civil-oriented organization private or public, with the NP for instance, Nwosu (1995) citing Human relations school of thought stated that work is motivated to put in their best effort when they are involved in setting out organizational goals are objectives and specifying the means of achieving such goals, being mindful of the fact that the greater the organization productivity the more profits accrue to the organization, of which both the workers and the management are beneficiaries, secondly the paucity of studies on the problems confronting personnel utilization in the NP, in the areas of law enforcement, especially the study of NP by police personnel further compounded the problem thus making this study a unique one.

IV. HYPOTHESIS

Sequel to the statement of problems, in full consideration of literature reviewed, and other discussion, the researcher formulated the under listed hypothesis to guide the study. The high rate of moral decadence prevalent in our society appears to be responsible for the high rate of corruption among the police personnel, Lack of cooperation by the general public towards the police tends to undermine the effort of the Nigeria police to curb crime, The escalating incidence of population explosion tends to make it difficult for the Nigerian police to check the act of miscreants in Nigeria ineffectiveness of the police towards joining the police.

V. METHOD OF DATA COLLECTION

This research used secondary sources of content analysis. The secondary source comprises books, magazines and Journals.

VI. METHOD OF DATA ANALYSIS

This research has been analyzed in a clear, clean understandable way, in which the reader could understand and comprehend.

VII. SCOPE AND LIMITATION

a. This research explained the roles played by the Nigerian Police in preventing crime in Nigeria and most especially in Enugu State, as of 2007-2012. Four years, the Enugu state government has evolved a form of locality development and security organ in form of the community county council which operated in all the wards and local government area. The limitations are basically on the uncompromising attitude of the masses and the government, towards the understanding of the need for safety. And if the masses do not agree with the

police in their strategies, then they will be a withdrawal of information regarding the effectiveness of crime control strategy.

VIII. DISCUSSION

That Nigeria has a crime problem is of no doubt. Top on the list are: crimes like murder, kidnapping, manslaughter, grievous harm and wounding, assault, child-trafficking, slaver dealing, etc. From the official records available in Enugu state, this category of crime occurs more frequently than crime against property, which includes: thefts and stealing, robbery, burglary and home breaking, receiving property etc. These crimes have been shown by [8] to be very prevalent in developing countries including Nigeria. In this category of offenses, armed robbery is the "king" of the mall. It is dreaded and avoided, if it can be helped live a plague, because of the ruthlessness of the robbers. Infact, in Nigeria today, when you talk about crime to people, what goes to their mind immediately is armed robbery. It is a well known fact that people fear armed robbery victimization more than any other type of criminal victimization. It is no wonder that when you talk about control, people are concerned with how to reduce armed robbery to the barest minimum. In the third category of crimes, in order of magnitude, we have crime against lawful authority, which include perjury, bribery and corruption, escape and rescue etc while the fourth category consists of crime against public morality-rape, indecent, assault and other unnatural offenses such as bestiality; finally, the last category consists of crimes against currency forgery, counterfeiting and gambling [6]. No government is worth the name unless it is able to guarantee the safety of its citizens and security of property. It must, in addition, ensure the law enforcement agent, particularly the police, strictly enforce all law property made within its sphere of authority from our finding the Nigerian police is operationally and structurally unequipped to bar the Nigerians crime problem. The police lack good communication gadgets, vehicles and sophisticated equipment for effective crime control, armed robbers are armed with revolvers and other authentic weapons whereas only few policemen one armed with "mark IV". Popularly known as "cock and shoot" (which hinder easy movement because of its length and weight) and SMC "rifles" majority of the policemen, who have no riffle at all. Make do with batons and truncheons against well-armed robbers. Consequently, many armed robbery victims do not bother themselves reporting to the police, since according to them, it is a time wasting exercise or an exercise in futility [7]. It is also reordered that the police are not the right earlier dedicated men and women determined to check the increase and spread of crimes in our society. A good number of our policemen are primarily out to make money, by fair or fould means. This is however, not surprising in view of general craze for money and material wealth among Nigeria society and can be understood within the large content of the society. Ironically they are charged with the responsibility of protecting the citizens but instead many of them often intimidate unsuspecting members of the public by invoking non-existing or obsolete laws, or twisting the predation of existing ones simply to extort some money from their victims [4]. This is inspire of the fact that they are not lawyers and therefore are not trained in law. Our findings also reveal that dangerous spots, hotels, uncompleted buildings and residential house serve as hideouts for robbers. These dangerous areas are known to the local inhabitants and taxi drivers but they all keep sealed lip, many would not want to be called upon to give evidence in court nor would they want to be tossed around, "come today come tomorrow" by the police [2]. More importantly, many more fear victimization by the police about their hideout and activities; these negative impressions about the police by members of the public, tend to discourage public co-operation with the police and therefore militates against crime control and prevention [5].

IX. RECOMMENDATIONS

The increase rate of moral decadence prevalent in our society appears to be responsible for the high rate of corruption among the police personnel. This is true because a good number of our policemen are primarily out to make money by all available dubious means. It equally reflected by the general need for money and material wealth among Nigeria in all walks of life. Majority of the rich individuals are always ready to give out thousands of naira in other to avoid being arrested after committing various crimes. This is applicable to all forms of Nigerians. Because of the corrupt practices of the police the general public tends to look at any policeman with scorn, distrust and suspicion. Moreover, no cooperation by the general public towards the police tends to undermine the efforts of Nigerian police to checkmate crimes. This has proved that many Nigerians are looking to the police as good-for-nothing officers, mainly interested in exploiting the public, instead of arresting criminals. As a result of this, many people feel they would not have anything to do with the police. In some areas of Enugu state, lynching of suspects by mob action is a clear manifestation of the public and dissatisfaction with the way the police handle suspects. Hence, the escalating incidence of population tends to make it difficult for Nigerian police to checkmate the activities of criminals in Nigeria. This shows that the increase in population has led to increase in crime rate in Enugu metropolis. Nigeria today is threatened by the specter of rising crimes among both the lower and upper class people. Armed robbery has unmitigated in spite of the death penalty designed to punish convicted offenders and deter prospective ones. Government projects have been unduly overpriced without regard to prevail reality and recently, public utilities have been set on fire

in attempt to cover up trace of fraud and embezzlement of public funds, kidnapping, homicide, ritual, murders and kind of crime prevail. The fear and anxiety and helplessness generated by their crimes is pervasive and visible in the Nigeria public. The Nigeria police in spite of obvious constraints and limitations, has not relented in their determination to keep crimes reasonably low in all part of the country, police strategies for crime control which include the community policing strategy by the vigilante groups, patrol system, the public enlightenment programmes are forward-looking prevention oriented.

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