



## Police and Challenges of Crime Control in Uwie Community, Warri, Delta State, Nigeria

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### Abstract

*There have been developments in situational and social crime prevention strategies in Uwie. Over the years, Nigeria armed forces are saddled with the problems of controlling crime in Uwie communities. Major challenges militating against effective crime control rest on political, economic, social diplomatic and climatic conditions. The police are appraised to have performed below expectations due to the above mentioned challenges and other factors such as cultural beliefs and practices, lack of selfless services/patriotism, insufficient facilities and poor remunerations. These challenges impact negatively on investors, members of Uwie community and the nation at large. Many researchers have documented poor administrative, technology and attitudes of officers. Challenges that borders on culture, environment and logistics are trivialized. Thus, this research explored the cultural, diplomatic and environmental factors militating against crime control in Uwie, Warri, Delta State, Nigeria. Explanations of core variables were anchored on structural functionalism and labeling theory. A total of 425 questionnaires were used to generate quantitative data among respondents. Qualitatively, in-depth interview and snow ball method was used to generate further information that complemented the questionnaire. Data was analyzed with the use of percentages, tables and chi-square. A total of (86%) respondents revealed that, Government reaction to the challenges of ineffective and inefficient control of crime is appalling. Absence of a coherent, articulate crime prevention and control policy in Nigeria according to (46.2%) weakens crime control. Thus, many prefer to guard private properties owned by the high class. Adopted crime control techniques yield poor result because of cultural, technological, diplomatic and expert discrepancies (67.4%).*

**Keywords:** *Challenges and Consequences, Crime, Crime control, Police.*

### Introduction

Over the years, the Nigeria police are saddled with lots of challenges which usurped their primary duty of crime control in Uwie Warri, Delta State, Nigeria. The police are entrusted with the task of protecting lives and properties. So far, they have performed below expectations because of cultural, political, economic, social, diplomatic and climatic conditions. Accordingly, the Nigerian police reform experts reported that, the police have performed poorly because the force has insufficient and well-trained manpower (Boba, 2005). Consequently, they are often overpowered by well-armed and violent criminals. This diminished the confidence reposed on the police. Thus, private security outfits and local vigilante groups amongst which are Bakassi Boys in the South-



Eastern states, Odua People Congress (OPC) in the West and hundreds of smaller security groups emerged across various communities in Nigeria.

These challenges have persisted because of absence of a coherent, articulate crime prevention and control policy in Nigeria (Conklin, 1989). The deficiency in administrative and policy implementation is heightened by the alien method of crime control in Nigeria. The adoption of modern method of crime control over the indigenous methods has over time produced expert discrepancies in the protection of lives and properties.

The Nigeria police which was established in 1861 to protect lives and properties are faced with a lot of challenges ranging from political interference (lack of autonomy-power), economic, social, and inadequate facilities to negative stereotype. Invariably, the police which was charged with exclusive jurisdiction of controlling crimes fair less in their duty of securing lives and property. Their ability to curb crime, mediate disputes and administer justice on the populace has been defected with the negative perception which the public level on the police. According to Cunnen (2000), in various parts of the world, Europeans have used criminal justice systems as a key colonial tool to dismantle and de-legitimize the social institutions and political aspiration of indigenous people. The failure rate of most policies introduced to curb crime in Nigeria is adduced to the incompatibility in culture.

It is pertinent to note that, the institution of the courts and the workings of an adversarial system of justice inherited and practiced in Nigeria, amount to a large portion of English culture which is largely alien with that of the native custom. Thus, various attempts by the police to correct what they perceived as an alarming rate of crime and rampant injustice in Nigeria has further created greater injustice by forcing foreign culture upon Nigerian people. Although traditional methods persist in many communities in Nigeria, it is at a very narrow scale. The injury inflicted on victims as they torture suspects during interrogation and confession extraction dehumanizes.

The Nigeria police find it difficult to prosecute criminal because they lack the basic training that is required to detect criminals. They have little knowledge on the modus operandi of suspects. They are not trained to read finger prints in detecting crime. Facilities needed for anti-fraud, anti-robbery, general detective, photographic and records keeping are lacking. The police lack intelligence gadget, surveillance gadget, informant data base and detective on modus operandi. The responsibility of securing lives and property becomes so difficulty because they are often times in combat with bandits who are armed with more sophisticated arms and gadgets.

Lack of funds is one of the major challenges facing the Nigeria police as they perform their duty of securing lives and properties. They are seen as inefficient in carrying out their duty. The inefficiency of the Police in combating crime in most communities through effective management of criminal cases is a serious setback in the criminal justice system. This is because as justice



system stands, the police are pivotal to the administration of justice (Conklin, 1989). Hence the police inefficiency in controlling crime through effective criminal investigation has been so glaring that people now live in fear. The fear of becoming a victim of any kind looms large. This has socio-psychological consequences on the citizens (Durkheim, 1958).

The lifestyle of Nigerians seems fundamentally different from that of the English or other Europeans who introduced police force to Nigeria. For this reason, the English social control system introduced and practiced in Nigeria is in a way not very suitable to effectively regulate and control crime (Finnegan, 1976). The observation that the English-based law enforcement system have not sufficiently guarantee a stable community after independence stands as a challenges to sustainable peace and security status in Nigeria.

Also in Nigeria, the interference of government officials on police cases stand as one of the major challenges facing the police in carrying out their duty. Several instances show that, criminals who were apprehended by the Police are set free with just a phone call from a political office holder. Citizens hide under the immunity and protection of public office holders to perpetrate crimes which police define as offensive. This apparent inefficiency of the Nigeria Police to combat crime in the society through effective management of criminal investigation is a serious setback in the criminal justice system. This is because the police is the pivot on which the justice system stands (Conklin, 1989:384). Hence the police inefficiency in controlling crime through effective criminal investigation has been so glaring that people now live in fear, that is fear of being victims of criminal violence.

On the other hand, chiefs and community heads weaken the power of the police in administering justice, protection of life and property. It is clear from instances that criminals who are most times members of the community seek the assistance of chiefs and other community heads for bail when apprehended by the police. These challenges increased the rate of armed robberies, kidnappings and other violence in the community (Dambazau, 200, Ugwoke, 2010). The magnitude of these crimes and the modus operandi of the criminals seem to put the police off-balance. These raise a lot of questions on police efficiency and effectiveness in curbing crime in Uwie, Warri.

Climatic conditions also present some challenges on the activities of police officers. It has been recorded that during raining reason, the rate of crime is high. It is believed that police will not embark on any activity under unfavorable conditions. Lack of relevant facilities which could aid good performance under any condition is lacking in most institution of Police that spread across Nigeria. Most police officers who volunteers to work under any condition, are discouraged by climate condition. This acts as barrier to effective activities.

Most importantly, one of the major factors affecting the performance of police is poor remunerations. Low salary scale, poor housing and lack of training allowance for the recruits.



These pose great challenge as they carry out their duty. The police are forced to divert their time in other activities that could be a subsidiary means of getting extra pay. Thus, the rate of crime increased among communities in Uwie of warri metropolis.

Crime is a social canker-worm that has eaten deep into the social fabric of the Nigerian society such that its effect is multifaceted. Durkheim (1958) opines that “crime is inevitable and normal aspect of social life, it is an integral part of all healthy societies; it is functional” (Haralambos & Holborn, 2008). Although Durkheim postulated that crime is functional to the society, the rate of crime has exceeded the level of it being termed as functional. This is because the social and psychological implication is enormous. No matter the justification which presents crime as functional, high rate of crime is condemned and seen as unacceptable in a healthy society.

In the past, armed robbery, stealing, assault, burglary, and rape were predominant. Today terrorism, bomb blasts, kidnapping, drug trafficking, money laundry, child trafficking, assassinations and other criminal activities have been added to the existing crime and these have become the order of the day. Uwie which is one prominent community in Nigeria is faced with myriad of security challenges such as kidnapping, terrorism, civil disturbance, political violence, fraud, assassination, armed robbery, among others” (Utebor & Ekpimah, 2010). In spite of stringent laws and punishments put in place to check criminals, crime has remained on the increase with the police seemingly helpless of savaging the situation.

The Police are charged with the responsibility of internal security, they are to ensure that the safety of lives and property are guaranteed. But the police have been unable to carry out their functions effectively and efficiently due to numerous challenges facing the institution. One common thread in all failures recorded, is the inability of the police to bring to book high profile criminals. (Akintunde, 2010).

The steady increase of crimes and undetected crimes of various criminal activities recently has raised a general feeling of insecurity of lives and property among people in Uwie community. Between 1996 to 2000 the police recorded a total of 1,072,026 cases of crime. Out of this, 462,058 or 43.1 percent of the cases were prosecuted while 540,899 or 50.5 percent cases were ‘under-investigation, undetected or unsolved’ (Soyombo, 2005). The implication of this is that a significant number of 51.0 percent of the cases were undetected or dismissed for lack of personnel or evidence. This portrays the police as an inefficient, an organization that is supposed to be efficient.

### **Statement of the Problem**



Crime control in Uwie has remained elusive as a result of cultural beliefs, inadequate man power, ineffective security equipment and corruption facing the police. Till date, the English-based official system of justice in Nigeria, has been unable to guarantee safety to lives and property of the common people. Recent insurgency in crime and its ineffective control by the police point toward an urgent need of finding solution, thus, this research became necessary. During crisis, bandits eliminate large numbers of police men including innocent civilians due to their sophisticated weapons which over powers that of the police. Ineffective crime control repeals investors irrespective of the rich human and material resources. This creates great loss to the community, the state and the nation at large. Therefore there was a need to research in this area to find out ways of keeping crime in check.

As a colonial invention, police institution is capital intensive. Because of its cost implications and associative irregularities, the average Nigerian views the prosecution process as time wasting. The NPF has fared poorly because it is perceived to be insensitive to the traditional beliefs system of the people. For decades, concerned citizens for Uwie have been pre-occupied with the arduous task of finding the most effective means of countering the menace of crime and criminals to no avail. Security which implies a stable, relatively predictable and peaceful environment in which individuals could pursue legitimate ends without obstruction or harm and without fear of disturbance or injury is lacking in the region. Police and the challenges of curbing crime remain one of the universal phenomena that have continued to frighten man thereby taking away their peace.

The police are in most cases over powered and their weapons taken from them. Many are injured and some are killed in the process of curbing crime. The Nigeria police lack the fundamental pillars that ensure effective control of crime. Recruitment process is fraught with corruption. The recruitment of under age and non qualified personnel weaken the power of few experienced men. The situation is further worsened by corruption and ethnic politics. In Nigeria police, like many other institutions in Nigeria, hard work is barely recognized. Rather, affiliations with those in power make way for people for their desired position. Those affiliated with top men are promoted. This problem is closely followed by poor remunerations. Poor packages push policemen into other unconventional activities which further increase crime.

Objectively, the study highlighted challenges of controlling crime in Uwie, Warri Metropolis, it examined the root causes of the challenge and the consequences of the challenges facing police in crime control. The study evaluated the role of culture, diplomatic interference, environmental/climatic conditions, government and the public in effective control of crime.

## **Literature Review**



The Nigeria Police is charged with the responsibility of providing security for the citizens to maintain peace that promotes the economy. The stability of the economy lies most on the prevention of crime (Soyombo 2005). Two major resources that are needed for peace and progress are security and power supply. The absence of the two or any of them creates an atmosphere that is conducive for crime. Most assailants in Uwie are armed with powerful weapons to the extent that they over power men of the force (Odekunle, 1979). The Nigeria Police has often declared War against crime, but this is to no avail because of the challenges facing the organization.

The insurgency of crime in Nigeria is partly due to the phenomenon of unemployment and rising cost of living. While many Nigerians are jobless, the standard of living has remained on the high side (Gibbons, 1968). For many desperate and unemployed youths, robbery becomes the only avenue left for them to make a living. The situation is worsened by the readily availability of small fire arms like rifles and pistols in the open market. In some neighborhoods young men form self-help groups; they form collaboration with the police sometimes to combat crime. Nigerians police in conjunction with the populace see robbers as common enemy.

Although cashless economy is now in vogue, police have greater task of protecting lives as bank robbery has become a fashion for criminals. On so many instances, in broad day light mobile policemen and innocent citizens were shot dead by bank robbers. This happens all over the states in Nigeria. The battle between police and armed robbers during robbery incidents in Nigerian streets is endemic for the police, the robbers and the citizens. Police in most cases are killed or injured by robbers in bloody Gun Duel (Anon 2016).

Uwie in Warri is seen as kidnappers den. Many persons have been kidnapped and huge sums of many extorted from their family. Those who failed to comply lost their lives. The bandits are also involved in bank robberies. Bank robbers have diversified their operations (Anon 2012). The water ways are attacked by the criminals. Lives of oil workers endangered as hoodlums invade the waters ways on daily basis. Counter clash led to killing of some members of their bandits that had killed a number of policemen and snatched their rifles in the past. They snatch Hilux vans from police officials.

### **Theoretical Framework: Structural Functionalism and Labeling theory**

The police force is one of the major organs of crime control in Nigeria. They protect lives and property. Inefficiency of the police in curbing crime leads to total breakdown of the whole system. In other words, police as a body charged with crime control is very functional to the overall peace and orderliness of the society. On public reaction, the police had been labeled as inefficient. This negative perception of the police strained the relationship between the police and the public.



From the literature, major attention is on the inefficient crime control and consequences. Few researches detailed the causes of ineffective crime control as it pertains to indigenous institutions. Thus this study highlighted the causes/factors militating against effective crime control in Uwie.

## **Materials and Methods**

### **Study Design**

The research is descriptive. It surveyed respondents at a single time to elicit information on the challenges of curbing crime by the police in Uwie, Warri, Delta State Nigeria..

### **The Study Area**

The study area is Uwie local government in Warri, Delta State. The study area was chosen because of high record of crime rate in the community. The Uwie people are popularly known as ‘I go die people’. Warri is a city in Delta State, Nigeria. It is an oil hub in Southern Nigeria.

### **Study Population**

The total population of study area is 311,970 (2006 national population census). The respondents for the study included: a) the police, b) chiefs c) household heads d) community members and e) business men, f) crime suspects and g) youths. The inclusion criteria for participants were predicated on occupation, residency and voluntariness. House hold heads and force men were sampled. These respondents were significant in generating relevant information on challenges of crime control in Uwie community.

A total of 425 participants were drawn from the total population. The research adopted a purposive and probabilistic method of sampling. Purposive method of sampling was adopted for the selection of chiefs, police officials, Joint Task force, Anti robbery squad and crime suspects who are mainly involved in the conflict. These respondents are central in the collection of data. Probabilistic method of data collection was used in selecting household heads, youths and some police officials who are law enforcement agents.

### **Instruments of Data Collection**

The research made use of quantitative and qualitative methods of data collection. The use of instruments was triangulated for the collection of primary and secondary data which entailed both quantitative and qualitative methods. Quantitative data were gathered with the use of semi-structured questionnaire, while qualitative data was generated with the use of in-depth interview, snow ball and key informants.



A total of 425 questionnaires were administered to the people within the various communities in Uwie, Warri. The semi structured questionnaire contained 20 items which was divided into sub-sections accordingly in respect to the problem they are addressing. The sub-sections were Socio-demographic characteristics and the main problem under study. A total of 25 IDIs were conducted across the respondent who met inclusive criteria in Uwie communities in Warri. The IDIs elicited information from the respondents which borders on their level of awareness and perception of the crime, the police and challenges of curbing crime in Uwie community.

### **Method of Data Analysis**

The quantitative data was analyzed with the use of Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS) Version 15. Chi square test showed the correlation between the challenges of controlling crime and its consequences on the community. Content analysis with the extractions of thematic responses was used in the analysis of qualitative data

### **Data Presentation and Discussion**

For marital status, total of (48.7%) respondents were married. Total of (28.5%) respondents were single. While (15.7%) were divorced, (7.1%) were cohabiting. Total of (25.2%) respondents were SSCE holder. A total of (22.1%) and (19.3%) were Diploma and B.Sc holders. Those with higher degrees and category that fall under others were (7.3%) and (26.1%). Those who are security men were (12.7%), those are chiefs were (14.4%). Household heads were (17.4%). Youths were (17.2%) and business men were (15.7%). Corporate workers and categories that fell under others were (12.7%).

### **Police and Challenges of Crime Control in Uwie**

The following responses were given as the challenges facing police men. There are agitations for the revival of indigenous methods of preventing crime since modern technologies has failed in modern time.

**Table 1 Police and challenges of crime control in Uwie**

<b>Responses</b>	<b>Frequencies</b>	<b>Percentage %</b>
Finance	149	35.1



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No equipments	41	9.6
Tradition	44	10.4
Politics	71	16.7
Climate	43	10.1
Corruption	77	18.1

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From the table above, one of the top most challenges facing Nigeria police according to (44.7%) respondents is lack of adequate funding. This inadequate funding affects staff remuneration and procurement of equipment. They are not adequately funded, thus the police lack adequate fund needed to procure necessary equipments. Most of the vehicles used by the police are in bad condition. Majority of the vans had been in use for over 20 years. Because they are in bad shape, huge sum of money are needed to maintain them. The police lack necessary facilities that are useful for communication. Passing information across from one area to another becomes difficult in most cases. A respondent revealed that;

*People always accuse policemen of hiding when confronted by armed robbers. Is painful to say that, the guns we carry are pure toys compared to the sophisticated weapons used by armed bandits. Most of the police men do not have bullet proof vests to wear, and their lives are not insured. Some policemen who you see on the streets or road are not well armed. All these are so because appropriate authority has not provided adequate arms and ammunition needed by the Nigeria Police Force and these items are not what you can just buy on the market. Even if we see, where is the money? Police never chop na ammunition them wan buy. IDI, Male, August, 2016.*

Another respondent revealed that, the NPF is faced with many challenges such as lack of functional communication gadgets. Communication according to him is the life wire of any business. Another respondent revealed;

*Non-availability of communication gadgets pose major constrain on the NPF. For effective operations, police need communication gadgets so that we can have effective network across board. Some of us have phones but there is no fund to recharge it. Another problem on communication is the poor network issue in Nigeria. You can be speaking the communication goes off. Within this period a lot of loopholes are created. The person on the other end cannot act. Many*



*things go wrong within the short period during bad network. KII, Male, August, 2016*

Also, the traditional practices of the community according to (10.4%) respondents are one of the challenges facing the police in crime control. It was revealed that communities' members hide suspect's right from time past. The belief that everybody are one and that issues should be resolved amicably within the community frustrate the effort of the police. They tell you this is our children; this has increased the rate of crime. Community members allow those who perpetrate evil to use their forest and shrines as hideout. In respect of this reason, a participant revealed that;

*Many community heads and notable chiefs often call for the release of their sons who have been apprehended by the police for committing a crime. Because police wants to maintain good relationship with the community, the suspects are released. These set of criminals go back into the community and perpetrate more grievous crimes. KII, Male, August 2016.*

This was validated by responses which show that some community members quickly send their children abroad when it becomes obvious that their son is on the wanted list of the police. This has created a lot of challenges in the management of crime in the community.

The above challenge is closely related to the problem of politics. According to (16.7%) respondents, one of the major problems facing the NPF in curbing crime is politics. Like every other institution in Nigeria, NPF is politicized. To be recruited into the force is politicized. To be promoted and posted to area of operation is politicized. Also to be prosecuted for committing a crime is politicized. Suspects are often released because a call was received from a top politician. For instance, respondents revealed that;

*When a crime suspect is apprehended, before you know, they will give order to release the criminal because order has come from above. Because no one wants to lose his/her job, the suspect is released. KII, Male, August 2016.*

Apart from the problem of releasing criminals who pose as threat to lives and property, placement of police is politicized. God father ensures that their candidates are placed in better positions even when not qualified. Many of the policemen who are involved in various act of misconduct are freed because they have God fathers who authoritatively order for their release. The case of releasing criminals based on the influence of their God fathered hinder justice. Therefore, the process of recruitment of officers and prosecution of offenders suffers many irregularities based on ethno-religious politics.



A respondent substantiated the above problem as revealed that, the recruitment of officers and punishment of offenders is regulated by politicians. The order to release crime suspects because he belongs to a particular political party present big challenge to the police. According to the key informant, some people have lost their job including their juicy positions because they defy orders from “above”. Normatively, persons with criminal backgrounds are not to be enlisted into the police force. This law has been down played; consequently they use their experience under the uniform to perpetrate crime.

According to (10.1%) respondent, climate change often affects effective control of crime. The raining reason according to an informant has the highest percentage of crime records. Weather affects communication and movement. The police are handicapped when the climate is not favorable. Bad roads and other weather conditions which favor criminal activities militate against the officers while in operations. The road becomes more dangerous to ply during rainy season. Most notorious spot during rainy season in Uwie facilitate crime..

One major challenge facing NPF which cut across larger percentage of the respondents was corruption (81.1%). Most of the respondents believed that Nigerian Police have been unable to curtail crime because of high rate of corruption. According to an informant; “people believe NPF is an organization that can easily be bribed. Suspects with their significant others manipulate cases. Cases where the offenders are supposed to be prosecuted” is discharged. Kickbacks are collected and justice is thwarted. This is closely related to the responses of a respondent in an in-depth interview;

*Police are not equipped, the policemen whether on the road or in the office are exact replica of the society that produced them. Even when it is wrong for a policeman to collect bribe on the road, people should ask questions and find out how much money are provided to buy recharges cards and petrol for the vehicles used for patrol by anti-crime patrol teams (IDI Male, August 2016)*

Because of this and other little misconduct by some police men, the public see the police as an enemy. They are negatively labeled, based on the negative labeling, citizens relate in an unfriendly manner. According to a respondent “an average Nigerian sees the police as an eliminator, a prosecutor”. Perception that the police is an enemy, which is accompanied by negative description and reaction present huge challenge to the police in curbing crime.

In relation to the above, a respondent reported that, “we complain that police are not enough to curb crime, a community which 200 police men were supposed to guide is has only 30 police men. This is so because the remaining 170 police men are deployed to guide private and corporate offices”. According to a key informant; “because of poverty and the desire to better life, many



officers prefer the deals that give them money than that of fighting robbers”. Personal benefit makes this preferable to that of protecting lives and property. As such, curbing crime becomes difficult or ineffective for the whole community.

### **Causes of the Challenges facing Nigeria Police in Crime Control**

According to (53%) respondents, one of the root causes of the challenges facing Nigeria police is colonialism. Nigeria police force according to 79% participants is a colonial initiative. The force is alien to Nigeria; it does not blend well with the social fabrics of the Nigerian people. It contradicts and weakens the entire belief system.

Uwie people had traditional practices which curbed crime adequately. The fear of the gods and the shame of being ex-communicated from the community for committing crime restrained criminal behavior. Curbing crime was for the interest of the whole community. It was not capital intensive because the invisible forces of the gods punished offenders. One do not need to buy expensive gadget to carry out justice Consequently, the Nigeria police which extorts money from the criminals before they are released without necessarily punishing the offender encourages the reoccurrence of such crime.

Community experiences more crimes because the leaders shield criminals. According to a respondent, some of the prominent persons in the community are informants to the criminals. According to an informant:

*Majority of the youth are aspiring to be a youth leader. So they acquire guns. Some engage in criminal activities to raise money to run for elections and dominate others. There is a political dimension to crime in which the police is not in a position to deal with. Politicians pick their thugs from them”IDI, Male, 2016.*

Also, lack of proper training affect the effective control of crime. Because an average police man is attracted to police force because he/she wants to make a living, they are in a hurry to start work and get paid. The training needed to combat crime is undermined.

According to a key informant, “most of the policies that regulate activities in Nigeria police are basically controlled by external influences”. The colonial coloration of policies and regulation guiding the police do affect effective control of crime.

### **Consequences of the Challenges of Ineffective Crime Control**



The challenges of controlling crime impact negatively on the victims, criminals, businesses, local communities and society as a whole. Victims of crime suffer bodily physical harm or damage to property. According to a respondent, “irrespective of the enormous wealth and talent that are found in Uwie, the area is becoming isolated due to crime. Some routes are abandoned due prominent occurrence of crime on that road”. This gives the area a negative identity to the extent that no one wants to have anything to do with the community or members of the community.

Many businesses have relocated from Uwie community because of the disturbances of criminals. As crime levels increase, local businesses choose to relocate. This has led to a rise in rate of unemployment in the area. With the high level of unemployment and high level of crime, corporate organizations and multinationals who want to make better revenue relocate to safer communities. The community is left with limited role models. Businesses experience a loss in profit, some business are unable to continue trading in Uwie due to high levels of crime and high cost of securing lives and properties. Criminal activities have cost implication on the victim, community, the police and the government.

As businesses, corporate and multinational professionals relocate from the community; local government missed the revenue generated by council tax and business rates. As the council budget declines, there is a reduction in services such as waste disposal, leisure facilities, and building of schools. This becomes the order of the day because the council does not have enough money to provide these services. This in turn, affects the standard and quality of life in the community. This has resulted to higher rates of crime because it has a direct negative impact on members of the community. According to respondent”

*High crime control compels corporate bodies and private individuals to take expensive security measures. For example people take taxis and cars rather than public transport to avoid attack. Only richer people can afford these measures and this create a negative feeling of class division between the rich and the poor. IDI, August 2016.*

As cost of securing businesses, lives and properties become high, so are the cost of goods and services. Cost of living is so high that if someone is not a high salary earner, you are bound to engage in other illegal things to make a better living. The fear of being attacked discourages social relation amongst the people. The fear of ‘going out’ becomes so high that people leave within same neighborhood for months without seeing each other. People are scared of using public spaces. According to a respondent, “you cannot park your car anyhow. If you do, you will not meet that car on your return”.



This destroyed the spirit of oneness and community spirit. This has resulted to less neighborliness. People simply want to keep to themselves to avoid embarrassment or attack. Because nobody knows who is who, people maintain distance to avoid unforeseen.

Ninety three percent respondents reported that, wide spread of crime create psychological disturbances on people as they experience fear and anxiety. They become restless as they try to ensure that their lives and properties are secured. Victims have trouble with their level of concentration or memory retention. The fear of living in fear reduced performance at work or in school. Insecurity especially for past victim propels them towards withdrawing from others. Poor level of managing depressive or anxiety cause heart attack.

### **Role of Government and the Public in effective control of crime**

According to (67.3%) respondents, the government needs to provide necessary fund that will boost efficient and effective control of crime. Also, a key informant revealed that government needs to equip the NPF with modern gadgets necessary for crime control. The world is changing, the use of old and archaic equipments account for the numbers of poor operations recorded so far. The bandits are upgrading every day. The use of crude facilities on criminals who are loaded with sophisticated equipments produce poor result.

On the other, the public have a role to play. According to a respondent, police are human. For police to work effectively, “we need information”. The act of hiding information from the police because of some inconveniences is not helpful. According to a Key informant, “in some situation the public hide criminals”, when chasing a suspect, they get missed up in the crowd. Sometimes they hide in neighborhood different from their own. In such cases, the police needs a tip off in order to get the suspect. According to the respondent:

*If you are pursuing a criminal and he runs into a compound, the people in that compound will hide him instead of surrendering him to the police. They find it difficult to give out information to the police when they know the criminals. This is one of the challenges facing the police. Police are not magicians, they need information to work”KII, Male, August 2016.*

Respondents revealed that they are afraid of giving out information because in most cases the information is revealed as case progresses. The informant becomes a target to the suspect. Also, (61%) respondents affirmed that they do not want to give information to the police because of many instances that people diverge information, they end up being detained. You spend more money and time trying to set yourself free. Furthermore, police have “not so good” relationship with the public because of the unaffectionate disposition. In most cases, they see the police as



enemy of the land. This has affected the rate of success achieved by the police. According to a respondent, “most community members see the police as enemies” When you arrest their son, they connive with other members of the community to create trouble. When effort of forcing the police to dismiss the case fails, they begin to spread wrong information about the police.

Apart from government, immediate community members are supposed to provide some relevant materials for public to curb crime in their community. According to a respondent, “in some places, the community build befitting offices for the police”. A philanthropist can volunteer to build or buy facilities for the police in their community. In some community, the officers’ mess and welfare of the police are taken care of by well meaning members. Today, hardly can you see volunteers”. According to the respondent “such wealthy persons prefer to seek private services of the police instead of the entire community”.

### **Conclusion**

There are a lot challenges facing the NPF in curbing crime. These challenges ranges from corruption, lack of funding, climate condition, poor equipment and training of officers. The NPF has virtually abandoned its standards for recruiting staffs and this has disastrous effect on the masses. The NPF now grossly compromised standards; this has resulted to widespread of abuse of established rules and procedures. They have become saddled with a very large number of unqualified, under-trained and ill-equipped officers. In summary, NPF is loaded with undesirable workforce. Nigeria’s police force is over-centralized; it is under-resourced and ill-equipped. It suffers from political interference. The NPF’s recruitment process has been compromised, this leaves the police with poorly trained and badly paid workforce that is prone to corruption and violence. Because of the poor pay, some are unable or unwilling to ensure public safety. Many officers have turned to crime to survive. This has affected the curbing of crime.

These challenges are rooted in the colonial heritage of NPF. Also traditional practices do not support some the police practices. These practices have resulted to dismissal of cases that are supposed to be prosecuted.

These challenges have grave consequences on individuals, corporate bodies, multinationals, businesses and the community at large. This has led to relocation of companies from the environment. There is high rate of on your own. That is why someone may be under attack no one cares. Some body may be passing through health problems, because of the isolated mode of lives that has been adopted to secure ones live and property, nobody else will no. This creates great suspicion and division among people in their neighborhood. The Nigeria police face a lot of problems ranging from social, political and economical challenges. These challenges are rooted in socio-political and economic backgrounds of the NPF. The challenges impact negatively on individuals, multinationals, community and the government.



## **Recommendations**

To be more accountable and responsive to the people it serves, the NPF must have greater autonomy from political control. To repair its reputation and prevent future crimes by its personnel, the NPF must establish internal accountability mechanisms that deter police misconduct and ensure a thorough investigation into allegations of misconduct.

**Improve Recruitment and Other Personnel Practices.** In its drive to increase the size of the force, the NPF has virtually abandoned its recruiting standards this have disastrous results. The NPF should avoid compromising standards; which could lead to widespread in abuse of Established procedures. They should avoid recruiting unqualified, under-trained and ill-equipped officers. Loaded the NPF with undesirable workforce have negative consequences on crime control and should be avoided.

The NPF should improve vetting processes to ensure that only persons with clean criminal records, adequate experience and/or preparation, and appropriate temperament are recruited as police officers. Improve firearms training, including teaching defensive and preventive tactics.

The government should provide necessary facilities and funds needed to curb crime in this community that experiences rate of crime. They should improve police-community relations and prevent police abuses by implementing a community policing strategy across the community.

Community members should be encouraged to volunteer information to the police. Volunteers should be protected from harm and this can be achieved by keeping their identity and information confidential.

Government should establish effective accountability measures to sanction and deter criminals and police whose misconduct encourage crime. Strict punishment of offenders should be the hallmark of policing in Nigeria. To be more accountable and responsive to the people it serves, the NPF should be given greater autonomy from political control.

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