

Insecurity, the Nigeria Police and Failure of Intelligence in Combating Crime in Imo State, Southeastern Nigeria

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Abstract

Paucity of intelligence, poor application and lack of synergy between security agencies have been the bane of security in Nigeria, and Imo State in particular resulting in security breaches. The recent state of insecurity in Imo State has prompted an investigation into why the police have failed to curb the rising rate of criminality experienced since 2019. Smelser's (1967) and Structural Functionalism theories guided the study. The research adopted the descriptive survey design which combined both quantitative and qualitative technique of data collection. 478 respondents were interviewed with a well-structured 4-point scale questionnaire for quantitative data, while 21 respondents were subjected to oral interview. Quantitative data were analyzed using statistical mean, frequencies and percentage while qualitative data were content analyzed. The result of the study identified bad governance, unemployment, and unhealthy competition among politicians as having triggered insecurity in Imo State. The researched also revealed that dearth of professional intelligence gathering officers, lack of logistics, and corruption were the challenges hindering effective crime control. Findings further revealed that lack of modern equipment, interference from higher authorities and the role of lawyers hinder efficient intelligence gathering. Based on the findings, it was recommended that the police should improve its relationship with the civil population for effective intelligence. Also, government should provide logistics, and fund the Nigeria police to meet modern standard, and ensure there is synergy among the intelligence communities to fight crime adequately.

Keywords; Challenges; Criminality; Insecurity; intelligence Gathering; Nigeria police

Introduction

In the last two decades, the Nigerian state has been overwhelmed by insecurity and there is no adequate reaction from the security agencies against the perpetrators. This has had serious implications on lives and property. Some of these agents of insecurity have

disguised as religious reformists, while others appear as reactions to the oppressive regimes and economic deprivation. Other criminal acts are both political and economic such as the Boko Haram, terrorists and violent herdsmen that transformed into deadly terrorist group. The Indigenous peoples of Biafra and Odua Republic agitators are also reactions to the political and economic deprivation in the Nigeria State, while the Niger delta agitators were mainly economic. In this confusion, other economic agitators masquerade as kidnappers, armed robbers and the 'unknown gun men' which are politically sponsored terrorists by those who lost in the power equation in the various states of Nigeria. Adegoke (2014) argued that the rate of violent crimes have remained daily occurrence that threaten lives and prosperity and the Global Peace Index (2012) has consistently ranked Nigeria low in global peace and the worsening state of insecurity has made life very cheap.

Imo state has witnessed unprecedented insecurity since January 2020, when the sitting governor, Mr Emeka Ihedioha of the Peoples Democratic Party was removed by the Supreme Court and replaced by Mr Hope Uzodinma of the All Progressive Congress, who had approached the court for such, in the March, 2019 governorship election. This was preceded by the internal wrangling in the APC between former governor Rochas Okoroacha and current governor, Hope Uzodinma, on who had stronger claim to the flag of the party. This made the nature of insecurity more dangerous. In fact, the high point of insecurity was the nefarious activities of the 'unknown gun men' allegedly sponsored by the political key actors. This was obvious in the unprecedented attacks on the Police Headquarters and the Correctional centre in Owerri, coupled with other violence on Police stations in Owerri, Orlu, Okigwe, Nwaorubi and Mgbidi and the continuous face off between the unknown gun men and the combined security forces of the army and the police in Orlu senatorial zone; they have had dire consequences on the lives and property of citizens and the economy of the state.

Youths who are tagged IPOB members are murdered daily in clashes in parts of Imo State by combined forces of the military and police. Added to these crises is the militarization of the state and the police and the military engage in daily extortions of motorists in disguise of fighting criminals. Citizens are searched provocatively and extorted on Port-Harcourt, Onitsha, Okigwe and Umuahia routes and young men driving posh cars are tagged yahoo boys and forced to pay ransom by these security personnel. There were also attacks and murder of some traditional rulers at Njaba local Government Secretariat, the gruesome murder of a clergy and the assassination of a prominent northern politician and a lawyer, Mr Ahmed Gulak.

Kidnapping and assassinations have increased in the state; the impact of insecurity has been worse on the masses due to the 'sit-at-home order' to compel the Federal Government to release Mazi Nnamdi Kanu, the leader of the self-determination group, the Indigenous Peoples of Biafra, held since the first half of 2021. With recent happenings, insecurity is perceived as having grown beyond the capacity of government and this has questioned the role of intelligence in crime control.

However, the Nigeria Police as an agency of government primarily assigned to protect lives and property, and ensure the prevention and control of crime in the country, are

aware that intelligence is central to prevention and control of crime in any society. But it is difficult to explain why the Police have failed to generate and utilize credible intelligence to ensure a peaceful environment? It is in this regard that this research tries to investigate the factors that triggered insecurity in Imo State and the failure of Intelligence in Crime Control and prevention in Imo State. The study would further advance strategies to strengthen the capacity of the agency in combating crime in Imo State and the border communities.

Statement of the Problem The incidences of crime in Nigeria and its consequences have exposed the inability of government in safe-guarding lives and property including government installations. In fact, this has created a multiplicity of crimes such as mass killing, intimidation, rape, extrajudicial killing and summary execution of ordinary citizens by terrorists. There are herdsmen violence against farmers and communities, constant attack on government facilities and security personnel, kidnapping, arson, armed robbery and the 'unknown gun men'. Imo State has been held hostage by criminal elements and there is hardly adequate effort made by the police to forestall these acts; and these breaches are largely traceable to failure of intelligence. It is unthinkable that criminals would attack the Police High Command, the Correctional Centre in Owerri and other police facilities in Imo State, and there were no clues to these impending acts? It is in this regard that this research investigated the failure of Intelligence in Crime Control and prevention in Imo State.

Purpose of the Study The specific objectives of this research are to: (a) Examine the factors that triggered insecurity in Imo State; (b) Highlight the challenges confronting the police in curbing crime; (c) Analyze the failure of intelligence in fighting crime in Imo State; and (d) Advance strategies towards improve intelligence gathering for combating insecurity in Imo State.

Research Questions The following research questions would guide the study: (a) What are the factors that triggered insecurity in Imo State? (b) What are the challenges confronting the police in tackling insecurity in Imo State? (c) What are the challenges hindering effective intelligence gathering? (d) What are the strategies to ensure effective intelligence gathering in Imo State?

Conceptual Framework

Security and Insecurity: Various scholars across the globe have postulated differing viewpoints on the concept of security: The United Nations Development Programme (1994) views human security as the protection from hidden and hurtful disruptions in the daily activities, at homes, offices or communities. That is, security is the state of being safe and secure from danger; it could also be protection from recurring threats such as hunger, disease and repression. Commission on Human Security (2003), perceives it as protection from anything that hinders human from enjoying their freedom and to fulfill their goals. It is also the assurance of future well-being and freedom from threat. Williams (2008) sees security as the capacity to achieve both political and social desires without which there would not be political stability and Palme (1992) argues that security guarantees survival. Nwagboso (2012) argues that security explains how a state responds to threats with appropriate skill and expertise because it is security that secures the future.

Insecurity is the absence peace, protection of lives of property and the existence of factors that hinder humans from achieving their freedom and ambition. It is a situation where there are threats that pose danger to lives and property. The typologies of insecurity includes political, leadership, unemployment, jobs racketeering, other reasons may include- growing poverty, poor infrastructural facilities, high illiteracy level (especially in northern Nigeria), social dislocation as a result of rural/urban migration and the breakdown of societal values, community unrest and the inefficient and ineffective security agents which are saddled with the responsibility of guaranteeing security to the citizens (Daniel, 2011). The impact of insecurity has been more on the economy despite government claim to have spent so much on security.

Intelligence Gathering: Intelligence is the capacity to comprehend; understand and profit from experience. It is the capacity to acquire and apply knowledge. This involves the mental capacity to reason, plan, solve problems, think abstractly, comprehend complex ideas, learn quickly and learn from experience. Intelligence involves collection of data, refined and narrowed to meet the needs of policy makers. Intelligence gathering is fundamental to crime control in any society because it provides warning about an imminent threat and needs to be processed timely, and there is a follow up to track down actors that pose the threat. Luwenthal (2007) argues that intelligence gathering involves data collection, data processing and dissemination for use to action.

The value of intelligence is when it is fully used by the user and there must effective collaboration between intelligence and security agencies in order to provide quality national security. Hence, the Police Force have intelligence gathering section designated for this, who analyze and implement results of intelligence but its success depends on human factors and gadgets. Modern intelligence gathering relies essentially on those two factors. A positive relationship between security agencies enhances effective intelligence, while the negative one produces poor results. Therefore, failure of intelligence escalates insecurity just as incessant interference in the operation of the security agencies undermines security. Intelligence gathering enables government to forecasts and gather enough resources to solve all security needs in order to checkmate imminent criminal acts. Apparently, intelligence detects threats to critical infrastructure and safeguards them. In this regard, intelligence gives a good idea and direction to combating crime.

Theoretical framework

This research is guided by two theories: Smelser's (1963) social movement and structural functionalism theories. Smelser's Social movement theory (1963) argues that insecurity arises as a result of structural imbalance and inadequacies in a society. There is high level of corruption among political office holders; political and economic marginalization resulting to the emergence of separatists groups such as Indigenous peoples of Biafra (IPOB), Yoruba self-determination; and those that threaten the state due to economic hardship such as kidnapping and armed robbery, election robbery, "unknown gun men syndrome", terrorism and violent herdsmen. The mismanagement of these crises has escalated insecurity and the consequences are huge in Nigeria. Imo State, have witnessed unprecedented state of insecurity since January 2020 due to the Supreme Court Judgment which installed Hope Uzodimma as the new governor. Lives and property, and the

economy have been threatened continually. The police and other security agencies have failed to restore peace in the State. This has been attributed to failure of intelligence. This theory will investigate the factors that triggered insecurity in Imo State and the challenges confronting the police.

Structural Functionalism Theory: This theory owes much to August Comte who emphasized the need to keep society together, despite the breakdown of traditions. This argument was expanded by Durkheim who sees society as an organism, a system of action and interaction among its members, balanced, bound and interrelated. Herbert Spencer compared society to the human body which functions interdependently to help the entire organism survive, and the social structure work together to preserve society. This approach sees society as a complex system whose parts work together to promote solidarity and stability. Society is seen to be balanced and if anything upsets it, it will affect the overall function of others. This theory sees insecurity in Imo State as a distabilising factor and seeks to eliminate it to restore peace and development in the state. The 'unknown gun men' violence, kidnapping, armed robbery, attack on security facilities, destruction of lives and property by the military and the activities of IPOB must be prevented including all the politically motivated crises.

Related Literature

Several literatures have been reviewed on issues of insecurity and intelligence to strengthen this research. Adegoke (2014) work on the Nigeria police revealed that Security of life and property are of the primary purpose of government as stipulated in 1999 Constitution. It emphasizes that the security and welfare of the people is the primary purpose of government and government must accomplish this through the Nigeria police. This paper adopted survey method. 200 respondents were randomly selected from two local government areas in Rivers state namely: Eleme and Obiakpor. Frequency and simple percentage were used to analyze the data. The findings reveal that poverty, unemployment, leadership and religion were the triggers of insecurity in Nigeria and the study recommends a collaborative approach to security. Also, Adegoke's (2014) study on intelligence gathering and Challenges of Insecurity in Nigeria revealed that **acts of insecurity in Nigeria are traceable to lapse of intelligence and its utilization. The theory of structural functionalism guided the study and the study argues that there is positive relationship between effective intelligence gathering and the state of security and therefore recommends that training and retraining of personnel of intelligence community would change current trend in contemporary Nigeria.** Redlich, Kelley and Miller (2014) .investigated The who, what, and why of Human Intelligence Gathering: Self-Reported Measures of Integration Methods. It revealed that a great deal of research in the past two decades has been devoted to interrogation and interviewing techniques. This study used an online *survey to* examine the frequency of use and perceived effectiveness of interrogation methods for up to 152 military and federal-level interrogators from the USA and the results indicate that rapport and relationship-building techniques were employed most often as the most effective regardless of context and intended outcome, particularly in comparison to confrontational techniques.

Methodology

The design is a survey research which adopted the qualitative and quantitative techniques of data collection. 21 key informants were interviewed from both security and non-security respondents for qualitative technique and some of them were interviewed through phone while copies of the questionnaire were administered to 478 respondents for quantitative technique. Purposive sampling technique was adopted which identified respondents that responded to the items on the questionnaire in the three senatorial zones of Imo State. Qualitative data was content analyzed, while quantitative data was subjected to frequency, simple percentage and mean.

Area of Study: Imo State is one of the 36 states of Nigeria located in the southeastern part of Nigeria. It is bordered by Abia State in the east; Delta State in the West; Anambra State in the North, and River State in the South. Owerri is the state capital and it is usually referred to as *Ngwori* capital of Nigeria. Imo State is predominantly an Igbo speaking state. The State is ranked 34th out of 36 states in land area. It lies within latitudes 4o45'N and 7o15'N and longitude 6o50'E and 7o25'E with an area of around 5,100sq km. The State economy is highly dependent on agriculture with palm oil and its produce as the major crop. The state has several natural resources which include crude oil, natural gas, lead, calcium carbonate, and zinc. Oguta Lake, Palm Beach Holiday Resort and a host of other tourist sites are found in Imo State.

The state has a three-tier administrative structure: state, local government and autonomous community levels. Imo State has 27 local governments: According to 2016 projection, Imo State has a population of 5,408,800. The State has several federal and state owned tertiary institutions.

Results and Discussion

This section presents the results and discussion of the analysis of this study.

This section analyses the variables such as sex, age, marital status, religion, educational level and occupation of the respondents are examined.

Table 1: SOCIO-ECONOMIC AND DEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS OF THE RESPONDENTS

S/N	Variables	Frequency	Percent
1.	Sex		
	Male	296	61.9
	Female	182	38.1
	Total	478	100
2.	Age		
	0 – 30	20	4.1
	31 – 40	238	49.8
	41 – 50	200	42.0
	51 – 60	20	4.1
	Total	478	100
3.	Marital Status		
	Single	220	46.0
	Married	258	54.0
	Divorced	0	0

	Total	478	100
4.	Religion		
	Muslim	24	5.0
	Christian	398	83.3
	Traditional	0	0
	Others	56	11.7
	Total	478	100
5.	Educational Level		
	First school leaving	93	19.5
	O-Level	78	16.3
	ND/NCE	126	26.3
	HND/B.A/B.SC/B.ED	169	35.4
	Masters	12	2.5
	PhD	0	0
	Total	478	100
6.	Occupation		
	Police personnel	28	5.9
	Civil servant	120	25.0
	Private Business	249	52.1
	Public servant	81	17.0
	Total	478	100

Source: Fieldwork, 2021

From the table above, the study revealed that on sex, male respondents accounted for 296 (61.9%) while female respondents represented 182 (38.1%). The males responded more because females are scared of being victims of rapists, kidnappers and serial killers. On age, respondents between 0 and 50 years [0 and 30 years (20: 4.1%); 31 and 40 years (238:49.8%); 41 and 50 years (200:42.0%]; while respondents between 51 and 60 years constituted 20 (4.1%). From the analysis, respondents below 50 years responded more because of them are affected by the crises. With regard to marital status, 220 (46.0%) of the respondents were single; 258 (54.0%) of respondents were married while 0 (0%) are divorced. Respondents that are married responded more because they pursue their aspirations freer than the youths and the singles. Analysis also shows that 24 (5.0%) were Moslem adherents; 398 (83.3%) of respondents were Christians, 0(0%) were traditionalists, while 56 (11.7%) belonged to other religious groups. The table further revealed that respondents with educational qualifications below first degree accounted for 297 (52.1%) [First school leaving 93(19.5%); O-level 78 (16.3%) and ND/NCE 126 (26.3%)]; respondents with first degree were 169 (35.4%); while those with master’s degree constituted 12 (2.5%) with none for PhD. Analytically, respondents with diploma and first degree were affected more by insecurity in Imo State. Finally, respondents who are police personnel were 28 (5.9%); civil servants accounted for 120 (25.0%); those in private businesses were 249 (52.1%), while public servants represented 81 (17.0%). The analysis revealed that many police personnel were reluctant to respond for fear of being accused of sabotaging their security agency.

Research question 1: Factors that triggered insecurity in Imo State in recent time

Table 2: THREATS TO SECURITY IN IMO STATE

S/N	ITEMS	X	Decision
1.	Unemployment triggers insecurity	3.3	Accepted
2.	Bad governance promoted insecurity	3.7	Accepted
3.	Unhealthy competition among politicians created insecurity	3.8	Accepted
4.	Deliberate deprivation of rights causes insecurity	3.8	Accepted
5.	Poor policing exposes citizens to insecurity	3.4	Accepted

Source: Fieldwork, 2021

Research question 1 investigated the factors that triggered insecurity in Imo State with an average mean of 3.6 was supported. From the table above, all the items responded positively. Analytically, respondents agreed that the long years of bad governance, unemployment, unhealthy competition among the political gladiators in the State, deliberate deprivation of citizens and poor policing resulted in insecurity.. politicians have mismanaged the resources of Nigeria, with corruption precipitating other factors, such as unemployment, poverty, and regular migration from rural to the few urban areas such as Owerri, Okigwe and Orlu, This argument corroborates (Adegba, Ugwu and Eme, 2012) view that these have been sources of insecurity.

The high point of insecurity was the ‘unknown gun men’ syndrome which destroyed the peaceful environment in Imo State and businesses are in comatose. The *ngwori* life, night entertainment, in Owerri was most affected; development is slow, there is decay of infrastructure, thus making the unemployed vulnerable to the power play of scrupulous politicians. Kidnapping, armed robbery and crime-induced deaths have characterized daily lives of the people due largely to the lapses of the Nigeria Police who instead extort motorists and the ordinary people without tackling anti-social behaviour. In this regard, all the five items affirmed that there is insecurity in Imo State.

Research question 2 sought to unravel the challenges confronting the police in combating insecurity in Imo State.

Table 3: CHALLENGES HINDERING EFFECTIVE POLICING IN IMO STATE

S/N	ITEMS	X	Decision
6.	There are few professional intelligence officers in the agency	2.9	Accepted
7.	There are no commitment by some personnel	3.9	Accepted
8.	There are no logistics to tackle crime	3.7	Accepted
9.	Some police personnel protect criminals	3.2	Accepted
10.	There is shortage of personnel to police Imo.	3.9	Accepted

Source: Fieldwork, 2021

Research question 2 examined the challenges hindering the combat ability of the Nigeria Police with an average mean score of 2.9 from 478 respondents who agreed with the view that there are few professionals engaged in intelligence gathering; there are no commitment by some police personnel in discharging their duties' there is dearth of logistics to tackle crime adequately in Imo State; some police personnel and politicians protect some criminals and there is shortage of personnel to combat crime effectively and efficiently. Findings support part of Adegoke's (2014) and Ukala's (2021) assertion that poor logistics, incentives, high level corruption, poor recruitment process, neglect of the personnel, impacts negatively on tackling insecurity in Imo State.

Research affirms that there is paucity of professional intelligence gathering officers in the Police Force. Despite the recruitment of more officers, many are not amenable to training because of those who recommended for recruitment, standards are then compromised. There is virtually no re-training programme and equipment for personnel which render the Force vulnerable A respondent, James (2021), argues that:

In the Force, personnel are trained to operate in any department usually referred to as 'general duty'; that is, the personnel can perform any duty and could be transferred to any department. This does not promote professionalism and efficient intelligence gathering. We had expected that professionals should be made to man the intelligence department, and not operate like the General Duty medical doctors who have not attained the rank of consultants. Some of these recruits refuse to take courses in psychology.

The issues raised above blighted the achievements of the police and fighting crime has become a herculean task as it seems the police are overwhelmed by criminals activities in the State. it is observed the commitment of some officers is based on pecuniary gains like those on 'stop and search' who extort motorists. It was also observed that officers on intelligence duties are not well equipped and motivated. It is unfortunate that some criminal elements masquerading as 'unknown gun men' and kidnappers have been terrorizing Imo State for reasons known to them. In the first quarter of 2021,'they attacked the Police Headquarters and the Correctional Centre (Prisons) in Owerri and destroyed vehicles, shot some police personnel at the headquarters and freed prison inmates without adequate response from the police and the army. Since that time, there have been persistently attacks on people, infrastructure and kidnapping of citizens; And statements by politicians are enough alibi to trace the criminal activities to them but the masses have borne the brunt of their nefarious activities because the security agencies comprising the army and the police most often arrest and kill anyone found on the spot after the criminals had left and those killed are specifically tagged IPOB members. These actions show that the police only react after the criminals had left. This is traceable to no functional patrol vehicles and sophisticated weapons to confront the criminals. Data also revealed that some police personnel suppress intelligence by frustrating proper investigation to protect their personal interest. A respondent, Kwoi (2021), argued that some personnel deliberately pretend not to notice signs of anti-social behaviour but concentrate on extorting citizens.

Therefore, findings proved that the Force is burdened with challenges in the discharge of its lawful duties.

Research question 3 sought to investigate the challenges the police encounter in intelligence gathering for combating insecurity in Imo State.

Table 4: CHALLENGES POLICE ENCOUNTER IN INTELLIGENCE GATHERING

S/N	ITEMS	X	Decision
11.	The police lack modern equipment to gather information	3.6	Accepted
12.	There is interference from higher authorities in the process of intelligence gathering	3.4	Accepted
13.	Lawyers jeopardize proper investigation of cases	2.7	Accepted
14.	There is trust between the civilians and the police personnel	2.0	Rejected
15.	There are adequate logistics for gathering intelligence	2.1	Rejected

Source: Fieldwork, 2021

Research question 3 investigated the failure of intelligence in fighting crime with an average mean of 2.8 from 478 respondents. Data revealed that the police lack modern equipment to combat crime in Imo State; there is interference by politicians and senior personnel who distort intelligence or stall investigation they have interest. Finally, lawyers jeopardize the process by insisting that their clients must not stay in custody beyond 24 hours. This insistence helps suspects to cover up their tracks. However, data shows that citizens do not trust the police. Many respondents described the attitude of the police toward civilians as negative and anti-people because of the criminal tendencies exhibited by some officers such as extortion, illegal arrest, aiding and abetting crime. Moreover, some of the officers sabotage legitimate effort to maintain security even though they do not have adequate logistics to fight crime.

Moreover, there are unresolved murder cases of some prominent persons in the state due to failure of intelligence because the Force lacks modern intelligence gathering equipment and some of the criminals arrested during the height of insecurity were protected by some officers who have been briefed and compromised. According to Adamu (2021) there was a time he was handling a case which involved theft and after tracking the suspect and the items that served as evidence, he was asked to drop the case. This was corroborated by Ogah (2021) who confessed that while handling a kidnap case in which the suspect had pleaded guilty, a call came that a certain top officer had interest in the matter and the suspect was transferred to Abuja and the matter died. These confessions supported the views that intelligence is hampered by interference from higher authorities. It is against the above evidence that the researchers conclude that there is failure of intelligence in crime control in Imo State.

Research question 4 examined the strategies that would enhance effective and efficient intelligence gathering for crime control in Imo State.

Table 5: STRATEGIES TO ENHANCE EFFECTIVE AND EFFICIENT INTELLIGENCE GATHERING

S/N	ITEMS	X	Decision
16.	Police should treat civilians with respect to gain their friendship	3.5	Accepted
17.	Police personnel should be adequately equipped to do effective job	2.6	Accepted
18.	Interference in investigations should be treated as accomplices	3.4	Accepted
19.	Adequate logistics should be provided for effective and efficient jobs	3.9	Accepted
20.	Civilians should be encouraged to release information to the police	2.9	Accepted

Source: Fieldwork, 2021

Research question 4 advanced strategies that would enhance effective and efficient intelligence with the average mean of 3.3 from 478 respondents on questionnaire items 16 – 20. From the responses, research strongly agree that civilians should be encouraged to release information to the police; police should be encouraged to perform their duties efficiently; political interference in investigations should be discouraged; adequate logistics should be provided for a better performance. Finally, the police should respect the rights of civilians in order to gain their trust. It is in this connection that Eric (2021) argues that no functional police succeeds without the cooperation of the government and the people because the absence of trust breeds breaches and continual rise in crime rate. Data proves that the civil population has vital information to assist the police fight crime because intelligence is critical to crime prevention and control in every society. According to Gadi (2021), civilians find it difficult to release information to security agencies because some personnel betray their trust and in some cases, tell suspects: *Na your brother or your relation tell us wetin you dey do; when you go back make una settle. Even this my oga no wan make you comot from here alive.* The fact is that when some suspects are released, they unleash terror on the person who assisted the police. This revelation proves that the actions of some police officers distance the people from the police.

In order to improve intelligence gathering, adequate resources must be allocated for operations, a decent accommodation for personnel; the personnel should be fully kit and insured and their families must be treated with dignity if they die while in service. In fact, a housing scheme should be provided for personnel including a living wage. Also, political interference during investigations must be outlawed, and unpatriotic officers should be dismissed. Moreover, adequate logistics should be provided to strengthen intelligence through modern gadgets. However, the police have engaged in ‘stop and search’, raiding of hide-outs of kidnapper, and supposed IPOB/ESN and unknown gun men, but failed to checkmate the atrocities of the violent herdsmen, who destroy farmlands, kill citizens and destroy communities. Furthermore, all forms of corruption must be eliminated as this would motivate civilians to volunteer critical information to the police in fighting crime. Recently, a parent in Mbano, provided information about the activities of his son who had converted the family house into a hide-out for kidnap-victims until ransom is paid. The kidnapper and his friends were apprehended. There are also raids at hide-outs of criminals

at the border between Imo State and Anambra State, the results have been positive (Ndekani, 2021). This culture must be grown in Imo State to ensure security.

Summary, Conclusion and Recommendations

Data revealed that the factors that triggered insecurity in the state were bad governance, unemployment, the unhealthy rivalry between politicians, discriminatory practices going on in the state and ineffective and inefficient policing in Imo State. Study also established that the challenges hindering effective policing includes inadequate personnel, the dearth of professional intelligent officers in the agency, inadequate logistics to tackle crime; cooperation between criminals and some police personnel and the total neglect of the police by the executive arm of government.

The research further revealed that the police are handicapped in fighting insecurity in Imo State due to lack of modern equipment; there is interference from both the politicians and senior officers; lawyers hinder proper flow of justice; there is no trust between the civil population and the Police because of police brutality on civilians. Against these factors, the research advised that the police should respect the rights of civilians to motivate them in volunteering information needed for effective investigations. On the other hand, the police personnel should be motivated to do result-oriented jobs. Finally, research discouraged government interference in investigations, and demanded for adequate logistics for the agency to operate effectively.

In view of the critical nature of this issue, the study recommends that a department specially assigned to investigate or gather intelligence be established; government and corporate organizations should collaborate in equipping the police with up-to-date gadgets and other resources for intelligence gathering; there should be cooperation between the personnel and the civil population to encourage a flow of information and the Force should be insulated from political and hierarchical interference in order to carry out proper investigations.

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