

**PROSPECTS AND POSSIBLE CHALLENGES OF COMMUNITY POLICING
IN NIGERIA**

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Abstract

The quest for a crime free society has been a major preoccupation of nations as the absence of crime would create a peaceful atmosphere for socio-economic development of the society. Crime prevention has thus become a major concern for both individuals and communities. Nigeria is experiencing security challenges ranging from kidnapping to armed robbery banditry, farmers-herders clashes and other crimes since the Buhari administration. These security challenges have left in their wake hearty causalities and unprecedented destruction of properties. This has raised serious debates among scholars, policymakers and civil society stakeholders on the need to adopt community policing in addressing the security challenges in the polity. It is the direct involvement of local population and government in the grassroots for protection. It is a model which is open to public scrutiny in improving the quality of the protection of the people. Even with the best of intentions in fast tracking it's fully realization, however community policing faces new myriad challenges in the form of manpower, finance, the requisite political will to translate intentions into concrete reality. It remains the duty of government to provide an enabling environment for the populace to fulfill her potentials and the absence of this pose a threat in the polity of the country. Hence the reintroduction of Community policing under the Buhari administration needs to be commended. This paper will rely essentially on secondary data involving books, journals articles on the subject matter under review.

Keywords: Community Policing, Security, Nigeria.

Introduction

The mission for a crime free society has been a major concern of nations as the absence of crime would create a beneficial atmosphere for socio-economic development of the society. Crime prevention is a major concern for both individuals and communities. Crime prevention is the actions taken to deny the commission of acts contrary to peace and stability of a society. However enormous resources are spent on measures to apprehend and punish offenders, and to reduce the likelihood that offences will be committed in the future. In respect of these efforts, crime still poses a formidable challenge to societal security. Policing is important because its absence creates conditions for crimes to thrive which invariably affect national security.

Policing is about the prevention of crime and maintenance of law and order in the society. However, the Police, as a state agent, are established to maintain law and order as well as to ensure the security of lives and property through effective policing. Section 214 – 216 of the 1999 Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria (CFRN) as amended established the Nigeria Police Force (NPF) as the agency tasked with the responsibility of maintaining law and order. The NPF is employed for the prevention and detection of crime, the apprehension of offenders, and the preservation of law and order. It is also charged with the protection of property and due enforcement of all laws and regulations with which they are

directly charged. To this end, the Nigerian police have been trying to do its best in maintaining law and order in the country based on the traditional way of policing. The traditional policing is premised on fighting crimes thereby lacking the ability to detect and prevent crime from taking place.

One of the ways by which crime could be prevented is through the involvement of the community in policing. The inability of traditional policing to prevent crime in Nigeria influenced the decision of the Federal Government of Nigeria and Nigerian Police Force leadership to reintroduce the concept of Community Policing. The reintroduction was to reduce crime. However, crimes like robbery, murder, kidnapping, arson, terrorism among others have been on the increase. The purpose of this chapter therefore is to examine the Implementation of how Community policing will help in reducing crime prevention in the Buhari administration. This paper is divided into five parts Conceptual Clarification, Secondly Background to the formation of Community policing in Nigeria, thirdly Reintroduction of Community policing under the Buhari Administration Fourthly Challenges Fifth Prospects Lastly Conclusion.

Research Methodology

The paper adopted qualitative methods which involve argumentative, critical analysis. The research will obtain relevant and available data from secondary sources. Data was deployed for the task of understanding the

problem under consideration. The paper also explored and critically analyse scholarly journals, information openly available online and other social media sources.

Conceptual Clarification

In order to understand this paper, it is imperative the reader understand the terminology used throughout this chapter. Therefore, the section defines the critical term used. The notion of “Community Policing” stems from the argument that government alone cannot provide all the need requirements of descent living and security of life and property. This calls for collaborative efforts by different communities. This was born out of the understanding that people’s security is the best form of security and such could complement the role of government in securing lives and property. The US Department of Justice defines Community policing as a policing philosophy that promotes and supports organizational strategies to address the causes and reduce the fear of crime and social disorder through problem solving tactics and Police-community partnership. This definition states that community policing is essentially a philosophy (a way of thinking), and what is very critical in it is the partnership between the police and the citizens. Trojanowicz and Bucquerouz (1991) defines Community policing as” a philosophy and an organizational strategy that allows the community and the police to work closely, to solve the problems of crime... and improve the overall quality of life in the

community.” The essentials of this definition are that the Police and the community work closely to combat crime, and improve living conditions of their community. Improvement in the living conditions of the community members will reduce the urge to commit crime among the people. Despite the importance of community policing to the security needs of the contemporary world, Reiner (2000) logically presented more or less a major critique of this development.

For example, Reiner (2000) argued that by virtue of the tactical disposition and nature of manner associated with the police work, there are inherent tendencies that police work would fall prey to political influence. Reiner (2000) however argued that police should not be politicized even in the face of the prone operational uniqueness of the police organization and governance.

Similarly, Rooyen (2001) regarded community policing as a philosophy and strategy which is based on a partnership between the community and the police to find creative solutions for contemporary community problems crimes and other related matters. Miller and Hess (2002) defined Community Policing as a belief that working together, the police and the community can accomplish what neither can accomplish alone. Community policing is a collaborative effort between the police and the community that identifies problems of crime and involves all elements of the

community in the search for solutions to these problems.

In the same vein, Wroblewski and Hess (2003) Community policing is an organization- wide philosophy and management approach that promotes community government, and Police partnership; proactive problem solving and community engagement to address the causes of crime and other community issues. They also noted that: “the essence of community policing is to return to the day when safety and security are participatory in nature and everyone assumes responsibility for the general health of the community – not just a select few, not just the local government administration, not just the safety forces, but absolutely everyone in the community.

According to Cheurprakobkit and Puthpong Siriporn (2005:287) an earlier study of Community policing conducted by the San Diego Police Department lends credence to the importance of two components of community policing: Police-citizen partnership and problem solving. The study as reported found out that there are much stronger ties between the police and the community members. Ehindero (2006) defines Community policing as a specific direction of policing based on a close co-operation between Police and community and also aimed at effective solution of community problems. Even though the concept of Community Policing is not new, its philosophy, principles and operational practices have been

present in various degrees within policing for centuries. The outcomes of Community Policing are largely determined by some key elements of the concept. Some of these include structure, management and information.

Cordner (2007) argued that for community policing to be effective, police institution must appreciate the underlying opportunities embedded in partnering with the public. The Police institution is structured to ensure that they support and facilitate implementation of the philosophical, strategic and tactical dimensions of community policing. For example, Ikuteyijo and Rotimi (2012) express their view on the role of community in creating a safe and secure environment for the community. International Association of Chiefs of Police (2014) notes that the philosophy of community policing promotes organizational strategies that support the systematic use of partnership and problem-solving techniques to proactively address the immediate conditions that will give rise to public safety issues such as crime, social disorder, and fear of crime.

To buttress this point further even in recent times, there was an official policy statement credited to the president FGN Muhammadu Buhari reiterating the concern of the government of Nigeria to give priority to community policing on the nation's security agenda, Buhari stated thus:

Today's event represents a significant step in the effort of the new government towards redefining the policing and national security arrangements for our country. The significance of the event lies in its potential to galvanise community support and secure citizens consent for the Nigeria police in advancement of their crime prevention and detection mandate. As stated in my inaugural address, we intend by the end of our year tenure to attempt to erect and maintain an efficient, disciplined, people friendly and well compensated security architecture. Effective policing of a society is dependent on the level of security consciousness of citizens and the strength of the understanding that exists between the policing Agencies and the communities explains why it is generally acknowledged that no police force in the world, no matter how well motivated equipped or trained can successfully operate without the acceptance and support of various communities. The need for community input to policing and crime management in Nigeria has even become imperative considering our current national security challenges in which kidnapping, armed robbery, murder, transnational crimes, terrorism and other organized crimes have evolved to threaten our national values and overall progress as a nation (President Muhammadu Buhari, 2015).

In the light of this speech coming from the president during his first tenure, it served as a pointer to the urgent need to foster collaboration between the

police and the public in the reduction of crime in Nigeria. The presidential remark sound convincing at that particular period in time. This event was not the first time of its kind in giving priorities to police community partnership in the country. However successive administrations have also taken similar steps which have not seen the light of the day. In other words community policing is a philosophy that promotes organizational strategies that support the systematic use of partnerships and problem solving techniques, which proactively address the immediate conditions that give rise to public safety issues such as crime, social disorder and fear of crime, perhaps ,the inference that can be distilled from these definitions is that community policing, unlike the authoritarian and autocratic character and top down approach of traditional policing is democratic, participatory and consultative and bottom top in approach which is why it is referred as democracy in action (Aniche, 2018).

Background to the Formation of Community Policing in Nigeria

The practical steps for the promotion of police community relations started with the Babangida administration. He gave the approval for the police community relationships consultative committees and vigilante groups (Alemika and Chukwuma, 2003). NPF to get closer to the people was through the Police Community Relations Committee (PCRC). The PCRC was set up in 1987 in response to the poor perception of the NPF (Zuokumor, 2007). It was set up in all Divisional

Police Stations to enable the NPF and the public interact regularly in the fight against crime. Also, the Police Complaints Bureau/Human Rights Desk (PCB) was opened in 2003 to shore up the image of the NPF (Zuokumor, 2007). It was aimed at allowing members of the public to report incidents of misconduct by the police officers for internal investigation in each State Police Command. It was later extended to all Police Stations in Nigeria.

According to their position, the eagerness for the adoption of the western –style community policing was stimulated by the publication in 2000 of a report by the Centre for Law Enforcement Education (CLEEN). The Nigerian based non-Governmental organization raised concern for the need for a mechanism that could facilitate police and civilian interactions. These efforts were to enhance the effectiveness of crime fighting strategies in Nigeria. The return of Nigerian to democratic rule marked the beginning of government efforts in bringing the tenets of community policing. The democratic periods in Nigeria have also witnessed an increase in the perception of various form of crime and fear (Dambazau, 2007). There have been wide beliefs among security stakeholders that traditional methods of policing could hardly put the trend of crime and insecurity under control. Consequently, the Nigeria's security justice and Growth and as overseen by the UK Department For international Development have concerted efforts to

commence the police public partnership project of the policing institutions in Nigeria (UK DFID British Council and SJG, 2010). The significance of this is based on the fact that it is considered a major western export to Africa and it incorporates along with it some elements of democratic values and techniques that must be properly transmitted and imbibed even though the complications it carries makes it natural prone o manipulations by those who hold keys of its implementation (Hill, 2012:740).

The initiative to officially introduce Community policing in Nigeria was taken by the Obasanjo administration in 2004. The administration in its quest for an effective, efficient and people-oriented Police that could deliver quality security service to Nigerians took keen interest in the strategy. This was a fall out of a government delegation's visit to Houston, USA in 2003 where Nigeria discussed the strategy with the Mayor of the city (Zuokumor, 2007). The then Inspector General of Police (IGP), with some officers and members of the Civil Society also went on a study tour of Houston. Another team of senior Nigeria Police Officers later went on a study tour to the UK to observe how community policing works in that country (Dickson, 2007). The model of community policing adopted by the NPF was the Pilot Division Model. The model has integrated many policing concepts into a fully functioning model of Community policing (NPF, 2011). These include

the policing excellence model; neighborhood policing, intelligence-led policing, conflict prevention and student-centered problem-solving training approaches. According to the mission statements of the Nigeria police force the resolve of the Nigeria police Authority opines that community policing as a strategy for crime prevention and controls was informed by the conviction that its philosophical prescriptions and tenets could satisfy the requirements for enhanced service delivery and the need for community members to work in partnership with the police.

The programme was funded by the UK Government's Department for International Development (DFID) and managed by the British Council until March 2010 (NPF, 2011). It was designed to enhance access to and quality of safety, security and justice for the poor. To achieve its aim, the SJG personnel worked in close partnership with key institutions such as the NPF, IPS (vigilantes) and Civil Society Organizations. On 27 April 2004, Community policing was formally launched in Enugu State by the Obasanjo administration with the aim of transforming the culture and organization of the police, improving the Police relationship with the citizens, and the quality of security service delivery. The community policing project had six key components. These include creating awareness of community policing in the NPF and wider society, introducing intensive skill development and leadership training of local Police

Officers, examining Police structure and organization.

Dickson (2007) has claimed that the official adoption of community policing strategy by the Nigeria Police authorities in 2003 was aimed at keeping crime and criminality to a minimal level. In the view of Dickson (2007), since 2002 and 2004, community policing programme embarked upon by the government of Nigeria had its goal focused on transforming the culture of the Nigerian police and its organization through community-based policing and partnership. The project point of emphasis was to engender what is termed as a culture of excellence in service provision, a deep sense of accountability on the part of individual officers in terms of their performance community policing. Culture transfer in Nigeria was largely seen to be a process of modernization rooted in the Western societies of Britain and America (Brogden, 2005:76). The ultimate goal is improving safety of life for the Nigerian people as well as the security of their valuable property.

Others are reviewing training curricula and methodologies of the Police, developing intelligence-led policing and the use of new technology and finally, reviewing legislation and procedure (NPF, 2011). In 2008, the NPF promulgated the Force Order 291 which gave formal recognition to community policing in the force. The encouraging results of the Enugu State experiment led to the extension of the concept to Kano, Ogun, Ondo, Jigawa

and Benue States in 2006. The SJG concluded its programme in March 2010. During the 8 years of implementation by SJG, training, coordination, organisation of seminars/workshops as well as the operation of the concept was funded by the British Government. Adequate logistics were also provided which made the concept to be extended to 18 States of the Federation as at 2010.

Since the departure of the SJG, funding of the concept has been inadequate. The commitment towards the concept by the Police hierarchy despite the promulgation of Force Order 291 has also dwindled. The Force Order 291 was an administrative instruction that was not binding on anyone thus bringing to fore the issue of legal framework. This is also compounded by the inability of some government and elected officials to cooperate and assist the Nigerian Police in the performance of its statutory functions. However, one form of community policing is being practiced in all the States of the Federation including the Federal Capital.

Community Policing under the Buhari Administration

Nigeria is politically charged and bereft of safety and security is an understatement. Terrorists are competing for who can surpass the other in wanton destruction of lives. Drums of separation are on the increase among various ethnic groups. Kidnapping once restricted to the Niger Delta has made travels with the exception of air a harrowing

experience in different parts of the country. Banditry especially in the North east of the country is on the increase. This threat has had attendant negative consequences on human, economic and overall national development (UNDP, 2020). These internal security challenges have created threats to our corporate existence and shared communal values. It has been observed that the polity experiencing situations in which simple disagreements become politicized along ethnic and religious lines by vested interests. This has generated into divisible and hate campaigns destroying our common heritage. Each day in Nigeria brings us new challenges of a magnitude capable of causing mental crises for those in the inner sanctum of national security planning and management. These have been the crux of much debate with the pendulum swinging from both internal to external handlings of the country's interest.

In January 2018 the committee on True Federalism of the All Peoples Congress (APC) submitted its report. One of the recommendations of the committee was the devolution of power to state by the Federal government which involves more than thirty items on the concurrent legislative list of the 30 items list. It is noteworthy that the police and community policing topped the list. Experience has shown that societies with effective policing system have the highest level of internal security as exemplified by countries in Europe America and Scandinavian regions. In the past our community always kept

tab on the movement of strangers and informed authorities of the presence of such people. This helped local policing authorities in the monitoring of individuals concerned and criminality as the case may be.

One understands the presence of a robust partnership between the community and local policing authorities guard against any internal security threats. The communities had trust and confidence in the ability of local policing authorities in protecting and volunteering information. As a result, local community security issues were nipped in the bud and not allowed to develop into national internal security challenge. Recent data from the National Bureau of Statistics indicate that the rates of crime and criminality have not only increased in the least one year, but are likely to further rise with the increasing rates of unemployment and underemployment (National Bureau of Statistics 2020)

For Instance, Nigeria's unemployment rate jumped from 23.1% in 2018 to 27.1% at the second quarter of 2020; indicating that as 21.7 million Nigerians are unemployed. Quoting a published report, The Premium times of 13 February 2020 reported that as many as 3188 people lost their lives between January and December 2019 due to violent incidents which include gang wars, clashes, extra-judicial killings, resource crises, kidnapping and Boko Haram/ISWAP attacks. The source further stated that 2707 out of the number of deaths were those of civilians, while 481 belonged to

security agents. The duty to protect citizens is the basis for legitimacy for any state or government. However, the reserve is the case. Even these are many factors responsible for the security crisis in the nation; a major cause of the crisis is governance vacuum. However, Nigeria has too many pockets of governance vacuum. Kukah (2020) expressed his thoughts on the absence of governance vacuum. This leads to poverty perception of marginalities and anger the result of which is the insecurity that pervades the polity. It is also disturbing too despite the number of security agencies the country has. One expects them to have been able to collaborate and pooled manpower and logistics together. This would have created a peaceful atmosphere for the polity. The worsening security situation in the polity prompted the Buhari administration to reintroduce community policing, which the citizenry has been clamoring for a long period of time. The government approved the sum of N13.3 billion for the take-off of the scheme under the Inspector General of Police (IGP) Mohammed Adamu. The implementation committee had been inaugurated in all states and the recruitment of operatives have commenced (TVC, 2020, Daily Trust, 2020; Channels Television, 2020). Scholars of the opinion that community policing was long overdue because the country is grossly under policies (Arisukwu and Okunola, 2013; Ibrahim *etal* 2016; Ordu and Nnam, 2019). The Nigerian police boast of only 400,000 staff to police

200 million people and a territory of 923,768km.

Former Inspector General of Police Ogbonna Onovo (2010) discourse on the central objective of policing was the provision of an atmosphere in which the police and law-abiding citizens can work in partnership in solving problems; share resources; prevent crime; promote interagency collaboration bring offenders to justice, reducing conflict and improving overall quality of community life. Consequently, community policing is in everyone interest as it enables a peaceful secure and investment friendly environment that promotes the development and improve livelihoods. Suleiman (2020) assertion on community policing is based on the following key principles; it relies upon the partnership between the police and their communities; it requires police to be committed to high –quality service delivery and emphasis that appropriate skills, attitudes and behavior. Police officers must develop and maintain high quality service delivery. He expands further that community policing requires the involvement of the police in our communities in mapping out their strategies. It also entails the adoption of a proactive problem-solving approach. The Inspector General Police made us to understand the rationale for reintroduction of Community policing was due to the recent upsurge in crimes across the states of the federation and FCT saw the urgent need in implementation of community policing. He made mention

of recent incidents of armed banditry, kidnapping and armed robbery most especially in Kaduna, Niger, Kastina and Zamfara states reinforced the need for community policing across the nation. He made mention of the plan which will involve setting up of community policing (CPCS) at the ward, local government and state level including the Federal capital territory. It is expected that the committees are identify credible and suitable citizens from across each locality for appointment as special constables who will serve as community policing officers.

There is no gainsaying the fact that community policing will strengthen the police capacity in intelligence gathering and crime control at the grass root. It offers myriad of opportunities depending on how it is structured and applied. The crucial issue is how it can retain relations and promote community action against crime and conflict.

Possible Challenges of Community Policing in Nigeria Political Will

Political will is an issue as regard the full implementation of Community policing in Nigeria. Political will is the provision of the right atmosphere by the authority to enable the Police performs its constitutional role without hindrance (NPF, 2011). Political will enhances the good working relationship of the Police and law-abiding citizens to solve problems, share resources, prevent crime, bring offenders to justice, reduce conflict

and improve the overall quality of community life. According to Ikuteijo (2020) the full implementation of Community policing requires strong political will on the part of the various governments in Nigeria to enable the Nigerian police to achieve the desired aims of the concept. The political will to allow the police to investigate corrupt officials, allow the citizens to know how their funds are being spent, provide justice for the oppressed and create favorable conditions for economic development and curb corruption. He further reiterates that lack of political will on the part of elected officials to allow the Nigerian police to perform its constitutional responsibility without hindrance has been one of the challenges militating against the effective implementation of Community policing in Nigeria.

The need for political will that would enable the Nigerian police to be neutral in the performance of its constitutional functions is a benchmark for the successful implementation of community policing. The role of government, Police and community is essential in ensuring a crime-free society. This could be achieved through the provision of good governance in order to sustain the socio-economic transformation for stability, survival and prosperity of Nigeria which are ingredients for peaceful coexistence among the citizenry.

Legal Framework

Legal framework poses a challenge in the full implementation of Community

policing in Nigeria. The legal framework for the establishment of the Nigerian Police Force (NPF) is enshrined in Section 214(1) of the 1999 Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria. The functions and roles of the Nigerian Police Force (NPF) are further outlined in Section 4 of the Police Act, CAP 19, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004. The Act expressly stipulates the duties of the NPF as the prevention and detection of crime, the apprehension of offenders, the preservation of law and order, the protection of lives and property and the enforcement of all laws and regulations with which they are directly charged. Despite the constitutional provisions of the Police Act, there are several other laws enacted by the Nigerian National Assembly (NASS) to enable the NPF to perform their duties. These include Criminal Procedure Code, Crime Prevention Act, the Nigeria Terrorism (Prevention) Act, 2011 among others.

The reintroduction of Community policing requires the backing of law. The Nigerian Police promulgated the Force Order 291 which gives formal recognition to the concept of community policing. The Force Order 291 is only an administrative order; it is not binding on the Nigerian Police leadership. The Order did not spell out the responsibilities of the community which is one of the criteria for the successful implementation of the concept of Community policing in Nigeria. It did not make it compulsory for successive Inspector General of Police to ensure the continuous

implementation of the concept. The present arrangement did not provide room for the leadership to be held accountable for non-implementation of the concept. It is expected that a legal framework should spell out the modus operandi of community policing.

Police and Community Partnership

Partnership between the Police and community presents a critical issue when it comes to the implementation of Community policing in Nigeria. Partnership is an obligatory relationship between the Police and the community. Partnership recognizes the basic truth that the Police cannot do it alone. The global practices recognized the need for cooperation with the community and have encouraged members of the community to come forward with crime information. The Police no longer view community as a passive presence connected to them by an isolated incident. The community's concerns with crime and disorder become the target of efforts by the Police and the community working together. Partnership when fully implemented will become an essential element for problem solving. This will help to reduce problems by addressing their immediate causes.

Police and community partnership present certain expectations by the latter. For example, according to Okoroafor, the community would want the Police to be unbiased, neutral, objective, evenhanded and fair in handling them. However, the Nigerian Police is still suffering from the decades of reactionary policing. The

Nigerian would need a holistic reform to convince the community members to appreciate partnership. The community still finds it difficult to trust and partner with the NPF because of their past records.

Finance

Funding is another issue involved in the implementation of Community policing in Nigeria. Policing requires enormous resources for effective and efficient crime management. According to Ikuteyijo the concept of community policing which entails Police-community partnership requires the Police to solve the problems of the community with adequate funding. Nigeria being a very vast country requires the presence of the Police in every nook and cranny of the country for effective crime prevention.

Material input in terms of funding and equipment such as crime-prevention, detection and investigation are needed for effective implementation of Community policing. Others include traffic-control and accident-prevention, communication, data-gathering and research. Community policing sections in each of the State Police Commands require huge sums of money to meet their demands. Vehicles, communication equipment, intelligence gathering equipment and others, are required to enhance the success of the concept, but these are lacking due to low budgetary allocation.

In 2012 the NPF received the total sum of Three Hundred and Eight Billion, Four Hundred and Seventy-Four Million, Two Hundred and Forty-One Thousand, One Hundred and Fifty-Three Naira (N308.47bn) which Forty Million, Six Hundred and Forty-Seven Thousand, Eight Hundred and Seventy-Two Naira (N40.6m) was budgeted for community policing (Officer One,2020). In 2013, the NPF also received the sum of Three Hundred and Eleven Billion, One Hundred and Fifty-One Million, Three Hundred and Sixty-Six Thousand, Two Hundred and Twenty-One Naira (N311.15bn) out of which the sum of Sixty Million Naira (N60m) only was budgeted for the implementation of Community policing (Officer One,2020).

In the 2014 Budget, the NPF was appropriated Two Hundred and Ninety-Two Billion Three Hundred and Fifty-One Million, Eight Hundred and Twelve Thousand and Eighty-Five Naira (N292.35bn) out of which Thirty-Nine Million, Two Hundred and Nineteen Thousand, Five Hundred and Twelve Naira (N39.2m) was for community policing (Officer One,2020). Poor budgetary allocation for the concept did not allow for the full implementation of community policing for crime prevention in Nigeria. Therefore, funding is an important factor in the implementation of community policing for crime prevention in Nigeria.

Prospects in Enhancing Community Policing in Nigeria

Political Will

The Nigerian Police understands the image of the police succeeding on community policing. The Nigerian police have embarked on serious campaign for the rank and file in ensuring that live above board in the discharge of their duties. Government on their part has embarked on reforms which will form the norms of policing in the county. The recent police Act signed into law is an example. The existing curriculum in various police training schools, colleges and academic are been redesigned enhanced and tailored in tune with dictates of community policing. These would help to reduce the crime rate in the country. There is therefore the need for government at all levels to provide the necessary political will that would guarantee good governance thus reducing unemployment and criminality in Nigeria.

Finance

The importance of finance in the policing of a country cannot be over ruled. It is vital in the implementation of Community policing in Nigeria. Community policing from inception, had been funded by DFID of the United Kingdom which provided the initial funding of Thirty-Seven Million Pounds Sterling (£37m) (DFID,2010). The funding by the Department for International Development (DFID) continued until March 2010. However Nigerian Police began to directly fund the programme from its annual budget. Based on this, the sum of Forty Million, Six Hundred and Forty-Seven Thousand, Eight Hundred and

Seventy-Two Naira (N40.6m), Sixty Million Naira (N60m) and Thirty-Nine Million, Two Hundred and Nineteen Thousand, Five Hundred and Twelve Naira (N39.2m) were provided for community policing in the Nigerian Police budgets for Year 2012, 2013 and 2014 respectively. However, Thirteen Billion has been budgeted for community policing in 2020.

The increased budgetary allocation for 2020 would help to introduce the concept to other Police Divisions. It would also encourage the NPF leadership to be more committed in the implementation of COP for crime prevention in Nigeria. The increased funding for community policing in Nigerian Police budget is therefore a prospect for the successful implementation of community policing in Nigeria.

Legal Framework

Thirteen years, the Nigerian Police promulgated Force Order 291 which gave formal recognition to community policing in the force. This is a prospect that would make the programme to be sustained. The Force Order made it possible for funds to be appropriated for community policing as part of annual budget for the Nigerian Police. In addition, the Order is an indication that community policing has been formally adopted as a crime prevention strategy for the force. However, the full commitment of the NPF leadership would be required to enable the concept of COP succeed in the prevention of crime in Nigeria. The bill for the adoption of the community

policing scaled second reading in the senate on February 2020. The bill was to repeal the Nigeria Police Act Cap Laws of the Federation 2004 and to enact the Nigerian Police Act 2019. The bill tends to shift from the traditional police system to a community participatory policing where citizens in their respective communities brought closer to the police in the prevention, detection and resolving of crimes.

Police and Partnership

However, some efforts have been made to integrate community policing strategies within the Nigerian Police practice. Partnership between informal policing groups and the Nigerian police have been encouraged to ensure better provision of security in the country. The Nigerian police see the importance of registration and cooperation of informal policing groups like the vigilante groups for effective crime prevention. The Police no longer see the informal policing groups as rivals but rather as partners in progress. It is expected that successes will be recorded with the integration of strategies of community policing. Integration of Community policing strategies by the Nigerian police is a prospect for Community policing in crime prevention in Nigeria.

Conclusion

The efforts of the Nigerian government under the Buhari administration in reintroduction of community policing clearly stated in the chapter and the fact speak for itself. There is no doubt

that community policing has been a bold initiative. However, the challenges have been identified and must be addressed in ensure effectiveness and efficiency in adoption of community policing. Nigerians are of expectation that our leaders will take a strong stand in addressing insecurity in our polity. One can see the effort taken by government Nigeria towards building structures and mechanisms that will guide in dealing with insecurity.

Nigeria needs to seriously enlighten her political leadership and take decisive and necessary action without which the challenges of ensuring successful implementation of community policing will not be achieved. The implementation of Community Policing will making a positive contribution if it is entered with a very clear understanding of the different tasks that it expects to perform and the difficulties that it is likable to face in the future

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