

**NATIONAL QUESTION OF STATE POLICE AS A PANACEA TO
SECURITY IN EDO SOUTH SENATORIAL DISTRICT, NIGERIA**

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CERTIFICATION

We the undersigned, hereby certify that this research work was carried out by **Osmond Azegbebor OMIJEH** with Matriculation Number: **SSC2008584** of the Department of Political Science, Faculty of Sciences, University of Benin, Benin City in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the Award of Bachelor of Science Degree (B.Sc.) in Political Science.

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DEDICATION

I dedicate this work to God Almighty, the Alpha and Omega, also to my parents Mr. and Mrs. Omijeh

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I express my heartfelt gratitude to God for His unwavering love and guidance in the successful completion of this project. My deepest appreciation goes to my parents, Mr. and Mrs. Omijeh, for their unwavering financial, emotional, and spiritual support. May God bless them abundantly.

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ABSTRACT	

This research study examined National Question of State Police as a Panacea to Security in Edo South Senatorial District, Nigeria. The study aimed to determine the crime rates in Edo South Senatorial District, Edo State, find out the most common crime in Edo South Senatorial District, Edo State, ascertain the roles of State Police in crime control in Edo South Senatorial District, Edo State, and determine the perception of the Edo South residents towards State Police if established. Anchored on structural functionalism theory as the theoretical framework of the study, the research descriptive survey design methods and questionnaires to obtain information and employ frequencies and percentages to analyze data. The research unveils that there is a high rate of crime in the senatorial district, kidnapping rank first among the common crime in the senatorial district, followed by cultism, theft/burglary, then rape, and fighting, Edo South senatorial district residents perceived that the if State Police get established, will be very good, worthwhile and commendable. It was suggested that the government should make a priority to meaningfully engage the youth in

the county thereby reducing the rate of unemployment, for an adage says "idle hands are the devil's workshop, the establishment of the State Police is strategic to the national security of the country because of its size and heterogeneous nature. The State Police if created will not only decongest the administrative stress at the federal level but will also have a closer chief of security officer in the person of the governor monitoring to address security issues before they escalate, to this end if it gets initiated, it should be guided against abuse by State actors.

CHAPTER ONE INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background to the Study

Security is a state of being protected against damage or danger, protection of values, protection, preservation, and absence of threats to acquired values. Security can also be seen as freedom from danger, and threats, and the ability of a country to protect itself and to develop, promote, and improve the well-being of its people. All this can be achieved through an internal security system. The internal security system in any society is essential because it prevents violence and crime in different cultures. It also ensures people's freedom from crime and reduces the occurrence of crimes that harm internal cohesion and development. If these indexes are missing, it is said to be unsafe.

Over the last decade, the Northern region of Nigeria has experienced a high level of security crisis (Fajobi & Quadri, 2021). The popular belief is that there is a

considerable level of security in other parts of the country; however, this notion does not reflect the current realities. Manifestations of insecurity are evident in all parts of the country with the advent of banditry, kidnapping, herder-farmer clashes, and police brutality among others. For instance, the roads are no longer safe due to the activities of robbers and kidnapers; children are forced to vacate school premises in the North as a result of banditry and incessant kidnapping; there is sporadic shooting of unarmed and innocent citizens; destruction of oil facilities by the Niger Delta militants, constant Fulani herdsman attack on some communities in the North and South. Consequently, Nigeria has been categorized as one of the failed states in the world (Fajobi & Quadri, 2021). Many lives and properties have been lost, a large number of citizens are rendered homeless, families have lost their loved ones to police brutality and oppression, and children become orphans with little or no hope for the future. All of these capture the recent realities in Nigeria (Yahaya & Bello, 2020).

Nigeria has recently faced many security challenges related to armed robberies, human trafficking, cult killings, militancy in the South-East and SouthSouth regions, political/electoral violence, the proliferation of illegal arms, robberies/kidnappings, and livestock rustling, terrorism, farmers/herdsman clashes (resulting in many deaths internal displacement, and wanton destruction of property), etc. These challenges continued and became a concern for both the government and citizens. More worryingly, even when such security threats are reported to the relevant authorities to prevent or prevent their occurrence, little is done to prevent them. Security of lives and property of all countries including Nigeria should be a top priority for every government. This means that the safety of human life and property should never be taken lightly; which can be scary to maintain without a police role in a given fellowship.

The Nigeria Police Service which is a very old security institution in the country has been plagued by myriad problems and challenges over the years. From its primary mandate of being the outfit for the protection of lives and properties of the citizens according to section 214, sub-sections (1) and (3) of the 1999 constitution as amended, established and states the role of the Nigeria police force, which is maintenance and security of public order (Oyibokure et. al, 2023). Thus, the Nigerian police is responsible for Nigeria's internal security. This constitutional role of being responsible for internal security by the Nigerian police has been dwindling due to under-equipped, shortage of trained manpower as well as those needed to handle modern weaponry. Nigeria has experienced an increase in insecurity over the last decade, which has feared national security and led to significant budgetary allocations.

The government has made efforts to combat these challenges posed by insecurity in the country; however, such efforts have been rendered ineffective as the rate of insecurity and insurgency is still alarming. There is no gainsaying that security agencies in Nigeria appear to be incapable of proactively forestalling possible attacks as there have been reported cases where bandits and armed robbers daringly gave notice of intention to assail a specific location and still succeeded in carrying out such attacks undeterred. Security agencies particularly the police only react after criminals have unleashed havoc across local communities. This depicts the state of utter helplessness of the police in combating insecurity in Nigeria (Ngozi & Adebusola, 2019).

Due to the Nigerian policing system's failure to address the issues, internal insecurity has been growing. This has made the need for the State Police as a supportive tactic and mechanism for ensuring internal security in Nigeria inevitable. Without policing, there will be chaos and all the accompanying vices

that lead to internal insecurity in a nation. Policing, in whatever shades and forms, is a basic requirement for the enthronement of peace, progress, and good governance. Because of the subpar performance of the Nigerian police, the valuable contribution of the State Police in ensuring security within the country cannot be overemphasized.

1.2 Statement of the Problem

The reason for the emergence of government is to maintain social order and as well ensure the security of the lives and properties of individuals within its jurisdiction (Sylvester & Winifred, 2019). To this very extent, the police force as part of the executive arm of government was created to implement laws in the society so as to maintain order and guarantee the security of individuals within its boundary.

In Nigeria, the Nigerian Police Force is an institution responsible for maintaining peace and security in the country by enforcing all laws and regulations for which they are directly and indirectly responsible. However, the Nigerian Police Force, as alluded to above, performed less well in its duties as life in the country degenerated into what Thomas Hobbes described in his book "Leviathan" as lonely, poor, vile, cruel, and short (Sylvester & Winifred, 2019). The insecurity

of the country has made citizens live in constant fear and threat of violent death due to the activity of Boko Haram insurgents in the northern part of the country, which threatened the very existence of the Nigerian state; the activities of the Niger Delta militants in the Southern part of the country which almost harmed the nation's economic life wire (oil production); the activities of the Killer Herdsmen that has rampaged the entire parts of the country; banditry; kidnappings; ritual killings among others (Nnaji and Ojiego, 2019)

The aforementioned security challenges foreshadowed the debate on the creation of the State Police as a panacea to the massive security challenges plaguing the country as many accused it of excessive centralization of the Nigeria Police Force. The demand to create a State Police to solve the security problems of the country was based on the desire of people to live in a peaceful, orderly, and safe environment where they can realize their individual and common goals. This would be impossible without adequate policies to ensure the safety of life and property of citizens

1.3 Objectives of the study

The general objective of this study is to examine the National Question of State Police as a Panacea to Security especially in Edo State Senatorial District, while the specific objectives are:

- i. To determine the crime rates in Edo South Senatorial District, Edo State.
- ii. To find out the most common crime in Edo South Senatorial District, Edo State.
- iii. To ascertain the roles of State Police in crime control in Edo South Senatorial District, Edo State. iv. To determine the perception of the Edo South residents towards State Police if established.

1.4 Research Questions

To guide the study, the following research questions were raised:

- i. What are the crime rates in Edo South Senatorial District, Edo State?
- ii. What is the most common crime in Edo South Senatorial District, Edo State?
- iii. What are the roles of State Police in crime control in rural communities of Edo South Senatorial District, Edo State if initiated?
- iv. What will be the perceptions of Edo South residents towards State Police if established?

1.5 Significance of the research

The study would benefit students, aspiring individuals in politics, traditional rulers, politicians, non-governmental organizations, government agencies, future researchers, and society as a whole. The study would help inculcate security awareness and constitutional responsibilities of the security forces, especially the Nigerian Police Force (NPF). The study would be useful to political aspirants as they would gain a broad understanding of federalism in Nigeria and a historical overview of the decentralization of the police force in Nigeria.

The research would be useful for government agencies and other decisionmaking administrative bodies, especially to resolve their resources in identifying factors that hinder local or regional security at an administrative level.

The findings of this study will indicate the best ways or measures to address security concerns and suggest measures to curb problems that may

manifest as distortions of federalism. The study would be useful for traditional rulers. Through this survey, the traditional rulers will be able to know the security situation in their locality, which will make them more sensitive to possible security breaches and transmit the necessary information to the relevant security apparatuses. The study would also help society at large to appreciate the efforts of security agencies as mediators of the political, social, and religious development of the community that can help them provide necessary information to selected security agencies. Finally, it is hoped that this study will add to existing knowledge that can be used for further research in this and other related fields.

1.6 Scope and Limitation of the Study

The study focuses on the national question of the State Police as a panacea to security, the study seeks to examine the public perception of state police as a solution to security challenges as well as to assess the potential effectiveness of state police in addressing security concerns and also to identify the benefits and challenges of establishing state police.

The study is limited to residents of Edo South Senatorial District, of Edo state who are at least eighteen (18) years old and above. The limitations of the study include; financial distance barriers, limited data, and sample bias, other limitations include lack of capital and insufficient funds needed to carry out this research as it requires the movement of the researcher from one local government area to another in the senatorial district and also, printing out questionnaires needed for research.

There is a wide barrier in the distance of the researcher's permanent location to the case study locations which limits the number of times the researcher can frequent these locations. Access to comprehensive and accurate data is a limitation of this study because the subject matter of discussion is not fully enacted into law as an established force hence some limited data and sources cover this study. Due to the excessive work studying the whole of Edo South senatorial district will require, a sample of three local government areas which will be selected for easier study.

CHAPTER TWO LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1 Conceptualizing Insecurity

2.1.0 Insecurity

Insecurity is often used in many ways. Many people would understand this as a lack of security or a sense of danger; a lie; uncertainty; mistrust; suspicion; inadequately protected or protected; lack of stability; confusion; lack of protection and danger (Achumba, 2013). Adebajoko and Uguoke (2014) believe that insecurity is a state of being a target of terrorism, danger, risk, harassment, bullying, and harassment in every aspect.

According to Nwagboso (2012), insecurity is the risk that entrepreneurs and managers of business organizations take in moving their business from an unsafe environment to a safer one. This view applies to Igbo and Yoruba traders who migrated to their homelands after the Boko haram insurgency, Suileman (2012) as

cited by Adegami (2013). This point of view is also applicable to the many industrial companies that have relocated from the northeast geopolitical zone of Nigeria to other countries due to the high insecurity caused by the Boko Haram insurgency (Ajodo-Adebanjo and Okorie, 2014).

According to Achumba (2013), insecurity is the lack of protection or security. These researchers further argue that there is danger associated with insecurity entails; a death trap; ambiguity; lack of insurance and lack of security. They also deal with the problem of insecurity from two main perspectives: First, insecurity is the state of being open to danger or danger or the threat of danger. In this situation, there is a very clear tendency to experience injuries due to inadequate hazard measures. Secondly, Insecurity is a state where a person is exposed to risks or anxiety. Exposure may be due to insufficient resources against the insecurity of a country or group of people. This usually happens when law enforcement agencies are poorly trained, educated, paid, and motivated. This can also happen when people lack the necessities of life.

Similarly, Beland (2005) regards the concept of insecurity as a state of fear or anxiety caused by a lack of protection. Ezemonye (2011) as cited in Udoh (2015) also sees this concept as a state of insecurity in certain environments while AjodoAdebanjo and Okorie (2014) see insecurity as a state of discovery. Hazard or danger. In this scenario, people's security-related state of mind could be classified by trust and vulnerability, and such individuals could see themselves as harmful targets. Achumba, Ighhomereho & Akpor-Robaro (2013) see it as a lack of security, danger, danger, insecurity, lack of trust, doubt, inadequately guarded or protected, instability, problems, lack of protection, and insecurity.

Bavier, a writer who often visits the northern region, told CNN that despite deploying thousands of soldiers and creating a joint task

force, the federal government has completely lost control of the northeast. Now, he says, it seems as if this rebellion started in the Northeast. And what's troubling, he says, is that the federal government isn't doing much visible work to calm things down (Lister, 2012:14).

In recent decades, mainly during the Cold War between the United States and the former Soviet Union (USSR), scholarly work on insecurity has focused on traditional tactics (Pierce, 2009), meaning state-centricity. Thus, the problem of insecurity was largely seen as an interstate threat, and the struggle for arms and ammunition was to protect the state from external attack (Ajodo-Adebanjoko and Walter, 2014).

The insecurity of the post-war era later became central when many rebellions began to multiply within countries, especially in developing countries. Recent nonviolent conflicts in least-developed countries have led scholars to view insecurity as a threat to human lives (Saliu, 2007).

2.1.1 National Security

National security is often used in the field of international relations, in technical terms it means the security of a nation against danger and protection against internal, and external attack or infiltration. In general, Braithwaite (1988), defines national security as "the ability of the nation to protect its internal values against external threats". National security includes actions taken by state parties to protect the state against real or potential threats. It is part of the government's policy to create an enabling atmosphere necessary to protect and promote important national interests and values against known or potential enemies Abdullahi and Hassan (2015). Therefore, the security of the state must be considered with both domestic and foreign interests in mind. About the country (Trager and Simonies, 1973) National, regional, and global security issues are

interrelated concepts. National security is a state in which a country is free from internal, and external fear or threats to its peace, stability, and progress. Security is divided into political security, sovereign freedom, economic and social security, freedom from poverty and need, and other classifications: cultural security, freedom from ethnic and religious superiority, and environmental security, freedom from environmental destruction, degradation, and scarcity of resources. National, regional, and global insecurities affect the economy of the country as well as the development of the country Abdullah and Hassan (2015).

2.2 Causes of Insecurity in Nigeria

The causes of insecurity in Nigeria can be attributed to many important factors; i.

Poverty:

The high rate of poverty in Nigeria is without doubt one of the causes of insecurity in the nation. The National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) released the "2019 Poverty and Inequality in Nigeria report" which highlights that over 40% of the entire population or close to 83million Nigerians live below the country's poverty line of 137,430 thousand naira equivalent to \$381.75 per year (Yahaya & Bello, 2020). The obvious manifestation could be seen in the inability of the majority of Nigerians to meet their physiological needs – food, clothing & shelter. This has prompted many promising youths to engage in criminal acts, thus, endangering the lives and properties of others.

ii. Elite Exploitation of Ethnicity and Religious Differences

It is worth bearing in mind that the country's diverse ethnic makeup is not itself a cause of insecurity in Nigeria; however, political and religious leaders across the nation sometimes use ethnic sentiments to achieve their selfish ambitions. Throughout this way, the elites exploit people's minds to stir up mistrust and resentment among different ethnic groups and the country's major religions causing Nigeria's insecurity. In a multi-ethnic country like Nigeria, the relationship should be cordial, without reciprocal distrust, fear, and a propensity to a violent confrontation between members of one ethnic or religious group and another of that ethnicity or religious group.

Adagba, et al, (2012); and Achumba, et al, (2013), similarly asserted that control of scarce resources, fuel, land, economies, and traditional and political offices resulted in mass killings and property destruction in communities in various parts of the country. Nigeria's various ethnic groups also draw attention to neglect, racism, dominance, abuse, victimization, injustice, marginalization, nepotism, and intolerance. This often results in ethnic violence and religious conflicts.

iii. Weak security structure

Inadequately experienced personnel and poor arsenal to combat the increasing crime rates have led to heightened insecurity in the country. Persons perpetrating the criminal acts are usually in possession of more sophisticated weapons in comparison to those of the security personnel. More fundamentally, the Nigeria Police Force (NPF) is highly centralized as state governments have no statutory right over the Force. This has led to debate among policymakers and scholars on the viability of state policing. Without a doubt, the weak structure of the force is another contributory factor to insecurity in Nigeria (Aleyomi, 2012).

iv. Corruption

Nonetheless, corruption was largely responsible for government failure and systemic infrastructure collapse, resulting in large-scale insecurity in Nigeria. The state of insecurity in Nigeria is unquestionably a result of government failure, traceable to widespread corruption. Corruption is poor not because money and profits unequally change hands, and not because of participants' motives, but because it privatizes important facets of public life, bypassing representation, discussion, and choice processes.

Corruption is responsible for Nigeria's massive unemployment, it's the reason Nigerian youth and businessmen lack electricity to run their businesses, and it's the reason many businesses fail. Unemployment and deprivation are the two main causes of Nigeria's insecurity. By creating unemployment and poverty, corruption leads to instability in Nigeria.

According to Charas, (2014) Past governments, both Military and Democratic, had attempted to focus attention on good governance, prudence, transparency, and accountability through a variety of means, including the creation of the Murtala Mohammed Administration Code of Conduct in 1975, the Ethical Revolution of Shehu Shagari Civil Administration in 1979, the War Against Indiscipline and the Corruption of General Muhammadu in 1984, General Ibrahim Babangida's mass mobilization for self-reliance, social justice and economic recovery in 1985, General Sani Abacha's Failed Banks Tribunal in 1994, Olusegun Obasanjo's AntiCorruption Act in 2000.

v. Porous border

The country's unstable frontiers, where human movements are essentially untracked, have led to Nigeria's level of insecurity. There is an unregulated inflow of Small Arms and Light Weapons into the country as a result of the porous

borders which has enabled militancy and crime in Nigeria. Edeko (2011) has reported that Nigeria hosts over 70% of about 8 million illegal weapons that have been used to create a security crisis. In addition, the porous condition of both the Nigerian borders has contributed to the uncontrollable influx of migrants, predominantly young people, from nearby countries such as the Republic of Niger, Chad, and the Republic of Benin accountable for some of the insecurity-promoting criminal activities in Nigeria, (Adeola and Olayemi, 2012).

2.3 Nigerian Security Architecture

In the work of Donald David and Achile Momoh Salifu (2020), the security architecture of the Nation includes its constitutional and legal framework and the institutions that constitute and provide security services to citizens and protect its territorial integrity. According to Saleh (2020), the effectiveness of a state and its security architecture depends largely on a politically driven system of governance; This is facilitated by the system of defense, security, and intelligence community provided by the constitution and organized, skillfully trained, well equipped, professionally managed and psychologically motivated institutions. The management of Nigeria's national security rests solely with the President, the Chief Executive, and the Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces. However, Nigeria's national security architecture operates on two levels – external and internal security. Internal security is mainly handled by the Nigeria Police Force (NPF), Nigeria Security and Civil Defense Force (NSCDC), Nigeria Immigration Service (NIS), Nigeria Customs Service, Nigeria Correctional Service (NCS) and Nigeria Fire Service. Service (NFS), State Security Service (SSS), also known as the Department of State Security (DSS), and Federal Road Safety Corps (FRSC) (Mbachu 2011).

Ultimately, addressing and securing the state from external threats, fundamentally is the responsibility of the Nigeria Armed Forces, under the Ministry of Defence (MoD). The agencies under the Ministry of Defence comprise the Defence Headquarters (DHQ), the Nigerian Army (NA), the Nigerian Navy (NN), the Nigerian Air Force (NAF), and the Defence Intelligence Agency (DIA). The Office of the National Security Adviser (ONSA) oversees the DIA and NIA (Mbachu, 2011).

The key instruments of law that highlight the basic components of Nigeria's inter-agency regime are the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria (1999), the National Security Strategy (NSS), the National Counter Terrorism Strategy (NACTEST), and the National Disaster Response Plan (NDRP) 2001. The 1999 Constitution, being the groundwork, created a National Security Council (NSC), which has advisory responsibility to the President on all matters related to public security, including matters related to any organization or agency established by law for ensuring the security of the federation. He however asserts that the composition of the council reflects its inter-agency scope. The members of the NSC include the president and the Vice President who chair and deputize the council respectively, the heads of the Ministry of Defence, interior and foreign affairs, the National Security Adviser (NSA), and the Inspector General of Police (IGP).

Other council members are at the discretion of the president. Each officer oversees the institutions that make up the national and security architecture. Apparently, the recent insecurity in Nigeria has blurred the line between the operational responsibility of the armed forces and the paramilitary security apparatus. The armed forces are heavily involved in multi-dimensional internal security operations. In some cases, the doctrinal approach to joint warfare

involving all security personnel has increasingly blurred the line between the traditional role of the Nigerian Police and the Nigerian Army.

Abraham and Iro (2014) argue that the lines between the police and the military are blurring as police forces adopt increasingly militarized behaviours and the military assumes police roles. This is due to the militarization of both police and homeland security, as the police often do not have a monopoly on the use of force to maintain state control over society. Critically, the legal role of the military is protection against external aggression, while the police have a leading role in managing internal threats to national security (Arase, 2018).

Nonetheless, in exceptional cases of severe disorder, section 217 (2) (c) of the Constitution provides that the military could be deployed to suppress insurrection and act in aid of civil authority. The President, Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces of Nigeria, relying on this provision, has deployed the military to complement the Police in serious internal security challenges of magnitudes that have practically snowballed beyond the operational capacity of the Police including riot control, combating armed robbery, kidnapping, oil bunkering, agrarian farmers/pastoralists crises, militancy, insurgency, and natural disasters. This process is what has been conceptualized as Military Aid to Civil Power (MACP) when it involves the use of firearms and Military Aid to Civil Authorities (MACA) which refers to the engagement of the military to support civil powers in the management of disasters or humanitarian situations not involving the use of firearms.

2.4 Evolution of the Modern Police Force in Nigeria

Historically, the existence of a modern police force in Nigeria can be traced to the colonial arrangement to use trained and armed personnel to maintain law

and order, while simultaneously engaging in governance and exploitation of resources within the territory of the country. After the annexation of Lagos as a British colony in 1861, the colonial invaders sought to secure their lives and properties and to maintain unhindered access to the raw materials in the hinterland. This necessitated an urgent need to organize a force that would guarantee the security of both colonial personnel and their commercial ventures. Accordingly, Consul Foote, who was the head of the colonial government at the time of annexation, wasted no time in proposing the establishment of a consular guard to be stationed in Lagos. Although the request was turned down by the British foreign office for economic reasons, it was not long before the acting governor of the Lagos colony realized the indispensability of an organized police force in the conquered territory (Ndubisi, Uchechukwu, and Collins 2018).

Thus in 1861, Acting Governor of Lagos Colony, McCoskry established the nucleus of the first police force a constabulary of 30 men. This formation marked the beginning of the first modern police in the history of Lagos. It was also the first modern police force in the region that the British later called Nigeria (Tamuno, Bashir, Alemika, & Akano, 1993). That pre-independence police structure remained in Nigeria after independence on October 1, 1960, albeit with changes.

In that context, although the 1963 constitution created the Nigerian Police Force, it allowed regional parliaments to make provisions for the maintenance of local police (105 (7), Republican Constitution, 1963). However, the first republican politicians abused the functions and purposes of the original police. The loyalty of the original police was largely to the regional figure who appointed them, and their modus operandi was designed to follow the whims and caprices of individuals who used them to achieve their nefarious purposes. In essence, the traditional authorities and politicians combined to make local police personnel

agents of oppression and extortion. By February 18, 1966, when General Ironsi became head of state (after overthrowing the first civilian regime), it was clear that the original police system had become a problematic and threatened institution (Ahire, 1993; Rotimi, 1993).

In this regard, the Irons military government set up a commission to look into the feasibility of merging the Nigerian Police with the original police (the commission was also authorized to look into the possibility of merging the country's prisons). Although General Ironsi was no longer alive at the time of the commission's report, General Yakubu Gowon, who took over as head of state after General Irons' assassination, accepted the commission's recommendations to strengthen the Nigerian police system. As a result, the original police force was disbanded and ceased to exist in February 1968. However, the existing personnel of these forces were recruited into the Nigerian Police Force as a unitary federal agency of the Nigerian government. This structure has survived to this day (Ndubisi A.

Nwafor, Uchechukwu Nwoke, and Collins C. Ajibo, 2018).

2.5 Appraisal of State Policing in Nigeria

It is no longer news that Nigeria is plagued by high levels of insecurity and other social malaise. These have given rise to different schools of thought on high uncertainty and how to provide a sustainable solution to it. Be that as it may, some people have opined that the only solution to the security threat in Nigeria is to adopt the principle of federalization of the police in the state. On the other hand, some have opposed the State Police, suggesting that Nigeria is not ripe for it (Fajobi, and Quadri,2023).

According to Jonathan (2011), "State Police can be good in theory, but in our political environment it can be misused to the detriment of the country". The camp opposing the State Police system indicates their different opinions on the need to change the constitution, especially in the paragraph regarding policing as the sole function of the federal government. Would top state officials canonize the police to protect their criminal activities because opponents of the State Police have gone mad? Or will the State Police act as an antidote to the national security challenges that the protagonists of the State Police are facing? This is the core that this segment is based on. Therefore, it is pertinent to understand the two points of view for us to appreciate the missing link before proposing the way forward.

2.5.1 The Argument for State Police

The strongest argument in favour of the establishment of a State Police is that it accords with the principle of federalism on which Nigeria styles its constitution. As a federal state, the power of the Federal Republic of Nigeria is divided between the central government called the federal government, and the 36 states of the federation (see section 2 subsections 2 of the 1999 Constitution). Law-making function in the centre is the responsibility of the national assembly while the state's houses of assembly perform similar functions subject to the limit permissible by the legislative list contained in the second schedule to the constitution (section 4 of the 1999 Constitution of Nigeria).

More so, the executive powers of the federation are by section 5(1) of Nigeria's 1999 constitution vested in the president while that of the states are vested in the governors. The exercise of these executive powers in both cases extends to the execution and validity of the Constitution and all laws passed by the National or State Assemblies from time to time. However, the continued existence of the State Police in Nigeria is a historical imbalance in Nigerian Federalism One

of the advocates of the State Police is the governor of Lagos state, Babatunde Fashola. He argued that any state that has the power to decide through state supreme courts and judges and make laws through state assemblies and parliaments must have the corresponding power to enforce its laws and control its state (Onwuzuligbo, 2012). It is an extension of the principle of federalism under which the Federal and State Courts of Nigeria exist (Section 6 of the 1999 Constitution of Nigeria). So, federalism is not complete without State Police. More advanced federal societies have federal and State Police. For example, the United States federal system includes the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), State Police agencies, and city or county police. Large institutions such as universities and parks have their police uniforms. A critical analysis of the constitutional provisions mentioned in this paragraph shows that each state in Nigeria must form its full government with the power to make laws, enforce them, and punish offenders through the judiciary. Still, under the Nigerian legal system, the only institution responsible for enforcing the law is the Nigeria Police Force, a federal agency (Section 214 of the 1999 Constitution).

Furthermore, politicization undermines the role of the federal government in ineffective policing. The constitution does not claim as to who the head of the Nigeria Police is really. The provision in section 215 (4) of the constitution of Nigeria (1999) is unequivocal that the state commissioner of police has the power to refer the order of the state governor to the president before he acts on it.

In Nigeria, where most government decisions are influenced by politics, the governor's order to the police chief has a permanent veto. A classic example of the use of presidential power to undermine the state was the 2011 assassination trial of former Nigerian Senate Majority Leader Teslim Folarin. Without waiting for legal advice on the murder charge filed against him by a policeman believed to be

working for the Federal Government of Nigeria on a government script. He unilaterally withdrew the charges against the accused (Sahara Tomittajat, 2011). Another clear example of the impotence of states is the unilateral dissolution of the Bayelsa State Security Unit by President Goodluck Jonathan (James, 2011).

It is misleading and pretentious to attribute the leadership of an institution like the police to any particular level of government in Nigeria. The creation of State Police is appropriate and must be reconsidered. The decision to transfer policing entirely to the Federal Government of Nigeria was based on the false assumption that the Federal States of Nigeria lacked the competence to maintain a disciplined force, especially in light of the experience of the first republic, which was originally mentioned in this passage. However, experience has shown that the federal police are not immune to the ills that have plagued local police throughout their existence. Corruption, indiscipline, oppression, etc. all the factors that contributed to the demise of the original police continue to prevent the federal police from fulfilling their constitutional role. Federal power must be decentralized in security matters to avoid overload. Laws that abolish the State Police are not immutable (Adedeji,2016).

Another argument, relating to the above, in support of state police, is that Nigeria is too large and heterogeneous for its security matters to be over-centralized. In a country that is usually quagmired by administrative bottlenecks and unnecessary bureaucracies often waste time on simple matters like the deployment of troops to quell insurrection, the effectiveness and efficiency of local militias like

Oodua People's Congress (OPC), Bakassi boys, Egbesu boys, Vigilante Groups etc have lend credence to the belief by many that security is a local problem and only those who understand the terrain can manage it.

Thus, security in Nigeria today is seen only as protecting the seat of power in Abuja. It is the individual states that now spend heavily to subsidize the operation of policemen deployed to their domains to ensure that lives and properties are secured. For example, Lagos State has in place a Security Trust Fund which is used to fund the operation of the state Rapid Response Squad. Arms and ammunition are purchased from this fund while officers and men serving in the outfit are also paid a special allowance. Ogun State and Oyo State, but a few also have ad hoc security agencies funded from money in the States Security Fund. If a country spends a lot on matters related to security, it must be able to exercise some control, indeed the one who pays the piper dictates the tone (Adedeji, 2012).

2.5.2 The Argument Against State Police

At this point, we naturally begin to consider the possibility of State Police based on the argument above. As attractive as that option is, one must tread that path very cautiously. Truly, in more advanced societies, Federal and State Police exist independently, which should not form the basis of state police in Nigeria. One of the major arguments against state police in Nigeria is the problem of misplaced priority or abuse of office. It is believed by the antagonists that Nigerian State Governors would without doubt convert State Police outfits under their control into instruments for pursuing and executing their political whims, nuances, and caprices. The establishment of a state police may be theoretically good, judging from the advanced countries, but it could be abused to the detriment of the country looking at the political environment of Nigeria (Jonathan, 2011).

The argument against state police opines further with a clue from what is happening at the local government level, which is supposed to be an independent third tier of government, has been hijacked by the state governors. Local

government chairmen in Nigeria are mere glorified 'houseboys' or 'hallelujah boys' of the Governors. The Governors care less about Local Government autonomy and also care less about the people's right to elect their leaders. It is against the background of the roles played by the state governors in the local government that wisdom is needed in allowing the states to keep their police institutions. Yet again to be considered is the problem of conflict of interest and challenges that are likely to be fallout of multiple security agents. Although the police as presently structured are guilty of most, if not all allegations leveled against local police the issue is whether or not Nigeria should face the challenge of a single police instead of having to fight many battles at the same time. It is equally doubtful whether Nigerian politicians have the temperament to resolve amicably the jurisdictional problems that are likely to arise from the operation of multiple police forces. Besides conflict of interest is the problem of funding (Adedeji, 2016).

The establishment of state police in Nigeria today may not be feasible because of the problem of funding. Virtually all the states depend largely on federal allocation for survival in Nigeria. This is already challenging the feasibility of many states whose incomes are hardly enough to meet their expenditure. To add police responsibility to the affairs of states, most of which are still battling issues relating to the payment of minimum wage appears to be overkill (Adetumbi, 2012). Even Lagos State, which helped fund the policemen deployed to the state, helped through a fund created for that purpose.

Another reason why the call for the establishment of the Nigerian Police State is likely to be strongly resisted is that history shows that nothing has changed in the circumstances that led to the demise of native police in the first instance, the Indigenous Police of the First Republic of Nigeria was the most abused public institution (Adedeji, 2012).

Therefore, any attempt to revisit the original or State Police question is a mere repetition (Rotimi, 2001). Suffice it to say that the Native Police in pre-1966 Nigeria symbolized the absolute power of the local authorities, which the politicians of that era recklessly used for selfish political gain. In both the North and the West, politicians freely used the local police to subdue political opponents and organize elections (Adedeji, 2012).

As argued by Adedeji (2012), states and local governments might have been outlawed from creating state police, their recourse to ethnic militias like Bakasi boys, Egbesu boys, the O.P.C and so on to inflict havoc on political opponents surely foretell how dangerous it would have been to legally allow state and local authorities to control the use of force. The revelation that members of the dreaded Boko Haram have sponsors among prominent politicians in Nigeria is an issue that must be of serious concern (Aleyomi, 2012).

2.6 Constitutionality of the State Police: Call for Clarification Nigeria

Nigeria operates a federal system of government. The implication of this is that structurally, Nigeria is made up of the federal government at the centre and other federating units identified as States. Section 2(2) of the 1999 Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria (as amended) provides that 'Nigeria shall be a Federation consisting of States and Federal Capital Territory'. The legal implication of the above is that while certain items are exclusively under the control and management of the federal government (the exclusive legislative list) other items are within the concurrent legislative list (for both the States and the federal government at the center). The items that are not in the exclusive or concurrent lists are contained in the residual list (for the states and their local governments). One important item in the exclusive legislative list is that of policing. Accordingly, Section 214 (1) of the 1999 Constitution provides that:

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

In this context, it appears right to argue that the Nigerian Constitution does not permit any police force other than a federal Police force for the whole country. This argument is additionally supported by the provision of section 214(2) of the 1999 Constitution which provides that: The Nigeria Police Force shall be organized and administered by the provisions as may be prescribed by an Act of the National Assembly.

The Nigerian National Assembly, which is the federal law-making organ of the Nigerian government, is bestowed with the powers to exclusively make laws relating to the management and administration of the Nigerian Police Force. This fact is further reinforced by the provisions of Item 45 of Part 1 of the Second Schedule of the Constitution.

Furthermore, the 1999 Constitution (as amended) neither provides for a governor nor a Local Government Chairman to be the Chief security officer of the State or Local Government as the case may be (in practice, State governors and Local Government Chairmen are made ceremonial chief security officers while Commissioners of Police and Divisional Police Officers – who are agents of the national leadership and government – wield the real powers and functions in the States and Local Governments) (Eme & Ede, 2009). Though the President (under Item K of Part I of the Third Schedule of the 1999 Constitution) is the Chairman of the National Security Council, no such provision was made for the governor. By implication, all instruments of security – the military and the police, state security services, even the road safety personnel and the traffic wardens – are all federal institutions because they are under the exclusive legislative list in the constitution.

It is, therefore, surprising that a state governor or a Local Government Chairman is labelled "the Chief Security Officer" of his State or Local Government.

Notwithstanding these provisions, it has been argued that State governments have a major role to play in the management and administration of the Police Force in Nigeria. The argument is that Nigeria operates “pseudo-federalism” where security agencies (like the Police, Civil Defence, etc.) that operate in the states hardly have enough to work with. This means that they usually go cap-in-hand with state governments to solicit assistance in the purchase of security equipment, automobiles, and operational costs (Ata-Agboni, Okolo, Benjamin, Adama, Suleiman, Asiru and Omachi, 2023)

In this regard, state governments have played and continue to play a major role in policing and should be recognized as major stakeholders in issues concerning the control of the Nigerian Police Force. Advocates of this viewpoint usually point to the provisions of Section 215(4) of the Constitution which provides that:

Subject to the provisions of this section, the Governor of the state or the Commissioner of the state council, which he authorized in this section. Part may give such lawful instructions to the Commissioner of Police of that State as he thinks fit for the maintenance and maintenance of the public safety and public order of the State, and the Commissioner of Police shall comply with or accompany such directions. Follow:

However, the interpretation of the above provision cannot support the contention that the state governments play an indispensable role in police matters. The same provision to Section 215(4) quoted above places the Governor of the State or the head appointed by him under the control function of the Federal Government. The provision reads as follows: Provided that, before issuing the

orders specified in this subsection, the Superintendent of Police may request that the matter be referred to the President of the Union or an authorized Minister of the Federal Government.

On behalf of the President according to his instructions.

2.7 Internal Police: Assessment of The Role of the Police

The police can be seen as a constitutionally created, organized, financed, and equipped professional body of men and women, that performs legal tasks in the country. According to Alemika (1995), policing involves the coercive and/or ideological control of social life through the actions of the police and various state intelligence and security forces, as well as other initiatives strategically designed to address and suppress behaviour, action, and orientation. Which threatens the prevailing social order.

Nwolise (2014) argues that policing involves conflict resolution. Conflicts arise from social inequalities that lead to business disputes, protests, riots, etc. There are many law enforcement agencies in the state, but the most important in the criminal justice system is the police. Regarding the country's internal security system, the police have constitutional powers to maintain the internal security of life and property (Sanda, 2013). The Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria of 1999, as amended, largely outlined the constitutional functions of the Nigeria

Police Force. According to Section 215 (3) and (4) of the Constitution, the Nigerian Police Force must maintain and ensure public safety and order, ensure internal stability, and prevent threats to national security. Essentially, Arase (2018), posited that the Police in most nations represent the foundation which fundamentally, is the groundwork on which internal security management is built.

The extent of internal security seems to be related to the effectiveness of law enforcement operations in any given country. In general, the strength of the social contract between police and citizens on the one hand and government and police on the other depends on and is influenced by mutual reinforcement, cooperation, and financial support. It is also based on the synergy between the police, the wider police family (the rest of law enforcement), and the military. The role of the police, through their operational mandates, is to strengthen efforts to ensure that the social contract is strengthened and that the police remain in the fight with an effective force that easily eliminates internal security threats.

2.8 Police Operation and Insecurity

The political, economic, and social systems of a country create the conditions for security and insecurity. Security is a first-order or necessary precondition for the development of human beings and society. Therefore, security is the most basic need of human beings and societies. Recognizing the significance of security as the precondition for the survival of the Nigerian people and nation, the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria provided in section 14 (1) (b) that "the security and welfare of the people shall be the primary purpose of government". The police operations conferred on the government through the Nigeria Police by this provision have not been substantially and substantively discharged as the prevailing high level of human insecurity in the country demonstrates. According to Mbachu (2019), in an attempt to characterize the nature of internal insecurity in Nigeria, there is a rise in incidents, militancy, insurgency, human trafficking, ritual killing, and corruption in both high and low places. He added that the nation's internal security agencies are overwhelmed by the complexity of the current state of insecurity and concluded that investigating

the underlying causes of Nigeria's security problems and reconstruction efforts is the way out.

In this vein, Arimie, Eghaghe, and Omage (2021) argue that police officers are expected to protect the citizens, respect human rights, and in a transparent approach and avoid the quest to be partial in dealing with individuals and communities to earn public trust and support. Yet, the Nigeria Police Force is the most challenged security organization in Nigeria having a vital role to play in the face of the prevailing insecurity across the country (Alkali in Thewill, 2021).

Nigeria is bedevilled with increased criminality, Dambazau (in Onwuama, Ajah, Asadu, Ebimgbo, Odii & Okpara 2019) writes that Nigeria, one of the developing countries of the world is experiencing a high prevalence of rising crime waves, criminal tendencies, and varying degree of delinquent activities. Consequently, the nation has been on the global crime map since the 1980s. For about two decades now, crime has been increasingly changing both in pattern and trend. Nigeria is presently grappling with an upsurge in criminal activities. The complex nature of the operations of these criminals has become apprehensive and consequently, has brought about fear and agitation in the mind of the public.

Ajayi and Longe (2015) examined public perception of the police and crime prevention in Nigeria and found that the police insensitivity to the public has inhibited a harmonious relationship between them and the public. Umeh (2023) asserts that the development of the police has been largely influenced by the demands of society for relief from problems that cannot be solved in another way or solved. He maintained that if one commits a crime, and everyone behaved reasonably, the need for a sophisticated police force would not arise at all. But since the above condition is difficult to attain, there will always be a need for the police. Adefi (2010) and Ewepu (2012) align with the trio above when they argue

differently that the contextual peculiarities of Nigeria; particularly its geographical space and other demographics as well as peculiar social-cultural factors also contribute to the problem of effective policing in Nigeria. Bunyard (1978) for instance states, that the basic objectives of the police have not radically changed since their inception. He maintained that what has changed is how the force has responded to these objectives.

The state is not an end in itself because it serves some utilitarian purposes, especially ensuring a secure people for development (Thomas & Aghedo, 2014), but has also expanded to include crime prevention by teaching people how to safeguard their property, and the rule of law to divert them from breaking the law. However, Imobighe maintained that the resources at the disposal of the police and their implications for result-oriented policing cannot be reconciled. This he claimed was a result of the absence of an acceptance gauge or construct with which to measure crime prevention. Tamuno (2019) maintained that the circumstances and situations in which the police perform their duties make it a rather hard process to evaluate the entire process of law and order maintenance. He opines that several persons may be resentful of the police but the society is generally handicapped to assess the extent to which the police perform its duties effectively. The public expects much from the police who are ill-equipped to actualize its set goals. He believes that a change of attitude of people towards the police would also imply a spontaneous acquisition of wonderful records and scores for the police. For police to be effective and result-oriented, good public relations must be established.

Okere (2014) believes that most of the problems faced by police in carrying out their duties arise primarily from the fact that members of the police force are part and parcel of the society they police. This makes effective maintenance of law

and order to be very problematic since the factors, which affect the host society do not spare the police force. Ozo-Eson believes that the aftermath of poverty, maldistribution, and inequality in access to the good things of life creates a crime-prone society. That unhealthy competition brought about by social aims and aspirations can become so pronounced that those who cannot cope are forced to fall out and develop disrespect for society and its values, which in turn can lead to a kind of alienation, desperation, and crime. Owemena, (2006) and Shettima, (2012) have argued that the society creates the crime which the individual commits and that the Nigerian society, like every other society where inequality exists, is prone to criminal activities. Alemika views this condition as a contradiction that a society that produces the objective conditions for crime should turn around to expect the police to prevent or reduce the level of crime.

Akinlabi (2017) examined the problem of corrupt policing and other related abuses in Nigeria and how such deviant behaviours can encourage public cynicism toward the law. He found that the public is very cynical about the law and has high perceptions of police corruption and police abuse. These studies are perhaps provoked by the need to reform the police in Nigeria to reposition them to be more able to fulfil their statutory functions. One of such functions is crime prevention and control. This limiting and frustrating situation is evident in the level of force equipment, and the involvement of its personnel in criminal activities.

Audu (2023), *reviewing law enforcement and policing in Nigeria*, the central objectives of policing are to provide security, or at least a social and psychological feeling of security, for a majority of citizens in a majority of places, and for most of the time; to prevent, control and combat criminality whatever and by whoever; to maintain public order and peace; to render assistance and service to

all citizens needing or requiring security and to favorably symbolize the law and the government by always upholding the rule of law.

Odekunle suggested certain yardsticks for measuring successful policing: While the use of force and firearms may sometimes be permissible when making an arrest or preventing a person from escaping, the UN Basic Principles on the use of Force and Firearms by the police. Law Enforcement Officials make it clear that firearms cannot be used unless certain additional requirements are met, including as a preliminary matter that there exists a grave or imminent threat of death or serious injury. Section 33 of Nigeria's constitution, which guarantees the right to life, also permits an overly broad exception for deprivation of life. Under this section, when force is used 'to effect a lawful arrest or to prevent the escape of a person lawfully detained', any consequent killing does not constitute a deprivation of life (Constitution of FRN 1999, Section 33 (2) (b). Section 3(b) and 3(e) of Police Force Order 237 permit police Officers to shoot suspects and detainees who attempt to escape or avoid arrest. Under section 3(e) of Police Force Oder 237, the police are allowed to use firearms to 'arrest a person who takes to flight to avoid arrest, provided the offence is such that the accused may be punished with death or imprisonment for 7 years or more'. Escaping custody or resisting arrest is punishable with seven years' imprisonment under Nigerian legislation. As such, the Constitution and Police Order 237 allow police officers to shoot with impunity anyone who flees.

The limitations on the use of force in police order 237 are that 'firearms must only be used as a last resort' and if there are no other means of effecting (the suspect's) arrest, and the circumstances are such that his subsequent arrest is unlikely' (Police Force Order 237, Section 7 and 9). If a police officer shoots at an unarmed man, 'it would be most difficult to justify the use of firearms (Police

Force Order 237, Section 4). These provisions are impermissibly broad do not require the existence of an imminent grave threat of death or serious injury and have a more lenient standard of necessity than what is required by international standards. The seriousness of the crime, or the sentence that the crime may carry, are not permissible considerations to justify the use of firearms. Under international law and standards, firearms may only be used by law enforcement officials to defend themselves or others against the imminent threat of death or serious injury; to prevent a crime involving a grave threat to life; to prevent the escape of a person presenting such a danger; and only when less extreme means are insufficient to achieve these objectives (UN Basic Principles on the Use of Force and Firearms by Law Enforcement Officials, Principles 9 and 16). Section 6 of Police Force Order 237 instructs police officers that in situations of 'riot' "any ring-leaders pin forefront of the mob should be singled out and fired on". Intentional use of lethal force against particular individuals in a public order situation, based on suspicion of their role in organizing or co-coordinating public disorder, violates the right to life as guaranteed by Nigeria's Constitution, the ICCPR, and the African Charter on Human and People's Rights.

Police Force Oder 237 has resulted in numerous unlawful killings and facilitated extrajudicial executions, while police officers go largely unpunished, using it as a justification as well as cover-up for the use of lethal force. In some cases, police officers place weapons on their victims claiming they were attacked by an "armed robber", and they cover up extrajudicial killings by reporting that the suspects were shot while attempting to escape in a shoot-out with armed robbers. Such cover-ups are rarely investigated and thus the perpetrators are rarely brought to justice. This impunity is one of the reasons extrajudicial executions continue.

2.9 Security Threat in Nigeria: The Missing Link

The poor performance of the Nigeria Police has necessitated the clamour for State Police to be or not to be. Many people have argued that State Police is a global practice where strange movements, suspicious characters, and micro crimes are easily nipped in the bud before they blossom. One may be tempted to be part of this call given the current state of insecurity the country is going through. Uncontrolled kidnapping, bombing, armed robbery, and so on are some of the crimes committed daily in the country where there is a police force. The weaknesses of Nigeria's police, which have hampered its efficiency and effectiveness should be considered and addressed, first and foremost, before clamoring for the decentralization or centralization of the police force. The sobering reality, however, is that the police in Nigeria have not had great success in dealing with either urban or rural crime. A difficult environment; the police force's traditional disinterest in the poor; and lack of resources both in terms of personnel and in skills and equipment hamper its ability to be effective.

One of the missing links to a high level of insecurity in Nigeria is a shortage of manpower in the Nigerian Police Force. Too often police presence in the highdensity locations where most city dwellers live is only sporadic and the number of officers available is very small. The NPF is highly understaffed.

Moreover, the federal government often severely lacks or misuses resources, and institutional capacity, and in some cases, unwarranted control and interference of police discharging their duties culminate in police ineffectiveness. The country's security votes and available resources have largely and commonly been tilted heavily toward the military over the police. This preference for the military has weakened the police, who lack management and technical skills, interagency

coordination, communication equipment, transport, and even lighting, office space, filing cabinets, stationery, computers, uniforms, and forensic laboratories. All these undermine the effectiveness of the Nigerian police.

There has been limited success in the effectiveness of the Nigeria Police Force despite the introduction of police restructuring, training, and oversight bodies. Accordingly, citizens expect a rapid transformation of policing in Nigeria. Rather, many continue to doubt the federal government's ability and willingness to finance the necessary steps that promise police availability, accountability, integrity, effectiveness, and community partnership. The people's scepticism is reinforced by continuing media accounts of police abuse and collaboration with criminals and citizens' daily encounters paying bribes to police to allow them through traffic checkpoints or to investigate crimes (Alemika and Chukwuma 2012).

This experience has driven many citizens to look elsewhere for protection (Baker, 2005). The situation is worse in Nigeria, because, people are vulnerable to attacks. There is a need for an extra arrangement for security beyond what the state provides (Leach, 2003). In short, the present federal structure of policing in the official police protection is insufficient to address the growing violence experienced in Nigeria mainly the northern states. Compounding these challenges is a long history of police neglect, corruption, and a culture of impunity common in Nigeria, having its roots in part in coercive colonial policing practices.

Police corruption has been defined according to Goldstein (1975) as the misuse of authority by a police officer in a manner designed to produce personal gain for himself or others. According to IDASA (2007), the police in most African countries are significantly brutal, corrupt, inefficient, unresponsive, and unaccountable to the generality of the population. Indeed, multiple

reports from Amnesty International, the International Bar Association, the Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative, and other respected international research institutes have frequently documented and criticized police behaviour across the continent of which Nigeria is not exempted (Baker, 2010).

Although corruption is endemic in all segments of Nigerian society, it is particularly objectionable among the police because it is their occupational responsibility to prevent and work at its elimination and not to be responsible for its spread, entrenchment, and legitimation as a norm of social and official interaction. Without a shred of doubt, the Nigerian police are enmeshed in corruption like several other state institutions. But the degree of corrupt practices in the police appears too deep into the 'fabrics and hearts' of the organization (Adeyemi, 2001).

If personnel of other institutions engage in corruption at all, they do it perhaps with caution while that of the police is done more in the full glare of the public. The police have always been found wanting and incapable of stemming the crises most especially because of the disdain for them by members of the public. It is recognized that the police force has tried to 'purge itself of bad eggs' but this is not adequately made visible to the public, thereby creating the perception that the force always protects its errant officers. This manifestation of corrupt practices in the Nigerian police has gone too far to mar the image of the police in the eyes of the public (Adebayo and Ojo, 2009).

The Nigerian police is an institution that no Nigerian loves to come in contact with, even though it is supposed to be a friend of the society, because of the high rate of corruption inhabited in the organization. Though, on the surface, the job of policing appears to be inherently corrupt on the ground that offenders will do everything possible and could also go to any length to escape, the long

hands of the law both legitimately and otherwise. Corruption has a very dilapidating effect on police and the society at large. Indeed, a corrupt police is as good as having no police at all. Where law enforcers are lawbreakers, society becomes worse off.

For the police to be effective and attain effective policing it must be on the positive rating of the society. A police with negative public perception is already hindered ab initio from being effective. Citizens are cynical about giving policemen information because it could result in extorting money from the suspect. In short, the police are dysfunctional in Nigeria because of the culture of corruption that has eaten deep into its marrow. Until the culture of corruption is addressed, effective and efficient policing in Nigeria, be it federal or state police, will be a mirage.

Another important missing link or weakness of Nigeria's police is that Policing in Nigeria is plagued by several institutional problems that undermine the effectiveness and legitimacy of the NPF. According to Alemika (2010), institutional constraints of Nigerian police include:

- Police Organization and Management - The Organization and management of police forces in terms of vertical and horizontal decentralization and coordination of authority have implications for police behaviours, performance, and image. The nature of rules of policing established by a police force, adherence to these rules, and rewards or punishment for compliance or non-compliance influence police discipline, integrity, effectiveness, performance, and legitimacy, including public estimation and support. The Nigeria Police Force needs to do a lot more in developing its organizational and managerial capacity to meet the demands and challenges of policing in the country.

- Police Personnel Management - In Nigeria, the aspect of the rules and provisions for recruitment, training, deployment, remuneration, promotion, discipline, pension, and retirement are not given adequate and continuous attention. These affect police discipline, performance, and image. Corruption and partisan and parochial considerations have contaminated the process and decisions relating to recruitment, deployment, and promotion in the NPF, thereby dampening motivation and commitment to excellence, sacrifice, and integrity in police work. If staffing qualified people and giving them leadership positions is properly nurtured, the development of a new Nigeria police is achievable and if not, the anti-intellectualism and anti-rationality that have long been embedded in the country's police forces may still extinguish the new light.
- Information Management - The NPF has continued to neglect the critical area of information management, resulting in operational strategies being dependent on guesses instead of science or systematically produced and acquired knowledge. The ability of a police force to manage information relating to socio-economic and political trends and to relate such information to the trend, pattern, and severity of crimes will determine its capacity to plan and implement crime prevention and crime control policies, strategic plans, and operations.
- Personality of Police Personnel – The police are also careless about the recruitment process to test the emotional stability of a potential recruit to ensure that only those who can meet the challenges of police work in Nigeria, at present and shortly are recruited. The personality of a police officer influences his or her behaviour, performance, and relationship with the public. This is the reason why in many societies, potential recruits are

subjected to a battery of psychological and other tests to determine their emotional stability and social relation competence. The Police Service Commission and the NPF need to review the recruitment process in this regard. It will be a waste to recruit an individual who does not possess adequate academic qualifications, strong emotional and moral qualities, and a patriotic commitment to Nigeria, in an age or era characterized by computer crimes, sophisticated and technology-assisted financial crimes, piracy, terrorism and espionage.

- Police Culture - A collection of structural, institutional, and personality factors create what has been variously referred to as police culture. Police 'working personality' and culture result from the elements of police work, authority, and isolation. Police work breeds solidarity and occupational pathology characterized by 'perceptions of the public as uncooperative, unsupportive and antagonistic toward the police'. In Nigeria, this engenders a tendency by the police to protect each other's criminality and misconduct. As a result, the integrity of the police is undermined and a culture of impunity is thereby entrenched. These institutional problems are critical to the attainment and sustenance of an effective police force and deserve serious consideration and attention by the government and police leadership.

2. 10 Security Challenges in Edo South

Edo State is one of the Niger Delta's more violent states on a per-capita basis with Incidents of violence and associated fatalities increasing over the (three-and-a-half year period) from January 2012 - June 2015. Issues in Edo ranged from protests, criminality, abductions and domestic violence to clashes between gangs, cults, political groups and communities. The vast majority of these incidents were reported in the Oredo Local Government Area, home to Benin City, although

violence was also reported further north, notably in the Esan West, Uhumwonde, and Etsako Central, East and West Local Government Areas.

Conflict Risk Factors in Edo South Senatorial District

Cult Violence: In April 2015, twelve people were reportedly killed in a clash between the Eiye Confraternity and the Man Fight group in a conflict stemming from recent governorship and state assembly elections. Between April and May, over 43 people were killed in cult-related attacks, including violence between the Eiye Confraternity and the Black Axe group. In October, one person was reportedly killed following a violent battle between 2 rival cult groups. A 14-year-old reportedly died at the hands of cultists in March as did a college student in a separate incident in November. Violence between the Eiye and Aye (Black Axe) confraternities continued in 2014, allegedly killing four in January and ten others in December of that year. The Eiye Confraternity also lost some of its members through an intra-cult clash in November 2013 (Nigeria Conflict Bulletin: Edo State).

Political Violence: As at January 2015 rally in support of Governor Oshiomhole of the APC, the bureau chief of several newspapers was assaulted by PDP youths while reporting on the rally.

In October 2014, unidentified gunmen attacked and injured a PDP lawmaker for the lawmaker's recent defection from the APC to the PDP. In November 2014, two people were killed in a clash between supporters of the Chairman of the Community Development Association (CDA) and the chairman of the Youth Association over the chairmanship position of the community's association. The following month, a PDP senatorial aspirant was attacked by unknown gunmen who killed his cousin and a police orderly. An APC member and a commercial bus

driver were also shot dead by gunmen. In a separate incident. In April, factions of the PDP and the ACN clashed during the local government elections. In July 2013, the Deputy National Chairman of the All Nigeria Peoples Party (ANPP) was attacked at his home (Nigeria Conflict Bulletin: Edo State).

Other: There were a significant number of reported murders during the first half of 2015, including the abduction, rape, and murder of women on two separate instances, a middle-aged man stabbed to death by his son and lover, a security guard who was killed by armed robbers at a liquor store, and an 85-year old village leader who was killed by gunmen in a tussle over land. In May 2015, the cleric of the Foursquare Gospel Church was reportedly shot dead in his house by a gang of assailants. In July 2015, university students protested the alleged killing of their peers by local police. Policemen reportedly shot and killed robbers and kidnappers in various operations throughout 2014. One person was reported killed and three others seriously injured following a clash between two rival gangs in October 2014 fighting over the right to fine street traders. In November, a university student was allegedly shot dead on his way home from a football match by suspected cultists. In a separate incident, it was reported that gunmen killed a cleric in December. There were several cases of abductions reported in Oredo, including that of an Israeli expatriate in July 2013 and of three female teachers in August of the same year. A pastor was also killed in November 2013 (Nigeria Conflict Bulletin: Edo State).

In February 2015, JTF troops reportedly killed a kidnapper in a shootout during a rescue mission. Four months later in June, a hunter was assumed to have been murdered when his body was found in the bush (Nigeria Conflict Bulletin: Edo State).

In November 2014, two suspected robbers and kidnappers from the LGA were also allegedly killed in Benin City. Two abduction cases were also reported in August and December 2013, with two policemen reported killed in the first incident and an individual who was being abducted killed in the second incident. In February 2012, two people were reportedly killed in an intra-communal land dispute that also caused villagers to flee to neighbouring communities (Nigeria Conflict Bulletin: Edo State).

2.11 Theoretical framework

The research is anchored on structural functionalism theory. The theory has a broad perspective. Scholars like Emile Durkheim, Malinoskiwi, and Talcott Parsons among others have contributed to the development of the theory. This theoretical orientation in sociological analysis looks at society as a complex social organization of parts that function to fulfil the functional prerequisites and promote the ends of society. To the functionalists, all ongoing societies require an essential order, balance coherence, and stability for a minimum degree of integration. And society will remain functional, that is, maintain its order and balance, if certain conditions are met. One such condition is that a sufficient proportion of the needs of the population must be fulfilled. The other is that a sufficient proportion of the population participates in maintaining the system. This participation requires that the institutions and the people in society consistently believe in and follow the society's shared values and norms. Social stability will be disrupted if the shared cultural values and norms are rejected by a significant part of the population (Parsons, 1952).

The functionalist theory is suited for explaining gradual, long-term change and change applying to society as a whole rather than in accounting for the more sudden or radical change where conflict often plays an obvious part. British colonialism provides a major exogenous factor that conditions the police institution in modern Nigerian society. The police institution, like other institutions, was externally imposed, and severe limitation was set on the freedom of the recipient society to accept or reject the innovation. The situation is especially so when the imposition is in place for a long time and colonized people do not arrive at any strategy for dislocating the imposed institution.

The theory presupposes that society can be studied just as the human body is studied by examining the structures existing in society, their functions, and how well they perform these supposed functions and by diagnosing those that are not working to devise solutions to them to restore balance. The political system consists of various structures that interact interdependently to ensure the continued existence of the system. In other words, the lapse in one structure of the political system can have a far-reaching effect on the whole- society. For instance, the police force in Nigeria is a structure whose lapse can have a devastating effect on the whole society by furthering insecurity, crime, violence, and such deviations. Following the postulation of this theory, the Nigerian Police Force as an institution or structure has a role to play in the survival of the society and thus deserves to be diagnosed for problems with extensive solutions proffered for the continued wellbeing of the society.

CHAPTER THREE RESEARCH METHODS

3.1 Research Design

The optimal design to achieve the research objectives was identified as a descriptive survey design. This design was considered appropriate for this study because it enabled the researcher to explain the phenomenon of federalism and insecurity in Nigeria as required by the State Police. Survey design is a form of descriptive research that aims to collect large and small samples of the population to investigate the distribution, prevalence, and interaction of educational activities (Asemah, Gujbawu, Ekharefo & Okpanachi 2017). The purpose of descriptive research is to obtain information that describes existing phenomena by asking people about their perceptions, attitudes, behaviours, or values. This study uses a quantitative method to collect data.

3.2 Population of the Study

A research population is the total number of objects, subjects, or individuals that meet the specifications related to the research field (Omoera & Nwaoboli, 2023). This study, the population of this study consist of seven local governments in Edo's South senatorial district. Available data from the National Population Commission of Nigeria (web), National Bureau of Statistics (web) 2022, shows that there are 1,991,00 residents.

3.3 Sampling Technique and Sample Size

This research work adopted the survey research method and made use of primary data as the main source of data collection through the use of the instrument of questionnaires. The study randomly selected one hundred (100)

respondents from three major local governments in Edo South senatorial district, namely, Oredo, Egor, and Ovia North East local government area. These local governments were once known as the hotbed of various criminal activities like kidnapping, armed robbery, cultism, etc. carried out by the vagabonds in the local government area.

(Agbi and Osadema 2024).

3.5 Instrument of Data Collection

The research instrument used in this study is a questionnaire, which is a collection of data that uses different questions to achieve the research objectives (Ovie & Nwaoboli, 2022). A questionnaire is a structured written or printed form consisting of formal questions designed to collect information on a topic from one or more respondents (Asemah, Ekharefo, Okpanachi, and Gujbawu: 2017). The questionnaire will consist of two parts, a demographic and a psychographic part. The demographic section was used to gather information about the details of the respondents' lives, while the psychographic section focused on the research questions to address them.

3.6 Validation of the Instrument

Validity is a term that describes how accurate or sincere a measurement is. In other words, the extent to which measures help make decisions about a particular goal depends on the extent of expertise. It is a procedure used to determine whether a research instrument is measuring the variables it was intended to measure. Therefore, the questionnaire will be sent to the lecturer for review and adjustment before use.

3.7 Method of Data Collection

The researcher will use both primary and secondary sources in his research. The respondents will be given copies of the questionnaire as a main source of

information. The questionnaire will contain relevant questions about both the demographic and psychographic parts, and a structured interview will be conducted with security experts, policymakers, and community leaders. As a secondary source of data, the study of general textbook works related to the topic of previous research, articles, and internet and library notes will be collected.

3.8 Method of Data Analysis

The data will be analyzed using the Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS). Simple descriptive statistics such as frequency count and simple percentages were used in presenting the findings of the research.

CHAPTER FOUR

DATA PRESENTATION AND ANALYSIS

This chapter presents and analyses the data collated through the questionnaire. The data collected were analysed using the simple percentage method. A total of one hundred (100) copies of the questionnaire were distributed, However, ninety-two (92) questionnaires were returned completely filled. The details of the questionnaire are analysed below using frequencies, percentages and tables for the presentation of data.

4.1 Data Presentation and Analysis

Table 1: Distribution of Respondents by Gender

Gender	No of Respondents	Percentages %
Male 56%	51	
Female	41	44%
Total 100%	92	

Source: Field Survey 2025

Table 1 shows that the study is composed of both males and females. However, male respondents were a bit more available to participate in the study.

Table 2: Distribution of Respondents by Age

Age	No of Respondents	Percentages %
18-22	30	33
23-27	55	60
28 and above	7	7
Total	92	100%

Source: Field Survey 2025

Table 2 shows that the study was composed of respondents with various age distribution. It indicates that a greater proportion of the respondents, representing 60% are within the age of 23 - 27 years.

Table 3: Distribution of Respondents by Education Qualification

Educational Qualifications	No of Respondents	Percentages %
Primary School Education	1	1
Secondary School Leaving Certificate	16	18

University Degree/ Equivalent	70	76
Post-graduate degrees	5	5
Total	100	
100		

Source: Field Survey 2025

Table 3 shows that the study was composed of respondents with educational qualifications. However, respondents who were university degree holders or equivalent were more involved in the study as shown in the study, with a representation of 76% as seen above.

Table 4: Distribution of Respondents by Employment Status

Employment Status	No of Respondents	Percentages %
Unemployed	6	7
Employed	9	10
Self-employed	22	23
Student	54	59
Retired	1	1
Total	92	100

Source: Field Survey 2025

Table 4 shows that the study was composed of respondents from employment status. However, respondents who were students were more involved in the study shown in the study, with a representation of 59% as seen above. **Table 5: Distribution of Respondents by Religion Affiliation**

Religion Affiliation	No of Respondents	Percentages %
Christianity	87	95
Muslim	3	3
African Traditional	2	2
Total	92	100 Source:
Field Survey 2025		

Table 5 shows that the study was composed of respondents from religious affiliations. However, respondents who were Christians were more involved in the study as shown in the study, with a representation of 95% as seen above.

Research Question 1: What are the crime rates in Edo South Senatorial District, Edo State?

Table 6: Distribution of responses on rate of crime in Edo South senatorial district Edo State.

S/N	Items	Remark	Percentage
1.	Very high	21	23

2.	High	40	44
3.	Average	16	17
4.	Low	10	11
5.	Very low	5	5

Source: Field Survey 2025

The analysis of data in Table 7 revealed that there is a high rate of crime in the study area as indicated by 44% of the respondents, while 23% said that the crime rate was very high, 16 indicated that it is average, 11% affirmed that it is low, only 5% accepted that crime rate was low.

The analysis of data on the table above implies there is a high rate of crime in Edo's south senatorial district, hence the need for the establishment of a State Police which will extensively curb the insecurity ravaging the land.

Research Question 2: What is the most common crime in Edo South Senatorial District, Edo State?

Table 7: Distribution of responses on the common crime in Edo South Senatorial District

S/N	Items	Remark	Percentage
6.	Kidnapping	34	37
7.	Theft/Burglary	15	16

8.	Cultism	21	23
9.	Rape	12	13
10.	Fighting	10	11

Source: Field Survey 2025

The analysis of data in Table 8 unveils that 21 of the sampled respondents, representing 23% of the total respondents sampled agreed that the common crime in the area is cultism, 12 of the sampled respondents representing 13% affirm that it is rape, 12 of the respondents agreed that it is fighting, 19 of the sampled respondents affirm that it is theft/burglary while 34 of the respondents representing 37% agreed that it is kidnapping. From the analysis, it can be deduced that kidnapping ranks first among the common crime in the area, followed by cultism, theft/burglary, then rape, and fighting.

Research Question 3: What are the roles of State Police in crime control in rural communities of Edo South Senatorial District, Edo State if initiated?

Table 8: Distribution of responses on the roles of State Police in crime control in rural communities of Edo South Senatorial District, Edo State is initiated.

S/N	Items	SA(%)	A(%)	D(%)	SD(%)
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11.	Raiding criminal hideouts to apprehend criminals and recover arms and ammunition	33(35)	41(45)	12(13)	6(7)
12.	Arrest and interrogation of suspected criminals	27(29)	37(40)	7(8)	21(23)
13.	Conduct surveillance on buildings to arrest suspects	32(35)	32(35)	9(10)	19(20)
14.	Collaborate with the federal police force in bringing criminals to justice.	33(36)	46(50)	2(2)	11(12)

Source: Field Survey 2025

The analysis of data in Table 8 unravelled the role of State Police in crime control in rural communities of Edo South senatorial district under item 11, 80% of the sampled population agreed that raiding criminal hideouts to apprehend criminals and recover arms and ammunition while 20% disagreed. Under item 12, 69% agree to the opinion that arresting and interrogation of suspected criminals while 31% disagree. Under item 13, 70% agreed to conduct surveillance on buildings to arrest suspects while 30% disagreed. Under item 14, 86% agreed to collaborate

with the federal police force in bringing criminals to justice. While 14% disagree with the assertion.

The analysis of data in the above table connotes that State Police will help in raiding criminal hideouts to apprehend criminals and recover arms and ammunition, arrest and interrogate suspected criminals, conduct surveillance on buildings and suspected criminal individuals and collaborate with the police force in bringing criminals to justice.

Research Question 4: What will be the perceptions of Edo South residents towards State Police if established?

Table 9: Distribution of responses on the perceptions of Edo South residents towards State Police if established

S/N	Items	SA(%)	A(%)	D(%)	SD(%)
15.	Fairly beneficial	50(54)	16(17)	18(20)	8(9)
16.	Very good	37(40)	29(32)	19(21)	7(8)
17.	worthwhile	53(58)	15(16)	15(16)	9(10)
18.	Commendable	50(54)	21(23)	9(10)	12(13)

Source: Field Survey 2025

The analysis of data in Table 9 unravelled the perception of Edo South residents towards state police if established. Under item 15, 70% of the sampled respondents agreed that it would be fairly beneficial if established while 30%

disagreed. Under item 16, 72% agree to see it as a very good option while 28% disagree. Under item 17, 74% agreed establishment of a State Police is a worthwhile policy while 26% disagreed. Under item 19, 77% agreed that establishing a State Police is commendable while 23% disagreed with the assertion.

The analysis of data in the above table implies that Edo South resident's perception towards the State Police establishment is very good, worthwhile and commendable.

4.2 Discussion of Findings

In research question one, the finding revealed the rate of crime in Edo's south senatorial district, it was deduced that there is a high rate of crime in the senatorial district. Hence the need for the establishment of a State Police which will extensively curb the insecurity ravaging the land.

In research question two, findings revealed that kidnapping rank first among the common crime in the senatorial district, followed by cultism, theft/burglary, then rape, and fighting. This finding supported with the study conducted by Stephen, Amanu and Osarewinda (2021), they asserted that there is a high crime rate in rural communities such as theft, rape, burglary and kidnapping etc. The rural populace suffers from the adverse effect of unemployment, poverty as well as herdsmen attacks. These constitute the major causes of crime in rural areas in Nigeria, in general, and in Edo South Senatorial District, Edo State in particular.

In research question three, findings revealed that the role of the State Police in crime control in Local Governments in Edo South senatorial district if initiated

will involve policing in the Local Government to help in raiding criminal hideouts, apprehending criminals and recovering arms and ammunition, arresting and interrogating suspected criminals and collaborating with the police force in bringing criminals to justice. This finding is in agreement with that of Adegbusi (2019) who posited that State Police will partner with the Federal Police Force in every community they operate in and this partnership has gone ahead to see to reduction in crime rate. This is also in line with the finding of Chukwuma and Alemika (2014) who stated that State Police members will always be available whenever they are needed since they will maintain a constant presence in the community/streets to prevent criminals from operating.

Findings from the research questions revealed that Edo South senatorial district residents' perception towards State Police if established, they perceived that the State Policing will be very good, worthwhile and commendable. This finding is in line with that of Adegbusi (2019) who posited that community members see State policing as a good and worthwhile initiative to combat crime in their localities if initiated.

CHAPTER FIVE

SUMMARY, CONCLUSION, AND RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1 Summary, Conclusion

The study investigated the national question of the State Police as a panacea to security in Edo South Senatorial district, Nigeria. There is a high crime rate in the senatorial district such as theft, rape, burglary and kidnapping etc. The district populace suffers from the adverse effect of unemployment, poverty as well as herdsmen attacks. These constitute the major causes of crime in rural areas in Nigeria, in general, and in Edo South Senatorial District, Edo State in particular. There is usually a low police presence in terms of police size and patrol in rural areas. This makes it possible for some criminal elements and herdsmen to hide in rural areas while committing crimes. The community members, therefore, must be part of the security operations in their community to proactively control crime through collaborations with the police in State policing, vigilante and other informal means of crime control such as oath-taking, age groups, masquerade etc. The family and religious institutions will help in sensitising and mobilizing community members to partner with the police in crime control efforts in rural areas. To achieve this, the police need to build and sustain the trust of the public through better and more humane services and contacts with the public. Members of the public must be perceived by the police as a major resource necessary for crime control in rural areas of Edo South Senatorial District, Edo State. To achieve a safe community, the rural populace and the police must partner through community- policing in crime control within the rural communities.

5.3 Recommendations

No doubt, research involves an investigation geared towards increasing knowledge and providing ideas to solve problems. From this information, coupled with an enthusiastic desire to ensure confirmatory evidence on this study, particularly in the aspect of achieving a greater feeling of certainty for the likely purpose of generalizing the future; the researcher, therefore, considers it fit and essential to make some useful recommendations: Arising from the research findings, the researcher wishes to make the following recommendations.

- The government should make a priority to meaningfully engage the youth in the county thereby reducing the rate of unemployment, for an adage says "idle hands are the devil's workshop.
- If the State Police are to be initiated they should be funded adequately and remunerated well as this will encourage their performance on the job. Also, our border should be manned thoroughly by the necessary security so that the influx of weapons into the country will be checked. Government should create and implement policies that will reduce the rate of poverty among its people.
- The establishment of the State Police is strategic to the national security of the country because of its size and heterogeneous nature. The State Police if created will not only decongest the administrative stress at the federal level but will also have a closer chief of security officer in the person of the governor monitoring to address security issues before they escalate, to this end if it gets initiated, it should be guided against abuse by State actors and

to ensure that, state governors do not abuse the state police system, the principles of checks and balance should be upheld.

- Welfare packages such as adequate and regular salary, annual leave, healthy housing scheme, special care for those caught in harm's way, taking care of the families of officers who lost their lives serving the nation, retirement benefits (pension and gratuity) etc. as these helps in the improvement of police performance and reduces corruption in the force.
- The government should endeavour to provide a stable political environment in the country that will not encourage insecurity or that the youth and the poor will not be used to fuel insecurity in the land.

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APPENDIX

DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE FACULTY OF SOCIAL SCIENCES UNIVERSITY OF BENIN, BENIN CITY

Dear Respondents,

I am a final year student of the Department of Political Science, Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Benin, Benin City carrying out research on the **National Question of State Police as a Panacea to Security in Edo South Senatorial District, Nigeria.**

Honestly, the research is purely for academic purposes, and any information you provide will be treated with utmost confidentiality.

DEMOGRAPHIC DATA

Please tick the option you consider appropriate and fill in the blank spaces.

1. What is your gender? Male female
2. What age bracket do you belong to? 18 – 22 23 – 27 28 and above
3. Educational Qualifications: Primary School Education Secondary School Leaving Certificate University Degree/ Equivalent Post-graduate degrees
4. Employment Status: Unemployed Employed Self-employed Student Retired
5. Religion affiliation: Christianity Muslim African Traditional

QUESTIONNAIRE ON NATIONAL QUESTION OF STATE POLICE AS A PANACEA TO SECURITY IN EDO SOUTH SENATORIAL DISTRICT, NIGERIA

Indicate the extent to which you agree or disagree with the following statements.

Key: Strongly Agree (SA), Agree (A), Disagree (D), Strongly Disagree (SD)

S/N	ITEMS	SA	A	D	SD
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	What are the crime rates in Edo South Senatorial District, Edo State?				
1.	Very high				
2.	High				
3.	Average				
4.	Low				
5.	Very low				
	What is the most common crime in Edo South Senatorial District, Edo State?				
6.	Kidnapping				
7.	Theft/Burglary				
8.	Cultism				
9.	Rape				
10	Fighting				
	What are the roles of State Police in crime control in rural communities of Edo South Senatorial District, Edo State?				
11.	Raiding criminal hideouts to apprehend criminals and recover arms and ammunition				
12.	Arrest and interrogation of suspected criminals.				
13.	Conduct surveillance on buildings to arrest suspects.				
14.	Collaborate with the federal police force in bringing criminals to justice.				
	What will be the perceptions of Edo South residents towards State Police if established?				
15.	Fairly beneficial				
16.	Very good				

17.	worthwhile				
18.	Commendable				