

**THE SOCIO ECONOMIC IMPACT ON THE USE OF VIGILANTE IN SECURITY CHALLENGES IN EDO  
STATE, NIGERIA**



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**BENIN CITY**

**DECEMBER, 2022**

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**BY**

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**SSC1611723**

**A PROJECT SUBMITTED TO THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION, FACULTY OF SOCIAL  
SCIENCES, UNIVERSITY OF BENIN, BENIN CITY**

**IN PARTIAL FULFILMENT OF THE REQUIREMENTS FOR THE AWARD OF BACHELOR OF SCIENCE  
(B.SC.) DEGREE IN PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION**

**DECEMBER, 2022**

## CERTIFICATION

This is to certify that this project work was carried out by **Edeh Michael Ndubuisi** with Matriculation Number: **SSC1611723** of the Department of Public Administration, Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Benin, Benin City, Edo State, Nigeria.

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Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## **DEDICATION**

This project is dedicated to Almighty God who gave me wisdom and knowledge, strength and direction to successfully complete this project. Secondly this project is dedicated to my dear wife, Mrs. Loveth Edeh, my lovely children David, Florish and Joel Ndubuisi and family.

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

Firstly, I give all the glory to Almighty God for seeing me through, for achieving an academic step.

My profound gratitude goes to my supervisor, Dr, W, Okotie whose direction, constructive criticism, encouragement and immeasurable insight played critical role in the shape and content of my project work. Thank you very much Sir.

I will never fail to appreciate my parents Late Mr Daniel Ezenwede and Mrs Justina Ezenwede and my siblings for their prayers, moral Supports

I am also grateful to my course adviser Mr Aigbe and many others for their constant support and encouragement.

My sincere appreciation goes to all my lecturers who made my study a memorable, accentuated and valuable experience.

Furthermore, to my wife, she is my Oases who her encouragement kept me going through out the period of study and beyond.

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## ABSTRACT

*This research investigates the socio economic impact on the use of vigilante in security challenges in Edo State. The objectives of the study were to: access the impact of the current security situation in Edo State; examine the modal operandi of the vigilante groups carry out their works; ascertain the socio-economic impact on the use of vigilante groups and make recommendation on how to make the vigilante group more effective in security management. This study is expected to provide relevant information to voluntary security agencies (Edo State Security Network) in community based security management and it will also assist in policy making to formulate policies on community based security issues. However, the research was carried out in four communities due to the large size of population of study. The four community are 3<sup>rd</sup> Circular, Ogbe, Ibiwe, and Ikpema. The population of studies was People between the ages of 20 years and above resident in Oredo which was used as the population for the study. This is so because, constitutionally, 19years below are regarded as under age and therefore have no capacity for rational thinking. According to the National Population Census of 2006, Oredo L.G.A has a population of 212,877 people within the age of 20 and above. The size used for the study on which questionnaire were administered is 120 to the population of indigenes in various communities. The sampling technique was used for the study was the random sampling technique. Data collection was retrieving from administered questionnaire from the indigenous people from four selected communities. The method employed for this research was the simple statistical method such as the simple percentage to deduce the effective and interpret the further necessary discussions.*

## CHAPTER ONE

### INTRODUCTION

#### 1.1 Background to the Study

Criminality, though a negative phenomenon is a necessary part of every society. Durkheim (1933) has since defined crime as a social product, determined by social conditions that are capable of being controlled only in social terms. Macionis and Plumer (2005) observed that every society have crime and nonconformity; that sociologists generally agree that there is no such thing as a crime free society. However, even as every society has crime existing in it, it is never a welcomed appeal to most of the members of the society, hence, the great effort being made in every society in every epoch in combating crime.

During the pre-colonial era, strategies employed at combating and preventing crime and deviance, fell within the ambience of certain indigenous social institutions and groups. For instance, in precolonial Igbo society, prevention of crime was primarily the social obligation of the entire citizenry at various capacities ranging from grown-up members of kindred to the members of various age grades who were fit and agile.

However, this system of crime control was distorted with the advent of colonialism. According to Onyeozili (2005) with the advent of colonialism came the distortion of the traditional institutions and values which had from time immemorial sustained harmonious relationship, peace, and security of lives and property in the precolonial African

communities. Thus, the British colonial government in Nigeria established the formal police for the purpose of ensuring security in the country. Alemika (1993) asserted that, the Police existed primarily to promote harmony and security of lives and property in the society and whether or not these functions were realized in the colonial era is strongly disputed. Many scholars believe that in the colonial era, the style and principles of policing were anti-people. It was rather meant to serve and protect the interests of the colonial masters (Chukwuma & Alemika, 2000; Rotimi, 2001; Okafor, 2006; Ikuteyijo, 2009). Rotimi (2001) also argued that the police in colonial era operated under the philosophy of strangers policing strangers.

In Nigeria, the police force, the armed forces and the intelligence community are the three core agencies of the state originally mandated by the constitution to provide certain security services. Today, the internal security provision and other public order maintenance are the responsibilities of the Nigeria Police Force (NPF) and other paramilitary agencies. However, even with the existence of these agencies in the state's security sector, the non-state security outfits have continued to grow and gain prominence and acceptance within the society due to the failure of the state agencies and invariably a continuation of the culture of self-reliance (Baker 2002).

A layman definition of security is the protection of life and property of a person. The word security emanated from the Greek word se-cura, meaning “to be in a state of no fear”. The concept of security has undergone a transition conceptualization to a non-traditional meaning. Traditionally, security management was the unilateral function of the state

especially if we consider the intellectual view(s) of some political theorist like Thomas Hobbes (1662) who argued that the essence of a state is to guarantee the security of lives and property and ensure law and order through its political sovereignty and monopoly of violence, which the state applies to engender strict conformity and compliance to state laws by the people for effective security management.

But in contemporary times, the definition of security goes beyond the traditional military ways of protecting the state against internal and external aggression. The fact is that since the end of the cold war, security management has assumed a new dimension.

External threat of security resulting from international hostilities and aggression that characterized the cold war era, has been replaced with nontraditional security, threat like information warfare, drug trafficking, nuclear pollutions, kidnapping, insurgency, corruption, human trafficking, terrorism and so forth.

Now the government has realized that they can no longer monopolize the business of security in the local domain as well as the world at large. Here in Nigeria, the agencies in charge of security management which comprises of the police, military, civil defense and so forth has failed woefully due to corruption, insufficient numbers of personnel and so on. As a result of this failure we have recognized that traditional policing in the form of vigilantism is necessary and beneficial to the effective management of security. With the government recognizing the vigilante groups and empowering them to help in crime management in their various communities, crime will not only be prevented, but there will be peace and security.

Since the members of the various vigilante groups are members of the community who are acquainted with the people, understand the culture of the people, grew up knowing the norms of their communities, and also the terrain, that is they know the nook and crannies of their communities, so that it will be difficult for an offender to hide. With the vigilante groups in charge, security will be guaranteed at the community levels while the police will have the time to do the wider work of National policing.

## **1.2 Statement of the Problem**

With the increase in population in Oredo Local Government Area, the issue of security has become a great challenge. There is a gradual rise in the incidence of armed robbery, house breaking, kidnapping, rape, cultism, theft, fraud, bag snatching and so forth. As a result of these, residents of the community now live in fear as it is uncertain who will be the next victim. It is widely acknowledged that the police alone cannot effectively police every section of the country in view of the limited number of their personnel, coupled with the fact that they are poorly equipped.

Today, the internal security provision and other public order maintenance are the responsibilities of the Nigeria Police Force (NPF) and other paramilitary agencies. However, even with the existence of these agencies in the state's security sector, the non-state security outfits have continued to grow and gain prominence and acceptance within the society due to the failure of the state agencies and invariably a continuation of the culture of self-reliance (Baker, 2002).

The Situation suggests the need for a community based security system for tackling security problem. This is based on the premise that security services will be much more effective if provided by people within the community as they are well acquainted with the terrain and people within their area of operation. It therefore presupposes that there is dare need of the use of control groups performed from the community to help curb the insecurity surge. This study therefore, looks into the use of vigilante in helping the police and the community solve insecurity challenge. To examine if the vigilante would provide effective security service.

### **1.3 Research Questions**

1. What is the current security situation in Edo State regarding socio-economic growth?
2. How are the vigilante groups organized to effectively carry out their work?
3. What impact has the use of vigilante groups made on the socio economic growth of Edo State?

### **1.4 Objectives of the Study**

The objectives of the study were to:

1. access the impact of the current security situation in Edo State;
2. examine the medal operandi of the vigilante groups carry out their works;
3. ascertain the socio-economic impact on the use of vigilante groups;

4. make recommendation on how to make the vigilante group more effective in security management.

### **1.5 Hypotheses of the Study**

1. The current security situation in Edo State has not improve its socio-Economic growth.
2. The organization of the vigilante groups have not significantly impact on the socio-economic are relatively organized in carrying out their works effectively.
3. The use of vigilante have not influenced the developmental stride of the State.

### **1.6 Significance of the Study**

This study is expected to provide relevant information to voluntary security agencies (Edo State Security Network) in community based security management and it will also assist in policy making to formulate policies on community based security issues.

Also, this work will serve as a veritable material to the Nigeria Police Force to generate information about the security challenges and public safety issues affecting the community.

Moreover, it will also function as a substantial tool to those who want to conduct research on security related issues.

## **1.7 Scope of the Study**

The motivation for this study was to find the socio-economic impact of the use of vigilante groups in Edo State. The research was analyzed from the period of three (3) years that is from January 2019 to December 2021. Its scope will be limited to Oredo Local Government Area (Benin City) in Edo State, it was chosen because It's the headquarter and capital city of Edo State, Nigeria. Benin city also remain the capital city of the Benin Empire. The Oba of Benin, Omo N'Oba Ewuare II's palace is also located there and many historic palaces and buildings are located in the city. There are four major markets in Oredo Local Government Area, which are Oba market, New Benin market, New market and Ekiosa market. Oredo is home to many, including the Oba of Benin, Omo N'Oba N'Edo Uku Akpolokpolo Oba Ewuare II, Sir, Chief Gabriel Osawaru Igbiniedion The Esama Of Benin Kingdom, and other prominent princes and chiefs. However, this research shall be carried out in four communities due to the large size of our population of study. The four community are 3<sup>rd</sup> Circular, Ogbe, Ibiwe, and Ikpema.

## **1.8 Conceptual Clarification**

**Assurance:** This is the level of guarantee that a security system will behave as expected.

**Armed robbery:** In criminal law, aggravated form of theft that involves the use of a lethal weapon to perpetrate violence or the threat of violence (intimidation) against a victim. Also is a serious crime and can permanently traumatize its victims, both physically and

psychologically. It tends to receive considerable media attention when it occurs, and it carries longer prison terms than other forms of robbery such as simple robbery.

**Boko Haram:** A terrorist group in Nigeria

**Corruption:** This is the misuse of official powers for illegitimate private gains.

**Extortion:** Is a criminal offence, which occurs when a person unlawfully obtains either money, property or services from a person, entity or institution through coercion.

**Fraud:** The false representation of a matters of fact, whether by words or by conduct.

**Hijacking:** This is the unlawful seizure of an aircraft either by an individual or by a group.

**Kidnapping:** The unlawful taking and carrying away of a human being by force and against his or her own will.

**Rape:** Is the unlawful act of engaging another person in sexual intercourse through the use of physical force.

**Security:** Is an all-encompassing condition in which an individual citizens live in freedom, peace and safety; participate fully in the process of governance, enjoy the protection of fundamental rights, have access to resources and the basic necessities of life and inhabit an environment which is not detrimental to their health and well-being.

**Security threat:** This is anything that threatens the residents of a community or the things they value.

**Sovereignty:** The authority of a state to govern itself or another state.

**Terrorism:** This is extraordinary violence. It is intended to create massive fear and involves a planned attack for a purpose often against something or someone.

**Theft:** The unlawful taking and carrying away of another person's [property with intent of depriving the owner of property.

**Threat:** This is a method of triggering a risk event that is dangerous.

**Victim:** This is an identifiable person who has been harmed individually and directly by the perpetrator, rather than the whole society as a whole.

**Vigilante:** A member of a volunteers' committee organized to suppress and punish crime summarily.

**Vulnerability:** Is a weakness in a target that can potentially be explored by security threat.

## CHAPTER TWO

### LITERATURE REVIEW

#### 2.1 Conceptual Review

##### 2.1.1 Concept of Vigilante

Vigilantism is the act of enforcement, investigation or punishment of perceived offenses without legal authority (Bateson, 2020). A vigilante (from Spanish, Italian and Portuguese “vigilante”, which means "sentinel" or "watcher") is a practitioner of vigilantism.

Various authors in the field are defining vigilantism rather differently, emphasising diverse aspects and criteria. The etymological root of the word “vigilantism” is in the Latin word “vigil”, which means “watchful” or “alert” (Osborne 2005). Vigiles (“Cohortes Vigilum”) served as firemen patrols and also as municipal police during night hours in the ancient Rome. They belonged under the governmental structures at that time (Cartwright 2016). The current use of the terms vigilante or vigilantism has its roots in the Spanish word “vigilante”. It means “watchman”, “guard”, “guardian” or “regulator” (Kirschner 2011). The modern term “vigilantism” – in contrast to the ancient historical legacy – is dominantly connected with non-governmental actors. These actors are active in the enforcement of subjectively perceived “law and order” and they act autonomously from governmental power. Eduardo Moncanda defines vigilantism as “the collective use or threat of extra-legal violence in response to an alleged criminal act” (Moncanda 2017). However, the exact concept and

definition of vigilantism is still being discussed among various scholars. For example, this above-mentioned Moncanda's definition does not include the element of nonstate actors (the extra-legal police violence can then be subsumed under this definition). Moncanda also understands vigilantism as a group activity (Moncanda 2017). However, some individuals can do vigilante activities without engagement in an organizational structure. Although we do not have any examples of that in our volume, some lone actor terrorists do have a dimension of vigilantism behind their violent activities.

### **2.1.2 History of Vigilante**

Vigilantism and the vigilante ethos existed long before the word vigilante was introduced into the English language. There are conceptual parallels between the Dark Age and medieval aristocratic custom of private war or vendetta and the modern vigilante philosophy (Dumsday, 2019).

Elements of the concept of vigilantism can be found in the Biblical account in Genesis 34 of the abduction and rape (or, by some interpretations, seduction) of Dinah, the daughter of Jacob, in the Canaanite city of Shechem by the eponymous son of the ruler, and the violent reaction of her brothers Simeon and Levi, who slew all of the males of the city in revenge, rescued their sister and plundered Shechem. When Jacob protested that their actions might bring trouble upon him and his family, the brothers replied "Should he [i.e., Shechem] treat our sister as a harlot?"

Similarly, in 2 Samuel 13, Absalom kills his brother Amnon after King David, their father, fails to Amnon for raping Tamar, their sister.

In the Western literary and cultural tradition, characteristics of vigilantism have often been vested in folkloric heroes and outlaws (Mark & Daniel, 2004).

During medieval times, punishment of felons was sometimes exercised by such secret societies as the courts of the Vehm, (Time, 1944) (cf. the medieval Sardinian Gamurra later become Barracelli, the Sicilian Vendicatori and the Beati Paoli), a type of early vigilante organization, which became extremely powerful in Westphalian Germany during the 15th punish century.

### **2.1.3 History of vigilante Group in Nigeria**

Vigilante groups have existed in Nigeria for decades, not only under civilian rule but also during the previous military governments of Generals Babangida, Abacha and Abubakar. They have habitually been seen as an extension to the work of law enforcement officers in a country with high levels of crime and a lack of policing education, equipment and personnel. For example, in the South-East of Nigeria there traditionally existed groups generally referred to as “Ndinche”; who were community sentinels formed by volunteers in villages who would bring suspected criminals to the community council, often called “Amala”, and then display them in front of the village to their shame before being handed over to the police.

Effectively, vigilante in Nigeria is a denomination originally proposed by the police in the mid 1980s to substitute an older practice present since the colonial period and referred to as the “hunter guard system” or the “night guard system”. Colonial administration has either authorized it or legalised it in the West and there has been since then a continuity of these non-state forms of policing (Bashiru, 2018). Hence, instead of looking at vigilante groups as a response to a supposed increase of crime or of a supposed decline of police force, we should consider them initially at least - as a first attempt of introducing some forms of community policing in order to improve the appalling image of the police. As such vigilante in South-western Nigeria is not only a response to “the Nigerian politics of plunder” endemic since the beginning of the oil boom (Gore and Pratten, 2003), it is also a new name for an old practice of policing which should be considered in a larger historical sequence (from the 1930s onward), a period in which violent crime has been perceived as a recurrent danger for various communities.

#### **2.1.4 Concept of Vigilante in Nigeria**

As Nigeria’s ungovernable spaces continue to grow by the day, with government’s presence receding to state capitals and major cities, most rural areas and some ‘peripheral towns’, often referred to as slums, are left desolate and with less or no government control or presence. Abrahansen and Williams (2005) also stated that the limited state capacity to provide safety and security to the public has led to self help responses on the part of citizens including vigilante activity and in addition to vigilantism, is a rapid growth in commercial

security. Smith (2007) averred that public yearning for vigilantism could be considered as a response to wide spread negative perception that the police, the courts and other institutions of the state were too corrupt to curtail the level of crime.

The Vigilante Groups who have been seen as better alternative to the police refers to some members of an official or unofficial group within a community that partner with the police to keep watch in a community for the purpose of maintaining law and order in the community and preventing crime. The group may or may not have any government support.

The growth of vigilantism and the fact that various States of the federation are giving approval and solid support to the role of vigilantism indicates that there operations are valued. However, a number of serious concerns have engaged the minds of scholars and well-meaning individuals in the country as regards to their operational logistics. These concerns range from concern about the character of the vigilante members, the manner of admission of the members, the training they receive, the remuneration and upkeep of the same, the power relationship between the members and the citizens, to the allegiance of the vigilante members to the State authority as well as the level of cooperation between the groups and the conventional security forces of the State.

The importance of commitment to duty especially in security cannot be overemphasized. Chukwuma (2002), observed that the inability or total lack of commitment of the police to respond adequately to the safety and security needs of citizens in various communities,

made the citizens resort to self-help measures, otherwise known as informal policing or what Scharf (2000), called 'community initiated policing'.

Owumi and Ajayi (2013), however maintained that neighbor hood watch organizations and vigilante groups are still functioning effectively and people consult them on security issues probably because of the perceived ineffectiveness and inefficiency of the official law enforcement organisations. This view is similar to earlier view of Burton, Plessis, Legette, Louw, Mistry and Vuuren, (2003), who had the view that people repose confidence on vigilante services for the very fear they have of crime and for the loss of faith in the State's ability to protect them.

Alemika and Chukwuma (2003), was of the view that the vigilante groups were committed to their duty and this level of commitment and effectiveness lay primarily in the fact that the members are from within the communities in which they operate; also for the fact that they have a determination to ensuring security, and vested interest in curbing crime and are under the control of, and are accountable to the community.

Yaqub and Olaniyi (2004), also observed that in many regions in Nigeria, parallel local organizations and vigilante groups have proved far more effective in combating crime than the state law enforcement agencies. They equally remarked that in several cases, communities trust vigilante groups more than the police, because of the effective, reliable and prompt ways they tackle crime issues.

Other scholars however, have contrary opinions about the commitment of vigilante groups. These groups of scholars have the mind that the vigilante groups most often abandon their statutory functions and align themselves with political stalwarts, committing a range of atrocities including torture and execution without fair trial and this betrays the truth about their commitment to duty (Human Rights Watch 2002; Alemika & Chukwuma, 2003; Ololade, 2012).

## **2.2 Empirical Review**

### **2.2.1 Contemporary Structure, Composition and Mode of Operation of Vigilantism in Nigeria**

In 2000, the various state chapters of the Vigilantism Group in Nigeria (VGN) agreed to form a unified group at the national level to improve coordination and service delivery. Before then, VGN activities at the regional and national levels were non-existent or limited. The purpose of a national platform was to attract support from the national authority by aligning the VGN's activities with those of federal government agencies. Regional and national coordination offices were set up as platforms for lobbying and advocacy with the relevant federal government agencies. The core support for these VGN operations was from state and local government authorities.

In 2011, Commandant Jahun moved the national secretariat of the organization from Kaduna state to Abuja. The move to Abuja brought VGN headquarters closer to the federal government ministries; however, the resources needed to sustain a national office in the

nation's capital have almost overwhelmed the organization's budget. The federal government does not fund the VGN, although contributions from some state chapters have enabled it to maintain physical presence in Abuja. The VGN has a four-level governance structure: national, regional, state, and LGA; districts/members are units within the LGA. At the national level, twelve members, including the national commandant and the deputy national commandant, constitute the national executive council, which coordinates activities at the national level. Program areas include general operations, administration, finance, logistics, intelligence, training, anti-human trafficking, community policing, and government interrelations.

Six regional commandants are in charge of the six VGN regional offices. The regional offices are in the six geopolitical zones of the country northwest, north-central, northeast, southwest, south-south, and southeast that encompass thirty-six states. Each regional commandant controls five to seven states, and all regional commandants report directly to the national commandant. The regional offices coordinate activities at the state level. The structures at the state and LGA levels are similar to that of the national level, consisting of a management team and executive councils. There are 36 state and 744 LGA commands (Ogbozor, 2016). The foot soldiers of the vigilantes are the members of the local government districts and units. However, a study carried out by Ogbonnaya (2020) reveals that these numbers may not represent actual figures (See Table 1). This is because vigilante groups spring up wherever there is a need for it from the communities. Hence, there exists informal vigilante groups not registered with the Vigilante Group of Nigeria.

Table 1: Profile of Non-State Security Providers in Some Selected States of Nigeria

<b>ZONE</b>	<b>STATE</b>	<b>NAME OF NON-STATE ACTOR</b>	<b>SPONSORS</b>	
South-East ZONE	Abia	Abia State Vigilante Group	Abia State Government	
		Neighbourhood Watch	Host Communities	
	Anambra	Anambra State Vigilante Services	Anambra State Government	
		Neighbourhood Watch	Host Communities	
	Ebonyi	Ebonyi State Neighbourhood Watch	Ebonyi State Government	
		Community Vigilante	Host Communities	
	Enugu	Enugu State Neighbourhood Association and Watch Groups	Enugu State Government	
		Community Vigilante	Host Communities	
	IMO	Imo Security Watch and Vigilante Group	Imo State Government	
		Vigilante Group of Nigeria	Private Individuals	
Neighbourhood Watch		Host Communities		
South-West Zone	Ekiti	Ekiti State Vigilante Group	Ekiti State Government	
		Oodua People 's Congress	Private Individuals	
		Vigilante Group of Nigeria		
	Lagos	Lagos Neighbourhood Safety Corps (LNSC)	Lagos State Government	
		Oodua People 's Congress	Private Individuals	
		Vigilante Group of Nigeria		
	Ogun	Vigilante Service of Ogun State	Ogun State Government	
			Oodua People 's Congress	Private individuals
			Vigilante Group of Nigeria	
Osun		Harmonized Vigilante Group	Osun State Government	
		Oodua People's Congress	Private Individuals	
Oyo		Vigilante Group of Nigeria		
		Yoruba K 'OYA Movement		
		Oodua People 's Congress		
South-South Zone	Akwa Ibom	Mboho Mme Ette Idung ke Akwa Ibom	Akwa Ibom	
		Vigilante Group of Nigeria	Private Individuals	
		Community Vigilante Groups	Host Communities	
	Bayelsa	Bayelsa State Volunteer Service	Bayelsa State Government	

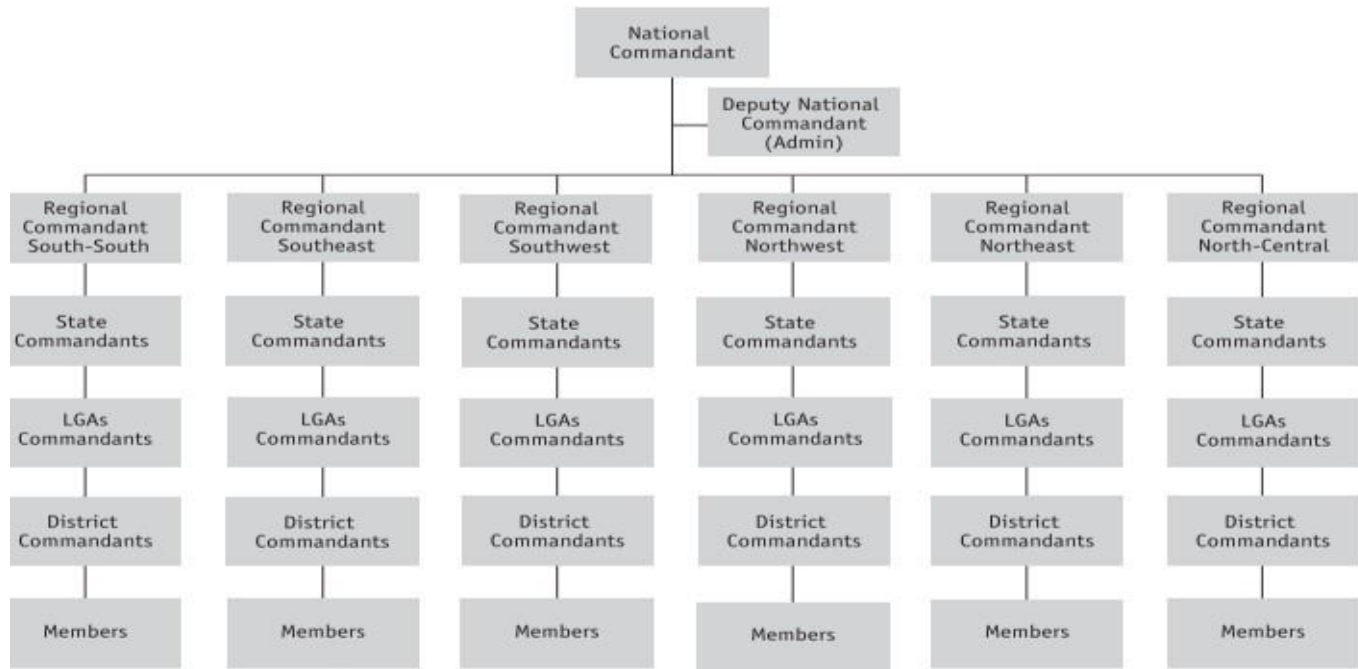
		Egbesu Boys of Africa	Private Individuals
		Vigilante Group of Nigeria	
	Delta	Vigilante Group of Nigeria	Private Individuals
		Niger Delta Vigilante	
	Edo	Edo State Integrated Vigilante Service	Edo State Government
		Vigilante Group of Nigeria	Private Individuals
	Rivers	Neighbourhood Safety Agency of the Rivers State Government	Rivers State Government
		Vigilante Group of Nigeria	Self-Sponsored
North-Central Zone	Benue	Vigilante Group of Nigeria	
		Civilian Joint Task Force (CJTF)	Benue State Government
		Neighbourhood Watch	Host Communities
North-Central Zone	Nasarawa	Nasarawa State Youth Empowerment Scheme (NSYES)	Nasarawa State Government
North-Central Zone		Vigilante Group of Nigeria	Self-Sponsored
		Neighbourhood Watch	Host Communities
North-Central Zone	Kogi	Vigilante Group of Nigeria	
		Enyidudu Community	Host Communities
North-Central Zone	Plateau	Operation Rainbow	Plateau State Government
		Vigilante Group of Nigeria	Self-Sponsored
		Neighbourhood Watch	Host Communities
		Yan Banga (Night Watch)	
North-East Zone	Adamawa	Vigilante Group Adamawa State	Adamawa State Government
		Civilian Joint Task Force (CJTF)	
		Amalgamated Union of Nigerian Hunters	Self-sponsored
	Bauchi	The Sarasuka	Host Community
		The Vigilante Group of Wunti	
	Borno	Civilian Joint Task Force (CJTF)	Self-Sponsored
		Borno Youth Empowerment Scheme (BOYES)	Borno State Government
	Gombe	Gombe Vigilante Group	Gombe State Government
		The Hunters Association	Self-Sponsored
		The Kalare Youth	
Taraba	The Vigilante Group of Nigeria (VGN) also known as the Taraba State Vigilante Group (TSVG)	Taraba State Government	

	Yobe	Civilian Joint Taskforce (CJTF)	Gombe State Government
		The Hunters Association	Self-Sponsored
		The Youth Vigilante group	Host Local Governments
North-West Zone	Jigawa	Jigawa State Vigilante Group of Nigeria (JVGN)	Jigawa State
	Kaduna	Kaduna Vigilante Group of Nigeria (K-VGN)	Kaduna State Government
Civilian Joint Taskforce (JTF) also known as Kabala Concern Forum (Mammal da fora)			
	Kano	Kano State Vigilante Group of Nigeria (KVGN)	Kano State Government
		Hisbah	
	Zamfara	Zamfara State Vigilante Service	Zamfara State Government
		Hisbah	

Source: (Ogbonnaya, 2020)

With lots of members at the federal, regional, state and local government levels, the VGN is more widely distributed than any other policing group in Nigeria. Hence its ability to play a complementary role to the formal security sector. As the VGN national commandant has highlighted, “By virtue of VGN’s structure and rural base, it could serve as an auxiliary agency to the national security forces” (Ogbonnaya, 2020: 5). Assessments steered in 2005, 2006, and 2007 by the Security, Justice and Growth Program of the United Kingdom’s Department for International Development Nigeria confirms the leadership role of the VGN and ranks it above other unauthorised policing groups in the country. The vision of the VGN is “to reduce criminal activities and fear of crime in the society; reduce hazards to the community as a whole; and provide reassurance to the community.” Its mission is “to help secure a safe and just society in which the rights and responsibilities of individuals, families, and communities are properly safeguarded” (Ibidem).

Fig. 1: Structure of the Vigilante Group of Nigeria



**Source: Ogbozor, 2016**

With no financial backing, however, the VGN’s capability to function effectively is unclear. The federal government does not recognize or provide financial support to the VGN, and there is no national legislation to guide group operations. As the Vigilante magazine (2014) indicated “The federal government does not recognize the vigilante group of Nigeria, but the services of the group are felt all over the country” (Okeowo, 2014). However, the impact of the VGN and the Civilian Joint Task Force to the federal security forces to contain Boko Haram have been acknowledged. According to the VGN Commander in Borno, Abdullahi Muhammad, by mid2014, three hundred officers from the Borno VGN chapter had been

killed fighting Boko Haram. “For instance, our former commander which I took over from was killed alongside his wives... our state secretary, and many others” (Okeowo, Op.Cit.). The VGN national commandant admitted that the national headquarters struggles to support the widows and orphans of deceased members.

The composition and modus operandum of the vigilante groups in the states and local governments differ from those of the federal and regional organization and operation. State and local government VGN chapters obtain substantial financial backing from local authorities. In some states, there are existent laws guiding the activities of the vigilantes. Such endorsement makes the VGN an agent of the state security apparatus, with financial implications on the part of the local authority. Abuja and seventeen states, including Plateau, Kaduna, and Kano, have enacted laws guiding the activities of the VGN. Six states—Sokoto, Katsina, Zamfara, Edo, Delta, and Bayelsa—have vigilante laws pending in their respective state governments. The VGN is working to persuade the remaining twelve states to enact legislation to guide vigilante operations. (Ogbozor, 2016).

### **2.2.2 The Contributions of Vigilante Groups to Peace and Security**

Vigilante groups in Nigeria have been credited with varying degrees of successes, which can be attributed to their efficiency in responding to security threats. In some communities, the use of traditional voodoo in fishing out criminals has become a potent instrument in addressing the challenges posed by insecurity. In others, vigilante groups go on the hunt against idle people in the late hours of the night, arresting and even detaining them in cells

for possible trial in the morning. All this occurs under a security regime in which the formal state institutions have failed to gain or even seek the legitimacy, confidence, and respect of the people they are supposed to protect. Thus, the atmosphere of mistrust that characterize the relationship between the formal security institutions and the citizens has become a key driver and incentive that make people seek alternative solutions as a coping strategy (Ogbozor, 2016).

The Civilian Joint Task Force as a vigilante organisation has contributed positively to the ongoing war against terrorism being fought by the Federal Republic of Nigeria. One cannot but applaud them for their various counter-insurgency activities which are responsible for the earlier feats recorded by the Nigerian side.

### **The Role of Vigilante Groups**

The optimist scholars hold the opinion that vigilante groups complement the police force in maintaining community security. In recognition of the role of the vigilante groups, some State governments have enacted laws legitimizing their functions. For example, the Anambra state government enacts the Vigilante Service Act (2000) to provide for the registration of vigilante groups in Anambra State (ICHRP, 2002). The aim is to limit their size, structure and regulate their activities. Also in this vein, the Benue State government declares through the Community Volunteer Guards Law (2000) that there is need to legalize and regulate the activities of the vigilante in the state as they have been found to be helpful and complementary to the police in keeping peace and security”.

Apart from the attempts made by some state governments to provide the activities of vigilante groups under law, scholars like Abrahams (2007) admits that some members of the OPC are involved in vigilante activities, patrolling the streets and chasing down criminals. His statement reflects the split of the OPC, which later had a vigilante and a militia group. Members of the OPC militia group have busied themselves with issues that foment crisis than those that offer security.

Baker (2002) confirms that it is the vigilante groups that protect government's facilities like water, electricity, etc, from illegal public use. The Hisbah groups in Northern Nigeria are seen as helping in the preservation of the Islamic culture. It is in recognition of their services that the Supreme Council for Sharia in Nigeria (SCSN) requested the federal government not to see the Hisbah groups as Security rivals but as supplementing the services of the police (Osigbe, 2001).

However, the views of the optimists are completely unacceptable to the pessimists who opine that it is the members of vigilante groups who become used as militias to execute conflicts in Nigeria.

The vigilantes, which emerged in their communities to protect the lives and properties of the people, have become private organizations of the very important personalities in Nigeria who finance and influence their activities. For example, the Bakassi Boys in South-Eastern Nigeria have been accused of operating under the orbit of the South-Eastern State Governors and also of defying the law and killing real and perceived criminals (Smith, 2004). It is

estimated that in mid 2005, at least 50, 000 people have been killed in various incidence of ethnic, religious and communal violence since the return to democracy (Economist, 2005).

Having considered both the positive and negative arguments about the role of vigilante groups in community policing, it is posited that though the vigilantes have suffered series of setbacks, their activities in maintaining law and order cannot be ignored easily. Though members of vigilante groups are volunteers, the issue of incentive has to be taken very seriously. The incentive should be in form of monetary reward, which will stimulate greater positive results.

### **2.2.3 Vigilante Group in Edo State**

With the high rate of crime going on in the State, Edo State Government has set up it's on vigilante security network to curb the crimes in the state. The State Governor, Godwin Obaseki, has said that the state will have new security architecture that will accommodate vigilante groups from various communities, who will be expected to assist in maintaining peace and order across the state. Edo is one of the states that is presently battling bloodletting as a result of attacks by suspected herdsmen. The state said the new security architecture comes on the heels of recent attacks on innocent Edo people by bandits, and will serve as a robust framework incorporating the restructured Operation Thunderstorm. He said, "I am here because of a serious security breach. We have always lived together in this state despite our differences. I am concerned because of a growing national trend. The security of our country is being undermined. We want to caution that we will not allow what

is happening across the country to get to Edo State. He also said, “I am working with the Commissioner of Police. We are going to totally overhaul the command and postings in the Police. Of particular interest is the Police structure in Esan land. We are going to have a Police Force that is highly mobile and integrated with the community arrangements, whether they are vigilantes or hunters. This is to ensure that if there are suspicious movements, the information will be sent across promptly (Press, 2018). Public tolerance of vigilante group is very high. After suffering years of violent crime, abuse by the security forces, and government inaction, people appeared to have given up expecting the government or the police to provide protection or security. As center for law enforcement and education puts it.

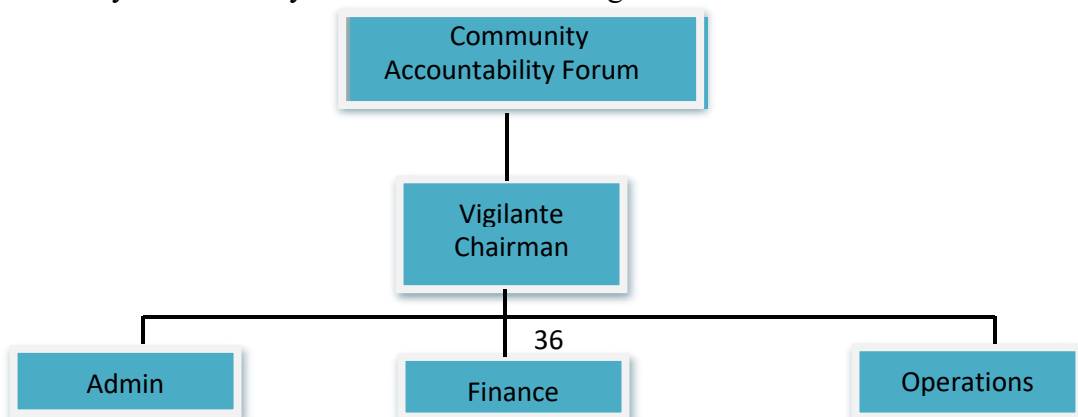
In 5<sup>th</sup> August, 2021, the Edo State Governor, Mr Godwin Obaseki, has said his government plans to recruit and train over 10,000 local security personnel to complement the efforts of the federal security agents in tackling insecurity across the state. Obaseki, who stated this during an inspection of the police training facility at Ogida Police Barracks in Benin, said his administration was collaborating with the Nigerian Police Force to build a world-class facility that would help in the training of officials of Edo State Vigilante Security Network, the state’s constabulary, members of the Public Work Volunteer and other outfits, to maintain law and order in the State. He said, “The whole idea is for us to be able to complement the federal security system with a force of not less than 10,000 men and women to guarantee peace, security and order in the state.” On his part, Edo State Police Commissioner, Philip Ogbadu, commended the state vigilante group for partnering the

police, noting that the relationship had resulted in improved security across the state (Adeyinka, 2021).

The vigilante groups in Edo State assume different structures and patterns of operation and these are determined by the nature of their societies and the purpose for which they exist. Yet there are other groups under the umbrella of VGN that do not represent any political, economic and religious interest, but only tackles crimes in Edo state communities.

The existence of government is a product of social contract; to protect the citizenry from all forms of social abuses, and by means of the constitution government oversees the military and the paramilitary. Thus, government has the capacity to mainstream the vigilante groups by settling problems that give birth to the emergence of militia groups such as political, economic and religious interests. Equally, the government has harmonize the operations of the vigilante groups by establishing a national body that will register and regulate their operations.

The structure below explains how the vigilante is organised and how it relates with the community and its leaders particularly in getting approval for its actions and reporting on how it carries out its activities. It further explains the rights and distribution of responsibility and authority of the officers of the vigilante.



#### **2.2.4 Preventive Methods of Crime by Vigilante Group**

Actually preventive measures are employed by the police or vigilante group to forestall or reduce the opportunity or avenue for committing crime, this is in appreciation of the fact that it is cheaper to prevent crime than to detect it. The method usually employed includes:

- Feasible operational method of checking the menace of criminals.
- Surveillance on building and suspected criminal individuals. This method affords the police the motorized patrol and foot patrols including highway and border patrols. This remains the most opportunity to collate intelligence on criminals.
- Cultivation of information: - information is the key to all policing functional activities there is need to continuously gather intelligence reports about criminal individuals and associate receivers of loots operations. Information is vital and investigation must regard everyone they come in good act with as a potential source of information. Information received through this medium is useful in planning strategies to combat crime. Cultivating information is an essential part of police duty and this is achieved by building relationship as well as developing rapport with members of the public with good intention to assist the police, criminals in police custody and victims of

criminals activities, every investigation has a moral professional and ethical obligation to safeguard the identity of an informers. Failure to do this may result in death, injury, or intimidation for the informer and/ or his or her family. As a general rule an informer should not be exposed unless he or she has agreed (for example if he or she is willing to give evidence in court).

- Decoy methods are strategies employed by the police to destabilize the set plans of the criminals. This is sequel to in intelligence gathered on the activities of the criminals and their preparedness to commit crime.
- Covert operations undertaken by the police to forestall criminal activities who are obviously of such operations until they are apprehended.
- Raiding of criminal hideouts to apprehend criminals and recover arms and ammunition.
- Arrest and interrogation of suspected criminals.
- Simulation of crime situation: the police create scenario by engaging in some activities aimed and selling dummies to criminals who mistakes such actions for real life situation and unwittingly expose their identities.

### **2.2.5 Perceived Challenges facing Vigilante Groups in Crime Control**

Despite the perceived effectiveness and commitment of vigilante groups, their operations have been noted to face many challenges. Marx and Archer (1999), noted five outstanding organisational problems which the vigilante groups are facing. These problems are their relationship to the police and legal system; their legitimacy in the eyes of the communities

they wish to serve; the recruitment and management of personnel; the choice of appropriate operations; and the maintenance of resources, incentives, and motivation for the groups' survival. Alemika and Chukwuma (2003), identified their problems as: lack of funding by the government, harassment from the police when carrying out their duties, lack of proper training and adequate arms, lack of basic operational equipments such as flashlights, warm clothing, rain boots, rain coats, identity cards, whistles, uniforms etc. Other shortcomings experienced by the groups include, poor screening of new members and presence of touts or 'bad eggs' among the vigilante members, multiplicity of the organisations, and poor accountability by the groups.

Ekeh, (2002), reacting to shortcomings of the Nigeria Police, reasoned that many Nigerian communities no longer rely on the police for their security; rather they have resorted to unregulated and violent reprisal against suspected sources of their collective endangerment. Of course the preference of the vigilante groups to the police by the people would generate rift and mutual distrust between the two security bodies, the vigilante group would always accuse the police of corruption, while the police would accuse the vigilante of indulging in extra-judicial executions and illegal detention of suspects. This scenario creates a serious setback to the security activities of the two bodies, and thereby worsening the security challenges in the country.

To Olaniyi (2005), vigilante groups often encounter threats from hoodlums who use sophisticated weapons in their robbery operations. He equally noted that the vigilante groups

have problem of lack of cooperation among the members of the group particularly from the higher-ranking officers who do not respect certain decisions made.

### **2.2.6 Public Reaction to Continual use of Vigilante Groups**

Alemika and Chukwuma (2004), noted that vigilante services became a necessity in countries and communities where police services are either lacking, inadequate, politicised and unserious. In such societies, people have lost total confidence in the police as a result of their corruption, incompetence or brutality. Ekeh (2002), saw vigilantism as filling a vacuum in the absence of all committed police services. Amnesty International Worldwide (2013), maintained the view that the rise in crime and insecurity and the sense of low performance by the security forces has led to the expansion of vigilante groups at local and State levels in various countries where they exist.

Varied reactions are expressed regarding the services of the vigilante groups. While some people are comfortable with their services in spite of their numerous short comings, others react vehemently about their continued operation, taking into account their abuses and excesses. Minnaar (2001), relating the South African experience observed that in the absence of any strong civic organisations in certain areas as well as the widespread lack of a police presence or response to crime, vigilantes have been able to morally claim the high ground on the basis of 'protecting the community' or of administering justice for the benefit of the residents in their area. There is no wonder therefore, that vigilante activities, are given such support by citizens across the board. Minnaar, quoting Beaver (1997),

acknowledged however that not all residents in a community are supportive of vigilante operations. The vigilante members often use their power to intimidate the residents and are beyond reproach themselves.

In Nigeria, Amnesty International Worldwide (2013), observed that armed vigilante groups routinely carry out killings and unlawful detentions and inflict torture and cruel inhuman and degrading treatment to citizens. Overwhelming evidence of the violations of human rights by the vigilante groups in various states of the nation is on record. Amnesty International noted that allegations of extortion, harassment, arson, destruction of public property, or armed robbery are often made against members of these groups.

Notwithstanding the acclaim people give the vigilante groups, people still express mixed reactions when they see the arbitrariness and brutality of the vigilante groups. Human Rights Watch and Centre for Law Enforcement, Education in Nigeria (2002), captured people's reactions towards the vigilante groups in the following words: “People's tolerance of vigilante groups is very high. It is frightening, even among reasonable people. They complain about extrajudicial executions, yet they support the retention of the organisation”.

In this situation, it would seem the people are helpless over the activities of the vigilante groups. People in various communities; seem caught in a web of either dismissing the vigilante operations and facing the wrath of the perpetrators of criminality or keeping the vigilante groups and bearing their excesses and abuses. Igbokwe vigilante groups and bearing their excesses and abuses. Igbokwe (2002) observed that the traditional distinction

between the criminals and the vigilante has blurred so much that both have now become almost indistinguishable. Both now according to him, instill knee-bucking fear and nervousness in citizens. Igbokwe maintained that the vigilante committees have become veritable pools from which guns for hire are drawn to unleash mayhem and intimidation on the people. Igbokwe argued that the vigilante committees are irresponsible parallel security columns that degenerate fast into monsters that spare no one.

### **2.2.7 Enhancing the Services of the Vigilante Groups**

Adejoh (2013) noted that the emergence and proliferation of community based vigilante security groups at local and state levels across Nigeria is due to the general air of insecurity and the low performance of the conventional police. In other words, these structures emerged to fill an unmet need. Enhancing the services of these groups, and making them more effective, would only serve to improve safety and security for the community and its dwellers. Baker (2002), admitted that in many regions of Nigeria, parallel organisations and vigilante groups have proved more effective in combating crime. He therefore submitted that in order to enhance the services of these groups, the police must recognise the need to show greater understanding and appreciation of the useful and positive role the groups could play in the maintenance of law and order. Cooperation between the police and the vigilante groups therefore would be a serious morale booster to the vigilante groups.

Bureau of Justice Assistance (1994) noted this when it stated that cooperative problem solving reinforces trust, facilitates the exchange of information and leads to the identification of other areas that could benefit the society in the fight against crime.

Adejoh (2013), remarked that the vigilante group members in most places relied heavily on charms and voodoo, while few of them had matches, bows and arrows, and locally made guns and double barrel guns. He indicated that if proper security is to be ensured from the groups, there is need to provide the groups with better arms and give the members required training. The Justice for All Group (2012), noted that in order to improve the overall performance of the vigilante groups, constant technical support and funding must be given the group to enhance the knowledge of its members on crime prevention. Justice for All Group also emphasised that relevant information about the growing trend and sophistication in crime including, but not limited to the overall direction of crime prevention and policing; observance of guidelines on human rights and policing must be given to the vigilante groups in the course of their training.

Alemika and Chukwuma (2003) stated that the meager remuneration paid to the vigilante groups has been one of the factors limiting the effectiveness of the groups in their security services. They maintained that the meager remuneration may provide a temptation to engage in (more lucrative) criminal activities, as well as deter good men from entering the service. Knowland (2014), observed that in Mexico, certain vigilante groups that started by helping out in countering kidnapping and drug dealing sometimes deviated into drug

dealing and exportation themselves; due to lack of adequate remuneration. Therefore, the vigilante groups should be well paid, in order to motivate them to combat crime. Justice for All Group (2012), would maintain that even though vigilante services properly understood should be voluntary, yet there should be some measure of reward and welfare to the members which should serve as an incentive and a motivation to enhance their services.

## **2.3 Theoretical Framework**

The study adopted two theoretical frameworks; the Marxist theory of conflict to give explanation on the reasons why vigilante groups start to operate and the social institutionalism theory to describe why the groups have persisted to the present besides the constant threats of ban from the government.

### **2.3.1 The Marxist Theory of Conflict**

According to the Marxist theorists, the society is an amalgamated class of individuals with antagonistic values, beliefs and concerns. There is the bourgeoisie-comprising of a dominant class with a lot of influence (power and money) and the proletariat-comprised of subordinate class without influence. These two classes are in perpetual conflict as a result of struggle for the limited resources in society. Domination and power maintains social order as the wealthier and the powerful suppresses the poor and the powerless.

The Marxists define the state as a committee of bourgeoisie, which governs for the interest of the superior class (Marx, K. and Engels, F. 1975). Although Weber reflected on the state

as human community that (successfully) claims the monopoly of the legitimate use of force physical force within a given territory (Weber 2002). But to Lenin the state is a legal order where exploitation does exist (1932). It is an institution with established apparatus purposely and directly meant to defend and uphold class domination and class exploitation.

Conflict emerges when the proletariat class feels marginalized and underrated by the dominant class despite being heavily taxed. This subordinate class too desires to be handled with dignity and furthermore provided with state services. Marxism has also highlighted a given distinct cadre of conflict generated as the upshot of forces of capitalism. To the theory, if the state fails to ensure owners of labour (the sub-ordinate class) benefits from the resources in society, the feeling of marginalization and side alignment may germinate amongst them and might seek for means of ensuring they also benefit in their own special way including a revolution.

These theorists may interpret the vigilante response as the desperate lashing out of the dominant group which sees that it is losing to others its control of the state apparatus (Rosebaum and Sederberg, 1976). Vigilante violence could be analyzed as a normal section of exploitation by the dominant class. The Marxist theorists view this violence as a normal part of politics at least up to the time the proletariat revolution takes place (ibid).

Brown (1994) argues that class conflict involving the American rich cattle tycoons and the deprived famers and herders resulted into the formation of vigilante groupings. The juror emanated from the proletariat class would not penalize one of their own and this let to

constant fall short of the elite class in court. In the face of this situation the elite decided to form rank-and-file gangs related to vigilante groups with an aim to protect their animals. Individual like James Jesse were considered criminals in the face the rich. The poor too considered them as social bandits (Hobsbawn, 1971). Just as it is the case in social difference without a mechanism of diplomatic resolution; usually violence gives dependable deterrent to groups of people in support to the interest of the elite class. Therefore, in relation to the Sungusungu vigilantes, the rich barons created a gang that favoured quick justice through the use of violence. The group would deter and even frighten the lower class threatening their interests. Just as the people of Suneka were unable to trust in the weak Kenyan state protection machineries to safeguard them and their properties, wealthy livestock barons of the American frontline could not use state justice institutions controlled to enough extent by the poor to make them useless.

Lenin draws a picture of what are these vigilante groups by asserting that, “a state is formed, a special power is created in the form of special bodies of armed men and every revolution by shattering the state apparatus, bodies of armed men to create a new organization of its brand capable of serving not the exploiter but the exploited” (ibid).

Although vigilantes have severally been criticized as having steering their own selfish interest; the shared desire of any group of political actors and which motivates their political activity (Bentray, 1967). This vigilante-based self-interest creates another level of

conflict in our society. Therefore, the vigilante groups germinate as a result of this conflict between the dominant and the subordinate classes.

### **2.3.2 The Social Institutionalism Theory**

Institutional Theory is "Policy-making theory that emphasizes the formal and legal aspects of social and political structures"(Kraft's 2007). It considers the processes by which structures, including schemes; rules, norms, and routines, become established as authoritative guidelines for social behaviour (Scott, 2004). Institutions are social structures that have attained a high degree of resilience. They are composed of cultural-cognitive, normative, and regulative elements that, together with associated activities and resources, provide stability and meaning to social life. Institutions are conveyed by a range of carriers, together with relational systems, symbolic systems, artefacts and routines (Scott, 1995; 2001).

In their study, Brian Paciotti and Monique Borgerhoff Mulder (2004) on Sungusungu in Tanzania, they employed successfully the social institutionalism theory. There are number of conceivable social control players available in society and they encompasses informal actors (like community gossip linkages, Sungusungu), and formal actors (like, police institutions including legal systems. Social institutions are set of cultural regulations which

inform characters or subjects of the required personality and the perceived outcome of violating or upholding them. It is presumed that the said social institutions are the backgrounds of all kinds of organizations. (Turner 1997).

Scott (1995) shows that for order to be maintained, institutions must adhere to the regulations and acceptable systems available in that society. This theory entails on the extreme and more firm features of social structure. It studies the procedures through which compositions, system; customs and practices are transformed into solid tactics for social conduct. (Scott, 2004). The case of Sungusungu for instance, it expanded through philosophy of the customary set of laws by the elders and was centred on the pre-existed Sukuma organizations (Bukurura, 1994; Paciotti, 2002). Varied parts of the instructional theory defines how such elements are initiated, dispersed, embraced and modified over time and space; and finally how they declined and disused.

Using the social institutionalism theory lenses one could be able to conclude that the Sungusungu vigilante group stands as remarkably successful non-state actor that has infiltrated state machineries in the provision of security. Sungusungu being one of the non-state actors operating while violating formal institutions established under the constitution of Kenya, contain a number of regulations that spells out the kind of substantive actions that are to be controlled; such as theft, debt, adultery among others.

## **CHAPTER THREE**

### **RESEARCH METHODOLOGY**

#### **3.1 Research Design**

Research design can be described as a blue print that allows a researcher to provide solution to the problem under study, where to study and how to generate the data in the research situation; the study will adopt the survey method of research, using questionnaires as an instrument of data gathering. Surveys are most useful for collecting demographical data, for systematically quantifying the occurrence of observable objects and characteristics. The method involves drawing up a set of questions on various subjects or on various aspects to which selected members of a population are requested to respond.

#### **3.2 Population of Study**

The population of studies are People between the ages of 20 years and above resident in Oredo were used as the population for the study. This is so because, constitutionally, 19years below are regarded as under age and therefore have no capacity for rational thinking. According to the National Population Census of 2006, Oredo L.G.A has a population of 212,877 people within the age of 20 and above.

### **3.3 Sample Size**

The size for the study on which questionnaire were administered is 120 to the population of indigenes in various communities in Oredo Local Government Area of Edo State. They were randomly selected from different location to generate data about their perceptions and opinions as regards to the socio-economic of the use of vigilante groups on security challenges in Edo State.

### **3.4 Sampling Technique**

The sampling technique to be used for this study is the random sampling technique. This will give each staff in the population a chance to be chosen, leaving bias and allowing open mindedness of the respondents.

### **3.5 Research Instrument**

For the purpose of this research work, questionnaire will be an appropriate data gathering instrument. The questionnaire will be carefully designed in simple structural language to enable the correctness in the response given by the respondent and to easily get the information gathered. The questionnaire is a very pre-planned set of questions deigned to yield specific information in other to meet a particular need for a research. The questionnaire will be divided into two sections; the first section of the questionnaire is on the personal data of the respondents such as the ages. Sex, marital status, educational qualification and occupation. The second section will cover question that are relevant to the study, response with close ended or Agree, Strongly Agree, Disagree, Strongly Disagree.

### **3.6 Validity and Reliability of the Instrument**

The questionnaire were designed based on the structure of questionnaire used for previous similar studies. The questionnaire will be examined by some colleagues to test if the actual respondents will understand the instrument been used and also by the supervisor who made available required and vital amendments before administration was effected.

### **3.7 Data Collection Method**

Data collection is the retrieving of administered questionnaire from the indigenous people from four selected communities. The four community are 3<sup>rd</sup> Circular, Ogbe, Ibiwe, and Ikpema with Accessibility and Support (Ideas) that 30 questionnaire were distributed to each.

### **3.8 Method of Data Analyses**

The method to be employed for this research is the simple statistical method such as the simple percentage to deduce the effective and interpret the further necessary discussions. When data are collected and put in numerical form they do not seem meaningful until they are summarized in tables, percentages grouped into frequencies and so on.

## **CHAPTER FOUR**

### **DATA PRESENTATION AND ANALYSIS**

#### **4.1 Introduction**

The following analysis is based on the data obtained from response to the questionnaire administered. All positive responses (that is strongly agree, agree) are in support of the question asked and are referred to as favourable responses and all negative responses and all negative responses (that is strongly disagree, disagree) indicated that they do not agree with the question and are generally referred to as unfavourable responses.

#### **4.2 Data Presentation and Analysis**

A total of one hundred and twenty (120) questionnaires were distributed among the indigenous people from four selected communities. The four community are 3<sup>rd</sup> Circular, Ogbe, Ibiwe, and Ikpemai and was properly filled and returned. The response from the respondents were in pie chart showing the options, the decision made.

## Section A

**Table 4.2.1: Respondents personal data**

<b>Items</b>	<b>Options</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>% of Response</b>
<b>Gender</b>	Male	75	62.5%
	Female	45	37.5%
	<b>Total</b>	<b>120</b>	<b>100%</b>
<b>Age</b>	25yrs Below	34	28.3%
	26 – 35yrs	41	34.2%
	36 - 45yrs	21	17.5%
	46 – 55yrs	13	10.8%
	56yrs above	11	9.2%
	<b>Total</b>	<b>120</b>	<b>100%</b>
<b>Marital Status</b>	Single	52	43.3%
	Married	34	28.3%
	Divorced	19	15.8%
	Widow	15	12.5%
	Widower	0	0%
	<b>Total</b>	<b>120</b>	<b>100%</b>
<b>Education Status</b>	Primary	53	44.2%
	Middle level college	47	39.2%
	University	20	23.3%
	<b>Total</b>	<b>120</b>	<b>100%</b>

**Source:** Field survey 2022.

Table 4.2.1 shows that 62.5% of the respondents are males while 37.5% are females, 28.3% of the respondents falls between the age of 25years below whereas 34.2% are from 26-35y, 17.5% are from 36-45yrs, 10.8% are from 46-55yrs, then 9% of the respondent are 56yrs above. 43.3% of the respondents are single, 28.3% are married, 15.8% are divorced, 12.5% are widow, 0% are widower. Also, 44.2% of the respondents only attained primary level education, 39.2% attained middle level college education, 23.3% attained university level education.

## Section B

**Table 4.2.2: What is the current security situation in Edo State regarding socio-economic growth in Benin City?**

S/N	Items	SA-%	A-%	U-%	SD-%	D-%	Total-%
1	The vigilante group has being active	43-35.9%	26-21.7%	5-4.2%	22-18.3%	24-20%	<b>120-100%</b>
2	In one way or another the vigilante has led to peace ad cohesion among the residents of township	33-27.5%	39-32.5%	3-2.5%	26-21.7%	19-15.8%	<b>120-100%</b>
3	There's evidence that social cohesion and better social services due to the presence of the vigilante	52-43.3%	15-12.5%	10-8.3%	17-14.2%	26-21.7%	<b>120-100%</b>
4	The vigilante group has Improved conflict resolution	36-30%	26-26.7%	12-10%	22-18.3%	34-28.3%	<b>120-100%</b>
5.	Individuals Join Vigilante to Reduce Crime In Benin City	38-31.7%	39-32.5%	0-0%	24-20%	19-15.8%	<b>120-100%</b>
6.	The vigilante group has Reduced Poverty/unemployment	68-56.7%	13-10.8%	0-0%	16-19.1%	23-19.2%	<b>120-100%</b>
7.	The vigilante group has Promoting local political agenda	36-30%	32-26.7%	16-13.3%	21-17.5%	15-12.5%	<b>120-100%</b>

**Source:** Field survey 2022.

Table 4.2.2 show that 35.9% of the respondents strongly agreed that the vigilante group has being active, while 26% agreed, 4.2% undecided, 18.3% strongly disagreed and 20% disagreed. 27.5% of the respondents strongly agreed that the vigilante has led to peace ad cohesion among the residents of township, whereas 32.5% agreed, 2.5 undecided, 21.7% strongly disagreed and 15.8% disagreed. 43.3% of the respondents strongly agreed that

there's evidence that social cohesion and better social services due to the presence of the vigilante, however, 12.5% agreed, 8.3% undecided, 14.2% strongly disagreed, 21.7% disagree. 30% of the respondents strongly agreed that the vigilante group has Improved conflict resolution, then 26.7 agreed, 10% undecided, 18.3% strongly disagreed and 28.3% disagree. 31.7% of the respondents strongly agreed that individuals Join Vigilante to Reduce Crime in Benin City, 32.5% agreed, 0% undecided 20 strongly disagreed and 15.8% disagreed. 56.7% of the respondent strongly agreed that the vigilante group has Reduced Poverty/unemployment, then 10.8% agreed, 0% undecided, 19.1% strongly disagreed and 19.2% disagreed. While 30% of the respondent strongly agreed that the vigilante group has Promoting local political agenda, 26.7% agreed, 13.3% undecided, 17.5% strongly disagreed, 12.5% disagreed.

**Table 4.2.3: How are the vigilante groups organized to effectively carry out their work?**

S/N	Items	SA-%	A-%	U-%	SD-%	D-%	Total-%
1	As a result of poor relationship between the residents of Oredo and the police and the vigilante thrived to contain high rates of crime	20-16.7%	33-27.5%	26-21.7%	18-15%	23-19.2%	<b>120-100%</b>
2	The vigilante has to a great extent improved status of security in the township	29-24.1%	36-30%	9-7.5%	23-19.2%	23-19.2%	<b>120-100%</b>
3	The vigilante has the backing of the local administration	66-55%	14-11.7%	4-3.3%	26-21.7%	10-8.3%	<b>120-100%</b>
4	.The vigilante group is indeed helpful to the police force	58-48.3%	24-20%	0-0%	14-11.7%	24-20%	<b>120-100%</b>

5.	Vigilante group deterring others from committing a wrong-doing.	23-19.2%	39-32.5%	3-2.5%	36-30%	19-15.8%	<b>120-100%</b>
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**Source:** Field survey 2022.

Table 4.2.3 show that 16.7% of the respondents strongly agreed that as a result of poor relationship between the residents of Oredo and the police and the vigilante thrived to contain high rates of crime, while 27.5% agreed, 21.7% undecided, 15% strongly disagreed and 19.2% disagreed. 24.1% of the respondents strongly agreed that the vigilante has to a great extent improved status of security in the township, whereas 30% agreed, 7.5% undecided, 19.2% strongly disagreed and 19.2% disagreed. 55% of the respondents strongly agreed that the vigilante has the backing of the local administration, however, 11.7% agreed, 3.3% undecided, 21.7% strongly disagreed, 8.3% disagree. 48.3% of the respondents strongly agreed that the vigilante group is indeed helpful to the police force, then 20% agreed, 0% undecided, 14.7% strongly disagreed and 20% disagree. 19.2% of the respondents strongly agreed that vigilante group deterring others from committing a wrong-doing, while 32.5% agreed, 2.5% undecided 30% strongly disagreed and 15.8% disagreed.

**Table 4.2.4: What impact has the use of vigilante groups made on the socio economic growth of Edo State?**

S/N	Items	SA-%	A-%	U-%	SD-%	D-%	Total-%
1	Economic growth has been enhanced through the peaceful mission of the vigilante group	33-27.5%	31-20.7%	13-10.8%	27-22.5%	16-13.3%	<b>120-100%</b>
2	The vigilante group gets ready recruitment pool from the many unemployed youths in the locality	52-43.3%	10-8.3%	6-5%	25-20.8%	27-22.5%	<b>120-100%</b>
3	There is a possibility that there is low compliance with the rule of law and the vigilante takes advantage of this weakness.	51-42.5%	6-5%	16-13.3%	28-23.3%	19-15.8%	<b>120-100%</b>
4	Since the inception of the Vigilante group, there has been inherent political stability	31-25.8%	5-4.2%	48-40%	36-30%	0-0%	<b>120-100%</b>
5.	Vigilantes are motivated to impose punishments in an effort to stop the wrong-doer from recommitting the offense	43-35.8%	27-22.5%	16-13.3%	32-26.7%	2-1.7%	<b>120-100%</b>

**Source:** Field survey 2022.

Table 4.2.4 show that 27.5% of the respondents strongly agreed that economic growth has been enhanced through the peaceful mission of the vigilante group, while 20.7% agreed, 10.8% undecided, 22.5% strongly disagreed and 13.3% disagreed. 43.3% of the respondents strongly agreed that The vigilante group gets ready recruitment pool from the many unemployed youths in the locality, whereas 8.3% agreed, 5% undecided, 20.8% strongly disagreed and 22.5% disagreed. 42.5% of the respondents strongly agreed that there is a possibility that there is low compliance with the rule of law and the vigilante takes

advantage of this weakness, however, 5% agreed, 13.3% undecided, 23.3% strongly disagreed, 15.8% disagree. 25.8% of the respondents strongly agreed that since the inception of the Vigilante group, there has been inherent political stability, then 4.2% agreed, 40% undecided, 30% strongly disagreed and 0% disagree. 35.8% of the respondents strongly agreed that vigilantes are motivated to impose punishments in an effort to stop the wrongdoer from recommitting the offense, while 22.5% agreed, 13.3% undecided 26.7% strongly disagreed and 1.7% disagree.

### **4.3 Discussion of Findings**

Based on the above analysis, most of the respondents in this research were male. This is because more males were willing to participate and also most members of the vigilante were male. Most of the respondents were aged between 26 and 35 years and a high number of them had only attained primary level of education.

The first objective of this research was to explore the motivation behind recruitment into vigilante group. The study established that crime, poverty, unemployment, illiteracy, local administration and politicians, weak justice system, and peer group influence, in one way or the other influenced the recruitment into the group. The study ascertained that majority of the people joined vigilante group to augment the effort in attempts of protecting life and property of the community.

The second objective of the study was to examine the factor that had led to the thriving of the vigilante. It was established that the residents of Benin City had liked the group to operate and therefore this gave it a milestone to thrive. The high rate of poverty had also catalysed the operations of the vigilante, the research also established that the low compliance with the rule of law made the group to thrive in the attempt to bridge the gap of insecurity in the area.

Illiteracy also gave the group a fertile ground to thrive; finally, the local administration and politicians also upheld the activities of the group thus making it thrive.

The third objective of this research was to explore the effects of vigilante group to the security of the residents. The study established that the vigilante had attempted to the improved status of security within the township and that economic growth had been enhanced through the operations of the group. It was also discovered that there was evidence of social cohesion, better social services due to the presence of the vigilante. Despite this, the study discovered that some vigilantes had used their position to perpetuate crime as they championed their personal selfish gain at the expense of the community.

## CHAPTER FIVE

### CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

#### 5.1 Conclusion

In relation to what motivates individuals to join vigilante, the study found that crime was the most factor that motivated individuals to join the group, followed by; unemployment, illiteracy, and influence from; the local Politicians, administrators and peer groups respectively.

In relation to the factors that had led to the thriving of the vigilante, this research established that, some residents had supported the group. This could have been due to the desperate situation created by high levels of insecurity in the region which made them think the vigilante could salvage them, also the lack of trust on the police and the criminal justice system, and also public frustration. The research also discovered that the high rate of poverty, illiteracy and unemployment formed major grounds that led to the thriving of the group.

In relation to effects of vigilante group's activities to the security of residents in Benin City, the study discovered that despite the fact that this group is illegal and outlawed social group, it had high effect on the security of the residents. It was noted that the vigilante's activities had led to significant decline of crime rate in the region. Crime such as theft, rape, assault, house breaking, trespassing among others had reduced drastically on the presence

of the vigilante. Although a section of the respondents were also not comfortable with it claiming that the group had propagated exploitation of individuals.

Based on the above observation the study indicates that the vigilante group to some extent has played a positive role in the management of the security of citizens in urban centres.

## **5.2 Recommendations**

- i. The study recommends that the free and compulsory primary and secondary education should be implemented fully to address the high rate of illiteracy in our society.
- ii. The study recommends that the government should craft plans to empower youths economically to reduce high unemployment rate, which leads to idleness and crime in society.
- iii. The study recommends that the government should employ more police officers to shield life and property and ensure the observation of rule of law.
- iv. This study recommends that the justice system should be strengthened so that the aggrieved members of the society could get their justice delivered at the right time. To reduce chances of individuals taking the law unto their hands.
- v. The politicians should also be warned by the government against using the vigilante groups to achieve their egotistic goals.

- vi. The government should realize the need to sensitize members of the public about their rights, responsibilities and obligations as citizens. This civic education may enable them become more patriotic and brothers' keeper.
  
- vii. In addition, the government has a responsibility of transforming the general perception of the public to the police officers. This will bond the relationship between the police and the public wooing the public willingness and freedom to give critical information on crime to the police. Thus reducing crime index within our urban centres which will eventually cut short the vigilante groups operation.

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**APPENDIX**

**QUESTIONNAIRE**

**DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION  
FACULTY OF SOCIAL SCIENCES  
UNIVERSITY OF BENIN  
BENIN CITY**

Dear Respondent,

**Request for completion of Questionnaire**

I am a final year student of the above named institution, conducting a research on the topic ‘**The Socio Economic Impact on the use of Vigilante in Security Challenges in Edo State**’.

I humbly request your assistance in filling the questionnaire. All information gathered shall be purely for research purpose and will be treated with confidentiality.

**Edeh Michael Ndubuisi**  
*Researcher*

**Section A**

- 1) **Gender:** Male [  ] Female [  ]
- 2) **Age:** 25 yrs below [  ] 26 – 35yrs [  ] 36 - 45yrs [  ] 46 – 55yrs [  ] 56yrs above [  ]
- 3) **Marital Status:** Single [  ] Married [  ] Divorced [  ] Widow [  ] Widower [  ]
- 4) **Education Status:** Primary [  ] Secondary [  ] Middle level college [  ] University

**Section B**  
**KEY TO SCORES**

SA- Strongly agree, A-Agree, U- Undecided, D-

S/N	Statement	SA	A	U	SD	D
<b>What is the current security situation in Edo State regarding socio-economic growth?</b>						
6	The vigilante group has being active					
7	In one way or another the vigilante has led to peace ad cohesion among the residents of township					
8.	There's evidence that social cohesion and better social services due to the presence of the vigilante					
9	The vigilante group has Improved conflict resolution					
10	Individuals Join Vigilante to Reduce Crime In Benin City					
11	The vigilante group has Reduced Poverty/unemployment					
12	The vigilante group has Promoting local political agenda					
<b>How are the vigilante groups organized to effectively carry out their work?</b>						
13	As a result of poor relationship between the residents of Oredo and the police and the vigilante thrived to contain high rates of crime					
14	The vigilante has to a great extent improved status of security in the township					
15	The vigilante has the backing of the local administration					
16	.The vigilante group is indeed helpful to the police force					
17	Vigilante group deterring others from committing a wrong-doing.					
<b>What impact has the use of vigilante groups made on the socio economic growth of Edo State?</b>						
18.	Economic growth has been enhanced through the peaceful mission of the vigilante group					

19	The vigilante group gets ready recruitment pool from the many unemployed youths in the locality					
20	There is a possibility that there is low compliance with the rule of law and the vigilante takes advantage of this weakness.					
21	Since the inception of the Vigilante group, there has been inherent political stability					
22	Vigilantes are motivated to impose punishments in an effort to stop the wrong-doer from recommitting the offense					