

READINGS IN POLICING PEACE & SECURITY

A Festschrift in Honour of
Kayode Adeolu Egbetokun, PhD, NPM, fspsp



Volume
Two

Edited by

Noah Yusuf

Nathaniel Msen Awuapila

Ruth Abiola Adimula

Foreword by **Asiwaju Bola Ahmed Tinubu, GCFR**
President, Federal Republic of Nigeria

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**PRESIDENT,
FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA**

FOREWORD

READINGS IN POLICING, PEACE, AND SECURITY
A Festschrift in Honour of Kayode Adeolu Egbetokun, PhD, NPM, fspsp,
Inspector General of Police, Federal Republic of Nigeria

It is with great pleasure and admiration that I introduce this festschrift entitled "Readings in Policing, Peace, and Security," a profound compilation of insights, analyses, and reflections in honour of Kayode Adeolu Egbetokun, PhD, NPM, fspsp, the 22nd indigenous Inspector General of Police, of the Federal Republic of Nigeria and a distinguished scholar in peace and security.

This commemorative publication is a timely compendium assembled by a team of renowned scholars and peace practitioners to explore the intricacies of managing our internal security and ensure enduring peace in our nation. This anthology of articles, research papers, and reflections is a tribute to Kayode Adeolu Egbetokun's lasting impact on Nigerian law enforcement practice.

Few figures stand as tall and resolute in the national policing landscape as Kayode Adeolu Egbetokun. His ongoing illustrious career has exemplified unwavering dedication, unyielding courage, and unshakeable integrity in pursuing justice and peace. Kayode Adeolu Egbetokun is not only safeguarding the lives, properties and liberties of citizens but is also inspiring countless others to join the noble vocation of serving and protecting our diverse communities.

Kayode Adeolu Egbetokun's eminent career began as a Cadet ASP in 1990, culminating in his appointment as Inspector General of Police on 19th June 2023. In between, Kayode Adeolu Egbetokun worked with me as my Chief Security Officer (CSO) when I was the Governor of Lagos State between 1999 and 2007. He demonstrated a high level of character, competence, capacity, unwavering loyalty, and impressive commitment to service.

This compilation serves as a testament to his enduring legacy, capturing the essence of his leadership, his immense impact on policing, peace and security in Nigeria, and his passion for academia. Over his ongoing career, he has been able to complete four postgraduate programmes successfully. This demonstrated his immense capacity to combine diligence at work with challenging and rigorous



academic pursuits. This is a rare combination that needs to be commended. This volume explores the multifaceted challenges and triumphs encountered in pursuing public safety and societal harmony through diverse essays, case studies, and research papers authored by eminent scholars.

As we navigate an increasingly complex and interconnected world, the professionalism, compassion, and collaboration principles espoused by Kayode Adeolu Egbetokun remain as relevant and indispensable as ever. The contributions herein offer valuable insights and perspectives that honour his remarkable career and illuminate pathways forward for advancing policing, peace and security in our nation.

I am pleased to take a moment to express my respect for the Society for Peace Studies and Practice (SPSP) and its partner universities – the University of Ibadan, Al-Hikmah University, Ilorin, University of Ilorin, University of Lagos, Lagos State University, and Bauchi State University. They carefully identified excellence and celebrated the same.

To the honouree, we extend our deepest gratitude for his tireless service, visionary leadership, and unwavering commitment to the principles of policing, justice, and peace. This volume stands as a fitting tribute to his exemplary legacy and will inspire future law enforcement professionals to continue his noble work. I recommend this book to all who seek unique insight into policing policy, peace, and security, including the various programmes, tactics, and strategies that have contributed to the nation's policing architecture.

The contents of this book hold within them a treasure trove of insight, wisdom and the promise of a safer Nigeria. As we dig deeper into this volume, we will better understand the link that Egbetokun has forged between theory and practice, and we will honour his contributions to the fields of policing, peace and security. Through this festschrift, we recognise the torch Kayode Egbetokun passes to the future guardians of our safety, and we will use this valuable resource for guidance in our quest to create a safer and more secure future for all Nigerians.

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "Bola Ahmed Tinubu".

Bola Ahmed Tinubu
16th May 2024

Policing, Security, Peace and Development

This book, facilitated by the Society for Peace Studies and Practice (SPSP), is a collection of essays in honour of Dr Kayode Adeolu Egbetokun, a Fellow of the society and the current Inspector General of Police (IGP) in Nigeria. To put all other issues raised in this treatise in proper perspective, it is necessary to start here by providing some basic information about SPSP. Though it did not effectively take off until 2002, the Society was formed in 2000 alongside the postgraduate (MA and PhD) course of the University of Ibadan in Peace and Conflict Studies with the support of the British Council. The original intention was to make it serve as a body through which those graduating from the course and their teachers could bond to engage in peace practice. The University of Ibadan also sought to use it to link the town and gown for making its postgraduate courses truly development-relevant. Sooner than later, its membership was expanded to include stakeholders outside Ibadan. Today, SPSP is a global brand with members in different parts of the world and a towering impact on peace studies and practice in other parts of West Africa. Beyond helping to expand the programme in Ibadan, SPSP supported the University of Ilorin and Al-Hikmah University in Ilorin to start their peace studies centres. It supports the growth and development of peace studies across Nigeria by producing high-impact publications. It has two national headquarters: the University of Ibadan houses the technical headquarters, and the National Open University Abuja houses the administrative headquarters.

Most contributors to the present publication are members of the Society who feel compelled to celebrate one of their own to motivate others to greater heights. Though the Society has many police officers as members, Egbetokun is the first to become an IGP. He graduated from one of the peace studies programmes established by the Society: the Centre for Peace and Security Studies at the Al-Hikmah University in Ilorin. His appointment is therefore considered a watermark in the annals of the Society. Egbetokun is also celebrated for his partnership with SPSP, silently promoting "community engagement" in Nigeria since his days as Commissioner of Police in Kwara State. "Community engagement" means the attempt to make Nigerians better understand the institutions that protect them and be ready to work collaboratively with them. The framework for the partnership that Egbetokun forges with SPSP is informed by the Police Act 2020, which is aimed at birthing a more transparent, accountable, and people-oriented Nigeria Police Force shortly.

This volume contains twenty-eight (28) articles from reputed academics and practitioners. It is designed to be a credible reference resource on policing, peace, and security in Nigeria. The publication's focus, as the title suggests, is on "policing" and not the Nigeria Police. How do we differentiate between the two? Policing is the act of protecting citizens generally. It is an activity that involves several agencies: military and para-military agencies. The police, a specific policing institution, is the lead agency for protecting the country's internal security in Nigeria and is the institution that Egbetokun heads. However, the present publication seeks to not only study the police but a broad spectrum of the security challenges in the country as well, and the efforts made to contend with them.

Nigerians are asking for state policing. That is the right way to go in a federal state, given the widespread violent extremism across the country and the NPF's inability to solve the problems. However, the state police system may not work if managed like the Nigeria Police Force. Hence, state governors would do themselves a lot of good by studying the Nigeria Police with a more open heart before taking off with their ideas of state policing.

The position of the SPSP, which Dr Egbetokun supported and is taking to greater heights, calls attention to another critical lesson in policing. Police institutions would only function well if closely linked with the society they police. That is the logic! For Nigeria, the Police Force is too distant from the people. How can the like of the SPSP be supported to link the state and society on policing generally? The core belief of the SPSP is that peace will continue to elude Nigeria until the experiences, moods and feelings of the grassroots population in Nigeria are fed into the country's peace and security architecture. Conflicts occur in contexts that those managing the issues must understand and factor in their interventions. To this end, the main goal of SPSP is to build peace in Nigeria by linking the state and society more closely on peacebuilding issues. It holds workshops, seminars and annual conferences suggested by the security challenges in the land. It has a good relationship with the Nigerian military, and this is why the relationship between police and society is significant at this moment. SPSP is more interested in Nigeria's internal security than its external security. It matters a lot for the Society to work more closely with the police.

When the Ibadan Peace and Conflict Studies started in 2000, it was realised that most of the books out there were produced by foreigners who sometimes misinterpreted the conflict situations in Nigeria and made recommendations that needed to be in tune with building sustainable peace in the African continent. Hence, the academic programme and the SPSP gave birth to the decision to start promoting publications that enable Africans to tell their own stories and develop management strategies that are in tandem with the African Union's mantra of

"African solutions to African problems." Our ultimate goal is to bring peace to Nigeria through policy-relevant discourses and community engagement. Dr Egbetokun was part of this process before he became the IG, which was one reason why his appointment excited many members of the society. It was thought necessary to do this publication in his honour. However, several other publications were done or promoted by SPSP before this very one. They include: (1) *Knowledge Economy and Nigeria's National Security: Essays in honour of Basorun Seinde Arogbofa*; (2) *Urbanism and Crisis Management in Africa: A Festschrift for Akin Mabogunje*; (3) *Readings in Peace and Conflict: Essays in honour of Professor Isaac Olawale*; and (4) *Leadership and Nigeria's Sustainable Development Programmes: Essays in honour of Elias Suleiman Bogoro*.

Added are several published proceedings of the Society's annual conferences. The Society also publishes *Peace Studies and Practice: Journal of the Society for Peace Studies and Practice*. These publications, which are widely distributed across West Africa, have one objective; that is, to serve as a reading text for those teaching issues relating to peace and security in Nigeria. The present one in honour of Dr Egbetokun is an invaluable addition to the long list. It is the first to be published since SPSP celebrated its 20th anniversary of holding a national conference in 2023.

Therefore, those behind the project must be specially commended for honouring Egbetokun and giving us another piece of literature to make Nigeria a better place. A lot of work went into the production of the book, most especially during the rigorous review process of the papers. Only 53 of the submitted articles were accepted. For this, the editors, the reviewers, and the authors are warmly appreciated for their efforts. The President of the Society, Nathaniel Awuapila, who worked closely with Prof. Noah Yusuf and Dr Abiola Adimula must be primarily appreciated for the sleepless nights they had on the book project. Last is the Board Chair of SPSP, Prof. Elias Suleiman Bogoro. He made it all possible through his multisectoral push of everybody to get to this point.

I have carefully gone through the book. It constitutes a significant contribution to the study of policing, security, peace and development in Nigeria. I recommend it to us all. I congratulate Dr Kayode Adeolu Egbetokun, *fspsp* for this great honour done him!

Prof. Isaac Olawale Albert, fspsp, FICMC, and FNAL

Board Member, SPSP

Full Member, Chatham House London (113597)

University of Ibadan

May 2024

Acknowledgements

It is my utmost pleasure and honour, on behalf of the Society for Peace Studies and Practice (SPSP), to render a formal acknowledgement of deserving personalities, entities and institutions whose wisdom, intellectual contributions, endorsements and support informed this trailblazing publication in honour of Nigeria's uncommon Inspector-General of Police (IGP). Entitled *Readings In Policing, Security, Peace And Development: A Festschrift in honour of Kayode Adeolu Egbetokun PhD NPM, fspsp*, the contents as conceived remarkably weave around the four focal areas of policing, security, peace and the ultimate objective of human and national development.

A brief mention of the pivotal moment and date that defined the policy of the Society for Peace Studies and Practice (SPSP) on its relationship with the police is noteworthy at this stage. That pivotal moment was the occasion of my meeting with the Chairman, SPSP Board of Trustees (BoT), on Friday, 2nd December 2022. It was barely twenty-four hours after I was elected as the fourth President of the Society and my predecessor, Dr Nathaniel Danjibo, fspsp, had led me to see our BoT Chairman, Prof. Suleiman Elias Bogoro, fspsp. In his welcome remark, the BoT Chairman recounted, among other things, the successful institutional relationships that SPSP has established and nurtured with some security agencies in Nigeria – the Army, Air Force, Navy, Nigerian Security and Civil Defence Corps (NSCDC), and the National Institute for Policy and Strategic Studies (NIPSS), which trains security personnel including personnel of the Department of State Security (DSS). SPSP also has on her list of Fellows, some serving and retired military Generals as well as the pioneer Commandant-General and other top members of the NSCDC. The BoT Chairman then mentioned quite intentionally, that SPSP, however, had yet to cultivate a meaningful relationship with the police which has the responsibility of managing Nigeria's internal security. He then directly addressed me saying, "President, if during your tenure we can establish a relationship with the police, you will have addressed an important priority". That moment definitively impacted the strategic direction and priorities of my administration as all my colleagues on the National Working Committee (NWC) also unanimously acknowledged and agreed that we should adopt and implement the recommendations of the Board.

My SPSP leadership formally took over after an induction session organised by the BoT on 11th January 2023. Thereafter, we spent a part of that year forging an institutional partnership with the Nigerian Defence Academy (NDA), which our predecessors had initiated; this, we consummated on 22nd August 2023, by signing and sealing a memorandum of understanding (MOU).

At the same time, we set in motion a process to negotiate an institution-based collaboration with the police; we found that a few outstandingly remarkable police officers were already on the membership of SPSP. The National Working Committee (SPSP) unanimously approved the nomination of Dr Kayode Adeolu Egbetokun for the Fellowship award. At the time of his nomination, Dr Egbetokun was a Deputy Inspector General of Police, but before the notice of his nomination for the Fellowship award reached him, the news of his appointment as Acting Inspector General of Police by His Excellency, President Bola Ahmed Tinubu GCFR, was made public. The Police Service Commission (PSC) later confirmed him as the 22nd substantive Inspector General of Police, on 31st October 2023, while he was inducted as a Distinguished Fellow of SPSP the following month, on 21st November 2023.

Sometime before IGP Egbetokun's induction as a Fellow, a proposal for a book in his honour was on my desk for consideration. The NWC approved the proposal after I presented it for consideration. On 16th December 2023, a scheduled meeting with IGP Egbetokun took place at his residence, where he approved the book project in his honour, and we swung into action. Today, the book project, having been fully executed, is ready to be savoured by the *crème de la crème* of the field of peace and security – security experts, peace scholars, policymakers, donors, analysts and critics. This book is published at a time when the call for the systematic transformation of the policing system is loudest among security experts, national legislators and a wide range of stakeholders across the federation. Given the significance of this scholarly contribution by SPSP, I am proud to acknowledge and honour the persons here identified.

On behalf of the founder of SPSP, Prof. Isaac Olawale Albert, FNAL, fspsp, the Board of Trustees under the chairmanship of Prof. Suleiman Elias Bogoro, fspsp, the Board of Fellows under the acting chairmanship of Distinguished Ambassador Fatima Sa'ad Abubakar, fspsp, the National Working Committee and the Central Working Committee as well as all members of SPSP, I want to extend our heartfelt gratitude to the IGP, Dr Kayode Adeolu Egbetokun, for his exemplary professionalism, intellectual prowess, unwavering loyalty and remarkable dedication to service. It is his admirable conduct and integrity that have served as the inspiration behind this festschrift in his honour. The President and Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, Bola Ahmed Tinubu, GCFR deserves commendation for recognising the exceptional qualities of the honoree and selecting him as his ADC during his tenure as the Governor of Lagos State between 1999 and 2007. Furthermore, President Tinubu's decision to appoint him as the 22nd Inspector General of Police of the Federal Republic of Nigeria in 2023 reflects his astute judgement.

We deeply appreciate the significant contribution of Prof. Isaac Olawale Albert, the visioner behind the SPSP, for his idea of creating a unique common professional platform for peace scholars and practitioners, and for his inestimable technical guidance throughout the project. We are also grateful for the invaluable support and guidance of the BoT Chairman, Prof. Suleiman Elias Bogoro, OON, FAS, FNIAS, D.Sc. Hon, fspsp, NPL, who kindly and generously also chaired the Book Project Committee. His unwavering assistance, expertise, physical presence, and generous contributions have been instrumental in the successful completion of this book project.

The idea for this commemorative book project was initially conceived by Dr Ruth Abiola Adimula, fspsp, who also served competently as the Secretary of the project committee. We would, therefore, like to express our immeasurable gratitude to her for the exceptional work in conceptualising the project and for her outstanding contribution toward the coordination and management of the project cycle. In SPSP, Dr Adimula is one of our most reliable and selfless service leaders, delivering results on countless occasions recently and in the past when her services were required.

We are deeply grateful to the Editorial Board Chairman and Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Noah Yusuf, fspsp, as well as the Assistant Editorial Board Chairperson, Prof. Ruth Ochanya Adio-Moses, fspsp and all the members of the Editorial Board for their tireless efforts in ensuring that the book meets the necessary standards.

We wish to express our sincere appreciation to the National Working Committee (NWC) of the SPSP for their valuable input and support in coordinating this project. Particularly, I acknowledge the first Vice President Dr Obi Ndifon Neji, fspsp, second Vice President Prof. Jude Momodu, fspsp, and Acting Secretary-General Dr Olanrewaju Yusuf Lateef, who worked with me on some of the critical moments when rapid decision making was required. I designated this group as the 'Engine Room' and their essential responsibility was to manage the project issues, risks, threats, and stakeholder expectations. Together with Dr Adimula who managed the Project Secretariat, we managed several unexpected dynamics in the course of the project.

Also, we are grateful to the Central Working Committee (CWC) of the SPSP for their endorsement of the project. The successful execution of this project was greatly facilitated and made possible by the firm endorsement and exceptional support of the Nigeria Police Command as well. We would like to additionally express our sincere gratitude to the Nigeria Police Command for their cooperation in providing us with the necessary materials to successfully complete the task. Particularly, we appreciate Deputy Inspector General (DIG) of Police, Frank Mba,

who has not only supported the implementation of the book project but is directly responsible for operationalising the component of the partnership with the police that involves the training of police cadets. The leadership of DIG Frank Mba in this area will be celebrated in a manner soon to be determined by the leadership of the Society. Similarly, we appreciate the notable contributions of the Police Public Relations Officer, CSP Muyiwa Adejobi, who excellently facilitated the meetings of SPSP delegations with the IGP and the top police leadership.

We express our appreciation to our partner universities, which include University of Ibadan, Al-Hikmah University, Lagos State University, University of Ilorin, University of Lagos, Bauchi State University and Gombe State University for their combined assistance in finishing this book. We are delighted by the successful completion of this project.

We express our heartfelt appreciation to the contributors to the book project. Their valuable input has been instrumental in the realisation of this project. We also want to extend our sincere thanks to those who supported us in reviewing, editing and finalising this book. It is undeniable that without the assistance of the individuals and organisations mentioned above, we would have encountered significant challenges in completing this project. We thank all the members of various sub-committees of the planning committee for their commitment to details toward the success of the book project.

SPSP formally marked her 20th anniversary in 2023, because the Society regards her first three years of existence (2000-2003) as formative years. Therefore, it is necessary to use the occasion of this publication which comes in the twenty-first year of the Society, to acknowledge and appreciate those who brought the Society to where it is today. The first in this category are the Vice Chancellors who supported the Society and its agenda. They include Professors Tekena Tamuno of blessed memory, Isaac Adewole, Kayode Adebawale, and Adebola Ekanola of the University of Ibadan; Nuhu Yaqub of the University of Abuja; Is'haq Oloyede and Wahab Egbewole of the University of Ilorin; Noah Yusuf of the Al-Hikmah University Ilorin, Sola Akinrinade of the Osun State University Osogbo, Umaru Pate of the Federal University Kazere, and Kyari Mohammed of the Modibo Adama University Yola and the Nigerian Army University Biu; Olayemi Akinwumi of the Federal University Lokoja, Ibiyemi Olatunji-Bello of the Lagos State University, and Marietu Tenuche of the Kogi State University, Anyingba.

The second in this category are my predecessors, the brave men and outstanding lady who presided over the affairs of the Society as presidents and vice presidents. They include pioneer president, late Dr Nurudeen Olarinde, and his vice, Prof. Suleiman Elias Bogoro, who today chairs the BoT; second president, Dr Willie

Asiegbe Eselebor, and his two vice presidents, Ms Justina Iyasere and Prof. Abdulganiyu Jawondo; and third president, Dr Nathaniel D. Danjibo and his two Vice Presidents, Comrade Abdullahi Yalwa and Dr Mathias Jarikre.

Some of the notable military officers behind the success of the Society include the late Gen. Nuhu Bamali (a foundation member of the Board of Trustees), the late Gen. Luka Yusuf, Gen. Abdulrahman Dambazau (also served on the Board of Trustees), Gen. Martin Luther Agwai, Gen. Azubuike Ihejirika, the late Gen. Jones Arogbofa who was the pioneer Chairman of the SPSP Board of Fellows as well as a member of the Board of Trustees, Gen. Salihu Zaway Uba, General Idris of the Nigerian Defence Academy, Gen. Ishaku Pennap, Gen. Paul Boroh, AVM Jomo Osahoh, Gen. Victor Ezugwu of the "Ezugwu MRAP" fame, Gen. Sani Kukasheka Usman, General Garba Ayodeji Wahab, Air Cdr. (Rtd) Ayodele Dudusola, fspsp and hundreds of several others, most especially from the MSc Strategic Studies programme that the University of Ibadan runs in partnership with the National Defence College. Some of the course participants, now occupying commanding positions across the country, have certificates from the training programmes organised by the Society for Peace Studies and Practice. These people and several others have helped to make SPSP a Society that indeed promotes interagency collaboration.

On the list of those who brought SPSP to where it is are some former Governors. They include Mallam Ibrahim Shekarau of Kano State, Babangida Aliyu of Niger State, Kayode Fayemi of Ekiti State, and the late Abiola Ajimobi of Oyo State. In addition to their membership of the Society, they facilitated several of our conferences, workshops and seminars. Leading members of the Society outside Nigeria include Dr Ozonnia Ojielo, the current head of the UN mission in Rwanda; Dr Chukwuemeka Eze, the Executive Director of the West Africa Network for Peacebuilding, Accra, Ghana; Dr Takwa Suifon Zebulon who is the Senior Peace and Development Adviser to the UN in Zimbabwe, and Ernest Uwazie who is the Director of the California State University, Sacramento, USA, to mention just a few. Professors Tony Chaffer and Edward Stoddard of the University of Portsmouth keep the flag of the Society flying in the United Kingdom. Working together, all of these individuals including some corporate members of the Society make SPSP a global peace movement in which voluntary efforts are made towards complementing the struggles of Nigeria to rank amongst the most peaceful in the world.

The above is not an exhaustive list of the leading and influential members of the Society. Meanwhile, we must not forget at this point to acknowledge the two universities that continue to house SPSP. They are the University of Ibadan (UI)

where the corporate headquarters is located, and the National Open University of Nigeria (NOUN) headquarters in Abuja, which houses SPSP's administrative office. On behalf of the global SPSP family, we honour and appreciate Professors Kayode Oyeboade Adebawale, fspsp, and Olufemi Ayinde Peters, fspsp, Vice Chancellors of UI and NOUN, for their exceptional leadership of their universities and unstinting friendship and loyalty to SPSP of which they are eminent Fellows. Similarly, we express our gratitude to all those who, although not mentioned specifically, played a vital role in the rich history of SPSP, and in the successful completion of the festschrift in honour of IGP Egbewole Adeolu Egbetokun.

In conclusion, I want to put it on record that we have discussed with the honoree and agreed that the proceeds generated from the sale or distribution of the twin volumes of the festschrift in honour of IGP Kayode Adeolu Egbetokun, NPM, fspsp, will be put into a fund to be named, "SPSP Chair on Egbetokun Policing and Internal Security Fund". We are full of expectations that this fund, when established, will be applied toward the execution of priority studies to strengthen policing and internal security architecture. The fund will also be applied toward recognising and rewarding outstanding role models, appropriately. The Egbetokun Policing and Internal Security Fund will immortalize the honoree through well-conceived and executed interventions in Nigeria and SPSP is proud to be identified with this landmark initiative. Above all, it will stand as a testimony of the leap-frogging of the Nigeria Police to the rightful place it deserves in using intellectual, preventive and other non-kinetic approaches in addressing the current embarrassing insecurity situation in our country.

Nathaniel Msen Awuapila, fspsp

President

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COMMUNITY SECURITY: AN ASSESSMENT OF LAGOS NEIGHBOURHOOD SAFETY CORPS IN SOME SELECTED LGAS OF LAGOS STATE, NIGERIA

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Introduction

The end of the Cold War ushered in the current global world order with diverse and contemporary community insecurity challenges across the globe (Ikenberry, 2018). The post-cold war has not only brought in political and socio-economic instability, but also spread violent civil conflict, ethnic nationalism, terrorism, guerrilla warfare, banditry, ethno-religious crisis, and above all, paradigms shift from traditional security architecture of a Nation-state to comprehensive security with a huge focus on the security of individual and properties at the community level (Sule et al., 2022).

As of Feb 15, 2024, at least 4,994 people have died from unlawful gun violence in the U.S. which is an average of about 108 deaths each day in the country (Alfonseca, 2024). In Venezuela, 50 percent of the population lives in poor neighbourhoods called barrios (Royal Geographical Society [RGS], 2022). These areas are experiencing security challenges with gang warfare, drug dealing, robbery and other violent crimes (RGS, 2022).

In Africa, countries like Libya, Sudan, South Sudan, Nigeria, Chad, Mali, Cameroon, Somalia, etc., struggle with community safety and security as a result of civil and political unrest, organised crimes, and gun violence caused by non-state actors, due to direct access to cheap and avoidable weapons (Micallef et al., 2019).

In the Policy and Legal Advocacy Centre [PLAC] 2024 report, it is stated that in Nigeria, despite the huge yearly budgetary allocation to National security of ₦3.311trillion in the 2024 budget, daily records of civil unrest, violent ethnic

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agitations, farmers/herder's recurrent conflicts, drug-related crime, cult clashes, organised crime, theft and many others, show that there is a need to think out of the box in solving the political cum socio-economic miasma bedeviling both the community and national security in Nigeria.

In view of this precarious situation, States and Local governments in recent times have fashioned out security outfits to address respective peculiar security challenges in Nigeria. For instance, local vigilante groups, the Nigeria Hunter Association, Amotekun Security Corps, Hisbah Security Network, and Lagos Neighbourhood Safety Corps, among many others, had sprung up across the nation to tackle overwhelming security challenges bedeviling Nigerians. While some were of community self-volunteering service, some state and local governments have equally established, funded, and managed such security arrangements to complement Federal-control security agencies in their respective domains.

In Lagos State Nigeria, the profile of urban and community crimes and violence demonstrates that it covers the entire gamut of criminal activities and this has led to the emergence of the Neighbourhood Safety Corps- an informal security structure, working in partnership with the police to provide and ensure the security of life and property at the community level. This study therefore assessed the effectiveness of Lagos Neighbourhood Safety Corps in curtailing community insecurity in some selected communities where population explosion seemed to have triggered crimes and violence in the metropolis. The aim of this study was to assess Lagos Neighbourhood Safety Corps in curbing community insecurity in some selected Local government area of Lagos State. The specific objectives were to: identify the causes of community crime in some selected community area of Lagos State; examine the role of Lagos Neighbourhood Safety Corps (LNSC) in curbing community crime in some selected communities of Lagos State; and assess how effective was the LNSC in curbing community crime in some selected community area of Lagos State.

Statement of the Problem

Some communities in Lagos City are confronted with daunting challenges, including insecurity, violence, conflict, crimes, increasing slums, poverty and destitution, traffic congestion, environmental pollution, epileptic power supply, climate change problems, clean water problems and others (Akanle, 2015). Though government efforts such as the deployment of security agents and equipment in some other communities like Ikoyi, Victoria Island, and government reserved areas had moderately addressed security challenges in these neighbourhoods, however, some other communities particularly those with population density are still experiencing crimes such as property crime, drug-related crime, gender

based assault and breach of the public peace, threatening the peace and safety of residents of these communities.

In an effort to combat these menaces, the Lagos State Government established a community-based security outfit known as the Lagos State Neighbourhood Safety Corps to provide adequate security at the community level. Although existing studies on urban safety and security like Wennmann and Jutersonke (2018) and Salahub and Zaaroura (2018) examined causes of crime in Lagos State and attributed this to poor population density of the town, however, there is dearth of knowledge on the role of Lagos Neighbourhood Safety Corps in curbing crimes in some communities that are being challenged by insecurity in Lagos state. Thus, this study was designed to fill the existing gaps in literature.

Conceptualisation

Community Security

Ekong (2003) defined community as an aggregation of families habitually living together within a definite geographical location more or less rooted in the soil they occupy, living in a state of mutual interdependence, supporting some basic social institutions and having some measure of political autonomy to other communities. Community security is conceptualised from different perspectives based on the needs and relevance of the concept to the subject matter. At first, Linnell (2013) socially connected through common interests, beliefs and circumstances. In another context, MacQueen (2001) considered a community as a group of people with diverse characteristics who are linked by social ties, share common perspectives, and engage in joint action in geographical locations or settings.

According to United Nations Development Programme [UNDP] (2020);

Community Security is a people-centred approach to addressing insecurity that integrates human security, development and state-building paradigms. It works by bringing together a wide range of state and civil society actors from the security demand and supply sides to identify root causes of insecurity collectively and develop coordinated responses to them. The approach builds the capacity and willingness of communities, local authorities and security providers to address their own sources of insecurity. It creates an enabling environment for wider reforms and more people focused policies at the sub-national and national.

UNDP (2020) further explains that nations across the globe face an unprecedented security challenge. Security forces have been crucial throughout the epidemic, but too frequently, they have been used excessively, abused their authority, or discriminated against when implementing emergency measures.

In conflict and fragile contexts, where community tensions are common and the legitimacy of the government is disputed with resistance to emergency orders, security interventions by security forces have become even more crucial and imperative. It is therefore important to include people-oriented security measures to fill the gap in community safety.

Community Policing

According to Christian (2014), neighbourhood watch is one of the oldest and best-known crime prevention concepts in North America. It was popularly known as the neighbourhood watch organisation in Pasadena Hills. Also, Schärf (2000) noted that, "informal policing", the "policing of everyday life", or "community-generated policing" are favourite terms to describe *de facto* policing taking place (mostly) outside of the regulatory framework of the State.

Schanzer, Kurzman, Toliver and Miller (2016) asserted that community policing involves collaboration between police and community members characterised by problem-solving partnerships to enhance public safety and it was adopted widely among law enforcement agencies in the 1990s, to improve trust between community members and police, and leverage police resources through voluntary assistance, by community members in public safety measures. Abiri (2011) gave the main reasons for adopting this proactive approach; that is, to build a police organisation that is transparent, fair, neutral, accountable and responsive to public perceptions and expectations, while at the same time, developing other positive and more effective strategies beyond the traditional method of policing which is exclusively based on law enforcement and tends to be reactive.

There are also latent factors that lead to the emergence of community policing. Coquilhat (2008) argues that community policing emerged in response to two unintended consequences of a modernising policing profession. First, technology, such as the police radio and patrol vehicles, changed the relationships between the police and the community. Second, police applied scientific management to policing, which created the perception that police were responsible for keeping the community safe. Previously, officers developed personal relationships with the community and needed the community to be willing to share information, and as well, the community understood that ultimately the community is responsible for reaffirming the social norms that promoted public safety. This narrative is in contrast with the modernising Policing profession which necessitated the idea of community policing (Coquilhat, 2008).

Jude and Ernest (2018) contended that community policing entails a systematic involvement and inclusion of credible local guards, vigilance groups, able-bodied civilian youths, and traditional rulers and chiefs into the conventional police

subsystem to achieve far-reaching success in crime prevention and control at the grassroots as against post-colonial conventional policing that has deepened the distrust or mistrust between the people and the police. Alli (2020) asserted that the objective of VGN is to promote community policing, crime control, prevention and protection of lives and property in Nigeria.

According to Vandegreft (2020), the National Institute of Justice has financed many research studies across the world on the effectiveness of community policing, the outcome of those studies showed that community policing had a positive effect on the community, lessening the fear of crime and improving the relationship between the police and the public. The researchers of those studies also found that crime was likely to flourish in run-down communities or neighbourhoods which creates an increased fear of crime by the public (Vandegreft, 2020). Samir (2021) investigated the effectiveness of community policing strategies in crime management in Dadaab refugee camp, Garissa County, Kenya. The research design adopted was cross-sectional survey in which both qualitative and quantitative methods of data collection were employed. With sample size of 111 respondents in the refugee camp, the study showed that deployment of neighbourhood watch, neighbourhood town meetings, utilisation of civilian education, and decentralisation of the police authority were the most effective community policing strategies adopted in Dadaab Refugee Camp. The results further indicated that community policing adoption, community policing strategies used, and crime management in Dadaab Refugee Camp were positively and significantly related (Samir, 2021).

In Nigeria, Ndakotsu (2023) found that community policing and crime prevention in Taraba State is effective in generating information about suspects and modalities of arresting criminals in the study area and that all structures of the community institutions must work together in sharing information concerning community safety and goal attainment in the community. Salami et al (2019)'s work in Suleja Niger State examined the relationship between crime rate and effectiveness of community policing and found that neighbourhood watch is the major strategy used by the community in the area in combating crime and that extreme poverty and unemployment are mostly responsible for the crime rate in the town.

Edemba (2022) study in Enugu North local government area of Enugu State found that residents of the study area are strongly in support of community policing, because the presence of community police has created fear and reduced crime rate. Yaqub and Olaniyi (2004) lend credence to the activities of vigilante groups as raiding of criminal hideouts, arrest, interrogation of suspected

criminals, and recovery of arms and ammunition in Kano State. Also, in Ondo State, Adegbusi (2009) found that vigilante service groups are important in crime prevention and control as the majority of the respondents indicated that vigilante service partnered with the police to control and prevent crime in the State. Akazue and Akinlotan (2021) study in Lagos state demonstrated that the use of community policing as a security agent in Ikeja has led to a moderate decline in crime rates and that the Ikeja community identifies the roles of community policing in crime prevention and perceives it as positive, compared to the roles performed by the Nigeria Police Force. Generally, therefore the presence of community policing has shown closeness to the people, lessening the fear of crime and improving the relationship between the police and the public, thereby improving safety of lives and property in communities.

Lagos Neighbourhood Safety Corps (LNSC)

LNSC was established in 2016 to compliment the efforts of the federal security agencies at community level, due to the enormous social and economic activities of the metropolis (Lagos), whereby, federal security agencies like the police, NSCDC, and others, seemed to be overwhelmed with the security architecture of the State. LNSC offices were opened in all the local government areas of the state to provide security and safety corridor for the residents living in the grassroots. Besides its offices at various LGAs, LNSC equally has operational and administrative headquarters where activities of the organisation at various levels are being monitored and supervised. The organisation is to ensure that its staff work within the law that established it, with strict adherence to the constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, pay the salary of the staff and cater for other welfare package of the LNSC and to forward a memo to the executive governor of the State as regards the constraints and needs of the organisation (LNSC). LNSC offices are located in all the local government areas of the State to provide security and safety corridor for the residents living at the grass root being headed by corps superintendent at local government. Besides its offices at various LGAs, LNSC equally has operational and administrative headquarters where activities of the organisation at various levels are being monitored and supervised by the Zonal Coordinators in charge of each Zones, followed by Divisional Commander at the division level and the General Manager who is the overall coordinator of the agency.

Methodology

This study adopted a descriptive research survey design. This implies that both qualitative and quantitative research approaches were used in providing

answers to the research questions. The population of the study was estimated to be three million, five-hundred and thirty-three thousand, five hundred (3, 533, 500) residents of the selected three LGAs of Lagos State (City population 2022). The study adopted multi-stage sampling techniques. Three (3) Local Government Areas out of the twenty (20) constituted local government areas of Lagos State, namely; Alimosho, Amuwo Odofin and Ikorodu LGAs were purposively selected. A sample of fifty (50) respondents was randomly selected in each of the three (3) LGAs and administered copies of the questionnaire. These respondents included residents, security agents (LNSC, NPF and NSCDC) religious leaders and community leaders. The interview sessions comprised members of community development associations, security personnel namely; staff of the LNSC, Nigeria Police Force, Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps and community leaders from each of the three selected local governments. Out of the one hundred and fifty (150) copies of questionnaire administered to the respondents, one hundred and thirty-nine (139) provided valid information to the questionnaire distributed, were retrieved back and descriptively analysed, while only ten (10) out of the proposed fifteen (15) respondents for interview sessions voluntarily granted an audience for the interview sessions. The research instruments were personally administered by the lead investigator with two research assistants.

Theoretical Framework

This study was anchored on the human security model. This model argues that the attention of public policy-makers should be directed towards achieving the security of people, not states. As postulated by the UN General Assembly's (2012) resolution 66/290, human security is an approach to assist Member States in recognising and addressing widespread and cross-cutting challenges to the survival, livelihood and dignity of their people. It calls for "people-centered, comprehensive, context-specific and prevention-oriented with varieties of focus on people-focused and multi-disciplinary understanding of security which involves ensuring the presence of Economic security, Food security, Health security, Environmental security, Personal security, Community security and Political security (Chattu et al., 2019).

Further, UN-Habitat (2007) described community security as a process of protecting people from critical (severe) and pervasive (widespread) threats and situations. It means using processes that build on people's strengths and aspirations by creating political, social, environmental, economic, military, and cultural systems that together give people the building blocks of survival, livelihood and dignity.

Based on the theory, the community focuses on three key issues being the protection of individual security through strict adherence to declared and

legitimate rights, freedom of individuals to invoke specific rights while pursuing some essential dimensions of human security, and the freedom of individuals to organise in groups to obtain satisfaction regarding those dimensions of human security (Morka, 2007; LeBas, 2013). Therefore, the government's proactiveness in addressing the menace of community insecurity in Lagos State could be seen as the need to protect its citizen's security through strict adherence to declared and legitimate rights, pursuit of essential dimensions of human security, and the freedom of individuals to organise in groups to obtain satisfaction of human security.

Causes of Community Crime

Community crimes happens for many reasons across the world such as population density, unemployment and poverty (David & Donna, 2016). Also, IvyPanda (2024) cited that there is a link between young people who have been unemployed for more than one year and property crime and that most young people get involved in selling drugs such as heroin, marijuana, and other dangerous drugs because they make quick money from the proceeds. In another vein, Braithwaite (1975) extensively discussed empirical evidence justification of larger cities and higher crime rates than smaller communities. According to Braithwaite (1975), while buttressing his argument with the theory of the anonymity by Merton, Robert K in 1938, said large cities are said to be characterised by anonymity.

The work of Anugwom (2023) examined the intricacies of slum clearance or renewal in Nigeria as factors enhance urban crime occurrences. Although slum clearance or renewal initiatives are apparently spurred by government strides to improve living circumstances of these urban residents and their environment, it has however, resulted into being counter-productive. For instance, in Nigeria, rapid urban growth and endless expansion of big cities like Lagos, Enugu, Ibadan, Kano can be characterised as producing the following outcomes or effects: unplanned urban sprawl, severe housing shortages, growth of slums and squatter settlements, pollution (land, water and air); urban congestion and overcrowding; homelessness (increasing number of urban residents sleeping under bridges, broken down vehicles, uncompleted buildings etc.); transportation problems as well as challenges of safety, security, and continuous threat of various forms of conflict (Anugwom, 2023).

Presentation of Data

Table 1: Demographic distribution of respondents

S/N	Demographic variables		Frequency	Percentage (%)	Mean	SD
1	Gender	Male	79	56.8	1.57	0.49
		Female	60	43.2		
		Total	139	100.0		
2	Age range	18-30	31	22.3	2.68	.90117
		31-40	43	30.9		
		41-50	55	39.6		
		Above 51	10	7.2		
		Total	139	100.0		
3	Religion	Christianity	76	54.67	2.7698	.42249
		Islam	63	45.3		
		ATR	-	-		
		Total	139	100.0		
4	Occupation	Public/private employees		76	2.3597	.78026
		Self employed	37	26.6		
		Security operatives	26	18.7		
		Total				
5	Marital status	Married	83	59.7	3.6691	.37225
		Single	46	33.1		
		Divorced	-	-		
		Widowed	10	7.19		
		Total	139	100.0		
6	Educational qualification	Tertiary	70	50.35	3.9424	.23374
		Secondary	40	28.7		
		Primary	21	15.5		
		No Formal education	8	5.8		
		Total	139	100.0		

Source: Researchers Field Survey, 2023

Table 1 presents a demographic report of the respondents. In terms of gender, out of the total 139 respondents, 79 (56.8%) identified as male, while 60 (43.2%) identified as female. The distribution of respondents across different age ranges shows that the largest age group is 41-50, comprising 55 respondents (39.6%), followed by 31-40 with 43 respondents (30.9%). In terms of religion, the majority of respondents, 76 (54.67%), identified as Christianity, while 63 (45.3%) identified as Islam. Notably, there were no respondents who identified as practitioners of African Traditional Religion (ATR).

In respect of occupation, the most common category among respondents were public/private employee with 76 (54.7%) individuals. Self-employed for 37 (26.6%) respondents, followed by security operatives' respondents at 26 (18.7%). Regarding marital status, 83 (59.7%) respondents reported being married, 10 (7.19%) being widowed, while 46 (33.1%) reported being single. No respondents in this data set indicated being divorced or widowed.

Finally, in terms of educational qualifications, the vast majority of respondents, 70 (50.35%), had attained tertiary education, while 40 (28.7%) had a secondary education. primary education secured 21(15.5%), while no formal education has 8(5.1%) respondents.

Overall, Table 1 provides a comprehensive overview of the demographic characteristics of the respondents, including gender, age range, religion, occupation, marital status, and educational qualification. It can be deduced from the above table that both employed and self-employed, formed majority respondents to the study with high level of formal education an indication. This implies that well informed residents of the study area had experience of knowledge of the subject matter.

Table 2: Respondents' opinion on the causes of community crime in some selected communities of Lagos State

SN	Opinion	Strongly Agree	Agree	Not Sure	Disagree Disagree	Strongly	Mean	SD
1	Unemployment	80(57.6%)	42(30.2%)	13(9.4%)	4(2.9%)	-	4.42	0.78
2	Population density	28(20.1%)	103(74.1%)	5(3.6%)	3(2.2%)	-	4.12	0.56
3	Slum upgrading	41(29.5%)	81(58.3%)	17(12.2%)	-	-	4.17	0.63
4	Homelessness	16(11.5%)	95(68.3%)	21(15.1%)	7(5.0%)	-	3.86	0.67

Source: Researchers Field Survey, 2023

Table 2 presents the responses to the question, "What are the causes of community crime in some selected communities in Lagos State" It provides insights into the perceptions of the respondents regarding the various the causes of community crime in some selected communities in Lagos State along with mean and standard deviation (SD) scores.

A significant majority of respondents, 80 (57.6%), strongly agreed that unemployment is a major factor responsible for community crime in Lagos State. Additionally, 42 (30.2%) respondents agreed, while 13 (9.4%) were unsure, and 4 (2.9%) disagreed. The mean score for this factor is 4.42, indicating a high level of agreement, and the standard deviation (SD) is 0.78, suggesting a moderate level of variability in the responses.

In terms of population density, 28 (20.1%) respondents strongly agreed, while the majority of 103 (74.1%) agreed with this factor. Only 5 (3.6%) respondents were unsure, and 3 (2.2%) disagreed. The mean score for this factor is 4.12, indicating a relatively high level of agreement, with a low standard deviation (SD) of 0.56, indicating low variability in the responses.

For inadequate slum upgrading, 41 (29.5%) respondents strongly agreed, and 81 (58.3%) agreed with this factor. Furthermore, 17 (12.2%) respondents were unsure, and there were no respondents who disagreed. The mean score for this factor is 4.17, reflecting a high level of agreement, and the standard deviation (SD) is 0.63, suggesting a moderate level of variability in the responses.

On homelessness, 16 (11.5%) respondents strongly agreed, and 95 (68.3%) agreed that unregulated public transport system also contribute to one chance crime in Lagos metropolis. On the other hand, 21 (15.1%) were unsure, and 7 (5.0%) disagreed. The mean score for this cause is 3.86, indicating a relatively high level of agreement, though slightly lower compared to the other factors. The standard deviation (SD) is 0.67, suggesting a moderate level of variability in the responses.

Overall, Table 2 illustrates the respondents' perspectives on the factors responsible for community crime in Lagos State. The finding indicates that unemployment, population density and slum upgrading are the major causes responsible for community crime in some selected communities in Lagos State, while the contributing factor is homelessness. Accordingly, some of the respondents asserted that in their community homelessness, population increase and unemployment are major factors are prompting many youths into different types crimes common in the area,

According to a security operative working with the LNSC,

Some of the youths or adult committing crime like drug and theft mostly sleeps under bridge, buses or mechanical workshops. This is the situation here. They have

no any other job than to engage in drugs and rob innocent residents going to or coming back from work at late hours. At several occasions we have raided their hideout, yet they return back because most them have no houses to stay or parents to care for them. (KII/45yrs/Police/Ikorodu/Male/ 2023).

Corroborating this assertion, the chairman of transport union in Ikorodu garage elaborately spoke on the matter:

What we are currently experiencing in Ikorodu now is the issue of homelessness youths below between 15 and 20 years old. The children like gangsters majorly at night since don't have a place to sleep. Many residents had fell victims of these boys by either snatching bags rob or collect their handset. At day time security personnel alongside with the victim will now visit our garage thinking they could find here or maybe the perpetrators are garage boys only to find out it was not. (sic) (KII/45yrs/NURTW Chairman/Ikorodu/Male/ 2023).

Another respondent; A security agent in Egbede Police station of explained that:

Unemployment is the major cause of crime in this community. A lot of the youths have no job in this environment. Some were jobless because of government policy that disallowed riding of motorcycle or became homeless as result of closing down of slum areas. These youths take to drugs, carry out petty theft and at odd hour rape innocent lady going home. (KII/39yrs/Police/Alimosho/Female/ 2023).

In another submission, a resident of Akewusola in Amuwo Odofin LGa said thus:

This community is overcrowded by unknown persons. Any time government destroy slum or send miscreant away living under the bridges, we see them in our community looking for where to stay. They have no relative or parent or money to rent houses They still ended hanging around looking for means to survive either breaking into shops or engaging in selling of hard drug. (IDI/49yrs/resident/Female/ 2023).

A victim who was robbed and raped by a gang of criminal in a community in Alimosho LGA has this to say:

I used to go to work earlier in the morning due to long queue of vehicle along the road. But this faithful day, some homeless boys sleeping inside abandoned car attacked me raped me and do away with my valuable property and money." They have no job or home to stay. At several occasions they have been sent away by the security agents but still return back. (IDI/Victim/Alimosho LGA/46yrs/2023).

A community leader attributed the problem of increase in population of Lagos. He said further:

Years back during military regime, nothing like miscreant hideout in this environment. The population is moderate then and we can easily identify each other. But the story is different from what is obtainable now. A lot of people particularly youths of questionable character have overwhelmed security arrangement of our community. (IDI/Resident/Ikorodu/46yrs/2023).

According to a security agent that handle crime in Amuwo Odofin LGA:

We are not many in our station to police every area and streets in the local government. The only area we can cover, at least, we are doing our best to get rid of criminal hideout tormenting the residents in the area. The population of this community is density. The parents have no time to train their wards or children pushing many youths into drug related crime. (IDI/ Polic DCO /Amuwo-Odofin LGA /66yrs/2023).

Table 3: Respondents' opinion on the roles of LNSC in curbing community crime in some selected communities

SN	Opinion	Strongly Agree	Agree	Not Sure	Disagree	Strongly	Mean	SD
1	Synergy with other security agencies in mitigating crime	32(23.0%)	75(54.0%)	32(23.0%)			4.00	0.68
2	Community security engagement	49(35.3%)	76(54.7%)	11(7.9%)	3(2.2%)		4.23	0.68
3	Patrol and surveillance	64(46.0%)	53(38.1%)	21(15.1%)	1(0.7%)		4.30	0.75
4	Raiding and arrest of criminal hideout.	3(2.2%)	12(8.6%)	55(39.6%)	69(49.6%)		2.37	0.53
5	Provides useful early warning signs of crime and violence	53(38.1%)	79(56.8%)	3(2.2%)	4(2.9%)		4.30	0.66

Source: Researchers Field Survey, 2023

Table 3 presents the roles of LNSC in curbing community crime in some selected communities in Lagos State. The table provides information on the frequency and percentage of responses for each effect, along with the mean and standard deviation (SD) scores.

Firstly, regarding intelligent gathering, a significant number of respondents, 32 (23.0%), strongly agreed, and 75 (54.0%) agreed with this role. The mean score for this role is 4.00, indicating a relatively high level of agreement, with a moderate level of variability represented by the standard deviation (SD) of 0.68.

Secondly, in terms of community security engagement, 49 (35.3%) respondents strongly agreed, and 76 (54.7%) agreed. A smaller portion of respondents, 11 (7.9%), were unsure, and 3 (2.2%) disagreed. The mean score for this effect is 4.23, suggesting a relatively high level of agreement, similar to the first role, with a standard deviation (SD) of 0.68.

Thirdly, patrol and surveillance were acknowledged by the majority of respondents. 64 (46.0%) strongly agreed, and 53 (38.1%) agreed with this role. However, 21 (15.1%) respondents were unsure, and 1 (0.7%) disagreed. The mean score for this effect is 4.30, indicating a relatively high level of agreement, and the standard deviation (SD) is 0.75, suggesting a moderate level of variability.

Fourthly, concerning riding and arrest of criminal hideout in Lagos State, 3(2.2%) strongly agreed, and 12(8.6%) agreed with this role indicating a relative mixed feeling perception of respondents to this role. On the other hand, 55(39.6%) were unsure, and 69(49.6%) disagreed. The mean score for this role is 2.37, indicating a relatively mixing feeling agreement, with a standard deviation (SD) of 0.53, suggesting a disagreement in the responses.

Lastly, the study provided useful early warning signs of crime and violence, 53 (38.1%) respondents who strongly agreed, and 79 (56.8%) who agreed. Only 3 (2.2%) respondents were unsure, and 4 (2.9%) disagreed. The mean score for this effect is 4.30, indicating a relatively high level of agreement, and the standard deviation (SD) is 0.66, suggesting a moderate level of variability. Also, oral evidence from interview sessions conducted demonstrated strongly correlation with quantitative finding that as regard the effectiveness of the agency in mitigating community crime in some collected communities of Lagos State. a respondent said thus:

Staff of the LNSC patrol and response to distress calls any time there is matter of urgency in this community. They are very active in mobilising their men to a crime scene. Though they have limited power to effect arrest when it involved gun battle, but they are in close synergy with Police authority to bring down criminals with dangerous weapons down. (IDI/Community leader /Amuwo-Odofin LGA /36yrs/2023).

Another respondent, a zonal commander of the LNSC in Alimosho enumerated much about their roles in ensuring community is free from crime:

Our work centred on community consultation and collaboration on information gathering on criminal and violent activities in the community. When we collect the information, we mobilise police and all other security agencies concerned to get rid of criminal element. Though, on some occasions we can carry out the arrest, but when the situation is beyond our control, we invite police to assist. (KII/LNSC/Ikorodu LGA /57yrs/2023).

A senior police officer working in Egbeda Police station explain his experience with the activities of LNSC in the community:

I'm aware of their activities in this area. They supply us with useful information about criminal hideout particularly homeless youths disturbing the peace of this community. Besides that, they are always in a meeting with community development association collecting information about how to improve security situation in the community. At least, they have helped bring community policing nearer to the grassroot more than what we can do as police authority. (KII/Female/Police DSP/Alimosho LGA /61yrs/2023).

Another officer of LNSC spoke about their role in improve community security:

We have limited facilities to forcefully carry out an arrest of any suspected criminal. So, what we do is to serve as surveillance, patrol around and gather early warning signs about crime and violent activities threatening the peace and security of the community. We robustly engage with Landlord associations community leaders and key stakeholder in the community on how to strengthen security and safety of the community. If it a matter of drug cartel, we invite the drug law enforcement to arrest the suspects, while issues of criminal intent are being transfer to the police. (KII/Female/LNSC's officer/Ikorodu /31yrs/ 2023).

The local government commander of the agency in Amuwo Odofin has this to say:

We have different types of departments working for different purposes. For instance, the anti-gender-based violence monitor issues of rape and domestic violence against young ladies and women in the community. So also, we have operational department that patrol and carry out surveillance in the community both in the night and day time. We equally have a department that assist drug law enforcement in identifying hard drug takers. (KII/Male/LNSC/Amuwo-Odofin LGA /51yrs/ 2023).

Table 4: Respondents' opinion on the effectiveness of the LNSC in curbing community crime in some selected communities

SN	Response	Very effective	Effective	Not Sure	Ineffective	Mean	SD
1	Proactive response to crime scene	24(17.3%)	101(72.7%)	7(5.0%)	7(5.0%) -	4.02	0.65
2	Synergy with police in mitigating crime	26(18.7%)	106(76.3%)	3(2.2%)	4(2.9%) -	4.11	0.56
3	Community security consultations and collaboration	28(20.1%)	104(74.8%)	-	7(5.0%) -	4.10	0.63
4	Security patrol, surveillance and information gathering	91(65.5%)	34(24.5%)	11(7.9%)	3(2.2%) -	4.12	0.63
5	Arrest and prosecution of criminal	9(6.5%)	4(2.9%)	53(38.1%)	73(52.5%) -	4.26	0.71

Source: Researcher Field Survey, 2023

Table 4 provides insight into the effectiveness of the LNSC in curbing community crime in some selected communities in Lagos State. The table presents data on the frequency and percentage of responses for each constraint, along with the mean and standard deviation (SD) scores.

One of the significant identified effectiveness of the agency is the proactive response to crime scene. A notable proportion of respondents, 24 (17.3%), indicated very effective proactive response to crime scene, while a majority of 101 (72.7%) aligned with. This suggests a widespread recognition to this effectiveness of the agency. However, a small percentage of respondents, 7 (5.0%), expressed uncertainty, and an equal number ineffective. The mean score for this area of effectiveness is 4.02, indicating a relatively high level of effectiveness with a moderate level of variability represented by the standard deviation (SD) of 0.65.

Another observable effectiveness is the level of synergy with police in mitigating crime. A considerable number of respondents, 26 (18.7%), showed that LNSC is very effective is synergizing with Nigeria police in mitigating crime in the study area, while a majority of 106 (76.3%) indicated effective. Only a few respondents, 3 (2.2%), expressed uncertainty, and 4 (2.9%) indicated ineffective. The mean score for this variable is 4.11, suggesting a relatively high level of effectiveness of the

agency in synergy, with a standard deviation (SD) of 0.56, indicating a moderate level of variability in the responses.

On community security consultations, a significant proportion of respondents, 28 (20.1%), strongly agreed that LNSC is very effective in consulting with community on security matter, while 104 (74.8%) showed effective. There were no respondents who were unsure about this this area of effectiveness. A moderate low level, 7(5.0%) indicated ineffective. The mean score for this constraint is 4.10, indicating a relatively high level of effectiveness, with a standard deviation (SD) of 0.63, suggesting a moderate level of variability.

Furthermore, respondents also indicated that LNSC is very effective in information gathering with a notable number of respondents, 91(65.5%), 34(24.5%) effective, while smaller percentage of respondents, 11 (7.9%), expressed uncertainty, and 3 (2.2%) indicated ineffective. The mean score for this constraint is 4.12, indicating a relatively high level of agreement, with a standard deviation (SD) of 0.63, suggesting a moderate level of variability.

Lastly, concerning, arrest and prosecution of criminals low percentage of respondents, 9 (6.5%) agreed to this effectiveness of the agency, 4(6.5%) effective and 53(38.1%) respondents were unsure. A larger proportion of respondents, 73(52.5%) indicated ineffectiveness of the agency in arrest and prosecution of criminal. The mean score for this constraint is 4.26, indicating a disagreement with a standard deviation (SD) of 0.71, suggesting a that the LSNC is ineffective in arrest and prosecution of criminal. Oral interview equally demonstrated various areas of effectiveness of the agency.

According to security operative:

LNSC are active and hard working in this community. They have been assisting us in crime detecting, investigation and aid in arresting mostly of the notorious criminal element terrorising the peace of the environment. They are good in information gathering and sharing it with us. (KII/45yrs/Police/Ikorodu/Male/ 2023).

Another respondent; A security community leader explained that:

The coming and the work of LNSC has brought about changes in security arrangement in our area. At least we are rest assured that when we are asleep, officers of LSNC are patrolling every place and that they will scare away the criminals. (KII/39yrs/Police/Egbede/Female/ 2023).

Corroborating this assertion, a resident of Alimosho said thus:

Some days ago, when I was returning back from work, I almost fell into the hands of miscreants that normally rob innocent residents of their belongings. It was the intervention of the LNSC officers patrolling the area that saved me. I considered their presence very useful.
(IDI/49yrs/Female/resident/Alimosho/ 2023).

A respondent explained about his perception on the activities of LSNC in Ikorodu:

There is a department in charge of gender based violence in their office. The department always investigate issues of domestic assault and violence which I considered it very good because they have successfully prosecuted many rape offenders in this community.
(IDI/Male/55yrs/resident/Ikorodu LGA/ 2023).

A resident spoke on the institutional capacity of the agency:

They are very active and proactive in response to crime scene. But they cannot make arrest in a situation where offenders are heavily armed with weapons. So, they still have to depend on police with carrying guns to tackle serious criminal activities.
(IDI/Female/resident/Amuwo-Odofin LGA /34yrs/2023).

Discussion of findings

The findings from objective one showed the major causes of community crime in the study area as population density, homelessness, unemployment and slum upgrading. Other contributing factors as observed in the qualitative findings were hard drug consumption and inadequate security coverage of the communities. It should be noted that as against every other Local Government Areas in Lagos State, the population density of Alimosho, Ikorodu and Amuwo Odofin were on the high side. Also, interview respondents, noted that, their community does not have enough security personnel to curb the increased crime rate resulting from population density. Respondents also agreed that many restless, unidentified and homeless youths now exist in their communities engaging in pickpocketing, attacking innocent worshippers returning or going to worship centres early in the morning and in some instances, raping innocent ladies going to or coming back from work.

Braithwaite (1975)'s study lends credence that large cities are known for anonymity, and anonymity of the city permits the criminal to commit his/her offense with little fear of being recognised. Therefore, criminal intent men in a

populated city lose their perception of accountability to their fellow men. This study suggests that when a large number of people besiege a certain community, violence, social vices and crime are inevitable, due to what could be described as individual differences in human behaviour, as well as the overstretched security architecture of the given community.

In another vein, the efforts of the Lagos State Government in turning around Lagos into a mega city, particularly, the destruction and upgrading of slum and shanty areas seemed to be counter-productive as suggested in this study. The findings of the study demonstrated that many residents have been rendered homeless due to the shanty and slum communities destroyed by the government without adequate provision for the residents of these destroyed slum communities to be resettled in another community. Many of these homeless persons were found in already overpopulated communities. While some of them engaged in different community crimes, some indulge in illicit drug-related menace. This finding corroborated with the study of Anugwom (2023) who argued that the negative consequence of neighbourhood renewal is the possibility of evicting residents of slum neighbourhoods, destruction of their property and means of livelihoods without making adequate provisions for them. The implication of this is that, when neighbourhoods are renewed or rebranded, more people are more likely to be affected; thus, compounding the neighbourhood's problems.

Another related cause is the issue of unemployment. Though this factor received minimal input from interview respondents, however, the quantitative result suggested a correlation between unemployment and crime in the study area. This finding is in line with the study of IvyPanda (2024) that there is a link between young people who have been unemployed for more than one year and property crime. Hence, if suspected community criminals are meaningfully engaged in one job or the other, the possibility of taken to crime will reduce and the community will be free from insecurity.

The study also investigated various roles played by the Lagos Neighbourhood Safety Corps (LNSC) in mitigating community crime in the study area. The result demonstrated that the agency majorly played the role of community security engagement, providing useful early warning signs of crime and violence, and synergy with other security agencies in mitigating crime. They also play patrol and carry out surveillance in and around every street of the communities. Finding showed that the agency carried out arrest and prosecution of offenders, but it is done in collaboration with the other senior "sister" security agencies like the Nigeria Police, Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps and National Drug Law Enforcement Agency. The duties of the agency (LNSC) as suggested in this study

aligned with the objective of community policing and the effort of the Lagos government to bring safety and security closer to the grassroots.

For instance, LNSC was observed in the study engaging with community development associations regularly on how to improve the security architecture of their communities, collect and share useful information about criminal hideouts with relevant security agencies to get rid of criminals.

This finding supported the human security model as postulated by the UN General Assembly (2012) that, community security can be achieved through a process of protecting people from critical (severe) and pervasive (widespread) threats and situations. In achieving community security, Schanzer et al (2016)'s study supported the roles played by LNSC as unveiled in his study that community policing involves collaboration between police and community members, characterised by problem-solving partnerships to enhance public safety. The patrol and surveillance role played by the LNSC, in many ways complemented efforts of State conventional security outfits in identifying hot spots and criminal hideouts that needed to be raided.

Oral evidence showed that the routine security patrol carried out by the agency helps scare away early morning criminals in the community. The finding aligned with the study of Jude and Ernest (2018) that community policing entails a systematic involvement and inclusion of credible local guards, vigilance groups, able-bodied civilian youths, traditional rulers and chiefs into the conventional police sub-system to achieve far-reaching success in crime prevention and control at the grassroots. This study showed that establishing an organisation like LNSC is very important in bridging the gap of safety and security at the community level particularly, in Lagos city, where State security arrangements have been overwhelmed.

Finally, the study assessed the effectiveness of the LNSC in curbing community crime in the study area, and the result demonstrated that LNSC is very effective majorly in proactive response to crime scenes, synergy with police in mitigating crime, community security consultations and collaboration. Other areas of effectiveness are security patrol, surveillance and information gathering, but largely ineffective in the areas of arrest and prosecution of criminals. Residents of the study area perceived that the presence of the LNSC has reduced crime, particularly, early morning assaults and attacks being carried out by homeless miscreants on innocent residents going to work or worship centers.

In a similar vein, other security agencies' respondents like the Nigeria Police Force, agreed that the activities of LNSC have assisted in policing the community effectively. The finding is in line with the study of Vandegreft (2020) that

community policing had a positive effect on the community, lessening the fear of crime and improving the relationship between the police and the public, and Ndakotsu (2023) that community policing is effective in generating information about suspects and modalities of arresting a criminal. This study suggested that the gap in community security in the study has been technically filled with the presence of community police known as Lagos Neighbourhood Safety Corps.

On the other hand, community leaders perceived that if the agency could be armed, arresting and prosecuting identified criminal elements would be easier for the organisation, nevertheless, the community development associations rated the routine patrol and proactive response of the agency to the crime scene as the best alternative to crime and violence mitigation, and that it has reduced crime incidences in their respective communities. This finding is supported by the work of Akazue and Akinlotan (2021) that the use of community policing as a security agent in Ikeja has led to a moderate decline in crime rates, and that the Ikeja community perceived their role of community policing as positive compared to the roles performed by the NPF.

Conclusion

The study concluded that that several factors caused community crimes in the study area, including the effort of the Lagos State government to upgrade slum and shanty areas, forcing residents of these slum and shanty communities to settle in an already overpopulated communities without any security arrangement to mitigate insecurity associated with the population density of the affected communities. In order to curb this increasing crime rate in the study area, LNSC performed and was very effective in proactive response to crime scenes, synergising with police in mitigating crime, carrying out community security consultation, collaboration and security patrol, but largely ineffective in arrest and prosecution of criminals in the study area because, LNSC is not permitted to carry arms in executing its activities which has limited their strength in confronting notorious crime syndicates.

Recommendations

In view of the above findings, the study recommended that the government of Lagos State should come up with holistic and workable policy plan for the homeless residents living in shanty and slum communities, that may be likely be affected by future urban development. This could be by construction of low-cost estates where they can be accommodated rather than sending them away without adequate provision, which may be may be counter-productive to the security of the affected communities.

Though the community policing policy of Lagos State is commendable for being proactive in crime mitigation at the grassroots, yet, to improve the roles of LNSC, security personnel of LNSC should be trained and retrained nationally and internationally for acquisition of more knowledge that will make their activities conform with international best practices.

Moreover, to combat the criminals that carry arms and ammunitions in the communities, LNSC should create a special operational unit consisting of trained personnel that will be equipped with arms, to navigate difficult situations and terrain that require the use of firearms.

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