

THE INVOLVEMENT OF THE NIGERIA POLICE IN CURBING INSURGENCY IN NIGERIA

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Abstract

The 1999 Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria makes clear the makeup, organization, and operational oversight of the Nigeria Police Force. The preservation of human life and material goods is the main focus of this, among others. Currently, Nigeria is fighting an insurgency that has decimated several areas of the north-eastern region of the country. There is a paucity of research on the Nigeria Police Force's contribution to this conflict, despite the fact that the majority of studies have focused on how the Armed Forces have attempted to quell insurgency and terrorist activity. By highlighting the existence of certain of Nigeria's police special units like Explosives Ordnance Disposal (EOD), K9, Forensics, and Intelligence, a portion of their tasks can be comprehended. The purpose of this study is to investigate how the Nigerian police have helped to quell insurgency in that country. The finding reveals that the Nigeria Police are also involved in the war against insurgency. However, the lack of sophisticated equipment is a major impediment which has hindered the effectiveness of the force. The conclusion of this study recommends, among others, that the Nigerian government should enter stronger bilateral and multilateral relations with high technologically advanced nations to purchase highly sophisticated equipment to combat the insurgents. Similarly, government should share experience with those nations that have successfully fought the menace in their respective domains in order to learn the best tactics to deploy in combating the war.

Keywords: insurgency, Nigeria police, role, involvement.

Introduction

No doubt, the security challenges bedeviling Nigeria today are numerous. For example, the nation has witnessed the Army/Shiite clashes, Boko Haram insurgency, herdsmen/farmers clashes, kidnapping, banditry, ritual killings, cannibalism, cattle rustling, drug and human trafficking, militancy, illicit proliferation of small arms and violent extremism among others (Ezinwa, 2019). For long, the country has, particularly, been battling with insecurity issue posed by insurgency and activities of terrorist groups. Topping the list of these groups is the Boko Haram Sect (BHS) in the North east of Nigeria.

Insurgency is a global phenomenon (Aiyesimoju, 2015) and has become a major threat to world peace and order (Abodunrin et al., 2021). The militant actions of Boko Haram have become one of the biggest security risks in Africa, particularly around the region surrounding Lake Chad. (Oyewole, 2015). In Nigeria, the devious and nasty actions of this terrorist organisation cannot be disregarded because of the attacks the organisation has carried out, which have resulted in loss of life, destruction of property worth

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billions of Naira, serious infrastructure damage, loss of investment, capital, and income, among other things (Oriakhi & Osenwinghie, 2012, cited in Abodunrin et al., 2021). Since 2009, the Boko Haram Sect (BHS) and other insurgent organisations' operations have impeded sustainable development and made the nation hazardous for people to live in, conduct business in, and invest in (Udosen & Ikenna, 2017).

Nigeria is facing the problem of insurgency which has emerged as one of its recent leading issue of national security attracting numerous and varied comments in current national discourse (Aiyesimoju, 2015). Despite the Nigerian government's best efforts, the Boko Haram insurgent group's activities have continued to grow throughout the Northern area and pose a severe threat to Nigeria and the region around Lake Chad (Sadau, 2015).

The operations of Boko Haram have raised international concerns due to the frequent attacks of the insurgents that has continued to threaten the peace and stability of Nigeria (Ike, 2018). Different approaches have been used by the Nigerian government to subdue and curtail the activities and operations of the numerous insurgent groups present in the country. Since insurgency continues to be a threat to Nigeria's stability and peace, these measures, however, have not produced fruitful and beneficial results. The administration has largely focused on using the military strategy rather than alternative non-military ones to quell the insurgency. Hence, there is the need to examine other non-military approaches especially the criminal justice system in the fight against insurgency.

The urgent need to combat insurgency and the roles of critical stakeholders in the fight against terrorism and insurgency have been investigated in literature. For instance, Aiyesimoju (2015) examined the role of the media in containing insurgency by outlining how the activities of the media can be used to aid as well as thwart the activities of insurgent groups in the country; Ike (2018) examined the need to reconceptualize the role of law in countering terrorism in Nigeria and explained the rationale behind strengthening Nigeria's criminal justice system; Uche et al. (2020) also examined the role of the media in containing insur

For instance, Ike (2018) while examining the need to reconceptualise the role of law in countering terrorism in Nigeria explained the rationale behind strengthening Nigerian's criminal justice system; Aiyesimoju (2015) also examined the role of the media in curbing insurgency in the country by describing how the activities of the media can be used to aid as well as thwart the activities of insurgent groups in the country; Uche et al. (2020) also examined the part citizen journalism can play in tackling the security threat posed by the Boko Haram Insurgency in Nigeria.

Relevant literature has also been analysed on the role of the Nigeria police in the war against insurgency. However, the emphasis in these studies is on their statutory duties of the police in terms of crime prevention and control, maintenance of peace and order and enforcement of legal sanctions. Against this background, this study would explore the involvement of the Nigeria Police in curbing insurgency in Nigeria. Not only this, the research examines the roles the Nigeria police have been playing in relation to their involvement in curbing insurgency in Nigeria and the extent to which the Nigeria police have been strategic in their involvement in curbing insurgency. The study also interrogates the challenges faced by the Nigeria security agencies, particularly the police, in the fight against insurgency in Nigeria.

Review of Literature

The Nigeria Police was founded by Section 214(1) of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria (Nwauzi & Ogon, 2018; Madubuike-Ekwe & Obayemi, 2019), and several laws have given it responsibilities and authority (Nwauzi & Ogon, 2018). The force is tasked with the duties of investigating crimes, protecting people and property, and enforcing all laws and regulations. The conduct of prosecutions before any court in the nation as well as traffic control and management may be among their additional responsibilities. (Alemika & Chukwuma, 2000, cited in Edet, 2017). The primary law in Nigeria outlining the specific responsibilities and capabilities of the Nigerian Police is the Police Act (Nwauzi & Ogon, 2018). The Nigeria Police also performs a variety of secondary responsibilities,

including providing aid in times of need, managing and regulating highway traffic, among others (Madubuike-Ekwe & Obayemi, 2019). However, given the vast nature of police officers' responsibilities and authority, the preceding list of police officer tasks and powers is not all-inclusive (Nwauzi & Ogon, 2018).

Insurgency has become a frightening phenomenon which has continued to raise global concerns because it has revealed the vulnerability of modern societies (Abodunrin et al., 2021). International news outlets have been covering the operations of Boko Haram, the main rebel organisation in Nigeria and the Lake Chad region, due to their frequent attacks that threaten the peace and stability of Nigeria (Ike, 2018). Some have contended that the group's employment of a military strategy to win support and recruit more fighters was excessively violent. (Dyrenforth, 2018). For instance, a 2016 study commissioned by the International Dialogue Centre, the Network for Religious and Traditional Peacemakers, and Finn Church Aid found that about 60% of former Boko Haram fighters emphasised seeking retribution against the Nigerian military and that their military approach was a significant factor in their decision to join Boko Haram (Botha & Abdile, 2016).

One of the security agencies driving the nation's efforts to combat terrorism and insurgency is the Nigeria Police Force (Audu & Zakimayu, 2021). According to a study by Nwakanma (2022), the Nigeria Police is actively involved in mediating conflicts between Boko Haram militants and the general public, making peacekeeping and conflict resolution one of its responsibilities. It has been discovered that the police use methods like reconciling fugitive or rescued Boko Haram terrorists with their families in their jobs of pursuing peace and resolving conflict. This is said to aid in lessening the victims' psychological suffering. In order to relieve the suffering of the rescued victims, they also make sure that the government agencies are involved in their care. Additionally, it has been noted that community members who commit non-felony crimes are granted bail by the Nigerian Police.

In the struggle to quell insurrection, the Police have developed the use of technology, improved on their security and intelligence networks and enlisted the help of adolescents, hunters, vigilante groups, business people, local chiefs among others. This has brought some positive results worthy of mention. For instance, the police are able to rehabilitate and reintegrate Boko Haram terrorist victims who have fled their domains with their families or communities.

Theoretical framework

The research was guided by community policing model. The theory assumes that closer alliances between the police and the community helps reduce citizens' fear of crime, promotes police-community relationship, and ensures more effective responses to community challenges and problems (Trojanowicz & Bucqueroux, 1998). However, in practice, the police officer's operational responsibility is visibility and action as they work to guarantee that disturbance and crime are appropriately managed. The community must provide information, assistance, and feedback, and police must address all issues (Manning, 2003). The Office of Community Oriented Policing Service (2007) states that the main objectives of community policing are crime and social disruption. This is accomplished by providing services that incorporate elements of routine law enforcement, prevention, problem-solving, community participation, and partnerships. The community policing paradigm aims to balance proactive issue solutions with reactive measures, particularly with regard to the root causes of crime and disturbance. Community policing essentially entails a relationship between the police and the public (Yero et al., 2012).

Materials and methods

The research was a qualitative one using In-depth interview (IDI) and Kei Informant Information for data collection. The research targeted the Nigeria Police Force and data were conducted in the Kwara State Police Headquarters, Ilorin.

Purposive non-probability sampling technique was used to select 27 respondents from three departments. These departments are Criminal Investigation Division (CID), Operation department and office of the Police Public Relation Officer. 12, 12 and three officers were selected respectively from the three departments.

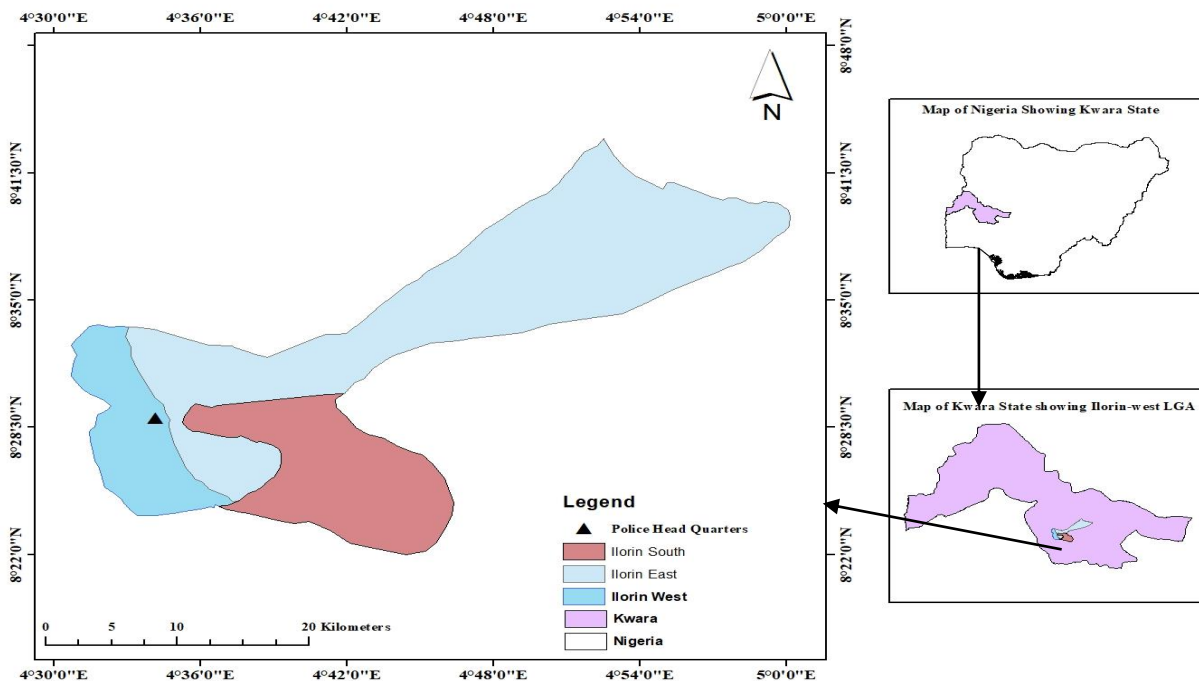
An interview schedule was used to guide data generations. While KII was used to elicit information from three top officers, one each from the three unites/departments, IDI was used to generate data from other participants. The instrument (interview schedule/check list) considered the objectives of the study in a manner that allows for further probing of response of the participants

The interview was conducted in three venues provided by the force headquarter, Ilorin. The interview was a one on one physical engagement with both respondents and the interviewers. While the lead researcher moderated the interview, notes taking and tape recording were used for data recording. The two method was adopted to complement each other not to miss out any point during documentation and no interview lasted for more than 50 minutes.

Data collected were analysed via content analysis. The analysis was done by all the researchers differently to determine similarities and differences if any so as to ascertain the reliability and validity of the interview guide.

The participants also understood that they were free to withdraw from the research at any time and their responses were only for academic purpose. They also understood that responses will not be linked to their names and remain anonymous throughout the conduct of the research.

Figure 1: Map of Ilorin-West showing Police Headquarters, Ilorin, Kwara State, Nigeria.



Source: Diva GIS (Modified by Authors), 2023.



Findings

The role of the Nigeria police in curbing insurgency in Nigeria

The duties and responsibilities of the police in any given society cannot be over emphasized. The police are recognized members of the society charged with the responsibility of security of lives and property, maintaining law and order and prevention of all crimes, including insurgency. This position was confirmed by the Police Public Relation Officers (PPRO) Kwara State Police Headquarters (KSPH) as follows:

The reason for establishing the Nigerian Police in the first place was to provide security and safety of lives and property. In the area of internal security, it is also our duty to curb insurgency because it also concerns the same lives and property we swore to protect. The issue of insurgency, as new as it is in our country, we know that the dynamism is what is needed when discussing security. Before the issue of insurgency, different crimes have evolved over time such as the issue of cybercrime. All these new crimes are not contained in the constitution but as they evolved, we deal with them, so it is our duty to equally deal with the problem of insurgency in the country just like every other crime (KII/KSPH/2022)

The roles of the Nigeria police are not just confined to the statutory description of their duties and responsibilities. Alongside other primary duties such as crime prevention and investigation, maintenance of law and order, enforcement of all laws and regulation, the police also have a role to play in curbing insurgency in Nigeria. This was confirmed from the above submission but is also partly stated in section 4 of the Police Act under “such military duties within or outside Nigeria as may be required by them by this or any other Act” (see The Police Act, Cap [P19], Laws of the Federation of Nigeria (LFN, 2004). Nwauzi and Ogon (2018) also stated that the listed duties and powers of police officers are not exhaustive as the duties and powers of police officers are expansive.

The Nigeria Police discharge other specific secondary duties like highway traffic control and management, provision of assistance during disasters and the conduct of prosecution before any court in the country (Alemika & Chukwuma, 2000, cited in Edet, 2017; Madubuike-Ekwe & Obayemi, 2019). Understanding the roots of insurgency is pivotal to curbing the menace and winning the war against insurgency. According to another officer, who is a CSP, what has led to the persistent rise of insurgency in the country is the continuous use of the uneducated and unemployed youths to do the biddings of the insurgent groups. They capitalize on the youth's predicament, the poor economy of the country by make empty promises to these idle youths in order to lure them into the group. They prey on the intelligence of young individuals who do what they tell them to do. He explains further by giving an instance of the promise of sleeping with seven virgins after successfully killing a person.

...the illiterate, unemployed youth and the religious bigots do anything for money without raising rational questions. You can imagine a situation where an individual kills because he will sleep with seven virgin girls when he gets to heaven. Is that not a madness? This is just one of the several stories I heard from the teachings they give to them. Although we don't know the veracity of this statement, it is just unreasonable. How can someone who has not died be thinking of sleeping with seven virgins in heaven? Acting on these kinds of teachings is a result of lack of education, lack of the ability to reason and the more you get people like that, the more you get them readily available to commit all sorts of evils and atrocities (IDI/CSP/Male/KSPH/2022)

In an effort to address the issue of Boko haram insurgency, the PPRO finally gave a detailed explanation of some of their roles in curbing the menace of Boko Haram insurgency in Nigeria. The roles include but are not limited to the following: (a) counselling people as well as relevant stakeholders in the country about the need for peace in the society. This is done in a bid to write off the wrong and poisonous orientation people might have received concerning situations in the country; (b) mopping up arms and ammunitions, drugs and narcotic substances in the society; (c) working in synergy with relevant stakeholders, bodies and national institution agencies such as the NDLEA, EFCC, NAFDAC and others

(d) working with other security agencies such as the Nigerian Military, Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps (NSCDC); (e) training and re-training of police personnel on recent crime fighting modes in order to effectively engage the insurgent groups; (f) engaging the religious and community leaders in talks about peace and giving proper orientation to their members; (g) soliciting for the engagement and employment of youths; (h) striving to administer and dispense justice to improve people's trust and confidence in the justice system, among others.

The police acknowledged the fact that the war against insurgency in Nigeria is a collective fight that must involve the government, security agencies, community leaders, religious bodies and individuals in the home. This is also the position of the model of community policing. Giving vivid explanation for each of the roles of the police in curbing insurgency, the PPRO explains:

Apart from readiness in fighting insurgency, we go about counselling people by talking to them and talking to stakeholders that will also admonish them. We also strive to mop up drugs, arms and ammunitions in the society because we believe that majority of these people committing serious crimes, such as insurgency, don't do it wilfully; it is either they are under the influence of drugs or under the influence of some other things. We also work in synergy with relevant stakeholders like the drug law enforcement agencies, national institution agencies, the EFCC and the rest of them because we believe insurgency is not just caused by a factor, it is caused by several critical factors.

The respondents furthers his explanations:

....officers are also trained in recent crime fighting modes like. Particularly, our officers have been trained in the aspect of planting and detonation of bomb. So we have established, re-energized and reinvigorated our bomb disposal unit. They have been trained abroad and all equipment necessary to determine if a bomb or landmine has been placed somewhere. Although we don't have sophisticated technology, we only have our trackers to determine locations of the insurgents to prevent being caught unaware. We also engage the religious and community leaders for intelligence gathering while admonishing them on the need for justice at every point in time (KII/PPRO/KSPH/2022).

The role of the police in the society is not only exhaustive but expansive (Nwauzi & Ogon, 2018). To ease the discharge of those roles in curbing insurgency, the PPRO stressed the need for the youths to be fully engaged either in pursuing their education or engaged in good employment. This will discourage them from getting involved in criminal activities, such as insurgency. Relative to this, he explained that the Nigerian government has especially granted the police the authority to employ 10,000 youths annually for four (4) consecutive years. According to him, there is also the need for an unbiased dispensation of justice to every all citizens with no regard for income level, class status, race, religion, gender, age and so on. This prevalence of justice would improve people's confidence and trust in the Nigerian Police, the criminal justice system as well as other government established authorities.

Extent of involvement of the NPF in curbing insurgency in Nigeria

Discharging the roles of the Nigeria police in curbing insurgency and other serious offences in Nigeria require sophisticated equipment and modern technology. The Nigeria police have been considerably discharging their roles with regards to curbing insurgency with diligence at the moment, but with the right technology and sophisticated equipment, NPF would meet national and international expectations. When confronted with this question, another respondent explains:

We do not have any other job than to protect lives and property; this is the number one basic duty of the Nigeria police. However, it is of general knowledge that there is no way you can do that without being well equipped. We are now in a computerized world and the world has become a global village. Almost every person has become a tool and access can be gotten to information from all over the world. I am not talking about the police now but every individual. A person can know how to prepare a bomb by a simple goggle search. For example, about a month ago, 3 men



were caught who killed one of their girlfriends for money ritual and when they were asked how they came up with the mixtures, they said they discovered it by surfing on the internet on 'how to make money' and doing rituals. So, they tried to work on it, unfortunately, they were caught in the act. In this same way, people can learn so many ways to commit crimes through the phone. If people can go this much through technology to commit crime, we also should surpass them in terms of using the same technology to combat their activities. (KII/PPRO/KSPH/2022).

Still speaking on the extent to which the Nigeria police have been discharging their roles in order to curb insurgency in Nigeria, a DCP talked about efforts in the training and retraining of police personnel in the trends and patterns of crimes in Nigerian societies, so that officers can proactively respond to the crimes. According to him, the NPF spares no effort in training their personnel. He stated that:

...the same way criminals train themselves through learning new crimes and techniques by surfing the internet, we are also being trained in that aspect, following the trends and patterns of crime. We know that criminals try to advance their methods and techniques of committing crimes for their successful operations. Consequently, we also train our men on how to do that by either taking them abroad or bringing experts from abroad to train them in Nigeria. Therefore, we do more of training and re-training for our men. So we are trying our best and at the same time we also deploy a lot of policemen, especially intelligence officers to source for intelligence that will help us to map out our own strategy to work against criminals. Sometimes, we infiltrate them to know their movement and to know how to tackle them. However, what should be known is that a just society will always be the one that will not have plenty of challenges from insurgencies. Little is only what we can do owing to lack of equipment and technological know-how (KII/KSPH/2022).

The extent at which the Nigeria Police are discharging their duties in curbing insurgency is also affected by the kind of training and rehabilitation given to convicts in the correctional facilities. Because of the poor training and rehabilitation received by criminals in their various correctional centres, the Nigeria police are made to recycle the process of chasing up and arresting criminals again and again (recidivism). This is also the case with insurgency. The police are at the forefront of ensuring justice is served to all and sundry. Accordingly, another respondents was of the opinion that there are quite a lot to be done:

.....our major mission is to protect lives and properties. We are employed to investigate, to arrest and to prosecute criminals accordingly. But even after prosecuting criminals, what kind of training and rehabilitation do we give to all those who are prosecuted? Therefore, at the end of the day, when their stay in the prison have ended, they still come back to the society. Some of them even get to learn better ways of committing crimes. So curbing insurgency is a lot of work that needs to be done by every segment of the society not the uniform men alone (IDI/ASP/KSPH/2022).

Another respondent, a Criminal Intelligence Officer (CID) reports further that:

We are part of the society and we are doing the little bit we can do to keep the people safe. In as much as I can't mention it here that we are overwhelmed, you also know that we lack the necessary equipment, medical strength to fight this war. The Nigerian government and the public know about our plight and that is why the president has graciously approved the recruitment of 10,000 people every year for the next four years. If this continues for a while, at least we will have the manpower and it will help us to fight the war more than the way we are currently fighting. But I can tell you that we are not sleeping; we are working tirelessly to ensure the country stays in peace and that people also cohabit peacefully (IDI/SP/KSPH/2022).

While the Nigeria Police are trying their best to discharge their roles to the best of their capacities, they are faced with some challenges which include lack of equipment and medical strength. From the above submission, it can also be inferred that the Nigerian government is also trying their best to assist in the war against insurgency. One of the evidences is the approval given to the Nigeria police to recruit 10,000 youths yearly for four (4) consecutive years in a bid to reduce the rate of unemployment in the country and also to help increase the manpower needed to win the war against insurgency. The PPRO continues to

acknowledge the effort of the government and implores the Nigeria government to do more to help the Nigeria Police Force and other security parastatals to reduce the effectiveness of the insurgents groups. According to him, Nigeria is strong and has done herself a lot of good to be able to withstand the pressure and challenges from Boko Haram and other terrorist organizations in the country to the dismay of others. He explains as follows:

In fact, this insurgency is not a common crime that Nigerians are known for. It is one of the imported crimes that people just bring to the society from wherever it was happening. Before, nobody believes that Nigeria can endure the issue of Boko Haram for this long. Though, before the emergence of Boko haram, Nigeria has other security challenges like Fulani famer-herdsmen clashes and banditry and which Nigerian securities have been working on curbing then and preventing the emergence of other serious crimes. So, the NPF is trying in the area of protecting the lives and properties of Nigerians (KII/PPRO/Kwara State Police Headquarters/2022)

The statement on Nigeria's endurance of Boko Haram threat is included among the comments mentioned by Aiyesimoju (2015) as follows: "Up till now, Nigeria is facing the challenge of insurgency and has attracted numerous and varied comments in current national discourse". Although included in these comments are talks of the failure of the Nigerian government to deter, defeat and respond "decisively" to insurgent attacks.

Challenges faced by the Nigeria police in discharging their roles in curbing insurgency in Nigeria

By law and statute, the Nigeria Police are responsible for the prevention and detection of crimes, maintenance of peace, law, the enforcement of all laws and regulations. They are therefore expected to perform these duties and responsibilities efficiently and effectively (Adegoke, 2014; Madubuike-Ekwe & Obayemi, 2019). However, they are confronted with myriad of challenges. Unarguably, there are plenty of challenges bedeviling the Nigeria police in the performance of their duties and particularly in helping to curb insurgency in Nigeria. Accordingly, an officer argues:

....the world is now a global village. If you want to flow with the trend, you have to be equipped. You know you cannot be fighting a war where your opponent is carrying sophisticated weapons and you are carrying just guns and other small weapons. So, the police is challenged in that area of equipment. We lack sufficient weapons and equipment to help win the war against insurgency in the country. When I say challenge, it is not that the government is not doing anything but not sufficient (KII/ ASP/Kwara State Police Headquarters/2022)

Lack of sophisticated equipment and tools is a major challenge of the Nigeria Police towards the performance of their duties, particularly in the fight against insurgency. Other challenges as explained by the officer include, but are not limited to, poor welfare, lack of regular training and even shortage of manpower. In terms of the welfare package of the Nigeria Police, another officer explains:

Talking about welfare; it is a known fact that the welfare of the Nigeria policemen is not encouraging at all. Even though the NPF is not the least paid, but considering the nature of the job, the hazard is life threatening. There is no other organization that is working the level the Nigeria police is working. We work 24 hours tirelessly and without rest. During holidays, we are on duty. During public holidays and celebrations, people will be sleeping at home while we are working. (KII/CSP/Kwara State Police Headquarters/2022)

The Nigeria police officers lament on poor and unfulfilled conditions by the NPF. It has made their work even more tedious and stressful as they keep on recycling the process of chasing up criminals and prosecuting him. This is also a result of the poor and lack of rehabilitation and reformation given to prisoners confined therein and how it has also increased the rate of recidivism in the country. He also talked about the issue of unemployment and poverty, and how the duo has pushed the youths into a lifestyle of criminality, how it has affected their sanity and mentality which is usually capitalized upon by criminals and insurgents. Another CSP argues:



... the issue of unemployment coupled with the fact that we are in the period of democracy where we have to respect and defend the fundamental rights of people, people or offenders are hiding under that to defend themselves. On this note, you will apprehend an offender but he will be claiming rights that his rights must not be stepped upon. You take him to court, from the court, whatever happens, he will come back to the society. Even if he commits the same offence, we will still arrest him again. But when you arrest and there is no reformation and then he goes back and forth the criminal justice system and comes back to the society. The high rate of recidivism in the country is also a challenge to us. Sometimes we arrest, we take to court and the court grants bail, why? Because if they want to jail them, the correctional facilities are either poor or lack capacity to accommodate them all. The facilities are not there to take all of them. So they will say, okay instead of putting this one in jail, let him go home and be coming from home. Then the moment he gets back to the society, he will not know the reason why he was released on bail. He will think, yes, what he did is not enough to put him in jail. So he will continue to commit more crimes once he is back to the society. Since the police is not empowered by law to punish criminals, we only re-arrest them again and this is also a challenge (IDI/CSP/Kwara State Police Headquarters/2022)

On how the Nigeria Police can better discharge their duties, the CSP believes working with the community would produce better result. He, therefore, urged members of the community to make up their minds to collaborate with and support the Nigeria Police in the best way they can. He was quoted saying:

...I think the community will make up their minds to work with the police whether they like the police or not because when they want to sleep with their two eyes closed, there are some people that must stay awake and those people must be well taken care of. The people in question here are the police. Taking care of them not in the area of giving money or reports, it is in giving information. If we tell them to do this, they have to do it to support us so that all of us can live in a safe and sound society. We have a lot of challenges but we are not relenting. We are making the maximum use of the resources we have to tackle the challenges. (KII/PPR/PPRO/Kwara State Police Headquarters/2022)

The above submission also recognized and affirmed the need to work in partnership with the community in order to produce a better policing result. This is in tandem with the presumption of the community policing model. The theory assumes that closer alliances between the police and the community helps reduce citizens' fear of crime, promotes police-community relationship and ensures more effective responses to community challenges and problems (Trojanowicz & Bucqueroux, 1998). Just like the PPRO's submission, Manning (2003) asserts that information, support and feedback are required to help the police to respond to all concerns.

Conclusion

From the above findings, insurgency poses a serious threat to the Nigerian society and the global stage at large. It has no doubt affected the image of Nigeria in international in the community of nations. The insurgents capitalize on the loopholes of the Nigeria security apparatus and as well as the harsh economic conditions to perpetrate criminal activities in Nigeria. Hence, the study reveals that despite the obstacles faced by the Nigeria police, it still plays important roles in curbing insurgency. It is, therefore, recommended that:

- 1) The government should make life worth living for police personnel. For instance, of police welfare in areas such as scholarship for their children and insurance scheme should be given topmost attention by the government. Government should improve on infrastructure and provide police with modern technological equipment so as to allow the force to tackle criminal groups and combat crime as it is done in developed countries like the UK and the US. Regular training is also needed to rejig policing strategies and operation.
- 2) The government should begin to enter stronger bilateral and multilateral relations with technologically advanced nations and as well as with those nations that have successfully fought the

menace in their respective domains. This relationship would also facilitate access to sophisticated combat weapons which would assist the fight against insurgency.

- 3) The relationship between the police and respective communities should be strengthened so that the police can get credible intelligence on the location, plans and activities of insurgents.

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