

Article

Partnership Policing: A Vehicle for Combating Insecurity in Nigeria

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Abstract: Nigeria, known as a giant of African in the African Continent has almost been overridden by insecurity, daily there are print or electronic report of insecurity which are clogs in the nations wheel of peace, unity and development. This paper seek to examined how best to contain the rising insecurity that not only dent the image of the state globally but threatens her development with the adoption of partnership policing as in a deliberate strategy of managing insecurity, partnership policing will eliminate the distrust that exist between the police and populace in plant the needed robust collaboration needed in Curbing Insecurity.

Keywords: partnership policing, vehicle, combating, insecurity nigeria

1. Introduction

Security is a collective responsibility within any community, and efforts to combat insecurity must actively involve all stakeholders to ensure effectiveness. Clever emphasizes that both law enforcement agencies and the community must share the responsibility of maintaining public safety, as each plays a crucial role in crime prevention.

However, Rivers State, like many other states in the oil-rich Niger Delta region of Nigeria, has experienced persistent conflicts for the past four decades due to the adverse effects of oil exploration. The discovery of crude oil in commercial quantities in Oloibiri (now part of Bayelsa State) in 1956 and subsequent large-scale oil exploration by multinational corporations have resulted in widespread environmental degradation, affecting the air, land, water bodies, and the primary sources of livelihood for local communities [1]. This environmental pollution has led to demands for compensation from the affected communities, as they seek redress for the ecological and economic damages inflicted upon their environment [2] [3].

This demand has taken various forms including confrontations with the multinational corporations, security agencies and the Federal Government. Such confrontations were informed by the perceived neglect and marginalization of host companies by the Federal Government who controls all of the huge earnings from crude oil exploration and the multinational corporations. This led to the emergence of various militant groups [4], [5], [6]. These groups kidnapped workers from multinational corporations operating in communities, vandalized pipelines of these corporations and destroyed properties worth millions and billions of naira. In turn, the Federal Government

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in a bid to deal with the issue sent in security forces who adopt violent approaches in dealing with this people and this has created unrest in oil bearing communities in Rivers State. In a bid to deal with this issue, in 2009, the Federal Government led by former President Musa Yaradua introduced the amnesty programme which gave amnesty and rehabilitation to repentant militants from Rivers State and the Niger Delta as a whole [4]. This strategy proved to be effective, as a significant number of militants surrendered their arms and embraced the initiative. As a result, 26,808 militants relinquished their weapons and ammunition in exchange for amnesty, which facilitated their reintegration into society and provided them with vocational training opportunities [7].

Community policing is a novel idea for the Nigeria Police Force. The notion began to gain popularity in Nigeria in the early 2000s. Prior to the implementation of community policing, the Nigeria Police Force functioned within a typical British semi-military framework that emphasised the centralisation of authority. The notion of power centralisation contradicts the ideology of community policing, which advocates for power decentralisation. While community policing is a recent development in Nigeria, it has been widely embraced in the Western world, notably in the United States, since the late 1970s. Its concept emphasises collaboration, proactive law enforcement, and the decentralisation of authority. Community policing emphasises that collaboration between the police and the community may achieve objectives unattainable by each party alone [8], [9].

Community policing is an ideology that prioritises proactive collaboration with residents to prevent crime and address crime-related issues. Collaboration is a fundamental component of Community Policing, since law enforcement and the community must unite to effectively combat crime [10]. This will include the police ceding some rights to the community, enabling them to serve as the eyes of law enforcement inside the neighbourhoods. This can only be accomplished if the police cultivate the community's confidence. Nevertheless, when mistrust exists between the police and the population, such a vision becomes impractical. Since its inception, community policing has shown few results in Nigeria, particularly regarding the collaboration between the police and the community, owing to popular scepticism of law enforcement and the police's reluctance to cede some authorities to the populace [5], [11]. The Nigeria Police, used to receiving directives from their superiors, struggle to relinquish authority to a populace that harbours significant mistrust towards law enforcement personnel. The ineffectiveness of community policing poor Nigeria is attributable to the police's reluctance to abandon their longstanding conventional policing methodology. This article analyses community policing in Nigeria, including its limitations and potential opportunities. This analysis examines the historical context of policing in Nigeria, the challenges faced by the Nigerian police, the origins of community policing, the underlying philosophy of community policing, the introduction of community policing in Nigeria, and the theoretical framework pertaining to community policing in Nigeria [12].

Wrosbleski and Hess define Community Policing as a comprehensive organizational philosophy and management strategy that fosters collaboration between community governance and law enforcement. This approach emphasizes proactive problem-solving and active community involvement to address the root causes of crime and broader societal challenges [13], [14].

They further assert that the core principle of community policing is to restore a sense of shared responsibility for public safety and security, reminiscent of a time when maintaining law and order was a collective duty. They emphasize that ensuring the well-being of a community should not rest solely on the government or law enforcement agencies but should be the responsibility of every member of society [15].

2. Materials and Methods

This paper adopts descriptive research design which relied on secondary sources of data, sourced from textbooks, journal, articles, internet, etc. In analyzing the data, the paper adopts the content analysis. Content analysis is a research tool used to make valid references by interpreting and coding textual materials.

Conceptual Issues

Security

According to Otto and Upere, peace, safety, happiness, and the protection of individuals and physical resources serve as indicators of stability, whereas their absence signifies a state of crisis. In situations where these elements are lacking, insecurity prevails.

Akin, as cited in Enebraye, defines security as the established protocols and measures designed to protect individuals and property from hostile entities. Security fosters an environment of stability, enabling individuals to carry out their daily activities without fear for their personal safety or possessions. As a result, security encompasses all strategies and mechanisms aimed at safeguarding people and material resources within a state from all forms of hostility, threats, or violent behavior.

Insecurity

The term "insecurity" carries several implications. It denotes peril; risk; ambiguity; absence of protection, and absence of safety. Akonbede defines insecurity as a condition of worry or anxiety arising from an actual or perceived absence of protection. It denotes a deficiency or insufficiency of safety against peril. This indicates that insecurity denotes a lack of peace, order, and safety. Achlimba, et al delineate insecurity from two viewpoints in another dimension. Insecurity refers to the situation of being vulnerable to danger or threats, where danger denotes the potential for damage or injury. Secondly, insecurity refers to the condition of being vulnerable to danger or worry, with anxiety being an indistinct, unpleasant sensation felt in anticipation of potential tragedy. Obi characterises insecurity as a persistent threat to human existence, territory, nations, religious convictions, assets, and institutions, among other entities. His depiction characterises insecurity as a phenomena jeopardising human survival and impacting the environment. This condition has resulted in several insecurity incidents that have resulted in the loss of many lives and the destruction of businesses and property throughout Nigeria.

The aforementioned definitions of insecurity highlight a crucial aspect: individuals impacted by insecurity are not only unclear or oblivious to potential outcomes, but they are also susceptible to the risks and hazards when they materialise. This research perceives insecurity as the persistent insurgent assaults in North East Nigeria, including abduction, bombings, and religious extremism, all of which contribute to societal instability, hinder economic progress, and impede national development in Nigeria.

Theoretical Framework

This paper adopts Stakeholder Theory, originally proposed by Edward Freeman in 1984. According to Confidence, this theory posits that management should consider the interests of all groups that have a stake in decision-making processes. These stakeholders include shareholders, state security actors, media, traditional rulers, youth groups, and the local community. The theory asserts that these groups have a legitimate interest in crime prevention efforts and should be actively involved in decision-making related to security and public safety. By incorporating multiple stakeholder perspectives, crime prevention strategies can be more inclusive, effective, and sustainable, ensuring that all relevant parties contribute to the overall success of security initiatives.

The relevance of this theory to this paper is conceptualized on the assumption that the stakeholders, requesting government to tackle crime. Based on this theory, the paper argues that the partnership policing will satisfy the yearnings, demand and aspirations of

critical stakeholders by way of developing strategic options for containing insecurity. The stakeholder theory therefore explains the motivating factors for police and community partnership in the combating insecurity.

Crime prevention can only be achieved when all the critical stakeholders are involved in the decision making process, the police. Partnership with local communities will integrate and make them ownership in the fight against crime and criminality which will aid in tackling insecurity in Nigeria.

Proactive approach to crime prevention partnership politicking will result in the adoption of new strategy such as the sensitization of the community on the danger of crime and noninterference of the relate in prosecution and conviction crime offenders. The commitment of the indigenes to root out crime will aid in crime prevention in communities.

3. Results

Partnership

A partnership is a concept that has garnered widespread support across the global political spectrum, including from policymakers, government and non-governmental officials, and local communities. According to the European Union (EU) and the Commission of the European Communities (CEC), as well as the Audit Commission, partnerships play a crucial role in fostering collaborative efforts for sustainable development.

Holland defines partnership as co-operation, emphasizing the ability of individuals or organizations to work or act together toward common goals. It is a cooperative process that involves collaboration between public and private sector entities, aimed at achieving mutual benefits through shared resources, expertise, and decision-making.

Harding defines a private-public partnership as "any action that depends on the consensus of participants from both the public and private sectors and that contributes to enhancing the urban economy and quality of life." Bailey defines partnership as the mobilization of diverse or coalition interests across multiple sectors to achieve a mutually agreed plan within a specific domain.

From an economic perspective, Sellgren characterizes partnership as a collaborative scheme that involves funding from multiple agencies, emphasizing the financial and resource-sharing aspect of cooperative initiatives.

Bennett and Krebs further define partnership as a form of cooperation between actors, where participants work together toward specific objectives through a structured networking framework. This approach highlights the importance of inter-organizational collaboration in achieving shared goals efficiently.

The above definitions show that partnership connotes an agreed collaboration to work together among actors on community, local, state or international level, public or private level to achieve group- specified goals. The definition failed to emphasise how the risk of the collaboration will be shared.

The UK Government defines a partnership approach as the "voluntary commitment by diverse entities involved in urban development or regeneration (including local communities, local authorities, government departments and agencies, and the private sector) to a mutually agreed comprehensive long-term regeneration strategy for their regions". The partnership represents a mutually agreed-upon action among the involved individuals. The partnership encompasses a variety of stakeholders, including community-private enterprises, local and national governments, and quasi-autonomous non-governmental organisations, who concur on operational methodologies, such as resource contributions and risk-sharing agreements.

The UK government later delineated "partnership" in its framework Regulation for the reform of the Community's Structural Funds as "intensive consultation among the Commission, pertinent Member States, and the appointed competent authorities at national, regional, local, or other tiers, with each entity functioning as a partner in the pursuit of a common goal".

The explanation of partnership shows that there is variation in the meaning and its application as a result of its multi-disciplinary approach sees it on the basis of variation in different circumstances, documents analysis and the degree of influence. Therefore, partnership is more cordial when the relations are established and developed before, during and after the strategy is agreed upon. It is a fact that various actors within a partnership have purpose, operational strategy and power structures of the partnership. These factors will lay a solid foundation for strategising the partnership.

There are some challenges that were not identified in the definition such as resource constraints, or ideological factors that confront the local level immensely which contribute or induce their high rate of or greater involvement in partnership between public or private bodies and/or non-governmental organisations.

The ideological components include: a belief in the overall advantages of a collaborative methodology; the shift towards empowering local governance (where publicly funded services are managed by private or non-profit organisations rather than the public sector). An acknowledgement that a single local actor often lacks the requisite abilities or resources to address the interconnected challenges presented in several policy domains; There is a consensus that urban regeneration must include genuine involvement of the local people.

Further analysis is required to comprehensively comprehend the nature of partnerships, the dynamics of resource flows, power, information, behaviour, and the policies of players engaged in economic growth and regeneration. The definitions neglect to acknowledge that trust is essential to collaboration. The distribution of partnership risks is often excluded from its conceptualization, as each partnership is fundamentally shaped by unique economic, historical, social, and political contexts. These contextual factors influence how partnerships are formed, sustained, and their overall effectiveness in achieving mutual objectives.

4. Discussion

Partnership Policing

The emergence of community, since the 1980s, as an actor to partner with the police and other security agencies is a new development. Historically, Gordon contends that community policing is fundamentally an effort by law enforcement to surveil and regulate communities under the guise of providing assistance. This perspective underscores historical critiques of community policing, suggesting that its implementation may sometimes serve as a tool for social control rather than genuine community engagement. In contrast, Newman defines partnership policing as a proactive leadership approach where law enforcement agencies take the initiative in uniting diverse community groups, including the public, elected officials, government entities, and other agencies, to collaboratively address crime and community disorder. This definition highlights the collaborative nature of modern community policing efforts, emphasizing shared responsibility between law enforcement and the community

The strategy encourages the local actor to detect and punish offenders, protect life and property, preserve public tranquility as citizens' direct responsibilities in society. However, such arrangement of policing partnership create an opportunity for community leaders to be involved in determining the nature, extent of the policing needs of a particular locality.

The process of partnership policing fosters a policing style that is appropriate, effective, and desirable, ensuring that law enforcement strategies align with community needs and expectations. This approach empowers individuals by providing them with opportunities to express their expertise, opinions, and suggestions, while also encouraging active participation in security initiatives. Through this empowerment, community members take greater responsibility for their actions, fostering collaborative problem-solving and enhancing overall public safety.

While somewhat utopian, it fosters a feeling of a responsible and empowered community receptive to a candid relationship aimed at establishing effective pathways for a safer living and working environment. asserts that the primary aims of police are to:

(a) Ensure security or, at minimum, foster a social and psychological sense of security for the majority of residents in most locations and for the majority of time. Prevent, regulate, and fight crime by all means and by any individuals. Preserve public order and tranquilly.

(d) Provide aid and services to all people in need of security; and (e) Positively represent the law and the government by consistently maintaining the rule of law proposed specific criteria for evaluating successful policing:

(a) Effectiveness, exemplified by diminished criminal victimisations, a greater percentage of crimes reported to the police being resolved through arrests, enhanced recovery of stolen property, elevated rates of arrests leading to convictions, reduced traffic accident rates, and expedited response times to reports and complaints.

(b) Responsiveness, exemplified by elevated citizen perceptions of safety from crime, enhanced citizen evaluations of overall police performance, improved citizen assessments of specific police activities, and increased citizen ratings of particular facets of police conduct, including honesty, integrity, courtesy, and fairness.

(c) Equity pertaining to an equitable allocation of "protection" to all segments of the population.

(d) Efficiency, pertaining to the cost-benefit study of population output in relation to monetary, human, and material inputs.

Nexus between Partnership Policing and Security

The formation of Police Community partnership will facilitate intelligence gathering, patrol and timely information as the people in the community will see the need to work together and give the support to the police achieve peace and order in their area. The cultural and local orientation of the partnership will also be an added advantage in the uprooting crime in communities since the policing partnership must be based on local initiative model as anchored on the experience and practices of the people in-order to achieve result. The cordial relationship that will exist between the police and the community will promote peaceful disposition due the adoption of cultural and local policing practice will metamorphose into reduction of crime through trust binding between the police and the community.

5. Conclusion

The findings from the data presentation and analyzes provide valuable knowledge into the place of partnership policing in combating insecurity across the nation. The study reveals that community policing partnership would promote intelligent gathering and sharing of security information which aid in nipping insecurity in the bud. The study also discovered that, the security peaceful co-existence the will ensured, as a result of trust building between the community and the police will promote corporation which will be an invaluable asset to the war against insecurity. The study concludes that the ownership of the onslaught against in insecurity by the community as major stake-holder will uproot insecurity in Nigeria State.

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