

# 13 THE POLICE, POLICING AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE ADMINISTRATION

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## INTRODUCTION

Policing and criminal Justice system is the primary criminogenic needs that must be addressed by governmental institutions for structural dynamics that affect the Security architecture of the country. The society requires necessary precondition for ensuring that people prosper.

To be safe, is the full enjoyment of both civil and political, as well as economic, social and cultural rights. For society to live peacefully requires norms of behaviour that should be sustained naturally through socialization and informal discipline, or could be imposed through formal regulations. So, National security is considered as the backbone of national sovereignty. This means that the functioning of an internal security service is also aimed at protecting and guaranteeing the human rights of its citizens (Bayley & Shearing, 2001).

National Security therefore, probes the intricate and often interwoven political, social, and historical underpinnings of the ecological issues in an attempt to proffer a holistic understanding of the ecological system of the environment (Buseth, 2009). In effect, such ecological outcomes are largely determined by the socio-political and economic processes. The analysis of the criminogenic need is salient to understanding the Political ecology discourses in those contexts. The most essential is the character of the public policy and governance regimens in relation to environmental issues. This offers the unique perspectives that can contribute to solving problems and bring both progress and intellectual political ecology growth in a nation (Odum, 1996; Grimm et al. 2000).

The political ecology examines the nexus between police and policing within the criminal Justice Administration. The parameters looked at how policing are structured in the country, what forces influence them, and which government institution benefits much from their existence. This is because criminal Justice relations are often fuelled by police incentives, and examine the way their power dynamics influence and shape the lives of people and others in such environmental settings. The understanding of criminal justice system works together with policing dynamics to embrace social organization of a nation (Chukwunka, 2023).

The Police is related to Criminal Justice System in virtually all over the countries of the World. The efficacy of a functional policing is a demonstration of the democratic system of government in that country. The primary criteria for police governance include equity, delivery of service, responsiveness, distribution of power, redress, and participation (Jones, Newburn and Smith, 1998). The Police ought to be accountable to the taxpayers and to the legal order governing their authority. Such openness signifies consensus, freedom, and equality, which are the elements to the idea of democracy. All politically civilized countries owe their continuing existence to a consensus concerning the foundation of the nation (Berkley, 1969). In the other hand, a country without the idea of policing by consent, experience high rate of crime, injustice, act of indiscipline, abuse of life and properties, which is a challenge to the existence of police as a law enforcement agency (Berkley, 1969).

### **THE NEXUS BETWEEN POLICE AND POLICING WITHIN THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE ADMINISTRATION.**

The distinction between police and the policing has often been overlooked in academic analysis. Although often treated as synonymous, police and policing need to be understood as distinct concepts.

The concept of 'police' 'politics, and 'policy' are related words. The words are derived from Latin word 'politia', meaning civil administration' or the State, which emanate from the Greek word 'polis' (city) and 'politikè'. It means that the word is attached to city state or civil society (Ress Jr. & Albert,.1992).

From day one, the word 'police' was used for both the responsibility of the State and religious activities. Later the concept was used only for the functions of a secular State. Finally, it was in the 19th Century that the concept was restricted to those functions of the State that encompass protection against threat. That is, police in English language means both civil administration and administration of public order. (Das, 1997).

In the early history of the police, maintaining order and dealing with law breakers had always been a private matter. Citizens were responsible for protecting themselves and maintaining an orderly society. Uniformed and organized police departments as we have them today were rare in those days (Das, 1997).

Etymologically, Police is a special kind of social institution that are involved in the administration of a city. They are the agency of government responsible for public order and detection of crime. Nevertheless, in many colonized countries the police were used by the colonial masters, primarily to serve the interests of the colonial power rather than that of the local people (Hess, & Wroblewski ,2005).

Basically, the mission performed by police in the ancient societies is as same as seen in the modern conditions today. The concept, 'Police Force' is a protective and law enforcement organization, which emanate from militarism as guardians of peace.

In order for police be efficient in their duties, the state vested certain powers which include the powers to arrest, search, seize, investigate; and even, use lethal force. In fact, the rule of law demands that every democratic nation develop her law of criminal procedures to regulate officers' discretion so that they do not exercise their vast powers arbitrarily or unjustly (Hess, & Wroblewski, 2005).

The State is responsible for ensuring a minimum level of order and the police are the State enforcements tasked with the obligations. This means that the State should be guided by principles of the rule of law and human rights to ensure harmony is maintained. The UN Code of Conduct resolution adopted that the Law Enforcement Officials otherwise known as defender of public order are the natural functions of law enforcement (Bayle, & Shearing, 2001).

States are responsible for the maintenance of order. However, this doesn't mean countries are always ultimately stable, peaceful and tranquil. People disagreeing with a government's policies have the right to demonstrate and organise opposition. This is laid down in article 21 of the ICCPR (right to peaceful assembly) which also states:

*“No restrictions may be placed on the exercise of this right other than those imposed in conformity with the law and which are necessary in a democratic society in the interests of national security or public safety, public order (ordre public), the protection of public health or morals or the protection of the rights and freedoms of others.”*

The maintenance of order is one of the core objectives of the State. The government is not considered to exist, if the citizens are not given some minimum level of protection. The engagement of personal security by the citizens is tautological. The maintenance of order is a legal requirement on States. Under international law, States are ultimately responsible for maintaining and ensuring peace and security within their territories so that their citizens can fully enjoy their human rights.

This follows from the preamble of the UDHR which states that:

*“Whereas Member States have pledged themselves to achieve, in co-operation with the United Nations, the promotion of universal respect for and observance of human rights and fundamental freedoms”. This is reiterated in the preambles of the ICESCR and the ICCPR: “the obligation of States under the Charter of the United Nations to promote universal respect for, and observance of, human rights and freedoms”.*

Although, police are always law enforcement officials, in Nigeria also we have non-police agencies whose officials enforce the law, for example the Nigeria Security and Civil Défense Corps (NSCDC) are charge with safety and protection of oil pipelines, electric cables, power stations against vandals and criminals; Economic and Financial Crime Commission (EFCC) arrests and prosecute offenders of money laundering and enforce all laws dealing with economic and financial crimes as well as the National Drug Law Enforcement Agency (NDLEA) whose duty is to charge drug law offenders. It is generally accepted that the functions of police encompass:

- Prevention and detection of crime
- Maintenance of public order
- Provision of assistance to the public (Skolnick, 1995).

According to Skolnick (1995), the working personality of a police officer is shaped by constant exposure to danger and the need to use force and authority to contain and control threatening situation. Skolnick went further to say that the duty of a policeman is divided into two principal variables, i.e, 'danger' and 'authority'.

The element of danger makes the policeman to be much attentive to potential signs of violence and any breaking of the law. Such danger makes him to be isolated socially from segment of the citizenry whom he regards as symbolically dangerous. This character makes the police less desirable as a friend since norms of friendship implicate him in his work. As a result, the policeman is generally regarded as a “suspicious person” (Skolnick, 1995).

The Police are state institution that operate under the national authority. Therefore, the policeman is the authority of the state, which represent the state. The Police are always contingent upon the State. They always reflect the nation in its political culture, history, and economy. This always have enormous consequences in the nations. Political realities shape the democratic policing values of the police. Invariably, the political realities of a nation affect the policing system. If societal attitudes are hostile to certain members of the public, the police are likely to share the attitudes. If the country is confronted with high levels of corruption, and physical violence, it is to be expected that these problems be reflected within the police (Osse,2012).

In Nigeria, Police Functions are mostly abused in the following factors:

- Lack of accountability mechanisms
- Lack of training
- Lack of supervision
- Lack of professionalism (lacking an understanding of police tactics)
- Lack of resources, such as defensive equipment
- Poor cooperation between police and the community (resort to force rather

than cooperation)

- Confrontation of police with particular communities based on Discrimination (Osse,2012).

Nevertheless, the police function within the cultural limits and constraints as well as economic realities. It is common that in industrialised countries, police agencies are well resourced and operate in cultural contexts that have adopted receptive attitudes towards human rights. There is always the understanding that the basic functions of policing in such societies are within minimal norms and principles it should comply, without resources or cultural contexts. Police are bound by international human rights standards across the globe (Osse,2012).

The history of 'police' as a concept has a long history. In fact, the first civil, public police, was the Metropolitan Police of London, formed by Sir Robert Peel in 1829. The aim is to act as preventive role and be deterrent to urban crime and disorder. The Public police were nicknamed 'Bobbies' after Sir Robert (Bobby) Peel because he is the father of policing. The public police were regarded as the most efficient modern police and as the model for the police forces in most countries (Crichtley. 1972).

The father of modern Police, Sir Robert Peel established the following Nine Principles that guided early policing:

- (1) The basic mission for which the police exist is to prevent crime and disorder.
- (2) The ability of the police to perform their duties is dependent upon public approach of police actions.
- (3) Police must secure the willing cooperation of the public in voluntary observance of the law to be able to secure and maintain the respect of the public.
- (4) The degree of co-operation of the public that can be secured diminishes proportionately to the necessity of the use of physical force.
- (5) Police seek and preserve public favour not by catering to public opinion but by constantly demonstrating absolute impartial service to the law.
- (6) Police use physical force to the extent necessary to secure observance of the law or to restore order only when the exercise of persuasion, advice and warning is found to be insufficient.
- (7) Police at all times should maintain a relationship with the public that gives reality to the historic tradition that the police are the public and the public are the police, the police being only members of the public who are paid to give full-time attention to duties which are incumbent on every citizen in the interest of community welfare and existence.
- (8) Police should always direct their action strictly towards their function and never appear to using the power of the judiciary.
- (9) The test of police efficiency is the absence of crime and disorder not the visible evidence of police action in dealing with it (Dempsey, & Forst ,2005).

There is a sharp dichotomy between the ideas of 'police' and 'policing'. The concept, 'Police' refer to a particular kind of social institution, while 'policing' implies a set of processes with specific social functions.

Historically, 'policing' incorporates wide range of processes that regulate social life, performed by a wide range of agencies and institutions. They are not associated with the activities of a particular organization. But in its narrower definition, policing refers to the activities of the institution of the police, understood in terms of law enforcement.

Traditionally, state sovereignty considers the police as the state in uniform. In one way, police are primarily seen as the strong arm of the State, whereas in the second factor, police are primarily seen as service-providers to the society.

Policing philosophies differ on the most effective policing methodologies employ to achieve results. In order for police to accomplish their objectives, the State should manifest strongly and be connected itself with respect to its people. The country's historical, cultural and economic background as well as the expectations of the public effect how the police carry out their functions (Das,1997; Dempsey & Forst, 2005). Policing is an ongoing and it is a dynamic process. As such, societal changes require police to adopt different approaches with different types of policing situations.

Today, there has been a paradigm shift in the security architecture from the traditional system of the States being responsible for the maintenance of order to Problem oriented policing. Such assumption is based on the fact that the State is the only strong and authoritarian security outfit. The aim of the Problem oriented policing is to gather information about the problem of an area rather than investigating a particular crime by a particular offender. This system is based on the process of problem identification and analysis. An appropriate intervention by proactive than reactive approach (Bayley & Shearing, 2001).

The Problem oriented policing (POP) evolved from community policing. It is based on the assumption that police cannot control crime and disorder alone but require the support of communities to ensure safety. Community policing exercises a collaborative effort between the police and the community in order to overcome the problems of crime and disorder in the community. Non-State actors are also considered relevant to national security, and should not be left alone on state to provide security in isolation (Hess, & Wroblecki,2005; Osse, 2012).

The non-state actors, which play these important and ever-increasing roles include: plural policing, predictive policing, preventive policing, proactive policing, private policing and community-oriented policing.

According to Odekunle (1979), he mentioned that there are four factors used as a yardstick for measuring useful and successful policing.

- (1) Effectiveness. that is, a total reduction in criminal victimization and faster response time to reports and complaints would occur.
- (2) Responsiveness. When there is a higher citizen perception of safety from Crime and police performance in general. This will include specific aspects of police conduct such as honesty, integrity, courtesy and fairness.
- (3) Equity. This permits an egalitarian distribution of protection to all sections of the population and
- (4) Efficiency. This is related to how citizens benefit from output relative to monetary, human and material input.

### **THE POLICE AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE ADMINISTRATION**

Criminal justice is defined as the group of practices, policies and courts designed to uphold social responsibility, deterring and mitigating crimes and enforcing penalties against those who are found guilty of committing crimes and punishment carried out. The ingredient of criminal justice replicates the forms of Justice or fairness or process, of an ideal Society (Walker,1992).

They are also other institutions, whose activities and agencies dispose offenders under the criminal law of the state or local, public or private in order to sanction those who violate the laws with penalties and rehabilitation. Generically, criminal justice system is a procedure by which criminal conduct is investigated, arrest made, evidence gathered, charges brought, defences raised, trials conducted, sentences rendered and punishment carried out (Walker,1992).

In fact, they are responsible for criminal investigation, prosecution and adjudication, as well as the execution of sentences. It includes such institutions as the police, prosecution, judiciary, probation and prisons services. All agencies within the criminal justice system interrelate and are dependent upon each other.

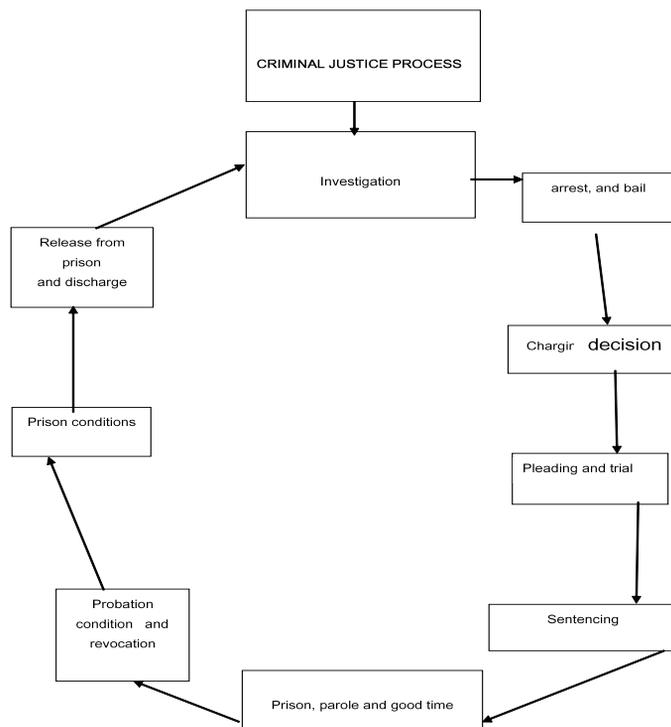
Criminal justice systems are ordinarily based on one of two judicial systems: the accusatorial (or adversarial) common law system and the inquisitorial civil law system:

Under the inquisitorial civil law system police and prosecution as well as judges are considered being neutral and objective 'servants of the law' working to find the objective truth. The pre-trial judge or investigating magistrate, assisted by the prosecutor, is primarily responsible for the criminal investigation, actively involved in determining the facts of the case, whereas one or more judges are in charge of the trial. The system is focused on the accused.

Under the accusatorial common law system both parties (defence and prosecution) have the same standing at trial. During the trial they are considered as equal parties in search of the ('subjective') truth. The judge, sometimes assisted by a jury, is there to mediate and safeguard the judicial process – as an impartial referee between parties. The purpose of the investigation for the prosecutor is to obtain information that will convince the judge or jury that sufficient proof exists to prosecute and convict the accused (Walker,1992; Webster, & Thomas,1992).

The main goal of the criminal justice system is to establish the truth through the upholding of the law and punish the guilty. The system is carried out through the law enforcement officials investigating the crimes and gathering evidence.

The prosecutions, which represent the state search for evidence by interviewing the suspects to decide whether the case can be brought against the suspect. If the prosecutor determines there is a case, a judge would be assigned and the suspect is therefore represented by counsel. During the proceedings of the criminal justice system itself, a fair outcome must be maintained, which is the ultimate goal. This is the effective process of criminal justice Administration in Policing System:



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According to Gehl & Plecas (2016), the aim of criminal investigation is to solve the problem of suspects through certain processes (Ishaya, & Ishaya, 2018; Gehl, & Plecas, 2016; Ugwuoke, 2010; CIR, 2014). This could be as a result of a report receives that a crime has been committed. That is, a criminal act has taken place. If a criminal act is discovered, the next action is to determine who the suspect was in order to apprehend the individual.

After arrest the individual (now a suspect) is taken into custody and booked. That is, the arrest is registered in a precinct house and the suspect finger printed and photographed. After the in-custody investigation, the suspect is taken to a court for what is called the initial appearance before a magistrate. The judge can set a certain amount of bail or free the person on his word of honour to appear for later proceedings.

This stage of the criminal process is the section of prosecution (Siegel, 2006). The next stage is the Adjudication section. While the suspect is free on bail or waiting in jail, the police reports are passed to the prosecutor for a decision on whether to charge the suspect and determined the specific crime or crimes involved. This determination involves how many charges to or not brings to the court.

The next step is pleading. Once formally charged with a crime, the defendant, with a lawyer is brought before a court for arraignment, which is the point where the charges are read and the defendant is asked to plead for guilty. According to Huybinh (2020), an accused person enjoys the assistance of a counsel for his defense. He believes that the most critical periods of criminal justice proceedings is the time between arraignment and trial. He argued that the purpose of this pretrial process is to enable the defendant to prepare for trial while avoiding the harmful effects of jail detention. Another controversial pretrial process is the plea bargaining, a process of negotiation between the prosecution and the defense agrees to plead guilty to the current charges in exchange for the prosecutor's promise to recommend a light sentence, drop other charges, or make some other concession.

If the defendant is acquitted at trial, he is freed. If convicted, by trial or plea, the defendant now an offender is returned to court after the judge has received the social and psychological information about the offender. The maximum sentence, usually set by a judge at some point within a permissible outer limit fixed by legislation, is the date at which the inmate must be released from confinement, not on parole but as discharged from sentence.

The minimum prison sentence is the length of time the offender (inmate) must serve before becoming eligible for parole (release from prison under supervision of a parole officer until the maximum term expires). The 'good time' is when the maximum sentence is reduced, and sometimes the minimum period for parole

eligibility for inmates who serve their prison sentence without causing disruptions in the prison, or otherwise violating prison regulations. Probation rules and conditions are fixed by the court. These are requirements that the probationer avoid excessive drinking, not associate with known criminals, keep his whereabouts known to the probation officer and otherwise behave in a law-abiding manner. Huybinh (2020), argue that sentencing is one of the most important stages in criminal justice systems. For offenders, sentencing determines the punishments that are imposed. For some, sentencing determines whether they will live or die.

National Institute of Justice, (NIJ). (2021), claims that the role of the Police in the criminal justice process is completed once an arrest has been made, except when additional investigation is required or when there is need for the police to appear and testify during the trial before the court in order to support the allegation made against the suspect. After an arrest the suspects become under the purview and the jurisdiction of the court which has the legal mandate to hear and determine whether the suspect has a case to answer. Policing involves a high level of discretion in the application of rules, because many rules are themselves inconsistent and sometimes contradictory (Chukwunka,2020).

### **THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM IN NIGERIA**

There are countless examples where the police detained suspects without trial as a means of avoiding an overloaded and/or ineffective court system. The public mistrust in trial decisions and corrupt practices have rendered ineffective the criminal justice system in Nigeria (Ayuk, et al, 2013).

According to Ogunode (2015), criminal justice system in Nigeria is inefficient, inadequate, corrupt, infrastructural deficient, under-financed, and prone to abuse. He maintained that it is a threat to the Rule of law and all other indices of democracy and good governance. Many legal practitioners are overly critical about governance in Nigeria; they continue to frustrate the legal process and make cases unending just to satisfy greedy politicians and enrich themselves to the detriment of the nation. More so, the concept and practice of plea bargaining is a mockery of the judicial system (Ogunode, 2015).

The adjudicators on civil and criminal matters frustrate the process which are considered by many as the last hope of the common man. They are highly politicized and corrupt, he argued. For instance, there are cases where rich and well-connected persons involved in financial crimes got ridiculously low sentences that the ordinary man on the street would wonder if the country's judiciary is not already compromised (Chukwunka, 2017).

## **THE BASIC TENETS OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM LAPSES IN NIGERIAARE:**

1. The delay in case processing and handling.
2. The lack of accountability of the officials.
3. Abuse of rights of suspects through harsh mistreatment in awaiting trial and coerced confessions.
4. The long period of time accused persons are detained in awaiting trial.
5. The undue protraction of proceedings when they eventually commence.
6. Absence of support and legal representation in the criminal process from the point of arrest, detention and prosecution.
7. Lack of effective coordination amongst the agencies of the criminal justice system- the police, prisons, prosecutors and the courts,
8. Absence of clear and consistent sentencing guidelines,
9. Growing number of awaiting trial inmates,
10. Limited alternatives to imprisonment,
11. Dichotomy between federal and state offences,
12. Indiscriminate transfer of investigating police officers.
13. Suspects charged with capital offences are remanded on holding charges before Magistrates who have no jurisdiction to try the offences (Ogunwumiju, 2012; Ayuk, et al, 2013).

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