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### DAUNTING SECURITY CHALLENGES IN NIGERIA. CREATION OF STATE POLICE AS ELIXIR

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#### ABSTRACT

In Nigeria, the police are managed and governed by the federal government. It runs a single police force. Nigeria does not have a state police. Due to the severe security issues that plague the Nigerian federation, including armed banditry, kidnappings, sectarian unrest, conflicts between herdsmen and pastoralists, theft of crude oil, and a host of other issues, scholars have criticized lack of state police in Nigeria. Nigeria practices federalism, which calls for the normal devolution of authority to its federating states. The states should have some degree of jurisdiction over security-related issues on their territory. This article asserts unequivocally that state police should be established in the Nigerian federation to complement the functions of the federal police. In Australia, there is state and federal police. The establishment of state police will significantly aid in reducing the daunting security difficulties now faced by the Nigerian federation because the states are more accessible to the populace than the federal government.

**Key Words:** Daunting, security challenges, creation, national security, State Police, Nigeria, Australia.

#### 1.INTRODUCTION

The Greek word "polis" is the source <sup>1</sup> of the English term "police". Initially, it was thought <sup>2</sup> that policing was a non-ecclesiastical job, much like the provision of safe environment, law and order, and service management, among others. *Policia* is a combination <sup>3</sup> of the Greek and Roman words for *police*. Therefore, these terms refer to the art of administering and regulating social needs for security, peace, and order for the public benefit.

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<sup>1</sup> See Barnabas CO *Police, Law and your Rights; with Police Act and Regulation, Code of Conduct* (Lagos: Princeton and Associates, 2013) 12.

<sup>2</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>3</sup> *Ibid.*

Olowokere *et al* claim that Britain which colonized Nigeria had always maintained <sup>4</sup> a decentralized enforcement structure in Nigeria. The Northern and Southern police forces were only combined to create the current Nigerian Police Force on April 1, 1930, under a single command.<sup>5</sup> The operation of a decentralized policing system in Nigeria was never discouraged by colonial administrative policies, despite the merger of the Northern and Southern protectorate police forces in 1930 and their constitutionalization into a Federal Police Force with regional commands in the 1954 Lytteton constitution.

The protection of the lives and property of its residents is one of the fundamental duties of the government in all civilizations. The Federal Republic of Nigeria's 1999 Constitution, as amended, stipulates in section 14(2)(b), "The security and welfare of the people must be the primary goal of government." Therefore, the government gives its inhabitants a sense of security by forming and maintaining an effective police force. The 1999 constitution's in section 214(1) states that there shall be a police force for Nigeria that shall be known as the Nigeria Police Force and that no other police force shall be established for the federation or any part of it after the provisions of this section. This unified police operations in Nigeria under the management of the federal government are thus constitutionalized. A new police force cannot be created for the Federation or any portion of it as it abolished all state and local government police forces. Police matters are listed on the Constitution's exclusive legislative list, they fall under the purview of the federal government<sup>6</sup>.

The primary duty of the Nigerian Police is to uphold the law and order. To fulfill this role, the police must compel the public to follow the law. The Nigerian police have failed miserably in this regard as the government of Nigeria is on the point <sup>7</sup> of disintegrating due to a string of upsurge in instability. Rarely <sup>8</sup> a day goes by without sad accounts of crimes such as herdsmen killings and kidnappings, political assassinations, armed robberies, armed banditry, cult conflicts, communal crises, and other types of violence across the nation. As a result, Nigeria's centrally controlled police, constant danger of violent crime, and rate of increasingly complex crimes have conditioned public demand for the establishment of state police as a solution to the country's security problems.

In lieu of the above, this paper provides a brief history of the Nigerian police. By presenting the opinions of scholars, it explains the idea of national security. It explains several important causes of the police's appalling performance in upholding law and order, which has resulted in Nigeria's severe security difficulties. By stating the hypotheses of various scholars, it analyses

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<sup>4</sup> Olowokere, E, Oluduro, B. (2011), 'Implications of State Police in a Fledgling Democracy' *Journal of Social Sciences*, vol. 22, No. I 144-155. The Lagos Consular Guard police system was first established with the passage of the 1861 police ordinance statute. By 1896, the same Lagos Consular Guard had become the newly established Lagos Police Force. The Royal Niger Constabulary, a decentralized police organization in Northern Nigeria, was founded in 1886 with Lokoja serving as its headquarters, exemplifying the British colonial administration's decentralizing philosophy towards police operations in Nigeria. The Northern Nigeria protectorate was established in 1900, which led to the dissolution of the Northern Royal Niger Constabulary. The Northern Nigeria police force was established in 1903 with the goals of ensuring the safety of people, property, and the maintenance of law and order. The colonial authority also founded the Niger Coast Constabulary in 1894 for the oil River protectorate in the southern region of Nigeria, with its main office in Calabar. This particular constabulary assumed control of the policing responsibilities in Nigeria's Eastern and current South-South regions. The Niger Coast Constabulary and the Lagos Police force were amalgamated into the Southern Nigeria Police Force in 1906 after the colony and protectorate of Southern Nigeria was declared in 1900. By the time the Northern and Southern protectorates were combined in 1914, both the Northern Nigerian Police Force and the Southern Nigeria Police were still independently run, demonstrating the regional decentralization of the country's law enforcement efforts.

<sup>5</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>6</sup> Constitution of Nigeria, Item 45 of the Exclusive Legislative list Part I, Second Schedule.

<sup>7</sup> Eme OI, Anyadike NO 'Challenges and the Imperatives of State Police' (2018) 1(2) *Review of Public Administration and Management* 201.

<sup>8</sup> Ndujihe C 'Killing Fields: 1,525 Nigerians killed in six weeks of 2021. Kaduna, Zamfara, Borno Deadliest State, South-East most Peaceful Zone, North-West Deadliest' *Vanguard* (1 March 2021). The 1,525 deaths figure which is conservative covers only reported cases arising from Boko Haram insurgency, banditry, herdsmen crises, kidnappings, communal and cult clashes, armed robbery and brutality of security agents among others. The most deadly states with high number of deaths are: Kaduna (409), Zamfara (267), Borno (267), Yobe (76), Niger (73), Delta (46), Ebonyi (43), Katsina (41), Oyo (37), Plateau (31), Lagos (26), Rivers (23), Imo (23), Ogun(20), Ondo (20), Nasarawa (16), Cross River (15), Benue (12), Anambra (11), Kogi (11), Enugu (1), Jigawa (1), Kwara (8), Taraba (8), Osun(8), Abia (7), Sokoto (5), Edo (7), Adamawa (4), FCT (3), Kano (2), Gombe (1).

the benefits and drawbacks of setting up state police in Nigeria. It comes to the conclusion that Nigeria should emulate Australia's decentralized police system.

## 2. THE POLICE AND NATIONAL SECURITY

The effectiveness and capacity of a country's police to uphold law and order over its territory at all times depends on how secure that country is. Using the encyclopedia of the social sciences, Braithwaite defined<sup>9</sup> national security as a nation's capacity to protect its internal values against external threats. It is the state's defence and survival, according to Imobigbe<sup>10</sup>. Al-Mashat argues that national security should take<sup>11</sup> into account a society's and its members' physical, social, and psychological well-being at home as well as in a broader regional and global context. National security is more than merely territorial defence. Okwori defines security as a state's capacity<sup>12</sup> to protect its national sovereignty from any dangers, real or fictitious, as well as from acts of aggression by enemies, true or fictitious. States typically maintain<sup>13</sup> a sizable army, police force, and other intelligence agencies for this reason. In a similar vein, Aja has defined national security as covering<sup>14</sup> all aspects of security for life and property, security for the nation's economy and resource sectors, security for the people's food and raw material resources, as well as their general health, national integrity, and preservation of everything that a society finds valuable, essential, and useful.

Olewe and Anga contend that the effectiveness of the police in upholding<sup>15</sup> law and order and protecting citizens' lives and property as required by section 4 of the Police Act is a determinant of a state's national security. He continues by saying that the term "police" refers to a team of individuals who collaborate to uphold civil order and public safety in addition to enforcing the law and conducting criminal investigations. In other words, the police are in charge of upholding the law. All societies,<sup>16</sup> according to the authors, require some way of upholding order. Due to their primary duty<sup>17</sup> in maintaining peace and order, the police are an integral part of society.

The Nigerian police force is thus a formally organized team of individuals required<sup>18</sup> by law to carry out police duties as specified by the Nigerian Constitution. According to Black, the police are the part of the government in charge of upholding the peace and keeping<sup>19</sup> public order as well as promoting public safety, health, and morals and working to prevent, catch, and punish criminal activities. Tamuno argues that it is challenging to assess the complete process of maintaining law and order due to the circumstances and situations in which the police carry out their duty.<sup>20</sup> He asserts<sup>21</sup> that while certain people could harbour<sup>22</sup> animosity towards the police, society as a whole is unable to judge the degree to which the police carry out their tasks efficiently. Police must satisfy high public expectations, yet they are not equipped to do so. Police must meet high public expectations, yet often lack the resources to do so. He thinks<sup>23</sup> that police will attain fantastic records and scores on their own if people's attitude about them change. That competent and goal-oriented police require strong public relations. Egunjobi thinks<sup>24</sup> that the application of

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<sup>9</sup> Braithwaite T 'Foundations and Dynamics of National Security' (1988) *Nigerian Journal of International Affairs* 45.

<sup>10</sup> Imobighe TA 'African Defense and Security: An Overview' *Nigerian Forum*, 1981 at 33.

<sup>11</sup> Al-Mashat AM *National Security in the Third World*. (Boulder Colorado: Westview Press, 1985) 14

<sup>12</sup> Okwori AS 'Security and Deterrence; Towards Alternative Deterrence Strategy for Nigeria in the 21st Century and Beyond'. (1995) 5 *Journal of the Nigeria Defence Academy* 19-28.

<sup>13</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>14</sup> Aja AA *Theory & Practice of Marxism in a World in Transition*. (Abakaliki: WillyRose, 1997) 10

<sup>15</sup> Olewe BN, Anga JS (eds.), *Command Administration: The Police Perspective* (Enugu, New Generation Book 1994) 2.

<sup>16</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>17</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>18</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>19</sup> Black D *The Manners and Custom of the Police*. (New York. Academic Press, 1980) 15.

<sup>20</sup> Tamuno TU *The Police in Modern Nigeria* (Ibadan: University Press, 1970) 76.

<sup>21</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>22</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>23</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>24</sup> Egunjobi AA 'The Nigerian Federal Practice and the Call for State Police' (2016) 2(7) *International Journal of Advanced Academic Research | Social & Management Sciences* 78.

true federalism is correlated with the effectiveness of the police. He asserts<sup>25</sup> that sections 11(2) and 215(4) of the 1999 Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria require federating units to be able to enforce their laws, combat crime, and maintain law and order, and that the absence of state police to carry out these duties is a blatant violation of the fundamental principle of federalism.

Olong and Agbonika assert that the Nigerian president has<sup>26</sup> ultimate authority over the police. The commissioner of police in charge of a state command is responsible<sup>27</sup> for the security of that state<sup>28</sup>. The country's president or the minister in charge of police affairs must approve the commissioner of police's decision before it can be carried out.<sup>29</sup> This will guarantee that the police are entirely under the jurisdiction of the federal government. There has been a need for decentralized police, where the federating states can have a role in things pertaining to security in their states, this practice of centralizing the police is out of date and should be abandoned.

### 3. ATTRIBUTABLE CAUSES FOR INEFFICIENCY OF THE POLICE

The police's failure to effectively carry out their duties in upholding peace and order has a number of evident causes. Five of these factors will be the only ones we will address.

Lack of appropriate training and retraining is the first problem. According to Onyeozili, the majority of Nigerian police officers are not well prepared<sup>30</sup> in war readiness, which contributes to their low operational efficacy. Police officers must undergo specialized training in human relations, conflict resolution, citizen rights and privileges, contentment, information management, and other facets of humanity in addition to safe weapon usage. The second barrier is ineffective hiring practices. Although ethnic, political, and religious considerations play a significant role<sup>31</sup> in the selection process for the Nigerian police force, talent is not the primary criterion for candidates. As a result, the police finally<sup>32</sup> employs candidates who are ineligible<sup>33</sup> for the position. The third problem is the low pay for police officers, which causes low self-esteem and psychological problems. Adebola claims that some police officers have<sup>34</sup> severe depression and other psychological issues, which may be related to their low pay. As a result of this,<sup>35</sup> some police officers have acted strangely while on the job; some have killed innocent bystanders, while others have killed their entire family, and in extreme cases, some have even committed suicide. The fourth problem is the employment of sub-standard tools for combatting crime, including firearms, communication devices, and other pieces of technology. However, one of the reasons for the Nigerian police's poor operational efficacy is the type of outdated crime fighting equipment they utilize. New equipment is needed to combat contemporary criminal tendencies. There have been reports of armed robbers and kidnappers wielding more advanced weapons more than police officers. According to<sup>36</sup> Nnoji and Ojiego, widespread and organized corruption is the final problem.<sup>37</sup> Inadequate financing for the police is the result of budget mismanagement and open corruption. According to insiders,<sup>38</sup> the Nigerian

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<sup>25</sup>*Ibid.*

<sup>26</sup> Olong MA, Agbonika JAA 'Re-Awakening The State Police Controversy in Nigeria: Need for Rethink' (2013) 3(11) *International Journal of Asian Social Science* 2307-2308.

<sup>27</sup>*Ibid.*

<sup>28</sup>*Ibid.*

<sup>29</sup>*Ibid.*

<sup>30</sup> Onyeozili EC 'Obstacles to Effective Policing in Nigeria' (2005) 1(1) *African Journal of Criminology and Justice Studies* 69.

<sup>31</sup>*Ibid.*

<sup>32</sup> Geli de Ciurana AM, Leal Filho W 'Education for Sustainability in University Studies: Experiences From a Project Involving European and Latin American' (2006) 7(1) *Universities Int. J. of Sustainability in Higher Ed.*, 81-93.

<sup>33</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>34</sup> Adebola BE 'National Integration and the Survival of Nigeria in the 21st Century' (2006) 31(3) *Journal of Social, Political and Economic Studies* 279.

<sup>35</sup>*Ibid.*

<sup>36</sup> Nnaji ES, CW Ojiego 'National Security and the Imperativeness of State Police in Nigeria: Problems and Prospects' (2019) 111(IX) *International Journal of Research and Innovation in Social Science (IJRISS)* 76.

<sup>37</sup>*Ibid.*

<sup>38</sup>*Ibid.*

police force is one of the <sup>39</sup> corrupt organizations in the nation. There is evidence of <sup>40</sup> police officers being fired many times for serious indiscipline. Police officers are impacted by Nigeria's systemic corruption because they are citizens of that country. Police corruption includes, among other things, the demand for and acceptance of bribes, aiding and abetting <sup>41</sup> criminal activity, such as leasing weapons, unauthorised disclosure of sensitive security information, extensive use of police officers as attachés to political office holders, indiscriminate and illegal arrests of citizens, and police brutality. Due to systemic corruption that rewards graft above honesty, police pension funds have historically been poorly mismanaged from the beginning. This issue has an impact <sup>42</sup> on such funds.

#### **4. EMERGENCE OF O'DUA PEOPLES CONGRESS (OPC), 'AMOTEKUN', THE EASTERN SECURITY NETWORK (ESN) AND 'EBUBEAGU' IN ABATING THE SECURITY CHALLENGES IN NIGERIA**

O'dua Peoples Congress (OPC) and The Eastern Security Network (ESN), two regional security organizations, came into being as a result of the enormous security difficulties that the police were unable to successfully address. Dr. Frederick Fasehun established the O'dua Peoples Congress (OPC) in 1994 as a non-violent pan-Yoruba movement to defend the rights of the Yoruba race. It does not have legal status. In south-west Nigeria, it carries out community policing duties such as upholding law and order and protecting people's lives and property. In addition, state governors in the southwest of Nigeria have expanded the idea <sup>43</sup> of local security by establishing Amotekun (Leopard), also known as the Western Nigeria Security Network, on January 9, 2020. This organization has the support of traditional Yoruba authority.

Malami, however, <sup>44</sup> asserts that the new security agency is unlawful. Agoro replies that Operation Amotekun was established in compliance <sup>45</sup> with section 14 (1) of the Federal Republic of Nigeria 1999 Constitution as amended, which provides that maintaining public safety and welfare is the primary duty of the executive branch of government. He insisted that the <sup>46</sup> six governors were forced to establish a new security agency because they had to place a high value on human life. Similar to this, <sup>47</sup> Chief Sunday Adeyemo, better known as "Sunday Igboho," recently came to light due to the threat presented by herdsmen in the form of kidnappings and murders in the south-west. He issued the herdsmen community in Igangan, Oyo State, a seven-day deadline to leave the state. He declared that he was in favor <sup>48</sup> of establishing the Oduduwa Republic.

The eastern security network (ESN), according to Nnamdi Kanu, the leader of the indigenous people of Biafra (IPOB), was created as a result of the southeast governors' <sup>49</sup> failure to protect the Igbo people's lives and property. The southeast and south-south regions have decided to protect their land against terrorism and unlawful killings because the region's governors have been unable <sup>50</sup> to do so, according to Kanu. Unlike its counterparts in the south-west, who have <sup>51</sup>

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<sup>39</sup>*Ibid.*

<sup>40</sup>*Ibid.*

<sup>41</sup>*Ibid.*

<sup>42</sup> Ferreira FF 'The Politics of Regionalism: An Analysis of National Integration Problems in Nigeria' ETD Collection for Robert W. Woodruff Library, Atlanta University Centre Paper AA19310167 (2000)

<sup>43</sup> 'The Prospects of Local Policing Amid Securing Breakdown in Nigeria' <<https://www.cfr.org/bloc/prospects-of-local-policing-amid-securing-breakdown-in-nigeria>> accessed 26 November 2021.

<sup>44</sup> Adebayo M 'Establishment of Amotekun' is Legal- Ex-NAC Presidential Candidate, Agoro replies Malami <<https://dailypost.ng/2020/01/16/establishment-of-amotekun-is-legal-ex-nac-presidential-candidate-agoro-replies-malami/>> accessed 30 November 2021.

<sup>45</sup>*Ibid.*

<sup>46</sup>*Ibid*

<sup>47</sup> Adebowale A 'Adesua Etomi, Headies, and Sunday Igboho Among Most-Googled Topics in February' <<https://technext.ng/2021/03/01/adesua-etomi-headies-and-sunday-igboho-among-most-googled-topics-in-february/>> accessed 27 November 2021.

<sup>48</sup> 'Sunday Igboho's Impracticable Oduduwa Republic' <<https://www.thecable.ng/sunday-igbohohs-impracticable-oduduwa-republic>> accessed 30 November 2021.

<sup>49</sup> Nzeagwu U 'Why IPOB formed Eastern Security Network' <<https://guardian.ng/news/why-ipob-formed-eastern-security-network-by-kanu/>> accessed 29 November 2021.

<sup>50</sup>*Ibid.*

<sup>51</sup>*Ibid.*



been legally recognized by their respective state legislatures by drafting legislation to that effect, the governors of Nigeria's south-eastern states have rejected to acknowledge ESN as a legitimate security group. The five governors of the south-east region have established therefore Ebubeagu, which literally translates to "the pride of the lion" in order to combat terrorism and other violent crimes.

These regional security organizations have emerged, yet the enormous security issues still exist. Although some of these regional security organizations were established by law, they do not meet the definition of a state police because they are constrained in their operations and must still report their activities to the Nigerian police, which is the recognized law enforcement body throughout Nigeria. If state police are established, they will derive their legal authority from the state constitution and any applicable enabling laws.

## **5. CREATION OF STATE POLICE AS ELIXIR FOR COMBATING SECURITY CHALLENGES (PROS AND CONS)**

There are numerous arguments in favour of setting up state police in Nigeria, especially given the country's rapidly growing security issues. The country's security is deteriorating further, leaving greater room for crime to flourish. Elaigwu claims that the ideology of federalism and its practice involve a political system of distributing<sup>52</sup> power among its constituent regions and states in a way that ensures that the federal government, regional and state governments, and local governments are all within their respective spheres, coordinated but still independent, and that each has the final say on issues that fall under their purview.

Since the country's independence, federalism has been embraced in Nigeria, dividing governmental authority among its states and regions. Based on these adopted political principles, the majority of calls for the decentralization of the Nigeria Police Force have rested on adhering to this national ideological tenet, which calls for allowing each of Nigeria's 36 states to establish and maintain their own state police to suit their distinct cultural and social environment. It is consistent with how Nigeria is governed under the current Constitution (section 2 (2) of the 1999 Constitution). Nigeria as a federation deserves state police in accordance with the principles of real and more effective federalism, as is used in other nations that operate federalism, as well as in accordance with federalism's characteristics. Federalism assumes the independence of each government, both the central government and the governments of the federating units, which entails their independent existence and freedom from the other government's authority. Each government must have an apparatus of government, such as a legislative body, governor, courts, ministries, and departments, in order to function autonomously. Furthermore, real federalism's distinguishing characteristic, its cornerstone, is the independence of the state governments. Nigerian federalism's lack of state police is a contradiction in terminology and takes away from the real federalism that exists in other significant federal states. The Nigerian federation needs urgent reorganization since it is highly dysfunctional, with a concentration of authority and wealth at the centre. One of the key conditions for the operation of true federalism in Nigeria is the establishment of state police. The creation of state police will improve the correct operation of the state justice system since it will give the state more control over law enforcement, which is another requirement of federalism. As opposed to the federal level, Nigeria's states do not possess a comprehensive and effective justice system. For the policing function is the first link in the value chain upon which the justice system is based. The police conduct inquires into crimes that have been committed, and on the basis of those inquiries, there is prosecution and court proceedings. In Nigeria, both the federal and state governments have their own legislatures, as well as the authority to run their respective autonomous judiciaries and executive branches of government (sections 4, 5 and 6 of the 1999 Constitution).

According to Agwanwo,<sup>53</sup> state police is a form of subnational policing in which the police distribute security activities throughout the nation's federating states. Numerous quasi-security organizations that perform some policing duties already exist in various states. These quasi-security systems help to keep<sup>54</sup> these states' borders secure. In order for Nigeria to pursue true

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<sup>52</sup>Elaigwu I.J. (1983), 'Substantial States and the Features of Federalism in Nigeria', *Journal of Political Economy*, vol. 1, No. 2 30-45.

<sup>53</sup>Agwanwo DE 'State Policing and Policing Efficiency in Nigeria'(2014) 4 (25) *Research on Humanities and Social Sciences*. 171.

<sup>54</sup>Olaniyi R *Community Vigilantes in Metropolitan Kano 1985-2005*. (IFRA-Nigeria, Ibadan) 34

federalism, Enogholase and Obetta have proposed <sup>55</sup> that the Nigerian police should be decentralized. In light of this, Enogholase *et al* have acknowledged that the Nigerian federation is severely dysfunctional and urgently needs restructuring, and the establishment of the state police is one of the essential conditions for the functioning of real federalism in Nigeria. In other federations, particularly in the United States of America, where we adapted this system of government from, each state has its own department of law enforcement, and the Federal Bureau of Investigations (FBI) oversees the entire nation. Ewepu makes the following claim in support of the<sup>56</sup> aforementioned. It is undesirable that Abuja exercises central authority over the Nigerian police force. Local communities are generally better at controlling crime because it is simple for residents to understand the geography, culture, and criminal history of the area. Having an outsider police is a strange setting and is odd because the single-police system is incompatible with federalism, Nwabueze argues that the federal government's control over <sup>57</sup> the police is overly concentrated. This leaves the system open to political manipulation by the party in power at the centre and makes it difficult to resist temptation when one's political aspirations are at stake. Additionally, it will counteract the willful imposition of federal agents and other state agents on the states. Inadequate police coverage in Nigeria is one of the reasons given for the police's failure in this sector. Igbuzor asserts that proponents <sup>58</sup> of state police think that most federal systems include state-based police units. For instance, federal states with distinct police forces are India, Australia, and the United States of America.

There are many benefits to setting up state police in Nigeria. The State Governor, who serves as the state's chief executive, will have strict and direct control over the state police. In this situation, the State Governor, to whom the State Commissioner of Police shall be totally accountable, shall select the State Commissioner of Police. This will eliminate the need to consult the President or another Minister of the Federal Government, which has led to several security failures in numerous states around Nigeria. The state's Governor will effectively take on the role of chief security officer. Crimes will be better handled by local communities since it will be simple for people to understand the geography, culture, and criminal history of the area from which the formations' officers, rank, and file will be drawn. Bringing someone from a faraway place to police a foreign environment is obviously out of place, as is the case with the Nigeria Police, which is centralized in Abuja. Their familiarity with the people will boost their self-assurance and productivity. Since the fear of failure or professional misbehaviour always motivates them to perform well in order to win the love, support, and gratitude of the people they serve, the integration of the police into the cultural environment would strengthen their morals and morale.

Since the various formations will be answerable to their respective authorities, they will be more successful in upholding the state's intended law and order, which will lead to greater governance and overall state growth. The state Governors should be given power over their own police, who will obey their direct orders, in order for them to be genuinely the chief security officers of their states. Instead of the current situation under section 215 (2) and (4) of the 1999 Constitution, where the State Commissioner of Police must wait for orders from the seat of the federal government before taking necessary actions to tackle security issues, which typically causes the problems to worsen and in some cases by the time the order to act arrives there would not be any longer be a need for any action, security issues in the states can be swiftly addressed. To put it mildly, it is quite pitiful and regrettable that the current tendency requires the Police Commissioner in a state to follow directives from Abuja about security matters in a state.

The establishment of state police is viewed <sup>59</sup> by Eme and Anyadike as a step towards the realization of the ongoing push for community policing. Therefore, the demand for state police in Nigeria is justified and ought to be backed. State police is present <sup>60</sup>in the United States, a federalist nation with a broad range of political, cultural, and religious heritage and a sizable

<sup>55</sup>Enogholase, G. & Obetta, O. (2012) 'State Police: To be not to be'. <http://www.vanguardngr.com/2012/08/state-police-to-be-or-not-to-be/...> accessed 30 November 2021.

<sup>56</sup>Ewepu, G. (2012) 'State Police: A Panacea to Insecurity' <http://www.leadership.ng/nga/articles//33257/2012/08/24/state..poces..> accessed 30 November 2021.

<sup>57</sup>Nwabueze BO *Federalism in Nigeria under the Presidential Constitution* (London: Sweet and Maxwell, 1983) 34

<sup>58</sup>Igbuzor O 'Federal and State Policing: Notes Towards a Combined Framework. Police Reform in Nigeria: The Devolution Debate' .CLEEN Foundation., Abuja. (2018).

<sup>59</sup>Eme, Anyadike note 7 above.

<sup>60</sup>*Ibid.*

population. State police should be established in Nigeria because of the country's many similarities to the United States.

The establishment of State police, however, has drawn criticisms from some scholars. Alemika's worry<sup>61</sup> that state police might be used to repress non-indigenous people living in some states. He reminds Owen that the federal government frequently neglects to raise<sup>62</sup> resources in a proportionate manner for the modernization, management, training, and equipment of the federal police force. How then are state police officers' monthly salaries paid for in states that only get revenue<sup>63</sup> from the federal government?

However, Tamuno, a state police opponent, thinks that if state government is permitted to establish<sup>64</sup> its own police force, the police will become politicized and used as a weapon to persecute political opponents and parties in the state. It is anticipated<sup>65</sup> that the establishment<sup>66</sup> of state police will strengthen the use of the police by the ruling class and those who support it as an oppressive tool to intimidate and harass the general populace. This will be done at the expense of the opposition in order to maintain their hold on power.

The benefits of creating a state police force exceed the drawbacks. Therefore, the state of Nigeria should establish a state police that adheres to the fundamental principles of federalism.

## 6. CONCLUSION

Nigeria faces numerous difficult security concerns, which has undoubtedly sparked a desire for the establishment of a state police as a solution. Nigeria should establish state police, as is the custom in Australia. It is a key characteristic of nations that practice federalism. Nigeria and Australia both follow federalism. Australia's state police system has allowed for the successful and efficient delivery of police services to the general public. Nigeria ought to establish state police in the manner of Australia. This would set Nigeria on a new path towards having an effective police force that can uphold law and order, ending the country's enormous security problems for good.

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<sup>63</sup>*Ibid.*

<sup>64</sup>Tamuno note 20 above.

<sup>65</sup>*Ibid.*

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