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# Police corruption and the national security challenge in Nigeria: a study of Rivers State Police Command

Ngboawaji Daniel Nte (PhD)\*

**ABSTRACT:** This paper tries to make a modest attempt to examine the linkage between police corruption and national security in such a developing country like Nigeria. In doing this, the study selected Rivers State - a key state in the Niger Delta for specific analysis. The study employed a combination of qualitative and quantitative research approach to get an indepth insight into the problem under study. A sample size of 200 was selected, while a 4-Likert questionnaire was administered to the selected respondents. The study found out that police corruption in Nigeria is structural as part of the wider web of corruption in Nigeria. It also showed that poor working conditions/ poverty are aggravating factors of police corruption. More so, the study found out that there is an inverse relationship between police corruption and national security in Nigeria. Finally, on the basis of these findings, the study offered useful recommendations that could help stem this social problem.

Key Words: Police, Corruption, National Security, Nigeria, Crime, corruptor.

<sup>\*</sup>Dept. of Social Studies, Rivers State University of Education, Port Harcourt, Nigeria. E-mail:ngbodante@yahoo.com

## **INTRODUCTION**

One of the most contemporary issues in policing world wide is the issue of police corruption. This concern hinges on the fact that the police is vested with the onerous responsibility of maintaining law, order and combat crime to guarantee the security of the entire citizenry. It is therefore a major concern of Social scientists and Criminologists in particular to critically study this threatening social pathology in a world that is growing increasingly insecure. Police corruption is a global social problem and no matter the level of development, no society tends to be insulated from this canker worm. However, the only difference seems to be noticed in the nature and dynamics of police corruption and the public perception of each society (Sherman, 1978: xxii; Goldstein, 1975: 55).

Most definitions agree that corruption involves an abuse of authority, that it includes more than simply proscribed activities, and is not limited to financial corruption but also includes (at least some) activities that tend to come under the rubric of 'process corruption'. This apparent complexity albeit ambiguity suggests that finding a definition that makes the boundaries of corruption/non-corruption clear is highly problematic. This is primarily because the boundaries are inevitably unclear, and it is being essentially governed by ethical considerations.

Key ethical questions in any consideration of police corruption concern where the line is to be drawn between 'acceptable' and 'unacceptable' behaviour by officers and men of the police force. These include such issues as the use of unethical means to achieve what are perceived to be 'morally good ends', the acceptance of 'gratuities' and the idea of the 'slippery slope'. At the heart of all these issues is the recognition that there are no hard and fast answers to questions of what constitutes police integrity, but that it is within a consideration of integrity and ethics that the most constructive way forward most likely lies (Robinstein, 1973: 400; Alemika, 2004:67).

A number of key themes emerge in any discussion of the causes and sources of corruption. First, it is clear that there is much in the nature of policing as a set of activities that has a tendency to encourage corruption. Secondly, the extent of corruption in a particular force at a particular time is influenced by a number of other varying factors, including opportunities for

corruption and ethical standards. There is also evidence that changes in the environment in which policing takes place also have an impact on corruption. While these arguments seem endless, it is important to look at the underlying factors sustaining police corruption albeit criminality in modern societies.

In contemporary times one of the classical analyses of the nature and dynamics of police corruption is the Knaap Report of 1972. The report looks briefly at the policing of drugs, thought by many to be the source of considerable new dangers of corruption within the police service. The report argues that those areas of police work, such as the policing of drugs and other illicit markets, that have the strongest link with, or are closest to, the 'invitational edge' of corruption are also those which are generally subject to the least managerial scrutiny. Increasingly these areas are also associated with extraordinarily large sums of money and therefore very high levels of (financial) temptation. Corruption control and prevention strategies in forces where corrupt practices have been rife, a range of strategies have been implemented with the aim of reducing, if not eliminating, corruption has re-emerged some period after the original reforms. The central conclusion is that although it is unrealistic to think that corruption can be eliminated, there is good evidence to suggest that it can be controlled and that full-scale or organizational corruption can be prevented.

Interestingly, some key findings have emerged with regards to the nature and dynamics of police corruption showed an organized pattern of police corruption across societies. The review concludes with eleven key messages central to any understanding of corruption and which should underpin reforms introduced for its prevention:

- Police corruption is pervasive, continuing and not bounded by rank;
- Any definition of corruption should cover both 'financial' and 'process' corruption, and should acknowledge the varying means, ends and motives of corrupt activities;
- The boundary between 'corrupt' and 'non-corrupt 'activities is difficult to define, primarily because this is at heart an ethical problem;
- Police corruption cannot simply be explained as the product of a few 'bad apples';

- The 'causes' of corruption include: factors that are intrinsic to policing as a job; the
  nature of police organisations; the nature of 'police culture'; the opportunities for
  corruption presented by the 'political' and 'task' environments; and, the nature and
  extent of the effort put in to controlling corruption;
- Some areas of policing are more prone to corruption than others;
- Although there are many barriers to successful corruption control, there is evidence that police agencies can be reformed;
- Reform needs to go beyond the immediately identified problem;
- Reform must look at the political and task environments as well as the organisation itself;
- Reform tends not to be durable; and
- Continued vigilance and skepticism is vital.(The Knapp Report,1972)

While the summary of the Knapp Report of 1972 focused on western societies and the United Kingdom in particular, it is needful to know that peripheral countries of the third world inherited this social malaise via colonialism and sustained by post-colonial ties syndrome. In Nigeria such as can be found in other developing societies, the police are generally believed to be corrupt, a factor that the Nigeria public attributed to the problem of inefficiency in the organization. Police corruption impacts directly on the ability of the police to prevent and control crime, including criminal investigation (Danbazua, 2007).

Many observers attest to the fact that there is widespread corruption in the Nigeria police, and that this is the image the public has of the average policeman. This according to former President Obasanjo (2004) is so bad that there is no difference between some police officers and armed robbers as the former hire guns to armed robbers for operations. In the same vein, the road block syndrome by the police is used to extort money from road users in ways that defies all sense of decency (The Punch, 2004). While the catalogue of police corruption seems endless, there is a great dent on the capacity of the police to protect national security against internal malevolent elements.

Kleinig (in Newburn 1999: 12) provides two versions to explain that the descent into crime is gradual, starting off small and becoming increasingly addictive. The "logical" version suggests "that because even the acceptance of a minor gratuity involves the same implicit

rationale as, say the acceptance of cash - compromising professional impartiality for personal gain - the person who does the former undermines the grounds they may have had for refusing the latter." The logic behind this is that because both the acceptance of a small gratuity and the acceptance of cash are wrong, they are wrong for the same reasons, once minor illegitimate conduct has been indulged in, more serious transgressions will follow. The "psychological" version refers to the constant redefinition of "self that police members experience as they progress from accepting minor gratuities to more serious corruption. "There is a continuum from one to the other which involves a series of stages each of which requires a moral decision to be made." The redefinition of "self may be so strong that the

individual is discouraged from taking that next step into corruption.

This work tries to focus on this important phenomenon whereby police members are drawn into criminality gradually, and if they do not give it up along the way, they will eventually get involved in serious crime. The "slippery slope" theory and erosion theory assist in explaining why so many good cops get drawn into criminality based on pertinent individual case studies, including personal experiences will be highlighted and the various consequences of police criminality, highlighting the devastating consequences that occur when a police agency pretends the problem does not exist and eventually the scandal cannot be contained. The consequences of a police organization's bad recruitment policies have been compared to letting a worm into an apple - the entire organization is eventually negatively affected. The serious consequences of noble-cause corruption is also illuminated, as are general consequences including the public's negative perception and loss of confidence in a police service that is perceived to be corrupt.

National Security entails the ability of Nigeria to advance her interests and objectives, to contain instability, control crime, eliminate corruption - - - improve the welfare and - - - quality of life of every citizen (Obasanjo, 1999). Among the core issues of national security are law and order. National security has also been defined as the "aggregate of the security interest of all individuals, communities, ethnic groups, political entities and institutions which inhabit the territory - - of Nigeria". In his interpretation of the aforesaid definition, Mohammed (2006) concludes that "National Security from any perspective is about safeguarding the interests of the citizenry and providing the type of atmosphere that is free of

threats that could inhibit the pursuit of the good of all. It is about the processes and measures required to preserve law and order".

National security is an important concern in the life of a person, group or nation. Brown (1982:21) holds that the concern for the security of a nation is undoubtedly as old as the nation-state itself. In the context of the nation-state, the central feature in the quest for national security is the concern for the survival, peace and progress of individuals, groups and the society as a whole. National security has been construed in different ways, each of which emphasizes vital factors underlying the idea. However, it should be noted that each of these conceptions, highlight just one aspect of what actually is a more embracing idea. Brennan (1961:22) holds that national security is the protection of national survival, while Ray (1987:248-249) says that national security is to be understood in terms of the desire and capacity for self-defense. Goldstein (1999:79) sees national security as closely connected to the preservation of the preservation of the borders of a state and as mainly construed in terms of the power to maintain a government's sovereignty within its territory.

According to Hare (1973:86-89), national security is to be construed as the confrontation of threats to peace in the society. The editors of the Africa Research Bulletin (2000:13931-55) construe national security in terms of the avoidance of conflicts and confrontations, and the preservation of the lives of people in the society. They also see national security in terms of the avoidance of conflicts and confrontations, and the preservation of the lives of people in the society. They also see national security in terms of the avoidance of conflicts and confrontations, and the preservation of the lives of people in the society. They also see national security in terms of the society. They also see national security in terms of the capacity to achieve reconciliation among the diverse groups in the society. However, O'Brien (1995:100) in explicating a somewhat different idea of national security, referred to as an inclusive approach to security, argues that security is construed as more than just safety from the violence of rival militaries. It is the absence of violence whether military economic or sexual. In fact, environmental issues count as security problems.

The concern for national security has led to the development of various approaches to the issue. There is the military, economic and human resources development approaches to national security. With regard to the military approach to national security, Ochoche (1998:106) holds that national security focuses on the amassment of military armaments,

personnel and expenditure. Galtung (1982:76) argues that the police approach to security is justified on the basis that only a strong police force can deter attacks on internal security and threats of attacks on peace and order, as well as provides the means of fighting undeterred attacks. However, it should be noted here that in the case of Nigeria, the vest size of the police force has not resulted in a corresponding increase in the maintenance of traditional functions, which Heywood (1997:360-363) rightly identifies as the maintenance of the security and order of the state and society, the maintenance of domestic and civil order, and the provision of humanitarian services.

Contrary to popular and reasonable expectations, the police in Nigeria have been used for largely negative purposes involving the oppression, terrorization and repression of the citizens. Heywood (1997:365) says that the police in Nigeria have been used for the purpose of suppressing popular involvement in politic and civil liberties. It is also used to curtail the activities of unions, opposition groups and popular demonstrations and movements. In short, it is an instrument of censorship. This trend has been particularly prevalent under military regimes. Therefore, Heywood (1997:370) concludes that rather than be the solution to Nigeria's national security, national development and national integration problems, the police has compounded and perpetuated them.

According to Ochoche (1998:113) the police in Nigeria, as in many other African countries, has not been able to maintain domestic security, defend the national interest nor uphold the protection of lives and property of the citizens. The failure of the police in Nigeria to fulfill its constitutional role has ensured that the police has remained distracted and has failed to distinguish itself in the policial realm of life into which it has intruded. It seems that one of the major reasons why the police in Nigeria have failed to effectively maintain national security is because they have mainly upheld regime and personal security in the form of corruption and criminality. Thus, Luckham (1998:12-13) holds that in a very fundamental sense national security is a public good and not the private property of the state nor of particular dominant interests. According to Luckham (1998:13), there can exist a tension or contradiction between the manifest and latent functions of security. This is especially the case where the police are employed as an instrument of state coercion to oppress, exploit, extort and terrorize the citizenry. Central to the failure of the police approach to national

security in Nigeria has been failed to achieve operational efficiency, institutional solidarity and stability. In our view, other crucial factors that led to the failure of the police approach to national security in Nigeria has been that situation in which, as Hutchful (1998:601) says, the police has failed to achieve operational efficiency, institutional solidarity and stability. In our view, other crucial factors that led to the failure of the police were the inability to uphold the principles of truth, justice, respect for human life and compassion towards other human beings in the society. Judging from the above positions, it is obvious that there is a direct relationship between police corruption and national security. This is more so when we tend to have a police force that in the eyes of the public is exceedingly corrupt and despised by Nigerians.

# **OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY**

The main objective of this work is to examine police corruption and the extent to which it undermines national security.

In the same vein, the research work seeks to achieve the following minor objectives:

- 1. To examine the various facets of police corruption
- 2. To examine the theories of police corruption.
- 3. To examine the causes of police corruption in Nigeria
- 4. To examine the peculiarities of police corruption in Nigeria
- 5. To examine the nature and scope of police corruption in Rivers State with a view to attempt a possible generalization.
- 6. To provide useful recommendations for policy implementation aimed at curbing police corruption in Nigeria.

# **RESEARCH QUESTIONS**

Since this work is essentially a survey research which will rely extensively on descriptive analysis, the following research questions will guide the entire work.

- (a) What is the nature and dynamics of police corruption in Nigeria?
- (b) What the precipitating factors that engender police corruption?
- (c) Is police corruption inversely related to national security?

(d) What are the panaceas to police corruption in Nigeria?

# **REVIEW OF SOME THEORIES OF POLICE CORRUPTION**

A lot of theories have emerged to explain the nature and dynamics of police corruption in contemporary societies. These theories include; the 'bad eggs' theory which sees police corruption as the activities of a few bad eggs in the institution who are always looking for ways to cut corners, commit dishonest or criminal acts in pursuit of personal gains (Boes & Chandler No date). Others believe that police corruption is caused by poor recruitment policies where improper screening could translate in people with doubtful integrity being recruited, while some believe that police corruption could be traced to poor welfare programmes of the police service by the government (The Guardian, 2005; Nigerian Newsworld, 2005).

Since no particular explanation can absolutely provide all the causes of police corruption in Nigeria, and the fact that we are faced with this grim realities on daily basis, this work will strive to make a modest attempt in providing answers to such questions as; What is police corruption?, What is the nature of police corruption worldwide?, What are the peculiar characteristics of police corruption in Nigeria?, What sustains the exponential rate of police corruption.

in Nigeria?, Can Police corruption be tackled in Nigeria? Answers to the aforesaid questions will give useful insights into the intricate workings of Nigeria's political economy and the institutions charged with national security.

A lot of explanations have been offered to explain deviance in human society including corruption among police officers. The bulk of these theoretical view points fall into the structural-functional approach. These analyses see deviant behaviour as a product of aberration of social norms in time and space. Kleinig (in Newburn 1999: 12) provides two versions to explain that the descent into crime is gradual, starting off small and becoming increasingly addictive. The **"logical"** version suggests "that because even the acceptance of a minor gratuity involves the same implicit rationale as, say the acceptance of cash -

compromising professional impartiality for personal gain - the person who does the former undermines the grounds they may have had for refusing the latter." The logic behind this is that because both the acceptance of a small gratuity and the acceptance of cash are wrong, they are wrong for the same reasons, once minor illegitimate conduct has been indulged in, more serious transgressions will follow.

The **"psychological"** version refers to the constant redefinition of "self that police members experience as they progress from accepting minor gratuities to more serious corruption. "There is a continuum from one to the other which involves a series of stages each of which requires a moral decision to be made." The redefinition of "self may be so strong that the individual is discouraged from taking that next step into corruption.

Punch (2000: 315) uses two metaphors, the "slippery slope" and the "ladder" to illuminate the social contexts in which officers learn to be deviant. There are no definite answers to why officers become deviant and criminal but there is an assumption that it is a gradual process

# SLIPPERY SLOPE THEORY

The slippery slope metaphor implies that once an officer is on the precipice, he/she will inevitably slide down into escalating deviance and illegality. There may be officers who dig in their heels at some point and scramble up and back over the slope. An alternative metaphor used by the author is that of the "ladder." This refers to an officer who has chosen to be deviant and how it affects his moral career as he moves up the steps. This metaphor again assumes a definite progression from small beginnings to major crime, but more as a conscious choice, a deliberate decision. This also applies to a deliberate decision not to ascend the ladder any further. Many police officers interviewed about their "moral career" stressed that they had serious doubts and struggles with their consciences when they set out to be devious but with each step the deviance became easier.

New recruits that get systematically introduced into deviance by colleagues, usually older officers, think that this behavior is normal and comply in order to be part of the group. They know it is unacceptable behavior but manage to eradicate their feelings of guilt. These "newly" deviant officers are encouraged to maintain this behavior and subsequently

encounter new opportunities for deviance when they are given new assignments or when they join specialized squads. Once they are caught up in this cycle of corruption it is extremely difficult for them to break out of it. They become comfortable with their additional income, they sometimes become addicts and they are intimidated by their corrupt colleagues not to "blow the whistle." These officers get progressively deeper into criminal activities, "committing burglaries while on duty, selling drugs, running 'shotgun' for organized criminals, helping to murder on behalf of criminals, raping a colleague, and even murdering a fellow officer." These officers have become real criminals as criminality takes over from policing as their primary focus (Punch 2000: 316).

# **EROSION THEORY**

The erosion theory of corruption assists in explaining why so many potentially good policemen get drawn into criminality. Some of the most notoriously corrupt cops in the New York City Police Department in the 1980's were ideal recruits on paper with excellent references and employment histories, they were respected and liked within their communities and they achieved high scores on their psychological evaluations. The *Mollen Commission* (1994: 20), found that this phenomenon had to be explained in terms of the "nature versus nurture" dichotomy. They found that the nurture, the influence of the precinct environment and job culture was the dominant influence in corruption causation. High-crime and drug saturated conditions that cultivate corruption opportunities are sometimes so overpowering and frustrating that they result in fundamental changes in attitudes and principles amongst even the most dedicated and honest police officers. Erosion theory also helps explain why so many honest cops tolerate and overtook the corruption in their midst.

The Commission also found that most corrupt officers begin their corruption journey with simple shakedowns. "Like Dowd and dozens of others, they then graduated to more lucrative, bold, and risky activities. Others stole from dealers only a few times in their career, without ever graduating to more serious corruption. But even this dabbling with corruption should not be ignored. Once an officer crosses the line, corruption of all types is easier to accept, justify and protect"

Sherman in (Syed, 1997: 7) alludes to an **"evolutionary** view" of corruption. This refers to the progression of "moral depravity" where a corrupt officer begins his illicit activities with minor wrongdoing, which eventually escalates into criminal violations. Initial corruption opportunities that officers succumb to include, petty theft from a shop that has been burgled or choosing not to enforce a traffic violation. At this juncture an officer's self-image will begin to change from an honest cop who upholds the law to one who has begun to break it. They will also justify their activities by saying that they are harmless and that there are no real victims. As the officers corrupt activities progress, they become more acceptable to him/her and eventually result in the committing and rationalizing of more serious crimes. For example, an officer who habitually steals from crime scenes or drug raids may progress to soliciting protection money from illegal gambling operations. A corrupt officer's frame of reference alters to such an extent that an activity once thought unimaginable, for example, assisting drug dealers, becomes acceptable behavior.

Sisk (in Syed, 1997: 8) adds that officers who initially draw the line at taking bribes for not enforcing the law pertaining to possession or selling drugs, may be convinced to engage in promoting the criminal organization that is paying the bribes. This promotion will include reluctance on the part of the officer to enforce laws against crimes (with victims) committed by members of this organization. All these variants of structural- functionalist approach in explaining police corruption will be used in this study.

#### **RESEARCH DESIGN:**

A descriptive survey approach was employed in this work. It allows the researcher to gain a sharpened understanding of why the incident happened the way it did, land what might become important to look at more extensively in future research. Descriptive surveys lend themselves to both generating and testing hypotheses (Flyvbjerg, 2006).

A descriptive survey is preferred because its strategy provide answers to when 'how', 'who', 'why' and 'what' questions are being asked, or when an investigator has little control over events, or when the focus is on a contemporary phenomenon within a real life context (Osuala, 2005). Osuala further posited that a descriptive can either be quantitative or qualitative, or even a combination of both.

#### SAMPLE SIZE AND SAMPLE TECHNIQUE:

For the purpose of this study, and based on our contact person, the study population consists of about 32,300 Officers and Men of the Nigeria Police Force in Rivers State Police Command. This figure will serve as the projected population of study. It should also be noted that this figure is not static due to frequent transfers of officer and men of the force, and the deaths of officer and men while on duty. However for the purpose of this study, Port Harcourt City council and Obio/Akpor Local Council were selected for specific study. These councils were selected because they have the highest number of officers and men in the state. They also have the highest population density in Rivers state. The researcher believes that sample drawn from these two local councils will be used for a significant objective analysis. Out of the total number of police officers in Rivers state, 9520 officers and men are currently serving in Port Harcourt Local council, while 6750 are serving in Obio/Akpor Local Council. Therefore, the study sample frame for this study is about 15270 (Police Nominal Roll, 2010: April). This number is too large for any single study of this scope. Another population category of the study population includes those who are victims of police corruption and misconducts (commercial vehicle drivers, commuters etc). When added to human rights groups, the number becomes even larger. This makes the use of sample inevitable.

In this study the sample size that was utilized is two hundred fifty. Systematic and Purposive Sampling methods were used to select the sample size of this study.

#### **Research Tools**

The primary source of materials for data collection is the questionnaire designed on a 4-point Likert scale to elicit information from the respondents selected from the study population. The questionnaire would contain variables, which are related to Officers and men of the Nigeria Police. The questionnaire would be organized into two sections; A and B. Section A would entail the social characteristics of the respondents such as age, sex, marital status, educational attainment, official status (cadre), department and number of years spent in service. Section B. on the other hand, would probe respondents about variables on Police misconduct, criminality and corruption in Nigeria. Another section took care of the perceptions of detainees, Human Rights Groups and members of the Public with regards to police criminality, corruption and misconduct. The Likert scale would be adopted in the

scoring of the items in Section B of the questionnaire. The Likert scale a four-point response format, on issues under investigation. The Likert scale would require the respondents to make appropriate responses as follows: "strongly agree", "agree", "disagree", or "strongly disagree".

Other materials for this study are theoretical sources (textbooks, articles and reports). These categories of documents provided will us with insight into what has been written concerning the topic of study. These theoretical sources will be used extensively in the course of analysis. To be able to make full use of the theoretical sources that will be located and accessed, the need to assess their validity and importance become necessary. Four overlapping validity criteria will be used in the selection process: authenticity, credibility, representativeness and meaning. These will serve as a framework for a systemic selection of documents in a fashion, which mimic a randomized sampling procedure and helped inject more robust ideas, colour and rigor into this work. The acceptance or otherwise of the retrieved information will dependent on the selection of information from the review and interpretation of it. It is hoped nonetheless that the representation gleamed is will be relatively balanced and a logically precise one. Though no researcher is independent of his or her own normative evaluation of a research problem, if any part of this analysis should bear the hallmark of the researcher's stance, it should be overlooked and considered as part of the researchers own over-sight (Ololube, Ubogu & Egbezor, 2007)

#### **DATA ANALYSIS**

This section of the work involves results from the field which were collated for analysis. Questionnaires were administered to 250 respondents of which 200 of them were retrieved the relative low number of retrieved questionnaires can be attributable to the sensitive nature of the topic under study. Some of the respondents were quite skeptical of the intention of the research and may have declined to co-operate. Table 1 below shows the socio-demographic characteristic of the respondents. A higher proportion of the respondents 66 (16.5%) were Civil servants. Most of the respondents 75 (18.8%) were within the 30-40 year age group and the mean age of respondents was 2.0650 (SD=.90824). A higher proportion of the respondents 88 (22.1%) were Igbo's.

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Variables	Frequency (n=200)	Percentage (%0
Occupation		
Civil servant	66	16.5
Artisan	45	11.3
Business	51	12.8
Police Officers	18	4.5
Unemployed	8	2.0
Drivers	10	2.5
Total	198	100
State of origin		
Igbo	88	22.1
Yoruba	39	9.8
Hausa	52	13.0
Ibibio	18	4.5
Others	3	0.8
Total	200	100
Length of service		
5-10	60	30.0
10-15	70	35.0
15-20	57	28.5
20-30	8	4.0
30-above	5	2.5
Total	200	100

Table 1: Socio-demographic characteristics of respo	ondents
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The data for respondents based on their length of service depicts that those who have served for between 5-10 years were 60 (30.0%). While those that have served 10-15 years were 70 (35.0%), whereas, those who have served 15-20 years were 57 (28.5%). Those of 20-30 years were 57 (60.5%) and those who have served 30 years and above were 5 (2.5%).

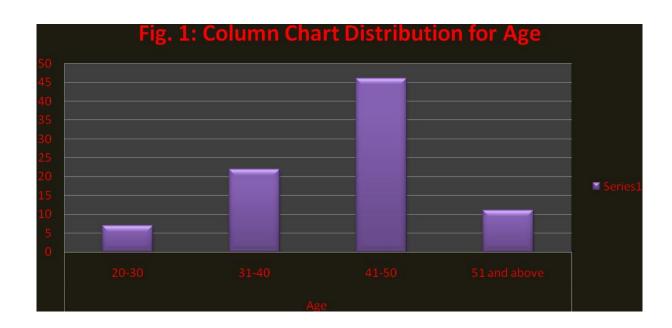
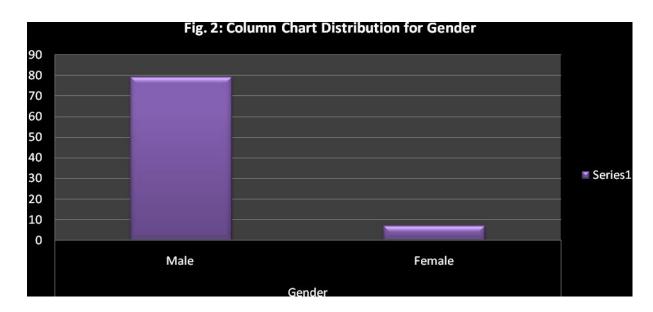


Figure 1 above depicts that 31.0% of the respondents are aged between 20-30, while 26.5% of the respondents are aged between 31-40. The figure further revealed that 37.5% of the respondents are aged between 41-50. Whereas 5.0% of the respondents are aged 51 and above.



Data from figure 2 above shows that 133 (66.5%) of the respondents were male, while 67 (33.5%) were female.

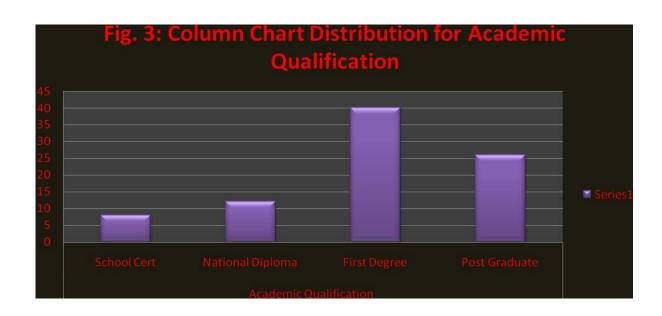


Figure 3: the column chart distribution for respondent's academic qualification revealed that 23 (11.5%) of the respondents hold secondary school certificate. While, 40 (20.0%) hold National Diploma certificates, whereas, 71 (35.5%) of the respondents hold first degree certificate of various kinds. The number of respondents who hold post graduate certificates were 66(33.0%).

## **Reliability Statistics**

The reliability estimate for this study is

Cronbach's	N of
Alpha	Items
.453	27

Table 2: One Sample t-test Analysis of Variables on the Impact of police corruption on the National Security

Variables	N	Mean	Std. Deviation	t	df	Sig. (2-
						tailed)
item1	200	2.0650	.90824	53.675	85	.000
item2	200	1.3350	.47317	82.218	85	.000
item3	200	2.4293	1.39708	49.377	85	.000
item4	200	2.0450	1.09497	45.857	85	.000

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item5	200	2.7350	.97443	48.582	85	.000
item6	200	2.2350	1.81833	8.233	85	.000
item7	200	2.2350	1.01055	31.260	85	.000
strongly agree	200	2.7953	.96229	51.200	05	.000
agree		2.6301	.99313			
item8	200	2.0301	.,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,	22.170	85	.000
strongly agree	200	2.7419	1.01827	22.170	05	.000
agree		2.7111	.81526			
item9	200	2., 111	.01020	31.390	85	.000
strongly agree	200	2.7432	.99742	51.570	05	.000
agree		2.7115	.91473			
item10	200	2., 110		33.507	85	.000
strongly agree	200	2.7572	.98773	55.507	00	.000
agree		2.5926	.88835			
item11	200	,		29.314	85	.000
strongly agree	200	2.7947	.96828	_/.JII	00	.000
agree		2.5510	.98025			
item12	200	2.5510	.)0025	46.716	85	.000
strongly agree	200	2.7867	.97338	10.710	05	.000
agree		2.5800	.97080			
item13	200	2.5000	.97000	37.149	85	.000
strongly agree	200	2.6429	1.13504	57.117	05	.000
agree		2.7708	.90622			
item14	200	2.,,,,,,	.,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,	36.238	85	.000
strongly agree	200	2.7867	.97338	50.250	00	.000
agree		2.5800	.97080			
item15	200	2.0000	.,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,	40.219	85	.000
strongly agree	200	2.6429	1.13504	10.217	00	.000
strongly ugree		2.7708	.90622			
item16	200	,,,,,,,	.,	9.270	85	.000
strongly agree	200	2.6429	1.13504			.000
agree		2.7708	.90622			
item17	200			50.591	85	.000
strongly agree		2.7867	.97338			
agree		2.5800	.97080			
item18	200			20.975	85	.000
strongly agree		2.7867	.97338			
agree		2.5800	.97080			
item19	200		-	48.120	85	.000
strongly agree	-	2.7867	.97338	_		
agree		2.5800	.97080			
item20	200		-	36.238	85	.000
strongly agree		2.7867	.97338			
agree		2.5800	.97080			
item21	200		*	31.810	85	.000
strongly agree		2.7867	.97338			
Agree		2.5800	.97080			

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	1		-			
Item22	200			32.230	85	.000
Strongly agree		2.7867	.97338			
Agree		2.5800	.97080			
Item23	200			86.432	85	.000
Strongly agree		2.7953	.96229			
Agree		2.6301	.99313			
Item24	200			52.346	85	.000
Strongly agree		2.8231	.97011			
Agree		2.4906	.95319			
Item25	200			24.023	85	.000
Strongly agree		2.8219	.94669			
Agree		2.5000	.97080			
Item26	200			42.428	85	.000
Strongly agree		2.7867	.97338			
Agree		2.5800	.97080			
Item27	200			34.215	85	.000
Strongly agree		2.7867	.97338			
Agree		2.5800	.97080			

## Key:

Item 1: strongly agreed that police corruption is a threat to Nigeria's national security

Item 2: shows that police corruption is dangerous to Nigeria's National Security

Item 3: There is a wider corruption in the country as a result of police corruption

Item 4: poor working condition of the police can weaken Nigeria's National security

Item 5: Appropriate recruitment of the police can guarantee peace in the Nigeria's National security

Item 6: shows that Nigerians encourage police corruption in Nigeria

Item 7: Nigerians should cooperate with the police for an effective performance in the national security

Item 8: The interest of Nigerians show be well protected by the police

Item 9: Community partnership with the police will enhance national security

Item 10: The police force needs a reform for an effective security protection by the police.

Item 12: Nigeria police needs to be sensitized on their role to protecting Nigerians

# Hypothesis 1

# The poorer the working conditions of police officers the higher the level of police corruption

This tries to test the relationship between poor working condition of the police and police corruption.

The table shows that there is a significant relationship between poor working condition the police and police corruption. Therefore, the hypothesis "there will be a significant relationship between poor working condition the police and police corruption was accepted.

# Hypothesis 2

# Poor recruitment strategies by the police tend to increase police corruption.

Table 2: One Sample t-test Analysis of Variables on the strategies of police recruitment and the impact of police corruption on National Security was significant. The hypothesis therefore should be accepted.

# Hypothesis 3

# There is an inverse relationship between police corruption and national security in Nigeria.

Table 2: Two samples of t-test Analysis of variables on the impacts of police corruption on national security show that the higher the level of police corruption in Nigeria the greater the threat of national insecurity. The hypothesis therefore shows an inverse relationship between police corruption and national security in Nigeria and should be accepted.

	nformation of	Sum of	Df	Mean	F	Sig.
Respondents		Squares		Square		
Age	Between	1.722	3	.574	.905	.043
	Groups					
	Within Groups	52.011	82	.634		
	Total	53.733	85			
Gender	Between	.270	3	.090	1.200	.031

Table 2: Analysis of Variance (ANOVA) of respondents' demographic information

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	Groups					
	Within Groups	6.160	82	.075		
	Total	6.430	85			
Occupation	Between	6.363	3	2.121	.607	.031
	Groups					
	Within Groups	286.485	82	3.494		
	Total	292.849	85			
State of Origin	Between	2.315	3	.772	2.874	.041
	Groups					
	Within Groups	22.011	82	.268		
	Total	24.326	85			
Aca. Qualification	Between	1.772	3	.591	.710	.005
	Groups					
	Within Groups	68.182	82	.831		
	Total	69.953	85			
Length of Service	Between	1.461	3	.487	.323	.033
	Groups					
	Within Groups	123.562	82	1.507		
	Total	125.023	85			

The data in table 2 highlighted mixed result. 5 of the independent variables (age, gender, occupation, academic qualification, and length of service) showed a significant difference in the respondents' view of precipitating factors that encouraged police corruption in Nigeria.

To answer the research questions 1, 2, and 3, the results in table 1 above revealed that police corruption is a threat to Nigeria's National security; as such Nigerians should cooperate with the police for an effective performance. It is agreed that poor working conditions of the police is a contributory factor to police corruption, and as a result of this, it has lead to high

corruption rate in the country which has lead to threat in the Nation security. It is strongly agree that the police needs a extensive reforms to help stop police corruption.

## SUMMARY, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

## SUMMARY

The final part of this work takes a look at the summary, conclusion, recommendations and possible areas for further research. Generally, police corruption is a complex phenomenon, which does not readily submit to simple analysis. It is a problem that has and will continue to affect us all, whether we are civilians or law enforcement officers. Since its beginnings, may aspects of policing have changed; however, one aspect that has remained relatively unchanged is the existence of corruption. An examination of a local newspaper or any police-related publication on any given day will have an article about a police officer that got busted committing some kind of corrupt act. Police corruption has increased dramatically with the illegal cocaine trade, with officers acting alone or in-groups to steal money from dealers or distribute cocaine themselves. Large groups of corrupt police have been caught in New York, New Orleans, Mexico City, London and indeed Nigerian cities such as Lagos, Abuja and Port Harcourt.

In order to meet the primary objectives of this research, which is studying police corruption and its impacts on national security in Nigeria, the topic was addressed from a scientific perspective. The latter included the application of theoretical explanations and the use of relevant research methodology. The use of quantitative methodology was applicable in answering **what**, **how** and **why** of police corruption. Without the quantitative input, this study would have been difficult to accomplish. Therefore the appropriate methodology was used to collect the maximum amount of information to answer the research questions and test the hypotheses. The primary instrument of data collection was the questionnaire. The same questionnaire was administered to all the respondents as they contain general questions on the subject under study. This is done to put undue pressure on any respondent. The questionnaire was also appropriate in order to test the accompanying hypotheses to fortify the research questions of the study. In the same vein, some theoretical explanations were used as part of the scientific approach to this study. Pertinent empirical findings were interpreted (within an individual-micro and organizational-macro context) and their literature correlates were highlighted. Themes from this body of information were then used for the application of relevant theories to explain police corruption.

The theories used to explain police corruption consisted of two strain theories: General Strain theory and institutional anomie, which were used to explain macro (organizational elements, and the grand theory of crime which is derivation of a social control theory was applied to the explanation of micro (individual) elements that contribute to police corruption. A conscious attempt was made to establish the relationship between police corruption and national security in Nigeria using appropriate literature. The study found out interesting patterns of police corruption in Nigeria and the negative impacts on national security. The incessant abuse of police powers in the collection of bribes from road users, suspects and abuse of detainees including rape of female detainees, police brutality including the killings of innocent Nigerians who refuse to give bribe and tips to police officers underscore the scope of national insecurity resulting from police corruption in Nigeria.

The study also found out that police corruption can best be appreciated within the context of a wider context of exponential corruption in all facets of Nigerian public and private institutions. It is therefore not very safe to say that the police in Nigeria is inherently corrupt, rather police corruption is part and parcel of the wider Nigerian corrupt society. This position is important for a national collective responsibility to stem police corruption and enhance national security in Nigeria.

## Conclusion

The study has shown that police corruption exists in large scale in Nigeria and tends to greatly undermine national security. To an average Nigerian, the most corrupt organisation in the country today is the Nigeria Police Force (NPF). What with the horde of policemen, mostly the rank and file (comprising constables, corporals, sergeants and inspectors), who daily troop to the highways to collect illegal tolls, derisively referred to as egunje or Green boy (N20)? And to add credence to the belief of this school of thought, the Independent

Corrupt Practices Commission (ICPC), the anti-graft body in Nigeria, led until recently by retired Justice Mustapha Akanbi, passed a verdict that the police and the National Electric Power Authority (NEPA) now Power Holding Company of Nigeria (PHCN) were the two most corrupt organizations in the country. However, a recent investigation by Daily Independent has revealed many factors have come to account for the perceived corrupt tendencies of the police.

Most police stations are in squalid state. In almost all the police stations in the country, the officers and men work under debilitating conditions, using antiquated furniture in crammed offices. It is common sight in these offices to see benches and desks akin to what obtains in primary schools. None of these offices has a functional administrative unit where secretariat matters could be speedily carried out. Also, none of these stations can boast of a manual typewriter, not to talk of an IBM electric typewriter or computer system. But these are items the police need to function effectively in carrying out investigations. Therefore, to make out for these shortcomings, they resort to illegal means of getting the job going. That is why, though bail is by law free, policemen investigating cases insist on suspects parting with some money before they are granted bail. Such monies are collected and put into a common pool to run administrative costs and expenses, and oftentimes to feed inmates in police cells.

Another worrisome development in most of the police stations is that the officers are quartered in woodsheds as offices, and to worsen the situation, all information pertaining to statements from accused persons (suspects) are kept in disused wooden boxes, which make these police stations look like students' dormitory or like a museum of antiquities. In the event of a fire outbreak, these records and sometimes lives are lost.

Poor police welfare has remained a major factor that causes police corruption. Several years ago, it has been the general belief that the least paid policeman (constable) takes home about N17, 000 every month, when indeed what they get is a paltry N8,000. In the last years or so, a fresh constable takes home about N24,000 which is grossly inadequate With the harsh economy in the country, this amount cannot sustain any family, so the option is to look elsewhere for extra income.

Besides, officers and men on transfer are not paid any entitlements contrary to what obtains in the civil service, though the organization is supposed to be operating a civil service structure. For instance, an officer posted from Lagos to Port Harcourt in Rivers State or any other part of the country is left to fend for himself/herself. It is the officer's responsibility to source transport fare to his new destination and when eventually he arrives there, nobody cares how he sleeps. Sometimes, the officer sleeps in make-shift offices, which he shares with others until such a time he is able to source money to secure accommodation. In the meantime, if such an officer was quartered in the barracks, as soon as his posting is out, his accommodation is re-allocated to another person since other officers are always on queue for accommodation. It is because of this poor welfare arrangement that one sees policemen, especially mobile policemen, popularly called MOPOL constantly on the highways, extorting money from motorists to cater for themselves.

Police officers in Nigeria have been known to be poorly equipped. It is common sight in police stations to see investigating officers asking complainants to buy stationeries to facilitate the arrest and processing of suspects' prosecution.

Statutorily, these are supposed to be provided by the authorities, but this is not the case. Thus, such investigating police officers adopt whatever means possible to have the job done. Mobility for operations has been a major challenge to police officers. Except for the efforts of some state governors and corporate bodies, the police force is grossly handicapped in the area of mobility. Though the administration of Tafa Balogun was able to beef up the fleet of vehicles in each police command by 1,400, the situation is still precarious. In most police stations, vehicles impounded for minor traffic offences are held up for operational use for too long. In most cases, where functional vehicles are not found, police officers storm the roads to commandeer commercial vehicles for the purpose. In situations where the vehicles are available, provision is not made to service or fuel the vehicles and the consequence is that junior officers have to collect illegal tolls on the highways to meet this need.

Stagnation of police officers' promotion is rife in the force. Until the tenure of Tafa Balogun as the Inspector-General of Police, policemen remained on a particular rank for upward of 10 years. The reason then was that promotion was based on quota system and this brought about

frustration on the affected officers who felt the way out was to resort to extortion since they had no other prospects. The situation is gradually changing, as there has been massive promotion in the force and promotion is now based on merit and seniority.

Lack of refresher courses pervades the force. One interesting phenomenon in the police force is that officers of the junior rank are not involved in refresher courses to prepare them for higher responsibility. It is believed that if officers of this cadre come together once in a while and are told of the negative impact some of their actions have on the image of the force, corruption would be minimized. For now, when an opportunity arises, only the senior officers (Supols) are allowed to from these benefits.

A few years ago when the current Senate President was the Senate Committee Chairman on Police Affairs had an interactive session with junior officers in Lagos was startled to at the confessions that they demand bribe from fellow Nigerians to augment the operational costs incurred in protecting lives and property (Daily Independent, 2005). The committee led by Senator David Mark, who was on a visit to the Zone Two Police Command Headquarters in Lagos, was jolted when in an interactive session with the junior officers, they said: "They accuse us of collecting bribes, and we wonder why? We maintain the patrol vehicles attached to us to combat crime, we fuel them and if any of us is injured in any operation we tax ourselves to treat that person. "But if he is unlucky and dies in the process, members of the non-commissioned officers would tax themselves and contribute money, because we don't know who the next victim would be." They said there is N20, 000 for burial expenses and we read that the Inspector-General of Police said there is another N500,000, but we have had at least eight cases of dead policemen and the family members have not received a kobo since June last year, we have not received the said N20,000, talk less of the N500,000. "If the Federal Government can pay us good salary, if they see anybody on the road collecting bribe, whatever they want let them do to that policeman. According to them "We are protecting the lives of civilians, but the Federal Government is not protecting our lives. We don't know what our tomorrow would be. We are Christians and Muslims in the police and we know that God does not support bribery and corruption, but if the Federal Government fails to take care of our basic necessities and operational materials, how do we survive without the so-called bribe? "A policeman on patrol uses his money to buy fuel for the van,

repairs it and caters for his medical expenses. The policeman has to be responsible for investigation of cases assigned to him and it takes at least, a minimum of N3, 000 to conclude a case file. We buy bail bond forms and other writing materials including stationeries. In effecting arrest, we use our money to take care and feed the suspect in detention. "We also buy our uniforms from the open market, because any policeman leaving the college gets only one set of uniform, but if you are not satisfied you have to buy from the market. Be it beret, button, boots, from head to toe, we buy them from the open market and we pay the police tailors to sew or give any other tailor we prefer outside." (ibid).

Another worrisome contributory factor of police corruption is poor recruitment policies. Adequate investigation of the backgrounds of potential recruits is not usually carried out. The danger of this lapse is the risk of recruiting criminals into the force and consequently legalizing criminality and corruption in the police force.

With a general consensus on high level police corruption in Nigeria, the impacts of corruption by police officers cannot be overemphasized. The country is faced with exponential police brutality including deaths of civilians under the guise of accidental discharge, extortions, rape of female detainees by police officers, unresolved murders due to inefficiency of police officers and such other acts that accentuate national insecurity. The work therefore concludes that police corruption endangers national security in Nigeria.

#### RECOMMENDATIONS

Consequent upon the summary and conclusion of the work, the following recommendations are offered; Before suggesting an array of recommendations that could curb police corruption based on the empirical findings of this study, it would be prudent to suggest that an independent, non-political, non-partisan Commission of Enquiry needs to be established as a matter of urgency to determine the actual prevalence and the extent to which police criminality has permeated the Nigeria Police Force. To attempt to deny its existence or to consistently blame it on a "few bad apples" is foolhardy. It is also utopian to believe that police corruption can ever be completely eradicated, but it has to be identified and managed to a level that should not threaten national security. Based on these realities, the researcher suggests the following measures to curb police corruption in Nigeria.

- Fighting Dishonesty: Although dishonesty is largely a product of socialization or an innate characteristic of an individual, it can be managed by certain control measures such as proper behavioral profiling. This requires special training by police authorities. It includes monitoring complaints against police officers and men, picking up signs of personal problems and being aware of any negative policing practices by the member such as gratuitous assault.
- Lifestyle Surveillance: There should be proper scrutiny of lifestyles in and outside the barracks. It is obvious that where junior officers live very opulent life styles well above their superiors and their verifiable means indicate probable corruption.
- Integrity Testing: This is used more in advanced democracies, such as the UK and USA. The system involves testing the integrity of officers such as setting up scenarios (e.g. hiding drugs in a rubbish bin) and officers are called to handle the situation under hidden video coverage.
- Organisational Interventions in recruitment and training: Bearing in mind that poor recruitment policies and implementation are the start of dishonesty problems in a police organization, it is imperative that these policies should be as transparent as possible. The police must avoid "letting the worm into the apple" only the best recruits should join the force. All the new recruits must be thoroughly vetted before joining the force. There should be proper background checks on them. All potential police officers' records must be clean and adequate psychometric tests conducted for officers of special units. Graduates of tertiary education should be favored and new recruits without tertiary education should be encouraged through on-the- job study leave. There should also ethics counseling to members of the police force.
- Professionalism: It is obvious from the study that the Nigeria police lack professionalism. There should be proper training in this direction all the things including the very little thins that undermine professionalism should be implemented.
   Petty indiscretions such as eating and drinking in front of the public should be avoided. This should be accommodated in the proposed police reforms in Nigeria.
- Welfare: The issue of police welfare has remained a nagging issue. Most times appropriate civilian oversights are lacking leaving the public in the dark about the issue of police welfare. Barracks and office equipment should be provided. In the same vein a living wage, enough to deter officers from petty corruption should be

paid officers of the Nigeria police. All welfare packages given to workers providing essential services should be provided the police in a greater measure to motivate them for better performance and deter them from corruption. A comprehensive life assurance policy should be put in place for police officers because of the hazardous nature of their jobs. This will protect their families in events of deaths while on duty. The present practice is extremely poor and de-motivating.

- Police Reforms: In recent times, police reforms have remained a catch phrase in Nigeria. This is against the backdrop of exponential police corruption and abysmal inefficiency. The researcher recommends that such reforms should be comprehensive, up-to- date and based on workable standards that are well suited for a transitional democracy such as Nigeria.
- Co-operation with the police: Since the Nigeria police force does not exist in a vacuum, it is needful for the generality of the Nigerian public to assist the police to curb corruption by refusing to offer tips and other forms of inducements reporting erring police officers to appropriate authorities and joining hands with civil societies to provide safeguards for the populace. The business of national security is a collective one for all Nigerians. The police therefore need the co-operation of Nigerians to succeed. It is the opinion of the researcher that these recommendations if properly adopted will stem police corruption and enhance national security.

## FURTHER RESEARCH

The suggested topics for further research are Nigeria specific. As this study was conducted primarily in Rivers State, it is essential that similar studies be carried out in other states of the federation including Abuja. This will generate data for comparative analysis. The concepts of Ethics and Integrity need to be studied within the Nigerian context. Another concept that requires further studies is the role of the corruptor in police corruption in Nigeria. Who are the individuals and groups that entice police officers? An investigation into this aspect of police corruption will help researchers and police authorities to avoid pitfalls associated with the corruptor.

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