



## The Police and Crime Management in Nigeria: Implications for National Development

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**Abstract.** In Nigeria’s Fourth Republic, the police maintain good order for proper functioning of things. To do this, the police are guided by law especially; section 214 of the 1999 Constitution that recognised the police as the frontline agency to guarantee internal security. Section 4 of the 2004 Police Act and Regulations, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, described the police basic functions as prevention and detection of crime; protection of lives and properties; and apprehension and prosecution of offenders among others. Besides, sections 2, 3, and 7 of the Criminal Code, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 1976 defined crime, categorised crime, and described parties to crime respectively. This paper examined the relationship between the police crime management and national development. Data were sourced from relevant textbooks, journals, newspapers, and magazines. Descriptive and analytical methods were used to analyse the data. Using the Principles of Law Enforcement as the theoretical framework, the police were recognised as the leading state agency that enforces law; controls crime, and manages internal security. The paper found positive relationship between police crime management and national development. It showed that the various crime management methods used by the police have not yielded impressive result due to governance crisis and other salient factors. The paper contended that except the Government tackles the status of poverty, stream of unemployment and underemployment in Nigeria, the chances of police efficiency in crime management is doubtful and the development of the country will be hard to achieve.

**Keywords:** Police, Crime, Management, Security, and National Development

### 1. Introduction

Peace and safety are concepts that people and a nation cannot thrive without. The issue of taming

crime and criminalities in the society has been a major subject of concern across the globe. In as much as no nation exists without crime, it is obvious that making a country safer and peaceful is imperative for meaningful progress of all. In fact, it is when a person feels secure and has peace of mind that the thought to transact a business that would lead to political, economic, social, and cultural strengths of the person or a country can set in. This justifies having a functional internal security mechanism for preventing crimes and subversive elements. It should not be doubted that a barrage of crime is a product of national disorder and development crisis. It is in this perspective that the police informed the choice of the Nigeria police force.

According to Adalemo (2004), the relevance of internal security is well captured in the adage that “the enemy outside the fence and a facilitator who is a saboteur lives within the walls.” It means that without assistance from any facilitator who lives within the walls, it will be hard for an enemy living outside the walls to penetrate the defence. In order words, the enemy at home invites its foe outside to eat the food in the house. Hence, the issues of crime and disorder are well promoted by people who have subversive characters within the community. It is on this note that crimes and internal criminals are suitably prevented through internal crime management mechanism.

By virtue of section 14 (2) (b) and (c) of the 1999 Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, the government is formed to provide security and welfare needs of citizens. The citizens are also expected to participate in governmental affairs. Importantly, section 214 (1) of the constitution recognised a national police called “the Nigeria Police Force.” Furthermore, the law prohibited a parallel police force. With this arrangement, the Nigeria police force

is presented as the lead agency for internal security architecture. The law equally vested the federal government with exclusive responsibility to maintain and superintend the police force.

To be sure of what it exists to do, the police set its vision and mission statements. Its vision statement is “making the country safer and secure for the attainment of national aspiration” while its mission statement is “to deliver qualitative and efficient security and law enforcement.” In line with the above, section 4 part 11 of the Police Act and Regulations Cap 359, laws of the Federation of Nigeria (2004), described the police statutory functions as to prevent and detect crime; apprehend and prosecute offenders; preserve law and order; protect of life and property; and diligently enforce all laws and regulations. They are also expected to perform any military duties within or outside the country as may be directed by law.

The foregoing probably presented the Nigeria police force as equipped with the potency for nipping crime on the bud. However, the rate at which crime is penetrating into nooks and crannies of the country today does not portrayed good image of the police who are being looked at with disdain by most Nigerians. On daily basis, fierce crimes including kidnapping, herdsmen genocide, banditry onslaught, armed robbery, ethno-religious killings, and political killings among others are inflicting pains on people and displacing them from their ancestral homes. This paper examines the relationship between police crime management efforts and development of Nigeria and the Fourth Republic was focused. The choice of Nigeria’s Fourth Republic was informed by the fact that it was the Constitution of this republic that recognised the police as the country’s lead agency for maintaining internal security and good order through crime management. The paper layout include introduction, theoretical and conceptual exposition, police and crime management, crime and national development, causes of crime, conclusion and remedies.

## 2. Theoretical Framework

The theoretical framework adopted in this paper is the Principles of Law Enforcement. It is also known as the Peelian Nine Principles of Policing. The choice of this theory is predicated on its relevance to the subject matter of study. The paper pitched tent on its basic assumptions that “policing is prevention of crime and disorder; the police and the public have common interest; and the measurement of police efficiency is absence of crime and disorder.” From

the above, there is established relationship between police crime management and national development (Hynes, 2012). Supporting, Alemika (2013) said that: “a country is good when the police system is effective and efficient.” Similarly, Arase (2015) admitted that policing entails bringing police and public together for teamwork to make Nigeria comfortable, habitable, and a safer place for all to thrive.

Besides, the New York City Police Commissioner, William J. Bratton stressed the efficacy of the principles of law enforcement that “he sworn by the principles and carried a copy of it as a Bible.” Bratton asserted that the principles formed the spine of law enforcement idea called community policing. Thus, the theory is suitable to reconcile the rift between the police and the public that will foster teamwork spirit for crime control (Community Oriented Policing Service, 2014).

In Nigeria, a wide gap exists between the Police and the public. Thus, the principle of law enforcement is useful. Apart from the scarcity of cooperation between the two that will be resolved through teamwork, the police individualistic approach in managing crime incidence will be replaced with professionalism. Also, the absence of neighbourhood watch will be emplaced for fetching covert intelligence crime information from the public. As observed by Alemika (2013), the police deserved crime information from the public as guarantors of public safety and social order. The above stance corroborated the thought of Shaw (2012) that everything about the police is on crime prevention and disorder. Thus, the crime upheaval in Nigeria will be reduced to ensure progress of all.

## 3. Conceptual Exposition

Quite numbers of studies on meaning of policing and its related terms are available. Despite such numbers of police literature, there are still challenged with the inadequate expositions of policing issues. This is because; police intellectuals and practitioners viewed the concepts and approach to suit their various perspectives. Viewing from the above angle, some related concepts such as the police, crime, and national development required expositions to accelerate understanding of this paper.

### 3.1 The Police

The police have myriad of definitions. This is because of the different perceptions that people have on the subject matter. Some people viewed the police

as peacemakers while some believed that seeing any policeman walking on the street signifies problem. Beyond the myriad of police definitions, the approaches to police issues are many. They are coloured by perception of police intellectuals and practitioners. In other words, different countries adopt different police systems that suit them from time to time. At present, the United States of America adopted the community-oriented policing. This process has presented policing as everybody's business. In Ghana, a nationally structured police service with unitary command having a centralised functional element is adopted. Earlier on, the Canadian police system was organised in a form of watchman structure. It was restructured into federal, provincial, and municipal alongside with the watchman. Apart from the decentralised outlook of the new process, it was enlarged to capture each level of government to have safety responsibilities and crime fighting. With respect to Nigeria, a national police system is adopted under the watch of the federal government. Its structure relies on mixed system that is inclined to reactive to crime issues (Tuguba, 2007; Roth, Rochl, and Johnson, 2004; The Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999).

Abba (2014) described Police as those ensuring stable democratic system to guarantee good governance; facilitate suitable environment for economic progress; and promote satisfactory basic service delivery to citizens. This presented the police as a watchdog for ensuring proper functioning of things. Buttressing, Arase (2015) said the police are those who are responsible for making life and environment comfortable and habitable for all. This definition has implication or police core values and functions in different forms of political arrangements.

Alemika (2013 saw the police as ubiquitous and mirrors for assessing government action and commitment. This stance does not only present the police as a reliable state agency that is preoccupied with public safety and interest, it has a wider range of duties such as ensuring uprightness, promoting equity, justice and fair play. All these supported the view of the United Nations Department of Public Information (1992) that the police have multi-dimensional functions in attempt to get things right and sustain harmony in a political system. From the preceding, the police are viewed as a visible symbol of authority in government that is consciously preventing something that ought not to happen and ensuring something that ought to happen in the society Egon (2011).

### 3.2 Crime and National Development

Anytime development is mentioned, the first issue that comes to mind is crime and how it can be prevented. In this sense, crime and national development are presented as the proverbial "cat and rat." Cat is always a predator while rat is a prey whenever they have contact. Similarly, a crime poses threat to national development. It causes disorder affecting political, economic, social, and cultural values of a nation to rubbish its hope of development. To fully understand the interaction between crime and national development in this segment, proper exposition of the two concepts is required.

### 3.3 The Concept of Crime

As noted earlier, crime implies wrongdoing that causes disorder and grave harm to national development. However, it is not all wrongdoings that are classified as crime by law. Even when some of these wrongdoings are considered as crime; the degree of punishments is sometimes varied from one place to another. In Nigeria, three sets of statutes are principally applied to deal with what may be considered as crime. These are the Criminal Code, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria applicable to the South; the Penal Code, Laws of the Federation of Northern Nigeria and the Sharia Law, which are both applied in the North.

As defined in section 2 of the Criminal Code, Cap 77 of 1976, a crime is an act or omission, which renders the person doing the act or making the omission liable to punishment. The law further prescribed that any act or omission, which is not defined as a crime and punishment is not a crime and the police have no legal business with it. In Nigeria, adultery is not defined by Criminal Code as a crime. Therefore, in the South where the Criminal Code is used, the police cannot arrest and prosecute anyone that has carnal knowledge with a married woman. However, adultery is recognised as a crime in the North under the Penal Code and Sharia law.

Section 266 of the Penal Code, Laws of the Federation of Northern Nigeria, 1963 defined adultery as:

"Whoever, has consensual sexual intercourse with a man or woman who is and whom he or she has reason to believe to be the spouse of another person, commits the offence of adultery, and shall be addressed in accordance with the customs and traditions of the aggrieved party and in lieu of that and upon conviction, shall be sentenced to

imprisonment for a term not exceeding two years or with a fine or with both.”

Section 3 of the Criminal Code classified crime as felony, misdemeanour, and simple offence and assigned term of punishment to each of them. Besides, section 7 of the Criminal Code described parties to a crime as:

“Every person who actually does the act or makes the omission, which constitutes the offence; every person who does or omits to do any act for the purpose of enabling or aiding another person to commit the offence; every person who aids another person in committing the offence; and any person who counsels or procures any other person to commit the offence.”

The issue of sanction is an aspect that also needs explanation. In the Southern part of Nigeria where Criminal Code is used, stealing is a felonious crime. Whoever steals may be punished with a term of imprisonment or an option of fine. But, in the Northern part of Nigeria where the Sharia Law is applied, a suspect who steals may either have one of his legs or hands amputated for the same crime.

The above exposition revealed that laws in Nigeria are incoherent. This inconsistency of law has implications for disorder and crime. It also showed a disjointed pattern of governing Nigeria with inference of division in unity, which would adversely affect crime management and national development.

### 3.4 The Concept of National Development

Like other concepts in social and management sciences, the term ‘national development’ is faced with myriad of definitions. Adebowale (2018) posited that it is a hybrid of two words - national and development. While the word ‘national’ explains a common event that binds a nation together, the word ‘development’ is an idea that embodies continuous change in the existence of a person, place, or phenomenon in a positive direction. Adopted in this sense, national development would mean that people are consistently doing well with things around them. Importantly, it portrays posture that government is constantly to a reasonable extent improving the living standard of citizens through provision of employment opportunity, living wage, healthcare, portable water, food, electricity, good roads network, transportation, and other infrastructures.

As defined by Imoh (2009), national development is a process of social change within a country. According to Aisedion and Edoghgho (2018),

development is only national when public policies are made and implemented to affect both the rich and the poor members of the society. Such public policies are geared towards emancipating the poor from the dungeon of poverty, unemployment, underemployment, hunger, environmental degradation, illiteracy, diseases, and squalor among others to reflect appreciable change and persistent advancement in both individual and country. Similarly, Onosu cited in Ogheneakoke (2010) saw national development as any process of advancement that brings change for the better and benefit to majority of the citizens who are to participate in the process. By this, national development surmises a constant upward improvement from the active productive capacities in the aspects of cultural, social, economic, and political process of any country.

But, the clarification of Adalemo (2004) presented government as not working hard for national development. As he said, “Today, in Nigeria, the development challenge is reflected by the great and growing disparity of life that has left a large proportion of the populace entrapped in extreme poverty. Unlike in our own case in Nigeria, many other developing economies have benefited from their experiences and have succeeded in planning and managing their economies with some competency.”

Drawing from the flurry of unemployment, and underemployment with the crisis of hardship and squalor it created in Nigeria. As recently demonstrated by Nigerian leaders, there is more apprehensions since the leadership that started to demonstrate sympathy for masses that are walking on the street searching for food to eat. For example, President Muhammadu Buhari expressed deep concern over the status of poor people in Nigeria particularly the young ones moving about with torn dresses with plastic bowl looking for what to eat (Usigbe 2019). Similarly, Chief Olusegun Obasanjo in his Presidential media chart in 2002 said that the federal government needs to be strengthened in order to perform its constitutional functions of providing security and welfare services to Nigerians (Kursim, 2007).

### 4. Police and Crime Management in Nigeria’s Fourth Republic

The issue of police and crime management has been engraved with myriad of viewpoints. Notwithstanding the quanta of extant literature available on the subject, the divergent manners, circumstances, and dimensions in which crimes have always emerged and managed posed a challenge of

its uniform idea. Apart from the fact that crime is perceived as a way of life and, which no country has existed without, the question of how much of crime would a country tolerate to feel secure and do well, has been difficult to answer. This is because crime is viewed as a wrongdoing that bedevils progress and good order in a country. In other words, people consider crime as a ‘twin-evil’ that can rubbish the hopes of any developing nation from economic greatness and drive a gloomy nation into a perpetual poor economy and inflict the people with low quality of life if it is not nip on the bud (Aisedion and Edoghgho, 2018).

Managing crime in Nigeria seems too subjected into fundamental values and circumstances. There are times when certain crime actions are encouraged to occur. Yet, at another time, the same crime actions may not be tolerated. Beyond the tribal values, during a war situation, killing of people is a crime that is permissible. Even, celebration and awards are attracted when warlord is killed. For instance, during the civil war in Nigeria, competition of killings and destruction of property between the Federal Military Government and the dissident Biafra was high. Besides, the Nigeria press house released full text of General Gowon’s Victory Message to the Nation dated 15<sup>th</sup> January, 1970 as:

“Citizens of Nigeria, it is with a heart full of gratitude to God that I announce to you that today marks the formal end of the civil war. This ends thirty months of a grim and struggle. Thirty months of sacrifice and national agony. Exactly four years agony on January 15, 1966, a group of young army officers overthrew the government of the country with violence. The country hope, however, that the military regime which followed would quickly restored discipline and confidence in the army and introduce a just, honest, and progressive government. The country was disappointed in those hopes. There were further

tragic incidents in the army leading to the death of many officers and men in July, 1966. I then assumed the leadership of the Federal Military Government. I gave a solemn pledge to work to reduce tension in the army and the country, to restore the Federal Constitution and to prepare the country for an orderly return to civilian rule as early as possible. Despite my efforts and the cooperation of all other members of the Supreme Military Council, the former Lt. Col. Ojukwu pushed us from one crisis to another. This intransigent defiance of Federal Government authority heightened tension and led to the much regretted riots in September/October, 1966. He subsequently exploited the situation to plunge the former Eastern Region into succession and the nation into a tragic civil war...”

As observed, the Nigeria civil war ended with scores of irrecoverable lives and properties. Yet, Head of State, General Yakubu Gowon’s gave victory message and said that the war ended with “no victor and no vanquished.” Beyond the disorder it created at the time of the war, the aftermath of the civil war in Nigeria had sparked up opportunities for different kinds of crime to emerge, which are inflicting degrees of threats and disorder in Nigeria that have been very laborious for the police to handle.

However, the police have chanted different programmes with numerous statements of commitment to manage and combat the rising crime in Nigeria’s Fourth Republic. According to Arase (2015), “intelligence-led policing is sine-qua-non to crime fighting. The police must work to make hard and make Nigeria comfortable, habitable and a safer place for all.” Drawing from the above commitment, table 1 below is presented to demonstrate police efforts in managing crime and disorder in Nigeria’s Fourth Republic.

**Table 1:** Police Agenda for Managing Crime and Security in Nigeria’s Fourth Republic from 29th May 1999 to 7th April, 2019

S/N	Name	Tenure	Agenda
1	IGP. M.A.K Smith	1999-2002	6-Points Agenda “Operation Redeeming the Lost Glory”
2	IGP. T.A. Balogun	2002-2005	8-Points Agenda “Operation Fire For Fire”
3	IGP. S.G. Ehindero	2005-2007	7-Points Agenda “The Paradigm shifts in Police - Operation to serve and to protect with Integrity.
4	IGP. M.M. Okiro	2007-2009	9-Ways Test Agenda
5	IGP. H. A. Ringim	2010-2012	5-Point Agenda “Operation taking the Force to Greater Heights”
6	IGP. H. A. Ringim	2010-2012	5-Point Agenda “Operation taking the Force to Greater Heights”
7	IGP.M.D. Abubakar	2012-2014	6-Points Agenda “Operation Restore Hope”
8	IGP. S. Abba	2014-2015	8-Points Agenda “Operation leading the Force to its Prime”
9	IGP. S.E. Arase	2015-2016	8-Strategic Policing Plans “A Wakeup Call to the Nigeria Police Force”
10	IGP. I.K. Idris	2016-2019	10-Points Agenda “Police Welfare/War against Crime.
11	IGP. A.M. Adamu	Incumbent	Welfare Agenda “Operation Restore the Lost Glory”

*Source: ‘B’ Department (Operations), Police Force Headquarters, Louis Edet House, Abuja*

The above table revealed numbers of issues about the police under the Nigeria’s Fourth Republic. First, it showed eleven Inspectors General of Police that have launched operational agenda to manage crime in the country. Second, it revealed that each of the Inspector General of Police drawn a new operational agenda to manage crime in the police. Third, indicated that absence of continuity of agenda. Fourth, it revealed crisis of police welfare. And fifth, it showed that some of the operational agenda were replication. The findings supported the assertions of Ikuteyijo and Rotimi (2001) that the major achievement of the individualistic agenda of every police leader is “mere attention-grabbing gesture and opportunity to dispense money and award contracts.”

**5. Implications for Crime on National Development in Nigeria’s Fourth Republic**

It is an acclaimed fact that crime threatens people, properties, and lawful authority across the globe. To fully understand the effect of crime on development of Nigeria’s Fourth Republic, tables 2 and 3 were utilised to determine the extent in which the various agenda chanted by the police have reduced occurrences of crime and disorder in the country.

Table 2 captured a crime of Bribery and Corruption which is one of the crimes against lawful authority. As indicated in table 2 below, 9 out of the 18 years in the ongoing Nigeria’s Fourth Republic were selected on account of crime perception reports from the Transparency International that has earned global respect and other reputable scholars. The choice of this crime is predicated on the fact that fights against bribery and corruption has been the topmost agenda of the federal government including the police under this republic. In addition, most of the alleged culprits are government officials. By virtue of section 404 of the 1976 Criminal Code, bribery and corruption is a crime punishable with a five year term of imprisonment.

**Table 2:** Bribery and Corruption Crime Index between 2001 and 2018 in Nigeria

S/N	Year of Survey	Number of Countries Captured	Nigeria’s Position
1	2001	91	90 <sup>th</sup>
2	2004	146	106 <sup>th</sup>
3	2009	180	130 <sup>th</sup>
4	2010	178	134 <sup>th</sup>
5	2011	183	143 <sup>th</sup>
6	2014	176	136 <sup>th</sup>
7	2016	176	136 <sup>th</sup>
8	2017	180	148 <sup>th</sup>
9	2018	175	144 <sup>th</sup>

*Source: Transparency International; and Idada (2018)*

Data presented in table 2 above, revealed that development of Nigeria’s Fourth Republic is entrapped by crime particularly. As defined by section 404 of the Criminal Code, 1976, laws of the federation of Nigeria, bribery and corruption is a crime, which upon a conviction is punishable with a five year term of imprisonment. Taking the crusade against crime as priority, the Federal Government in year 2000, established the Independent Corrupt Practices and Related Offences Commission (ICPC) to reinforce the police. Section 2 of the ICPC Act, 2000, described bribery and corruption as an abuse, or misuse of power or position of public trust for personal gain and included forfeiture of properties acquired from proceed of the crime. The table also showed that the government intervention have not been successful.

To further assess the implications of crime on development in Nigeria’s Fourth Republic, table 3 below is used to present cases of alleged culpable homicide reported between 2015 and 2019 against Fulani herdsmen from eight selected Northern States of Nigeria. Twenty-one Local Government Areas were selected out of the eight selected States. The choice of the area selected was based on incessant cases of homicide reports. Besides, a culpable homicide is a vicious crime against individuals, which is hardly committed. Apart from the fact that the crime attracts a death penalty, both the Holy Bible and the Holy Quran forbid it.

**Table 3:** Incidents of Culpable Homicide Allegedly Committed by Fulani Herdsmen in Eight Selected Northern States of Nigeria between July 2015 and 13th March, 2019

S/ N	Scene of Crime	Casualties	Date	Police Action	Source of Crime
1	Desina Local Government in Adamawa State	28 people killed; 2,500 farmers displaced	July 2015	Victims Displaced to IDP Camp and the is case under investigation	Ofuoku & Isife 2009 in International Journal of Sociology and Anthropology Vo. 1 (2)
2	Agatu Local Govt. Benue: Okokolo, Akwu, Ocholonya, Adagbo, Ugboku and Aila villages	Over 300 people killed	26/2/2016	Case is under Police investigation.	Daily post Newspaper, February 26, 2016
3	Ugondo, Turan, Gabo, Nenzan in Logo Local Govt., Benue State	60 persons killed	210/6/2016	Case is under police investigation	The Guardian Newspaper, June 10, 2016
4	Okokolo Village, Agatu local government Benue State	5 persons killed by herdsmen	18/2/ 2016	Case is under police investigation	The Guardian Newspaper, June 10, 2016
5	Tarf Village in Buruku Local Government area of Planteau state	12 people killed many injured and missing	18/6/2016	Case under police investigation	The Guardian Newspaper, June 10, 2016
6	Godogodo town in Jenaah local government, Kaduna state	40 people killed	15/10/ 2016	Case under police investigation	The Punch Newspaper, October 16, 2016
7	Kigam, Kitakin, Ungunwan, Magaji, UnhuwanRimi and Kizipi in Kaura local government in Kaduna	31 people killed	13/11/ 2016	Case under police investigation	The Leadership Newspaper, November 14, 2016.
8	Kauru in Kaduna state	34 Christians killed and 100 houses destroyed	13/11/2016	Case under police investigation	www.christiantimes.com
9	RafinGona and Gbayi Villages in Bosso local government of Niger state	Nine people killed and six thousand displaced	15/1/2017	Displaced victims escorted to IDP Camp and Case under police investigation	Vanguard January 16, 2017
10	Lau local government Taraba state	55 people killed and hundreds displaced	6/1/2018 to 30/4/2018	Displaced victims escorted to IDP Camp and Case under police investigation	This Day April 30, 2018
11	Dundu village of Bassa local government Plateau state	23 people killed	12/3/2018	Imposed curfew and investigation commenced	Sun, March 13, 2018
12	Logo and Guma local government Benue state	71 people killed	31/12/2017 to 8/1/2018	Imposed curfew and police investigating	Punch January 9, 2018
13	BarkinLadi, Mangu and Riyom Local Govt., Plateau State	120 people killed	25/6/2018	Dusk to dawn curfew and case under police investigation	Vanguard June, 27 2018
14	Mashema, Kwashaba and Birane district of Zumi local government of Zamfara state	42 people killed	1/7/2018 to 17/8/2018	Case under police investigation	Dailytrust, August 19, 2018
15	Bassa and Egbura Communities Nasarawa state	31 people killed	5/2018	Case under police investigation	Vanguard, May 16, 2018
16	Gora village, Safana Council of Katsina	10 people killed	20/11/ 2018	Case under police investigation	Guardian, November 22, 2018
17	Taraba State	5 people killed	10/7/2018	Case under police investigation	Punch July 11, 2018
18	Adamawa State	50 people killed	10/7/ 2018	Case under police investigation	Punch July 11, 2018
19	Kaduna State	85 people killed	13/3/ 2019	Case under police investigation	This Day March 13, 2019

Source: Abang (2019)

Data presented in table 3 also showed a depressing threat to lives and properties in Nigeria's Fourth Republic. It portrayed a very grievous threat to development when lives and properties in of country are being threatened by crime. Apart from the data showing atrocious posture of general breakdown of peace and order in Nigeria, it revealed a serious state of despair in the country's hope of development; it revealed that except the government take decisive action to stop such sacrilege; the aspiration for development of Nigeria under this fourth republic, will not only be a mirage, but the country is heading directly to a critical state of calamity.

## 6. Causes of Crime in Nigeria's Fourth Republic

The conflict of value and discriminate recognition of crime by law does not make it easy for discussion on the causes of crime in Nigeria's Fourth Republic. While the in the Northern Nigeria, the Penal Code and the Sharia law defined adultery as a crime and prescribed sanction for the offender; it is not recognised as a crime in the South by the Criminal Code. This has serious implication for growing crime in Nigeria. In line with this paper, however, other fundamental issues responsible for crime insurrection

in this ongoing Nigeria's fourth republic are discussed below.

Firstly, the disturbance in routine governmental businesses in certain polices failure of government instigates crime in this republic. This conforms to Adebowale (2018) who aptly noted that "Nigerians have witnessed, the series of protests, strike actions, or demonstrations on fuel subsidy removal, poor minimum wage, abandonment of welfare policies, programmes or projects, and poor responses of government to cushion hardship and insecurity in Nigeria are amongst factors provoking crime. Adebowale (2018) also noted that apart from the January 2012 "Fuel Subsidy Removal" protests and demonstrations, which inflicted degrees of harm on people and property, there was also protest by the Charley Boy Group with the hash tagged "Our Mumu Don Do in 2017 that narrowly escaped death in Abuja," This showed that the abandonment of policies, projects, and programmes that are supposed to be beneficial to the people cannot be taken lightly by the citizens because of the risk it posed to their standard of living (Soni, 2019). In line with the above, Olanrewaju (2020) documented that Government is taking too much from the people and the companies without doing much to improve the system. Such gales of taxes and levies have forced many companies to close-down throwing the workers into agony of joblessness. This is why life has become so difficult for the people while the impoverished Nigerians continue to engage in crime activities to survive.

Secondly, the crisis of leadership has been blamed for causing crime in Nigeria under the fourth republic. As cited in Okafor (2019), Peter Obi expressed deep concern over the manner in which the leadership is degenerating progressively with its consistent result of worrisome backwardness, causing crime and disorder in Nigeria at the moment. This claim supported the view of the National Chairman of Peoples Democratic Party, Uche Secondus succinctly reported by Bosum (2019) that:

"More people have been killed under the Muhammadu Buhari government than during the Nigeria civil war. For how long can we continue to be oppressed, intimidated, and continue to kill ourselves? So many killings now in the country than we had during the civil war. The people that have been killed since the inception of the APC government are many that you can't place records, because we wake up to hear news of killings on a daily basis."

In tandem with the above, Aborisade (2019) also documented the view of Senator Chimeroke Nnamani that the brutal killings of innocent people in Igbo land by the Fulani herdsmen is barbarous in the recent time. Similarly, the alleged statement of Chairman of the ruling All Progressive Congress, Comrade Adams Oshiomhole during a Presidential rally held in Edo State on Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> January, 2019 that "once you join APC, your sins are forgiven," has been perceived in some quarters as promoting crime in Nigeria's fourth republic (Nwafor, 2019).

Thirdly, the deliberate disobedience to rule of law and increasing political thugs raised by political leaders to suppress political opponents contributed to the ferocious crimes such as kidnapping, armed banditry, and terrorism among others ravaging in this republic. According to Adepegba (2019), the Sultan of Sokoto and President-General of the Nigerian Supreme Council for Islamic Affairs, Alhaji Sa'ad Abubakar have been dismayed over the continuous dissidence to court order in recent time, which is a recipe for chaos. As observed in Ameh, Ogundele and Shittu (2019), the peaceful Ancient Benin Kingdom was subjected to fidgety as the people were forced to run for their safety when Comrade Adams Oshiomhole group and Governor Godwin Obaseki group clashed ahead of APC rally in Edo state leaving scores of casualties and tension in the state.

Fourthly, the barrage of status of hardship, unemployment, and underemployment in Nigeria has grave impact on the flurry of crime under the Nigeria's fourth republic. This situation was confirmed by President Muhammadu Buhari who said: "When I drive around the country, what upsets me more is the status of poor people in this country you see young, the so-called Almajiris with torn dresses with plastic bowl. They are looking basically for what to eat" (Usigbe, 2019). However, Dr. Oby Ezekwesili identified the inability of the Buhari led Government to change wrong policies to solve fundamental socio-economic disorder from poverty unemployment, and underemployment as major violence crime in Nigeria (Odebode, Adetayo, and Abloye, 2017).

Finally, the unprofessional conduct of some police officers is another factor that responsible for crime in this republic. As observed, some policemen have been allegedly involved in different crimes ranging from murder to kidnapping and other subversive behaviour. These include the killing of Apo six (6) 2006 in Abuja; the alleged extra-judicial killing of a student of University of Benin in 2013; two policemen allegedly colluded with a kidnap kingpin,

Hamisu Bala popularly called Wadume in Taraba State in 2019; and a divisional police officer of Ekpan in Uvwire Local Government Area of Delta State in 2020 allegedly stripped a 28 year Mercy Okoro naked and arrested her mother Mrs. Lucy Okoro over disagreement with tenant among others (Emerson, 2010; Adepegha and Aluko, 2019; and Ogunyemi, 2020). As noted by Alemika (2013), “a country is good when the police system is effective and efficient; but if the police who are employed to fight crime are now committing crime; the entire country is in trouble.

## 7. Conclusion and Remedies

Across Nigeria, people perceived the police as the proverbial leopard that will not change its spots. This claim is predicated on the fact that several efforts have been made to reposition the police without the expected result. With respect to the issues raised in this paper, there will be little or no achievement for a police force that is managing crime in a country entrapped with acute poverty and whose people are gravely famished but looking for survival by all means.

From the issues discussed and its implications in this paper, the inability of the police to manage crime gravely fraught the development aspiration of Nigeria’s Fourth Republic. As it shown, the issue of Nigeria development has not just been endemically chaotic, but the harmony and survival of Nigeria had been severely threatened. With a view to rescuing the people and development from the escalating flames of disorder across Nigeria, the Southwest Governments recently launched security outfit called Amotekun and situated it at Ibadan (Akinselure, 2020). Thus, it is crystal clear that leaders at all levels of government in Nigeria are well conversant with the causes and the grievous repercussion of the inability to manage crime by the police has repressed the progress of Nigeria at present. With this, the federal government is yet to demonstrate any reasonable goodwill of taking the bull by the horn for shielding Nigerians from the acute status of poverty, unemployment, and underemployment causing unimaginable hostilities and development disorder.

The paper therefore, concluded that the police under the Nigeria’s Fourth Republic have not been effective in crime management due to poor professionalism and the inability of government to tackle the status of acute poverty and improve the chronic hardship, which is thumping Nigerians and breeding crime to hurt the country’s development issues.

As observed from the preceding, the bulk of issues constraining the police crime management and development of Nigeria were traced governance crises resulting from poor leadership. Therefore, the paper makes prescription to Nigerian citizens; the leaders, and the police to wake up from slumbering to do the needful. To achieve this, the following suggestions are made:

Firstly, Nigerians should have a rethink on the choice of their leaders. Apart from the fact that it will be useful to settle the present crisis of governance rocking this republic, it will inspire the elected leaders to have goodwill and occupied with public interest. This will greatly inspire government agencies including the police to perform their functions well. To do this, four issues are involved. First, Nigerians should take their destinies by their hands. They must be guided with the fact that leadership is only meant to pursue their interest and welfare. Thus, they should stop electing leaders who have poor goodwill and negative concept against their progress. Those speculating that Nigerian population are vast for government to provide all the required welfare for the people lacked knowledge of governance and should not be elected to govern. Secondly, Nigerians should withdraw supports from deceitful leaders who are always in the habit of promoting hardship and marginalisation among others in governing process. Thirdly, leaders who are erratic and sentimental are very harmful to be shield in governance business and Nigerians should stop compromising them for any reason. Finally, Nigerians should also be guided with the fact that apart from the challenges of multi-cultural and multi-lingual nature of Nigeria, the increasing complexities arising from the continuous changes across the globe do not favour leaders with poor educational background and low thinking ability to occupy a seat of governance anymore.

Secondly, Nigerian leaders should stop playing political games with the lives of Nigerians. The leaders should be sanctioned for poor governance. This will promote goodwill in steering the nation’s affairs towards general welfare of citizens and sustainable development for Nigeria. To do this, every recalcitrant leader should be arrested and prosecuted for grievous harm and causing breach of public peace. The punishment should be a twenty-five year term of imprisonment with hard labour.

Thirdly, the police should restore professionalism and stick to principles of law enforcement. With this, the core values of the police in term of politeness, objectivity, loyalty, intelligence, courage, and

efficiency will be operationally explored. In other words, the police service will attract transparency and accountability Nigerians. The issues of internal strife and vindictive actions to crime management will be eschewed and cordial relation with the public will be built. In doing this, two things are required. Firstly, the incumbent Inspector General of Police should urgently liaise with his predecessors to setup a Committee to review the various operational agenda to form Police Operational Procedure. Secondly, the existing Police Act and Regulations should be appropriately reviewed to reflect the realities of policing in the twenty-first century. This is in line with the opinion of Seye Oyeleye as documented by Akinselure (2020) that “we are used to one-size-fits-all policing. But, the policing of 1960 cannot be used in 2020. Nigeria’s population in 1960 is not Nigeria’s population in 2020.” This will assist the police to achieve continuity in crime management. Dissident police officers should always be arrested and prosecuted within their community. Apart from inspiring discipline and commitment on police officers, it has the advantage of rebuilding good image of the police with increased productivity.

Finally, the 1999 Constitution of Nigeria should be amended to reflect the present reality of Nigeria system to ensure true federalism. As one indivisible country, there should be one definition and equal punishment by law for the same crime across Nigeria. This will reduce opportunity for crime as well as making crime control and management easier for the police. To achieve this, the existing criminal code, penal code, and the sharia law should be reviewed by legislature and harmonised for use in all parts of Nigeria.

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