Internal Security Operation: Collaboration of Security Agencies and Non State Actors in Nigeria, 1999-2019

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Abstract

Internal security in Nigeria is source of concern for every citizen today. The primary goal of every government in any state is the maintenance of its national security. Security forms the national core values and includes safeguards against all forms of threat to persons, materials, interests and values. The government has always had a magic wand to contain these threats as they manifested. The most potent instruments of the government control have been the security agencies that charged with the responsibility of maintaining internal security and protect territorial integrity of the nation. The paper examines the internal security mechanism, the collaboration between the security agencies and non-state-actors on security operations in Nigeria. It intends to look at level collaboration and understanding with aim of bringing desirable solutions to the current trend of insecurity in the country. With data extensively derived from content analysis of primary, secondary and internet sources on the subject, the research through historical methodology, reveals that security agencies in the country should improve inter-agency cooperation with non-state actors in intelligence sharing and management which required training and retraining of their personnel in joint internal security collaboration. The paper adds to the scholarly debate on the issues of internal security operations and contribute to the issues of interagency cooperation/collaboration with a view to enhancing National Security.

Keywords: Actors Operations, Internal Security, National Security, Non-State Collaboration, Security Agencies,

Introduction

Security entails safety from danger along with the well-being and prosperity of the individual, group or nation. It is the bedrock upon which growth and development can be pursued and achieved, whether by the individual or by entire society. Without security, all efforts at development could be in vain. Nations, all over the world, institute security measures to guarantee "…freedom from military attack, coercion or fear, freedom from internal subversion and freedom from the erosion of the political, economic and social values and safety which are essential to the quality of life desired by the people…"[1] However, in spite of such measures, nations inevitably face challenges of insecurity both in their external and internal environment.

In many countries of the world, a wide range of problems and issues threaten internal security. These problems find expressions in various forms including ethno-communal and religious clashes, armed banditry, cultism and other form of violence. In the United Kingdom, for example, the ethno-religious conflict in which the Irish Republican Army (IRA) is fighting for a Catholic Ireland is a case in point. The religious tension between Muslim and Christian in Lebanon and the ethnic clashes between Tutsis and Hutus in Burundi and Rwanda have similar had far-reaching consequences on the internal security of the affected countries. In Nigeria, threats to internal security since the return to democratic rule have been enormous. During the period, the country witnessed widespread of ethno-communal, religious and inter-ethnic acrimony. There were/are lingering land/boundary disputes, communal agitations arising from feelings of perceived marginalization, violent labour protests, outright sabotage and vandalization of public utilities, agitation for resource control, as well as cultism in institution of higher learning.[2] These tendencies variously threatened the internal security of the country.

National security, however, has both external and internal dimensions. Internal security, as defined by T. I. Imobighe, is "the freedom from or the absence of those tendencies, which could undermine internal cohesion and the corporate existence of the nation and its ability to maintain its vital institutions for the promotion of its core values and socio-political and economic objectives, as well as meet the

legitimate aspirations of the people."[3] This definition is comprehensive as it embodies the socio-economic and political elements of security.

Internal security has to do with the protection of the citizenry from internally generated threats or crises. It is a nation's ability to provide peace, security, food, shelter, medical care, education and general economic wellbeing, the absence of which can cause instability. It is a summation of all efforts designed to achieve peace and general security within a nation. The meeting point of all the definitions is the idea of a secure and conducive environment for the legitimate pursuit of decent living by the citizenry.

In Nigeria, the major organization charged with the responsibility of maintaining internal security are the Nigeria Police Force (NPF), Department Security Service (DSS) and the Defence Intelligence Agency (DIA). Others include, the National Intelligence Agency (NIA), National Drug Law Enforcement Agency (NDLEA), Nigerian Customs Service (NCS), Nigerian Immigration Service (NIS), Nigerian Prisons Service (NPS), Nigeria Fire Service (NFS), Nigerian Security and Civil Defence Corps (NSCDS) and Federal Road Safety Corps (FRSC). In addition to all these organizations is the involvement of the military when the situation demands. Thus, no one agency has monopoly of intelligence.

In spite of the existence of several security organizations, the return to democracy in Nigeria has come with different categories of crises that have threatened the country's internal security and corporate existence of the country. Ethno-religious crises have been particularly disruptive to internal security. The election violence is another case in point in all facets of elections in Nigeria. These security problems have heightened the doubts of many Nigerians as to the pro-active, preventive and reactive capabilities of the relevant security agencies.

Conceptual Clarification and Definition of Terms

State: The understanding and conceptualization of the state is mostly derived from Graham Evans and Jeffrey Newnham has legal definition which must possesses a permanent population, a defined territory and a government capable of maintaining effective control over its territory and of conducting international relations with other states[4]. The most interesting phrase that germane to in this

study is capable of maintaining effective control over its territory which point to the ability to secure people and property within a definite entity. When the security is guaranteed ability to maintain suitable and acceptable international relations would be made easy.

Max Weber analyzes the certain elements which government uses to maintain and achieve stability in a definite state by describing the state as a "compulsory political association with continuous organization whose administrative staff successfully upholds a claim to the monopoly of the legitimate use of force in enforcement of its order in a given territorial unit."[5] In other word, the state must have an established administration; a military apparatus that is capable and able to maintain law and order, and it is expected that economic viability of nation is suitable to finance a formidable security apparatus for effective discharge of required security for citizenry.

Non-Sate Actors: The term Non-State Actors (NSA) is also widely used in development cooperation, particularly under the Cotonou Agreement[5] between the European Union (EU) and the Africa, Caribbean and Pacific ACP countries. In the formal language of the Cotonou Agreement, the term is used to refer to a wide range of non-governmental development actors whose participation in ACP-EU cooperation is now formally recognized. According to Article 6 of the Cotonou Agreement, non-state actors include: civil society in all its diversity, according to national characteristic; economic and social partners, including trade union organizations and the private sector. In practice, it means that participation is open to all kinds of actors such as community-based organizations, women groups, human rights associations, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), religious organizations, farmers' cooperatives, trade unions, universities and research institutes, the media, the private sector, etc. Also included in this definition are informal groups such as grassroots organizations, informal private sector associations, among others. The private sector, however, is considered only in so far as it is involved in non-profit activities (example, private sector associations, chambers of commerce, etc.). Furthermore, Non-State Actors can be any player in international politics that is neither a government nor an organization created by and serving governments, including non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and multinational corporations. Non-State Actors (NSAs), in international

relations, are actors on international level that are not states: important ones include non-governmental organizations (NGOs), multinational corporations, international organized crime and drug groups, international paramilitary and terrorist groups. Dictionary of the social sciences, defines "…non-state actors as a category of actors in global politics who represent interests and exert influence on issues but do not exhibit state characteristics of legal sovereignty and control of territory and people…"[6] It include various international organizations such as UN and NATO, many private multinational corporations, mercenary armies (Private Military Contractor) and myriad non-governmental organizations. Non-state actors could be violent or non-violent. The violent non state actors could include groups that operate beyond state control and generally include rebel opposition groups (groups with a stated incompatibly with the government, generally concerning the control of government or the control of territory), local militias and warlords. A cursory global survey suggests that violent non-state actors (VNSAs) have become a pervasive challenge to nation-states. In Europe, terrorist organizations have carried out dramatic and well publicized attacks in Madrid and London and have only been prevented from further actions by proactive intelligence and law enforcement agents. In many cases, these groups are challenging the state; in others they are cooperating and colluding with state structures; in some, the state is a passive by-stander while they fight one another. In several instances, they are both fighting one another and confronting state structures that seek either to destroy or bring them under control. In Nigeria violent Non-State Actors are base for the cause of insecurity today. Banditry, kidnappers, terrorist groups of different have constituted threat to the corporate of existence of Nigeria state. The effort that is being deployed by Nigerian Government to combat the evil perpetuated by these groups is of great concerned to every right thinking Nigerians.

Internal Security Operations: Internal Security (IS) operations is defined as "…any military role which involves primarily the maintenance and restoration of law and order and essential services in the event of civil disturbances, using minimum force. It covers actions dealing with minor civil disorders as well as riots savouring of revolt and even the early stages of rebellion…"[7] Internal Security Operations are necessitated by social, political, religious and psychological factors. It is aimed at preventing sabotage, damage to infrastructural facilities and damage

to life and property of the civil populace. These acts of violence may be carried out by fairly organized non-trained or well organized and trained armed militia. This has been seen in most of troubled states in Nigeria today with the formation of Civilian JTF in Borno State, Amotekun in some south-western states, vigilante groups and other notable security outfits to combat crimes in our society.

Security Agencies: Security Agencies include those individual's group, organization and services who engage primarily in the business of the enforcement of law, protection of individuals and properties, prevention of crime, loss or harm to individuals, organizations and entities. They could be public or private entities, they include the Armed Forces, Police, para-military, organizations and agencies and private security outfits.[8] These are known government security agencies established to carry out certain security function in order to reduce crime to the lowest ebb in a state. The mandate of these security agencies are well captured in the constitution of Federal Republic of Nigeria.

Civil Disturbance: Civil Disturbance can be defined as "…a state of agitation among interest groups in the society. Such grievances may be directed against the government or an opposing interest, groups or persons"[9]. Civil disturbances are prevalent in Nigeria today which could have ascribed to unequal distribution of common wealth. Inability to meet financial status or ideological struggle against government to change status quo. The irreconcilable differences amongst the member various communities have thrown many settlements into avoidable conflict.

Relationship between Security Agencies and Non-State Actors

In all modern states, governmental functions have greatly expanded with the emergence of government as an active force in guiding social and economic development. Basically, the function of government includes the provision of goods and services, protection of lives and property, regulation of the economy, supervision and resolution of conflicts as well as self-preservation. Though, one of the primary responsibility of government is to protect the lives and property and also to maintain order in society, the expansion of economic development in the few decades have made the accomplishment of these tasks very difficult. This is why the use of non-state actors include non-governmental organization (NGO),

but equally importance so Multinational Corporation, private military or security outfit organizations, paramilitary organizations, media outlets, labour unions, religious groups among others in internal security management has become necessary and always claim they have achieved some level of success in helping in achieving national security objective especially in the northeast Nigeria.

The constitution, which is the grand norm of the country's laws, it can be seen that the security agencies roles include the suppression of insurrection and acting in aid of civil authorities to restore peace and order when called upon to do so by the president or an act of the National Assembly, that is by implication, the security agencies would only be deployed to suppress insurrection or public disorder on special instructions from the President and Commander in Chief subject to an act by the National Assembly. However, every function of Government is affected by crisis or emergency. This is what necessitated the establishment of the roles of the security agencies by law as mentioned above. Furthermore, since countries and situations differ from one another, no standard organization can be said to be suitable for all situations. The responsibility for the management of internal security rests squarely in the security agencies. An efficient military could therefore ensure a good and quick resolution of conflicts in the country. However, the military alone cannot effectively handle all the issues of national security operations which include internal security, disasters, famine, and ethno-religious crises. To complement the effort of security agency, government agencies should partners with Non-State-Actors to involve in combating some security challenges facing the states. Partnering with Non-State-Actors is very important because of its closeness to the grass root people. More importantly, people repose confidence in some Non-State-Actor because of religious affinity or ethnicity consideration. This made it easy for quick resolution of dispute whenever the need arises.

Expected Roles of Security Agencies and Non State Actors

The primary responsibility for maintenance of internal security in Nigeria is the statutory responsibility of the Nigeria Police Force. This power is derived from Section 214, 215 and 216 of the 1999 Constitution. The military is equally involved in the maintenance of internal security, particularly during periods of crises when the Police cannot cope with security situation. In such circumstances, the military intervenes only after it has been formerly directed to do so by the President who

is the Commander in Chief of the Armed Forces of Nigeria. However, other security agencies that have different but subtle functions in the maintenance of internal security are Nigerian Customs Service, Nigerian Immigration Service, Federal Fire Service, Nigerian Prisons Service, the National Drug Law Enforcement Agency (NDLEA) and Economic and Financial Crime Commission (EFCC), Nigerian Security and Civil Defence Corps (NSCDC) and Federal Road Safety Commission (FRSC). They all constitute Nigeria's Intelligence community and play complementary roles in maintenance of Internal Security of the country. The fundamental rationale for the existence of the police therefore, is the need for the enforcement of laws that are designed to regulate conflicts, maintain internal security and enhance the total well-being and peaceful coexistence of members of the society. They are one out of the many state apparatuses employed for this purpose. Another way of maintaining internal security and regulating social conflicts in the society is through the instrumentality of intelligence which the State Security Service (SSS) utilizes to meet the demands of its functions.

To fully understand and appreciate the role of the NPF and other security agencies in meeting the challenges of internal security, it would have been more appropriate to begin with a brief history of the organizations, their statutory powers and the enabling laws which empower them to perform such roles. This is important because their roles are predicted upon some enabling laws which also highlight their policing methods and modus operandi. But for lack of time and in other not to bore this audience, I will only go into the brief history of only the Nigerian Police Force (NPF), the enabling laws that gave them the statutory powers and their roles.

The history of the present day Nigerian Police Force (NPF) dates back to 1861 when a consular Guard of 25 men was established in Lagos to protect British interest in the new colony.[10] Between 1862 and 1906, there existed three different policing mechanisms in the various protectorates, coasts and colony. In 1862, a 500-member armed paramilitary constabulary called the Hausa Constabulary, and consisting mainly of Hausas was established. Another paramilitary force, the Niger Coast Constabulary was formed in Calabar in 1894 under the newly proclaimed Niger Coast Protectorate. Likewise, in the north, the Royal Niger Company set up the Royal Niger Constabulary in 1886, with headquarters in

Lokoja, to cater for the northern area. Subsequently, a Southern Police Force was created in 1906. The Lagos, Northern and Southern Police Forces were merged in 1930 to form the NPF as it is called till this day.[11]

In Nigeria, the NPF is designed by Section 214 of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria (CFRN), 1999 as the principal law enforcement agency with exclusive jurisdiction throughout the country. This provision, similar to those ranted in the previous CFRN 1960, 1963, 1979 and 1999 stipulated that:

> "…There shall be a police force for Nigeria, which shall be known as the Nigeria Police Force and subject to the provision of this section, no other Police Force shall be established for the Federation or any part thereof…"[12]

The above provision then formalizes and provides legal status and constitutional authority for the roles of the NPF in maintaining law and order, protecting the citizenry. Various other agencies in Nigeria such as the Armed Forces, Prison Service, Immigration Service, Customs Service, Federal Road Safety Corps, National Intelligence Agency, National Drug Law Enforcement Agency, National Agency for Food, Drug Administration and Control and others enforce specific laws within which they are directly charged. However, the duties of the police as assigned by the Police Act, indicate clearly that the NPF is the principal law enforcement agency for the enforcement of law and order generally in the country.

Statutory Powers and Roles of the Nigerian Police Force

The Police Act, Cap 359, Laws of the Federation 1990, "…, constitutional provision by stating the statutory duties of the NPF. Section 4 provides that the Police Force shall be Employed for.[13]

a) The prevention and detection of crime.
b) The apprehension of offenders.
c) The preservation of law and other.
d) The protection of life and property.
e) The enforcement of all laws and regulations with which they are directly charged, as well as such police duties within or outside Nigeria as may be required.

These duties are enormous and their due performance is facilitated and enhanced by other enabling laws such as:

i. The Criminal Procedure Act (CPA).
ii. The Criminal Procedure Code (CPC).
iii. The Public Order Act.
iv. The Official Secret Act.
v. Prevention of Crime Act amongst other laws duly enacted by an Act of Parliament.

The authority of the Police in the performance of these functions is wide but subject to the laws of the land which are intended to check excesses or abuses by Police operatives. Section 374 (a) and (b) of Police regulations 1968 expressly states thus:

> "...Nothing in the regulation shall affect or diminish the liability of any member of the force to face prosecution before courts of summary jurisdiction for any offence against the Police Act..."[14]

The implication of the above statement is that any police officer that exceeds the provision of the law loses the protection of the law.

Private Security Agencies are described as self-employed individuals and privately funded business entities and organizations that provide security related services to specific client for a fee, for individuals or entities that retain or employ in order to protect their person private property or interests from hazards. They are particularly distinguished from the government security agencies by the fact that while the public security agencies are funded by the government using tax payer's money, the Private Security Agencies have their services paid for by those who recognize and need their services.

Private Security Agencies in Niger Guard in Abuja and other cities, Spider web in Bauchi and many others spread across the country provide security to banks, Government parastatals and other commercial ventures. The appeal for private security agencies lies in the fact that their personnel often have considered access to information about crime and criminally minded persons in the society. The

reason for their possession of this store of information is because being civilians living with the civilian populations. The personnel of private security agencies interact freely with all members of the community. This way they are easier to contact and to collaborate with them in gaining information towards quelling riots, public disturbances or other crimes that have the tendency to bring about public unrest.

Internal Security Challenges Confronting Security Agencies from

A perennial challenge to security agencies in the management of internal security in Nigeria is inadequate manpower. The NPF for instances, lacks enough manpower for proper deployment for efficient Internal Security Operations. The United Nations recommends a ratio of one policeman to four hundred people 1:400.[15] Presently, the strength of the NPF compared to population of Nigeria which is about 140,000,000 is a far cry from the United Nations recommended ratio of 1:400 for effective policing.[16] Thus, the present strength of the security agencies is grossly inadequate for effective management of internal security in Nigeria. Lack of funds is another challenge to the security agencies in the performance of their roles. Because security related issues are capital intensive and of paramount importance especially during crisis, more funds would be required to meet their running costs. For instance, these outfits need more funds to re-activate their duty vehicles broken down and littered all over their formations. The vehicles also need fuel, oil and other lubricants which are found to be perpetually in short supply due to inadequate funds. Funding, to a great extent affects their performance even during peace time.

More so, equipment is in short supply within the various security agencies. Vehicles, communication gadgets, scientific tools for investigation and intelligence gathering, crowd control and other Internal Security operations are inadequate. This makes the work of the security agencies more tedious and yet less effective. The agencies require sophisticated equipment like helicopters and intelligence gadgets for efficient performance of their roles.[17]

The Nigeria Police Force in particular and other security agencies in general seem to have serious image problem with the Nigerian public. The SSS for instance is accused of arresting people and clamping them into indefinite detention under the

guise of being state security risk. As for the Nigeria Police, its estrangement from the public may be attributed to many factors. First, it may be seen as a carryover from the colonial days during which it was tagged as the main instrument of colonial oppression. Another issue is the growing feeling that the police has not demonstrated sufficient ability to protect informants. Finally, the level of cooperation among security agencies and the Nigeria Police seems low, largely due to institutional autonomy and seeming rivalry usually witnessed among government establishments in Nigeria.[18] This low level cooperation has affected the management of internal security in the country. For instance, the SSS would conclude intelligence report but instead of handing it over to the Nigeria Police for further surveillance and eventual arrest, investigation and prosecution, they would go ahead themselves even when such cases ought to be handled by the police.[19] Also, when some civil disturbances are beyond the capability of Nigeria Police for instance, they may hesitate in handing over to the military.

Generally, exchange of information and intelligence between these agencies leaves much to be desired just like in carrying out joint operations.[20] However, this trend is gradually fizzling out as was witnessed during the preparations and actual conduct of 2015 general elections. The security operatives worked together for smooth, fair and credible election in conjunction with the electoral body and other non-state actors. Many security personnel in Nigeria were poorly trained. This is due to lack of funds and relevance training institution and facilities, some security agencies were poorly recruited and trained. Even for the SSS and the NPF to keep abreast with latest technological development in scientific investigation and intelligence gathering is difficult as they hardly go for refresher courses both within and outside the country. This hampers the effectiveness and efficiency of their operations. The globalization and advancement in modern Information and Communication Technology (ICT) have brought sophistication in the area of investigation, intelligence gathering and new weapons.[21]

Areas of Collaboration among Security Agencies and Non-State Actors

Security Agencies and non-government actors are expected to work together in a conducive atmosphere to achieve national security objective. This is because organised societies have governments. These governments have policies that should be people oriented and in line with internationally accepted best practices.

Governments are elected by people to protect their interest and give the people a sense of belonging, direction and security. Agencies of government have different task and mandates. This task may be to provide certain amenities or services or to protect the individuals of that society or enclave. Inter-agency cooperation differs from place to place and may follow different models depending on the agencies involved. Each company or group of agencies working together may have their own innovations or concept of cooperation.[22]

Inter-agency relations have a positive impact on the management of internal security. A mechanism exists to ensure that security agencies do not clash with one another by taking over each other's responsibilities. The Police and the DSS have roles to play in the maintenance of internal security. The DSS is not involved in some activities that are not their primary responsibility which include; border patrol and apprehension of smugglers. These belong to the Police, Immigration and Custom Services respectively. However, the DSS, in the discharge of its duty, run into relevant related information and passes it in to other security agencies in the form of intelligence. The same arrangement is made for the DSS not to involve itself with security activities of the Armed Forces, however it also be pass the information to the Defence Intelligence Agency for investigation. All these arrangements are in place to ensure adequate coverage of internal security in Nigeria.[23]

In order to meet the challenges of internal security and to minimize their adverse effects, the need has arisen to develop new strategies that will enable security services to collaborate in discharge their legal duties effectively. This has become necessary in view of the seeming insecurity in the country. This paper hereby proposes the following areas for collaboration among the security agencies and non-state actors in Nigeria:

a. The relationship among the various security agencies has not been adequately harnessed to meet the challenges of internal security in Nigeria. There is therefore the need to improve the relationship between them through greater cooperation, collaboration and mutuality. For instance, in the area of Information technology which is expected to advance even further in this decade, there is need for the security agencies to enter into a

networking relationship so that advance intelligence gotten by one agent on intentions and activities of subversive elements, saboteurs, insurgents and other criminals can easily be made available to others without delay. This strategy has proven effective in the advanced nations of the especially Britain and USA. For instance, in the USA, the Interpol relies heavily on information furnished it by the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA). Other areas of friction among them should also be smoothened to avoid rancor and acrimony.

b. Early warning signals have been tested and proven to be a credible strategy of meeting the challenges of internal security. Early warning signals are potent measures of managing national security before they snowball into unmanageable dimensions, and therefore, must be heeded to. In Nigeria, the situation appears to be that problems are left to build-up over the years and later climax into devastating crises. This is an indication that the early warning signals and indicators, timely advices and the various threat analysis and suggestions made on how to resolve contending issues are not usually taken seriously. Studies and experience have shown that some form of internal security challenges continue to re-occur in Nigeria, not as a result of intelligence failure but because more often than not, only half-measures and or superficial solutions tends to be applied sometimes due to vested interests. To be effective in intelligence gathering and crisis management, the security agencies have to collaborate. Government were to encourage to utilize all credible intelligence at its disposal in formulating sound policies.

c. The issue of the challenge of religion and political intolerance in particular, proper education and enlightenment is necessary if the culture of religious and political violence for instance is to be managed or minimized. In this regard, every Nigerian should be enlightened to respect and tolerate other religions as well as extol the culture of commitment to the Rule of Law and rules governing the political system of the country.

d. For the security agencies to effectively meet the challenges of internal security there is need for adequate manpower not only in terms of number, nut also in terms of skill and the right orientation. It should be noted that such manpower needs cannot be obtained from off the shelf, hence the

need to develop concrete plans for steady employment and recruitment into these outfits on a sustained basis.

e. The security agencies can equally meet the challenges of internal security in the next decade by improving the quality of its personnel through conscious efforts of training, retraining and joint training of the security agencies. The curricular of the training institutions must be constantly reviewed to meet contemporary internal security challenges in the security sector.

f. The relevance of research to the maintenance of internal security cannot be overstressed. The security agencies can improve on its efforts to meet the challenges of internal security through collaboration in the area of research and development into better policing methods. There is the need for the security agencies to mutually work together with strategies and academic research institutions to develop more efficient training manual to meet challenges of internal security.

g. The usually noticeable wide psychological distance between security operative and the citizenry has to be removed or substantially abridged, if the security agencies are to be able to win the confidence and support of the public in their efforts to meet the challenges of internal security in Nigeria. The gap between the public and security agencies; the brighter the chances of meeting these challenges. In this regard, it is strongly suggested that a better relationship will be fostered through publications, regular press briefings, lectures, conferences, dialogues, radio and television jingles among others. The security community is said to have successfully related with the public to such an extent that they once stated that "Thousands of people of widely different ages and occupations are now helping us to track down criminals and prevent crimes".[24]

Conclusion

Security is the state of being or existence that is free from danger, fear, threat, anxiety and uncertainty. Internal Security is the absence of those tendencies, which could undermine internal cohesion and the corporate existence of the nation and its ability to maintain its vital institutions for the promotion of its core values and sociopolitical and economic objectives, as well as meet the legitimate aspirations of the people. The institutional framework for the maintenance of law and order

is dependent on the individual country and the type of Government of the country. The primary responsibility of maintenance of internal security in Nigeria is the statutory responsibility of the Nigerian Police Force. This power is derived from the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria. There are other agencies of the government that collaborate together for the purpose of maintenance of the internal security of the country. These include the Military, the State Security Service, Nigerian Customs Service, Nigerian Immigration Service and Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corp.

Effort has been made in this paper to highlight the challenges inherent in security agencies and non-state actors in the performance of their roles in Internal Security. These include inadequate manpower, inadequate funding, insufficient and poor training. Other challenges include poor public image and lack of cooperation among security agencies.

In order to meet the challenges of internal security and to minimize their adverse effects on the country, the need to develop new strategies, which will enable the security services to collaborate in other to discharge their duties effectively was identified. Some areas of collaboration were identified to include close cooperation strategy, education, quality joint training and research development. This has become necessary in view of the seeming insecurity in the country. These areas of working together are not exhaustive. However, insights have been provided to stimulate our thinking in order to have an effective strategy for security agencies and Non-state actors' collaboration in Internal Security in Nigeria.

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