

Interrogating the Prospects and Challenges of State Policing System in Nigeria

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Abstract

The upsurge of insecurity in Nigeria questions the competence of the Nigerian Police Force under the auspice of the federal government to combat insecurity. Some concerns decentralizing the policing powers to states would offer potential benefits in curbing insecurity. This study was designed to interrogate the prospects and possible challenges of the state policing system in Nigeria and contribute to the discourse on security in a heterogeneous country like Nigeria. The study adopted a hybrid research methodology through a fusion of both doctrinal and non-doctrinal methods. Descriptive and analytical approaches were adopted to interpret empirical data collected through the distribution of 1,051 questionnaires to randomly selected respondents to ascertain the prospects and possible challenges of state policing in Nigeria. The study found that the current structure of the Nigerian Police Force can no longer guarantee the safety of the Nigerians. Furthermore, the synthesis of empirical findings revealed that state policing has the prospect of competently combating insecurity in Nigeria but corruption, and lack of funding amongst others are possible challenges. The study therefore concluded by recommending the amendment of the current legal framework of policing in Nigeria to make way for decentralization.

1. Introduction

Over a decade and a half, the insecurity challenge remains a major threat to unity and sustainable development in Nigeria.¹ It is not a unique challenge to Nigeria but to every country, whether developed, developing, or underdeveloped.² While insecurity, especially internal, is a global challenge, the difference is in the measures and approaches of the governments of individual nations to combat insecurity.³ In Nigeria, these insecurity challenges range from kidnapping to banditry, ritual killings, armed robbery, Boko-haram insurgency, secessionist struggles, communal clashes, and so on.⁴

Nigeria comprises 36 states and the Federal Capital Territory but is grouped into geo-political zones comprising the North Central, North East, North West, South-East, South-South, and South-West Region.⁵ Unfortunately, the menace of insecurity permeates all the geo-political zones.⁶ The insecurity pattern in Nigeria is regionalized.⁷ While Boko-haram insurgence thrives in the North, especially the North East, banditry and activities of the deadly Fulani herdsmen thrive in the Southwest, North Central, and North East, kidnapping and activities of the unknown gunmen in the Southwest and South-south, and ritual killings in the southwest.⁸ This

¹ James Chukwu and Marcia Chidimma Udem, "Crime, Violence, and Security Challenge in Nigeria: Implication on National Development Since 1960," *Ohazurume: Unizik Journal of Culture and Civilization* 3, no. 1 (2024): 44–58.

² Ugochukwu Nwankwo Elem Nwanchor, Nwe Chike, Orji-Egwu Obiageri and Ojo Idowu, "Media, Security Challenges and the Future of Nigeria: A Theoretical Overview," *African Journal of Politics and Administrative Studies* 16, no. 2 (2023): 313–41.

³ Chidi Ogonnaya, "Good Governance: A Panacea to Peace and Security in Nigeria," *Juvenile Journal: A Publication of Juvenile Africanity Imo State University, Owerri, Nigeria* 9, no. 8 (2024): 64–69.

⁴ Ojedokun Usman Adekunle Olufikayo Oyelade, Adebimpe Adetutu Adenugba and Olajide Akanji, "Insecurity and Counter-Banditry Strategies of the Affected Oyo Communities in Oyo State, Nigeria," *Safer Communities* 23, no. 1 (2024): 23–34; Udeh Shedrack Chijioke Okoroafor Ejike Chibuzor and Ihezue Ugochukwu Remigius, "Insecurity and National Economic Development: Implications for Nigeria's Vision 20: 2020," *International Journal of Development and Management Review* 8, no. 1 (2013): 93–109; Alio Bartholomew Chuks, "Mathematics: An Effective Tool for Poverty Alleviation, and Solving Crime and Security Problems," *ABACUS: The Journal of Mathematical Association of Nigeria* 39, no. 1 (2014): 325–35; Abdulrauf Salihu Habeeb and Gbolami Hossein, "Mob Justice, Corruption, and Unproductive Justice System in Nigeria: An Empirical Analysis," *International Journal of Law Crime* 55 (2018): 40–51.

⁵ Olasumbo Adedotun Adedayo Adesina Olumide, Taiwo Abass, Odekina, Onuche Adedotun and Adoghe Victor, "A Non-Parametric Analysis of the Effect of Covid-19 Pandemic on Nigerians' Well-Being Based on Geo-Political Zones," *JP Journal of Biostatistics* 24, no. 1 (2024): 177–96; Agbo Nicholas, "Causes and Implications of Worsening Insecurity in Nigeria: Developing a Cure Through the Law," in *International Law and Development in Global South*, ed. Gozie Ogbodo Sunday Duruigbo Emeka Chibueze Remigius, 2023, 13–32.

⁶ Okoye Daniel Ikenna, "Nigerian Police and Competence Challenge in Tackling Insecurity in the Country," *Journal of Psychology and Behavioural Disciplines* 4, no. 1 (2024): 36.

⁷ Danjuma Iyaji, "Insurgency, Political Risk, and Foreign Direct Investment Inflows in Nigeria: A Sectorial Analysis," *CBN Journal of Applied Statistics* 12, no. 2 (2021): 27–57.

⁸ Chikizie Ijeoma Emmanue Ibeh Chukwuemeka Emmanuel, Ijioma Chioma Doris and Mbadiwe Lilian Ogechi, "Insecurity, the Nigeria Police and Failure of Intelligence in Combating Crime in Imo State, Southeastern Nigeria," *Socialscientia: Journal of Social Sciences and Humanities* 7, no. 2 (2022): 106–19.

insecurity challenge has stood as a major obstruction to the socioeconomic growth of Nigeria over the last decade.

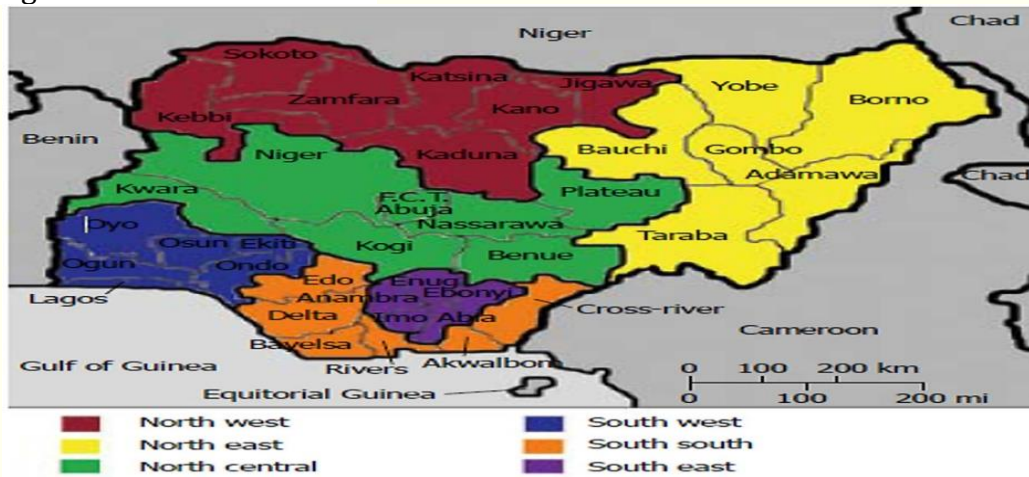


Figure A: Map of Nigeria showing the six geo-political zones and the 36 states including the F.C.T. Abuja (**North west**-Sokoto, Kebbi, Katsina, Jigawa, Kano, Kaduna; **North-East**-Yobe, Borno, Bauchi, Gombe, Adamawa, Taraba, **North Central**-Kwara, Kogi, Benue, Niger, F.C.T. Abuja, Nasarawa, **South West**-Oyo, Ogun, Osun, Ondo, Lagos, Ekiti; **South South**-Edo, Delta, Bayelsa, Rivers, Cross Rivers, Akwa Ibom; **South East**-Enugu, Ebonyi, Imo, Abia, Anambra.⁹

The Nigerian Police Force is the major security agency constitutionally saddled with the responsibility of protecting lives and property in Nigeria.¹⁰ The rise in the heterogeneity of Nigeria further deepens the necessity for a police force.¹¹ However, the lack of capacity of the Nigerian police under the auspice of the federal government to combat insecurity is demonstrated by the empirical indices on the upsurge of insecurity over the decade.¹² The rise in insecurity across the geo-political zones or regions and the failure of the federal government to take decisive measures in combating this societal menace has generated concerns that have resulted in the establishment of security outfits by state governors of the affected

⁹ Akinlua James Tosin Meakin Richard, Umar Aminu Mahmoud and Freemantle Nick, "Current Prevalence Pattern of Hypertension in Nigeria: A Systematic Review," *PLoS ONE* 10, no. 10 (2015): 113-17.

¹⁰ Aidonojie Paul Atagamen, Oluwaseye Oluwayomi Ikubanni, and Alade Adeniyi Oyebade, "Legality of EndSARS Protest: A Quest for Democracy in Nigeria," *Journal of Human Rights, Culture, and Legal System* 2, no. 3 (2022): 209-24; Oji Elizabeth Ama, "Compensations for Victims of Crime in the Nigerian Criminal Justice System: The Need to Follow International Trends," *Nigerian Law Journal* 18 (2015): 122.

¹¹ McDonald James Russel, "Developing a Peace Course in Police Studies: How a Culture of Peace Can Enhance Police Legitimacy in a Democratic Society," *Journal of Peace Education* 12, no. 1 (2015): 74-91.

¹² Nwogwugwu Ngozi and Kupoluyi Adewale, "Interrogating the Desirability of State Policing in Nigeria," *Journal of Humanities and Social Science* 20, no. 5 (2015): 1-7; Nwogwugwu Ngozi and Odedina Adebunola Morenikeji, "Policy Framework for Community and State Policing in Combating Rising Security Challenges in Nigeria," *International Relations and Diplomacy* 6, no. 6 (2018): 334-45.

zones to secure the lives and properties of the people within these regions.¹³ For instance, Amotekun was established in the country's Southwest region to combat the insecurity within the region as a complementary security outfit to federal policing¹⁴, South East Security Network, and Miyetii Allah in the Northern parts of the country.¹⁵ Notwithstanding these security measures, insecurity surges high generally in Nigeria.¹⁶

Unfortunately, while the states in the federation have different forms of insecurity to contend with, the state governors lack the controls to structure the security architecture of their states to competently respond to this challenge as the chief security officers of their states because the constitution does not confer any power on them to control the police. Section 215(4) of the constitution confers power on the governor of a state to give lawful directives to the commission of police of the state regarding the security of the state. However, such directives must be subject to the approval of the president. The constitution excludes the state governor totally from taking any direct security measures for the protection of his people. Therefore, there have been agitations for the decentralization of policing in Nigeria into sub-national entities that accommodate state policing.¹⁷ The proponents of this position consider that state policing under the control of the state governors has the full potential to combat insecurity beyond the capacity of the current policing structure of the nation.

This paper therefore seeks to interrogate the prospects and possible challenges of the state policing system in Nigeria. The paper seeks to contribute to the discourse on security in a heterogeneous country like Nigeria and determine from the empirical data collected the feasibility of the argument in favour of state policing.

2. Method

The research adopted both doctrinal and non-doctrinal. The doctrinal involves the adoption of descriptive and analytical approaches to address the theoretical aspect of the research which includes the concept of state policing and the legal framework of policing in Nigeria. The non-doctrinal method concerns the collection and analysis of empirical data from randomly selected respondents. This is a quantitative approach focused on collecting information from the people from different geo-political zones to understand the level of insecurity in Nigeria since the researchers are not residents in all the geo-political zones that constitute Nigeria. This helped the researchers to conclude that there is insecurity in Nigeria, the police

¹³ Aidonojie Paul Atagamen and Egielewa Peter Eshioke, "Criminality and the Media: Perception and Legality of the Amotekun Security Agency in Nigeria," *International Journal of Comparative Law and Legal Philosophy* 1, no. 3 (2019): 47.

¹⁴ Nwoko Kenneth, "Amotekun: The Southwest Region's Response to the Failures of the Nigerian Police and Worsening Insecurity in Nigeria," *African Identities* 22, no. 1 (2024): 23–34.

¹⁵ Adeyemi Motunrayo, Odebode Adeola, Sabitu Kamoru Abiodun, and Dele-Adisa Olufunso Caroline, "Science, Technology, and Mathematics (STM) Medium of Curbing Insecurity and Economic Depression in South-West Nigeria," *Czech Journal of Multidisciplinary Innovation* 26 (2024): 70–75.

¹⁶ Oyibokure Goodluck Irorohwo Okereka Onofere Princewill and Mukoro Akpomuvire, "Community Policing and Internal Security in Delta and Edo States of Nigeria," *Jurnal Penelitian Universitas Kuningan* 14, no. 3 (2023): 164–96.

¹⁷ Iro Ali Ado, "Crime and Insecurity: The Need for Alternative Policing in Nigeria," *Net Journal of Social Sciences* 4, no. 3 (2016): 33–38.

under the auspice of the federal government have failed in the fight against insecurity, and the people clamour for state policing as a solution to the growing insecurity in Nigeria.

3. Analysis or Discussion

3.1. The Concept of State Policing

State policing simply means the ownership, organization, management, assessment, and mobilization of police by the state government within a geographically defined state locality.¹⁸ This approach takes completely the central control over the police from the federal government to the state governments. Agwanwo suggests that state policing is a form of policing that exists in a federal system by which state governments recruit police officers for the protection of lives and properties within the state.¹⁹ Agwanwo's definition appears to confine the operation of state policing to the federal system. However, Tangba and Audu disagree with this narrowed conception.²⁰

Putting Nigeria into context, Egunjobi defines state police as "a kind of sub-national police formation which is established, organized, maintained and under the direct control and jurisdiction of a particular state (sub-national unit) government".²¹ Ehindero, a former Inspector General of Police defines state police to mean 'the absence of national police'. Also means a locally controlled police force. The state policing system diffuses the federal government of the funding, ownership, mobilization, and appraisal of the police structure.²² The derivative of all the definitions offered above is that state policing involves the control of the operations and logistics of police by a government different from federal or national.²³

State police are not under the national or federal government but a decentralised police force. The surge in crime rates such as ritual killings, armed robbery, Boko-haram insurgency, banditry, kidnapping, rape and murder, activities of unknown gunmen, and so on, and the obvious hopeless attitude and capacity of the Nigerian police under the current poling structure that is controlled centrally increased the clamour for state policing in recent times according to Ehindero.

Over the years, there have been arguments in support and against the operation of state policing in Nigeria. The most vital argument of the proponents of the former is that state policing coincides with the operation of federalism on which the Nigerian Constitution is founded. By the provision of section 2 sub-section 2 of the

¹⁸ Ayorinde Agbonna Samuel and Ariguzo Genevieve, "Implications for State Police in Democratic Nigeria: The Opinions of Stakeholders in Selected States of South West Nigeria," *Nigerian Journal of Social Studies* 23, no. 2 (2020): 210–26.

¹⁹ Agawanwo Destiny Eze, "State Policing and Police Efficiency in Nigeria," *Research on Humanities and Social Sciences* 4, no. 25 (2014): 165–66.

²⁰ Tangba Ojong Echum and Audu Bem Japhet, "The Controversy Over the Creation of State Police in Nigeria," *Sarjana* 35, no. 2 (2020): 40–51.

²¹ Egunjobi Abiodun Akanni, "The Nigeria Federal Practice and the Call for State Police," *International Journal of Advanced Academic Research Social & Management Sciences* 2, no. 7 (2016): 1–14.

²² Kenneth Novak et al., *Police and Society* (Oxford University Press, 2022).

²³ Oyesoji Aremu and Abdul-Rahman Bello Dambazau, *Policing and Terrorism: Challenges and Issues in Intelligence* (Stirling-Horden Publishers Limited, 2014).

1999 Constitution of Nigeria, power is shared between the central government (Federal Government) and the 36 states of the federation.²⁴ By Section 4, both the federal and state governments have their respective legislative bodies in the National and State assemblies respectively while Section 5 vests executive powers of the nation on the president and of the state on the governors.²⁵ Similar to this is the federal democracy operative in the United States of America (USA). USA operates a decentralizing policing system under the control and supervision of local, regional, and national authorities. Each federating state has a police force. For instance, there is the county police that is under the sheriff. Also, the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) and Central Intelligence Agency exist at the national level. Other countries with decentralized policing systems are Australia, Canada, India, Spain, Great Britain, and Switzerland

A further argument in support is the over-concentration of power in the federal government. The burden of responsibilities on the federal government with 68 items on the exclusive legislative list affects the concentration of the government on the security issues of the nation.²⁶ This why the former vice president, Yemi Osibanjo while speaking at the National Security Summit in Abuja in support of state police observed that with the size in terms of landmass and population of Nigeria, it is impossible to police the whole country and meet the one policeman to 400 persons prescribed by the United Nations. He, therefore, recommended state policing including other community policing systems.

Another argument that favours state policing is that it helps the state governor to reduce the problem of youth unemployment in the state. This is because the idea of state policing requires that the state employs the police force youths who are indigenes of the state. They understand the terrain of the state and are close to the grassroots. Notwithstanding the above, one of the strongest oppositions to the operation of state policing is funding. All the states in Nigeria rely on federal allocation for the administration of the state. Unless the states can generate sufficient revenue internally, funding of state police would be a serious problem. The allocation from the federal government is not sufficient to administer the state presently not to mention the running of state police.²⁷ Similarly, there are tendencies for struggle for dominance between federal police and state police as constantly experienced presently between the federal police and other security

²⁴ Anifowose Damilola Joseph Ikubanni Oluwaseye Oluwayomi, Oyebanji Olubunmi Aderemi, Antai Godswill Owoche and Okpoko Mercy, "Examination of Property Tax within the Context of Fiscal Federalism in Nigeria," *NIU Journal of Humanities* 9, no. 2 (2024): 39-50.

²⁵ Oladele Odetokun Olukayode, Aidonjioje Paul Aatagamen, Uzualu James Emokhai, Ikubanni Oluwaseye Oluwayomi, and Oyedeji Adefisayo Ifeoluwa, "An Empirical Study of Criminalizing Minor Infractions of Tax Laws in Nigeria: The Need for Negotiated Punishments," *KIU Journal of Humanities* 7, no. 2 (2022): 157-68.

²⁶ Eme Okechukwu Innocent and Anyadike Nkechi, "Security Challenges and the Imperatives of State Police," *Review of Public Administration and Management* 1, no. 2 (2012): 203-18; Olubade Olushola and Ogunoiki Adeleke, "Regional Security Initiative and Security Challenges in Nigeria: The Case of Operation Amotekun," *Covenant University Journal of Politics and International Affairs* 8, no. 2 (2020): 153-62.

²⁷ Adebayo Peter and Ojo Emmanuel, "The Challenges of Effective Policing as Measure of Controlling the Phenomenon of Police Corruption in Nigeria Today," *International NGO Journal* 4, no. 3 (2009): 070-075.

agencies. This means that state police may pose a further security threat to Nigerians.²⁸ Be that as it may, the competence of state policing to curb insecurity in Nigeria is not in doubt. The opposition or arguments against state policing are operational issues that do not challenge its capacity or incapacity to curb corruption but its operation.

3.2. Legal Framework on Policing in Nigeria

Policing is regulated by two major legislations in Nigeria. These laws are the 1999 Constitution of Nigeria and the Police Act, of 2020.

3.2.1. The 1999 Constitution

The 1999 constitution of Nigeria is the grundnorm by which the Nigerian Police Force was created. The Supreme Court of Nigeria in the *Federal Republic of Nigeria v. Ifegwu*²⁹ held inter alia that the 1999 constitution is the foundation of Nigerian democracy where the rule of law is upheld. This position was further affirmed in *Attorney General of Federation v Abubakar*³⁰ Section 214 (1) of the constitution creates the Nigerian police setting the ground for the enactment of the Police Act, 2020. The section specifically declared the creation of Nigeria with a specific ban on the establishment of any other police for the federation. Unless amended, section 214 (1) is apposite to the unconstitutionality of state policing in Nigeria. Furthermore, by section 215(1) (a), the overall head of the Nigerian police is the Inspector General of Police whose appointment is made by the president of Nigeria. Further to the above, section 215(3) confers on the president or any minister of the federation authorized by the president to give directives to the Inspector General of Police on issues on security in Nigeria which the inspector General of police is mandated to comply with.

In addressing insecurity in the state, the state governor or commissioner authorized by the governor by section 215 (4) has the power to direct the Inspector General of Police. However, the consent and approval of the president or any minister of the federation authorized by him is mandatory before the Inspector General of Police can carry out the directive of the governor. The provision of section 215 indicates clearly that policing in Nigeria is directly under the control and directive of the federal government.

3.2.2. Police Act 2020

This is the primary legislation for the creation, control, management, and supervision of the Nigerian Police Force. The Police Act, 2020 came into force on 15th September 2020. By the provision of Section 139, the Police Act, 2004 was repealed. It is imperative to state that the provision of a framework for the Police Force and ensuring cooperation and partnership between the Police and host communities in maintaining peace, combating crime, protecting liberties, lives, and

²⁸ Peter and Emmanuel.

²⁹ Federal Republic of Nigeria, *Federal Republic of Nigeria v. Ifegwu*, Pt.167 Federation Weekly Law Reports 70 (2003).

³⁰ Attorney General of Federation, *Attorney General of Federation v Abubakar*, pt. 37 All Federation Weekly Law Reports 1264 (2007).

properties as well as other related matters are the primary purposes of establishing the Act. Sections 1 and 2 of the Act define the general objectives of the Act, including the provision of an efficient and effective police service based on the principles of accountability and transparency, protection of human rights, respect for the dignity of all people, and safeguarding of the Constitution's fundamental rights. In the recent case of *Nigerian Police Force & Ors V Police Service Commission & Anor*³¹, Per Ibrahim Mohammed Musa Saulawa of the Supreme Court of Nigeria pronounced the objectives of the Police Act to include summarily accountability and transparency, protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms; and Partnership with other security agencies.

Furthermore, Section 4 of the Act sets out the general duties of the Police which include among others: the prevention and detection of crime as well as the protection of the rights and freedom of every person in Nigeria as provided by the Constitution and other relevant statutes including treaties. This section is in tandem with Section 214 of the 1999 Constitution of Nigeria which recognizes the Police and at the same time clarifies its duties and responsibilities. The power of the police under section 4 of the Police Act was affirmed by Per Biobele Abraham Georgewill, JCA of the Court of Appeal in the recent case of *Amos & Ors. V Daniel & Ors.*³²

Sections 32 and 34 of the Act give the police the powers to effect an arrest and investigate an alleged offense by due process respectively. and this has been affirmed in the cases of the *Inspector General of Police & Ors V Umolo & Anor.*³³ and *Ejoh V Umolo & Ors.*³⁴ The decisions in these cases underscore the position of the law in Nigeria that the responsibility to investigate a matter and determine whether or not the matter should be prosecuted is that of the Police and that courts should be reluctant to interfere with the power of the Police to investigate allegations of crimes. Interestingly, section 32(2) prohibits the Police from arresting a person based on a civil wrong.

Sections 35 and 38 of the Act empower the police to arrest a suspect with or without a warrant. These statutory provisions were reinforced and upheld by the Court of Appeal in the case of *Obi V Inspector General of Police & Ors.*³⁵ By Section 47(1) of the Police Act, 2020, the Inspector General of Police is mandated to remit quarterly to the Attorney General of the Federation, a record of all the arrests made, with or without a warrant, particularly about federal offenses. The same provision is stated in section 47(2), however about the States of the federation and applicable to the Commissioner of Police and the Attorney General of the State. This provision indicates that both the state and the federation are involved in the administration of the police force.

³¹ Nigerian Police Force & Ors, Nigerian Police Force & Ors V Police Service Commission & Anor, LPELR – 59141 (CA) Court of Appeal (2022).

³² Amos & Ors., Amos & Ors. V Daniel & Ors, LPELR-60454 (CA) PP 28-29 Paras. D-F Court of Appeal (2023).

³³ Inspector General of Police & Ors, Inspector General of Police & Ors V Umolo, LPELR-57715 (CA) Court of Appeal (2022).

³⁴ Ejoh, Ejoh V Umolo & Ors, LPELR-57698 (CA) Court of Appeal (2022).

³⁵ Obi, Obi V Inspector General of Police & Ors, LPELR-60782 (SC) Supreme Court (2023).

3.3. Sample Size and Sampling Techniques

To appreciate the level of insecurity in Nigeria, this study focused on exploring all the six geo-political zones that constitute present-day Nigeria. To this end, the study targeted a sample size of 1, 051 respondents across all six geo-political zones in Nigeria to extract an accurate and detailed representative response. The respondents were gathered through a simple random method which method according to scholars helps to reach wider and different categories of audience thereby giving credibility to the research outcome.³⁶ Interestingly, Oladele et al³⁷ observed that simple random sampling is most suitable for research of this nature considering its inherent advantages. These advantages include but are not limited to

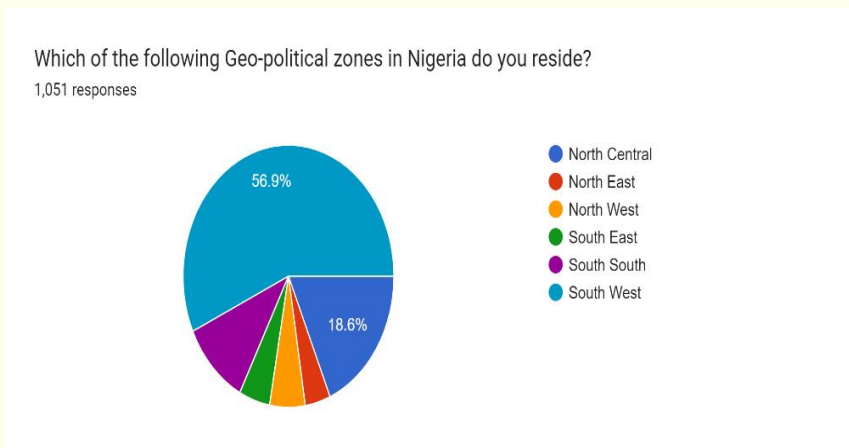
1. The technique works efficiently for choosing participants from a wide range of demographics
2. Results are often credible because the respondents are unknown hence the probability of harvesting inequitable and prejudiced responses is unlikely because respondents are usually neutral.
3. The method is easy to use and requires no special expertise for data analysis.³⁸

3.4. Data Presentation and Analysis

Research Question one

Figure 1

The representation of the geo-political zones where the respondents reside in Nigeria



³⁶ Idahosa Milicent Ekata, Agbale Omohotse, and Aidonojie Paul Atagamen, "The Causes and Legal Implications Concerning Assault Against Healthcare Providers by Patients or Their Relatives in Nigeria," *KIU Journal of Humanities* 7, no. 4 (2023): 79–88; Aidonojie Paul Atagamen, Adebayo Adesoji Kolawole, Obieshi Eregbuonye, Owoche Antai Godswill, Ogbemudia Isaac Ottah and Mukhlis Muhammad, "The Prospect, Legal, and Socio-Economic Implication of Metaverse Operation in Nigeria," *YURISDIKSI: Jurnal Wacana Hukum Dan Sains* 19, no. 4 (2024): 455–75.

³⁷ Oladele Odetokun Olukayode and Ifeoluwa, "An Empirical Study of Criminalizing Minor Infractions of Tax Laws in Nigeria: The Need for Negotiated Punishments."

³⁸ Aidonojie Paul Atagamen, Ikubanni Oluwaseye Oluwayomi, and Nosakhare Okuonghae, "The Prospects, Challenges, and Legal Issues of Digital Banking in Nigeria," *Cogito* 14, no. 3 (2022): 1123.

Table 1

Valid response of the respondents identifying the geo-political zone they reside in Nigeria

Geopolitical Zones in Nigeria	Respondents' Responses	Percentage
North Central	195	18.6%
North East	41	3.9%
North West	57	5.4%
South East	50	4.8%
South South	110	10.5%
South West	598	56.9%
Total	1,051	100%

Figure 1 and **Table 1** indicate the identification of the geo-political zones that the respondents reside.

Research Question Two

Figure 2 represents how the respondents responded to the inquiry on whether they think that there is insecurity in Nigeria

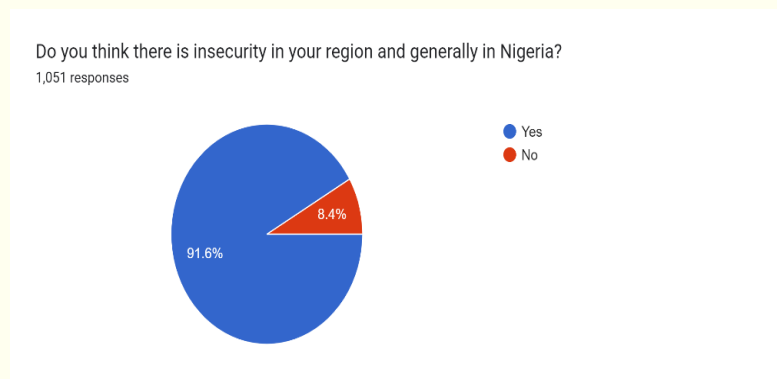


Table 2

The respondents confirm that there is insecurity across all the geo-political zones in Nigeria

	Response	Percentage
Valid Yes	968	91.6%
Valid No	88	8.4%
Total	1,051	100%

Figure 1 and **Table 1** represent the confirmation of the randomly selected respondents that there is insecurity in Nigeria.

Research Question Three

Figure 3

Representation of the responses of the respondents to the question that seeks to determine whether the Nigerian Police Force under the control of the federal government of Nigeria has competently combated insecurity in Nigeria over the last decade.

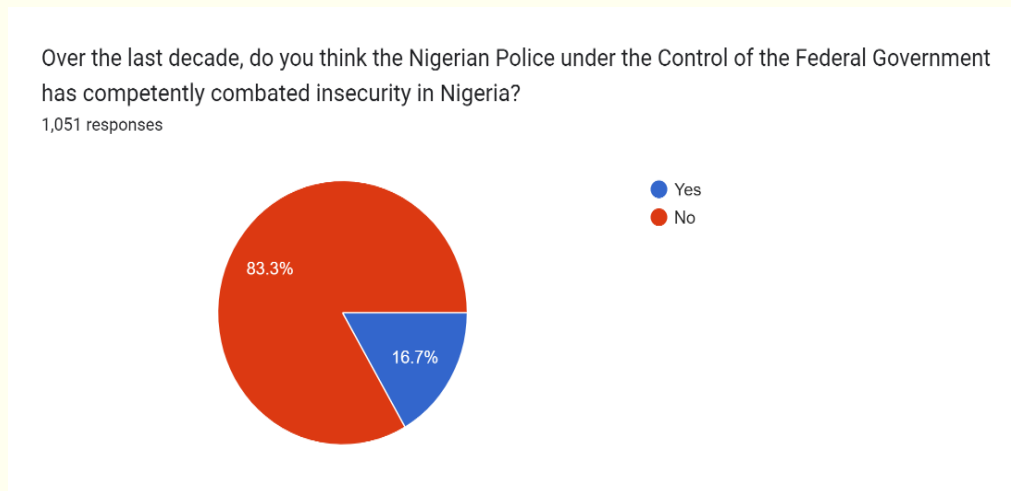


Table 3

Table showing that a larger percentage of the respondents confirmed that over the last decade, the Nigerian Police Force under the control of the federal government of Nigeria has competently combated insecurity in Nigeria.

	Response	Percentage
Valid Yes	175	16.7%
Valid No	876	83.3%
Total	1,051	100%

Figure 3 and **Table 3** are the reflections on how the respondents reacted to the question concerning the performance of the Nigerian police under the control of the federal government in combating insecurity in Nigeria. Their response confirms the poor or underperformance of the Nigerian police under the federal government in combating insecurity.

Research Question four

Figure 4 indicates the various forms of insecurity in Nigeria

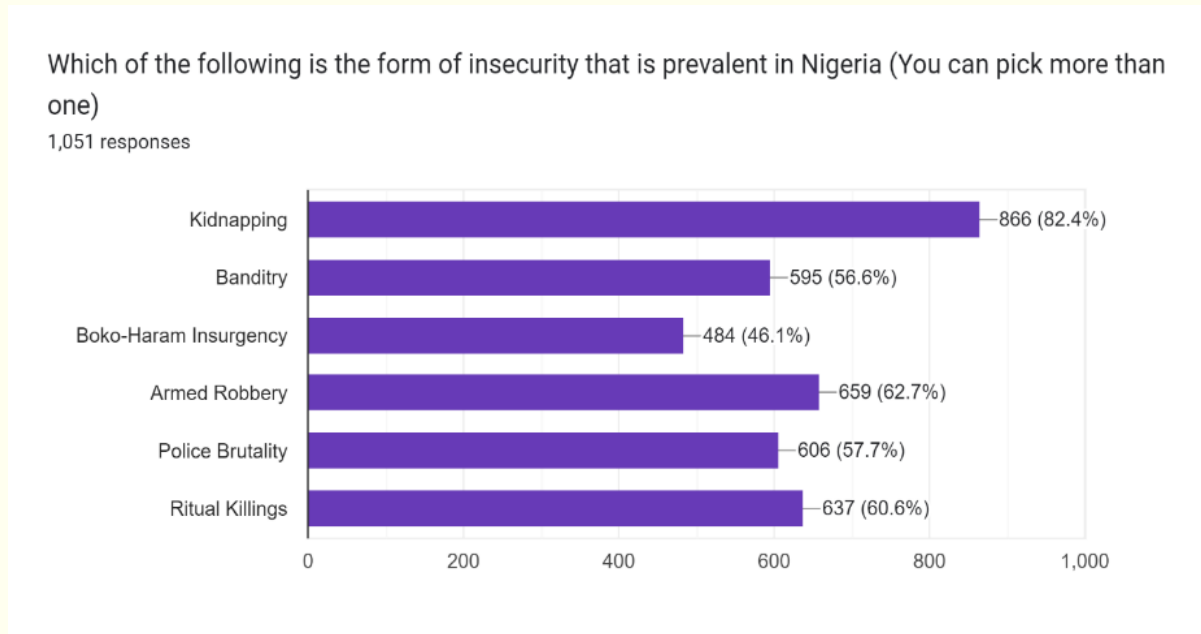


Table 4 Valid cluster responses on the various forms of insecurity challenges facing Nigeria

Forms of Insecurity in Nigeria	Cluster of Response	Percentage
Kidnapping	866	82.4%
Banditry	595	56.6%
Boko-Haram Insurgency	484	46.1%
Armed Robbery	659	62.7%
Police Brutality	606	57.7%
Ritual Killings	637	60.6%

Figure 4 and **Table 4** are valid responses to the forms of insecurity prevalent in Nigeria

Question five

Figure 5 Valid responses of the respondents confirming that the State Policing System has the prospect of helping to curb insecurity issues in Nigeria

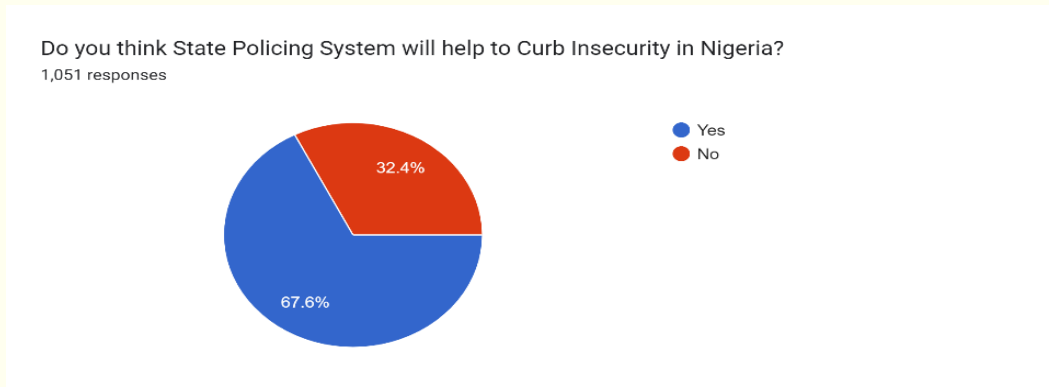


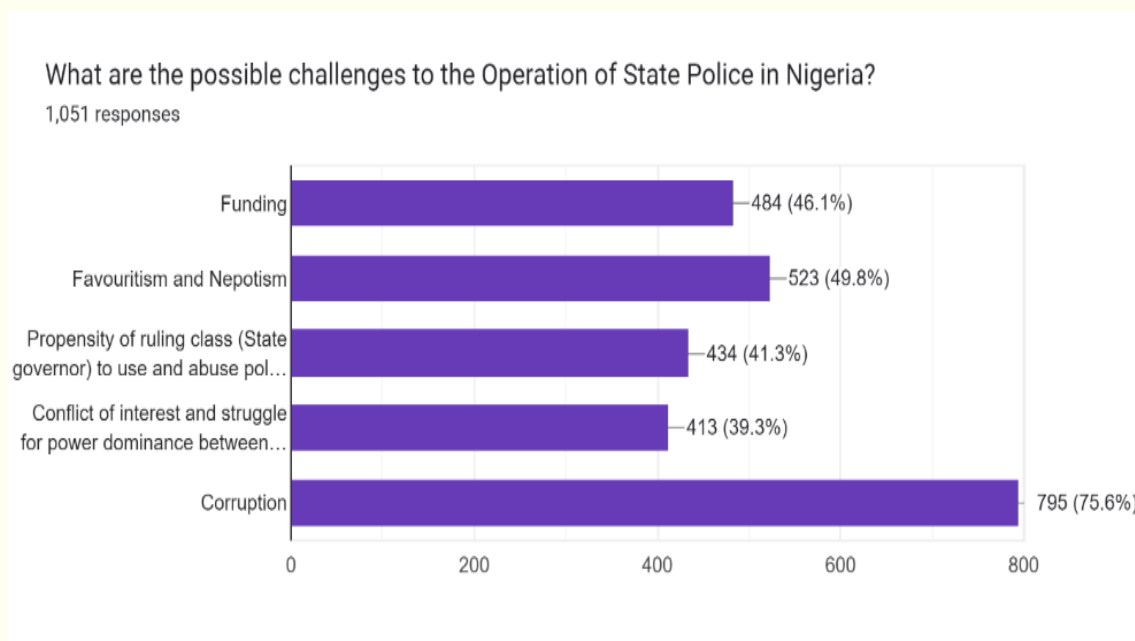
Table 5 represents how the respondents responded to the prospect of the State Policing System helping to curb insecurity in Nigeria

	Response	Percentage
Valid Yes	710	67.6%
Valid No	341	32.4%
Total	1,051	100%

Figure 5 and **Table 5** above are valid confirmations of the prospect of the state policing system in curbing insecurity in Nigeria

Question six

Figure 6 reflects the cluster valid responses of the respondents to the possible challenges to the operation of state policing in Nigeria



4. Discussion of Findings

This study analyses the data collected from the randomly selected respondents and identifies the findings of the study thus:

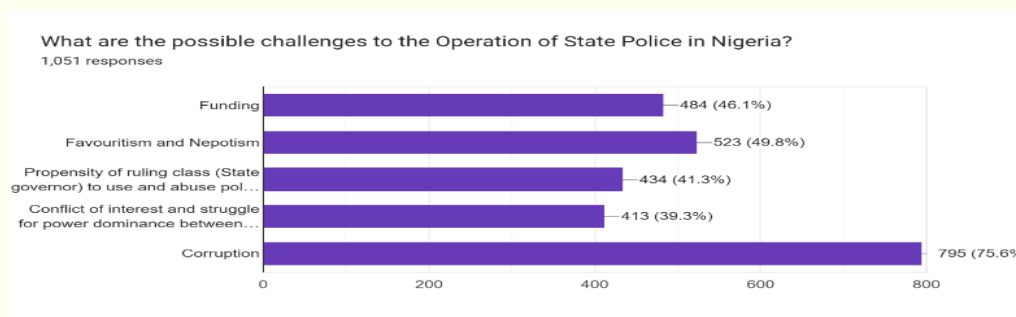
A careful perusal of Figure 1 and Table 1 reveals that the questionnaire was distributed across the six geo-political zones of Nigeria. This demographical selection of the respondents offers credibility to the outcome of the study. A total of 1, 051 respondents were randomly selected to guarantee neutral, impartial, and unbiased responses. The South West has the highest representation with 598 respondents which equates to 56.9% of the total number of respondents while the North Central has the second highest representation with 195 respondents which equates to 18.6%. Others in the order of their representation are South South with 110 respondents which equates to 4.8%, North West has 57 respondents (5.45%), South East has 50 respondents (4.8%), and finally North East with 41 respondents (3.9%) respectively.

As shown in Figure 2 and Table 2 above, empirical data collected demonstrates that there is insecurity across the six geo-political zones that constitute Nigeria. A total of 963 (91.6%) of the respondents alluded to the existence of this menace in Nigeria while an insignificant 88 (8.4%) of the respondents denied that there is insecurity in Nigeria. To this end, it was imperative to determine how the Nigerian Police has fared under the control of the federal government in combating insecurity in Nigeria. Figure 3 and Table demonstrates that 876 (83.3%) respondents out of a total of 1,051 confirmed that the Nigerian police under the control of the federal government have failed woefully in combating insecurity. This justifies the necessity for state policing. Figure 4 and Table reveal that kidnapping, Banditry, Boko-Haram insurgency, Armed robbery, Police brutality, and ritual killings are forms of insecurity prevalent in Nigeria.

Be that as it may, based on the failure of the Nigerian police under the control of the federal government of Nigeria to combat insecurity, it became sacrosanct to empirically determine the prospect of state policing in Nigeria. To this end, Figure 5 and Table 5 show the respondents' thoughts on the prospect of state policing in Nigeria. 710 (67.6%) respondents indicated that state policing has the prospect of curbing insecurity in Nigeria. However, 341(32.4%) of the respondents disagree with the prospect of state policing curbing insecurity in Nigeria.

4.1. Possible Challenges of State Policing in Nigeria

Figure 6 reflects the cluster valid responses of the respondents to the possible challenges to the operation of state policing in Nigeria



Even with the possibility of state policing curbing insecurity in Nigeria, the survey conducted as shown in Figure 6 above revealed the following possible challenges identified by respondents that may stifle the operation of state policing in Nigeria:

1. Funding: identified by 484 (46.1%) of the respondents. Adebayo and Ojo in their earlier research buttressed the issue of funding as a possible challenge to the operation of state police in Nigeria because most states of the federation still depend on federal allocation to finance the running of their states.³⁹ State policing would worsen the already weak financial position of the state
2. Favouritism and Nepotism as revealed by 523 (49.8%) of the respondents.
3. The propensity of the ruling class (state governors) to use and abuse state police against their opponents was identified by 434 (41.3%) of the respondents as one of the possible challenges of state policing in Nigeria
4. Conflict of interest and struggle for power dominance between federal and state police was also identified as a possible challenge to state policing in Nigeria as indicated by 413 (39.3%) respondents. Muazu argued that just as conflict arises between the police and the army as rival security agencies, conflict between federal and state police is inevitable as both agencies would constantly test their dominance over the other.⁴⁰
5. Corruption: This is one of the major challenges to the growth of Nigeria as a nation. It is not surprising that 795 (75.6%) identified corruption as one of the possible challenges to state policing in Nigeria.

5. Conclusion

There is no doubt that the rise in insecurity in Nigeria over the last decade is alarming. There have been unending cases of kidnapping, banditry, armed robbery, ritual killings, secessionist struggles, Boko-haram insurgency, cultism, and so on in different parts of Nigeria. These are a testament to the inability of the Nigerian police force under the current legal structure to protect the lives and properties of the Nigerian people. This study sheds light on the level of insecurity across the various geo-political zones that constitute the Nigerian state. The results from the empirical data collected demonstrate that across the six geo-political zones there are concerns that the federal policing system can no longer hold the country together in the area of security. Therefore, there are agitations for the decentralization of the current federal policing system and the creation of a state policing system that confers the responsibility for the security of the people within a state on the governor of the state without necessarily abolishing the federal policing system. It thus suggests that state policing would play a complementary role to the federal policing system in the fight against insecurity in Nigeria.

³⁹ Peter and Emmanuel, "The Challenges of Effective Policing as Measure of Controlling the Phenomenon of Police Corruption in Nigeria Today."

⁴⁰ Muazu Hammed, "State Police in Nigeria: Issues and Contestations," *Nigerian Journal of Policy and Strategy* 14, no. 2 (2004): 21.

There are prospects for state policing in Nigeria. However, the study identified some of the possible challenges to its operation in Nigeria which include funding, favoritism and nepotism in the recruitment of officers, corruption, and conflict between federal and state police officers amongst others. It is there for important that these challenges are borne in mind before the establishment of state policing. Otherwise, its operation may be dead on arrival. Therefore, recommendations for effective policing system are sacrosanct. Firstly, there is the need for the amendment of the current legal framework on policing in Nigeria to give away for the state policing system. Secondly, there is a need for a regulatory body that sets the standard for recruitment and training of police officers at both federal and state levels. Thirdly, there is a need for the State Police Service Commission similar to the Federal Police Service Commission to facilitate the promotion, recruitment, and discipline of state police officers; and lastly, the development of legislative measures and operational guidelines that would enhance the independence of state police to shield them from the political control of the state governors.

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