



Police and governance for sustainable development in Nigeria

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Abstract. *Exercising political power to utilise nation's resources for citizens' progress for better tomorrow is often constrained in atmosphere of insecurity. This makes security, law enforcement and order inevitable function of police across the world. In Nigeria today, combating insecurity has been difficult for the police. So, people are no longer free to lawfully move around to look for what to eat including worship places for fear of being bombed, killed, or kidnapped. Unfortunately, the Islamic States of West African Province has joined Boko Haram, herdsmen, and other bandits in making Nigeria more unsafe. The paper investigated the performance and challenges of police towards achieving governance for sustainable development in Nigeria. Data were sourced from textbooks, journals, newspapers, conferences, and magazines. Descriptive method was used to analyse the data. Using the Frustration-Aggression theory as theoretical framework, the police were identified as governance work in progress in ensuring sustainable development. The paper found police performance unimpressive and identified poor political leadership and followership, disrespect to law, poor Nigerian characters, deprivation of people basic socio-economic needs unhealthy struggles for survival, pervasive level of poverty and unemployment as major issues challenging police performance. The paper concluded that police non-performance in Nigeria reflected the characters of political leaders. It recommended among others that there should be ethical rebirth and self cleansing for political leaders, police and other Nigerians to rejuvenate police performance to enhance governance for progress of present and future Nigeria.*

Keywords: *Police, Government, Governance, Development, Sustainable Development, Constitution.*

JEL: D73, H11, H83, Q01, Q56, R58.

1. Introduction

Across the world, police are seen as governance work in progress for sustainable development. Therefore, it will not make sense to separate police from governance; especially when control and maintenance issue and building country durable socio-economic values for common good of its present and future generation is being considered. It should be noted that there is nothing glorious for a country to be unsafe and poor just as nothing is glorious for rulers to be insensitive of citizens' security and welfare. In other words, nothing is glorious for a nation to be governed poorly. In any part of the world, insensitive leaders governed badly and plunged a country into poor policing, unemployment, poverty, underemployment, untold hardship, breakdown of law, breach of peace and harmony, injustice, insecurity, and countless other mundane things. It may not sound strange in saying the fact that if governance is all about providing the needs of people to live a pleasant life and sustain it, those to provide all of the needed service cannot perform in a situation of insecurity and unsafe environment. This is where the police roles of keeping peace; enforcing laws and regulations; protecting life and ensuring a safer environment for people to co-exist and transact their lawful business; preventing wrongdoings, apprehending lawbreakers and arraigning them for prosecution in accordance with the law just to mention few of them have tied police and governance for sustainable development in Nigeria together as well as elsewhere in the world.

Because development is said to have anchored on security, the reality of governance issues for sustainable development in Nigeria will be a mere castle on the air without police. Hence, the 1979 Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria uniquely established single police force for the entire country and prohibited police establishment in other parts of Nigeria. This provision was also re-enacted by section 214 (1) of 1999 Constitution, which among others stated: "there shall be a police force for Nigeria, which shall be known as the Nigeria police force, and subject to the provisions of this section, no other police force shall be established for the federation or any part thereof." This provision of law has presented the police as the lead internal security agency for Nigeria. Hence, the police primary functions as enshrined in the enabling legislations, includes law enforcement, protection of lives and property, prevention and detection of wrongdoings; arrest and prosecution of criminals, and ensuring safer environment. To perform these statutory responsibilities, the police have to develop a wide range of crime prevention strategies and policies, which are to be implemented through the deployment of human and material resources (Abba, 2014). Thus, as parts of power

allocated to the police by these legislations while discharging their duties include arresting, detaining, prosecuting and making use of force. But, Arase (2015:15) cautioned that “if the police must use force, it must at all times based on the rule of law, be proportionate and result in the least possible damage.”

However, there have been some manners of unfriendly relations between the police and most members of the public. As deduced, when a government agency that provides protective and law enforcement services to advance the course of public safety, law and order, justice and equity, human dignity and freedom, peaceful environment, and defend people rights violation have a disdained outlook from the people they are serving? A soothsayer should not be needed to know that something is wrong somewhere. In the view of Nwakamma (2010:28), “it is understood that the Nigeria police, which was not a product of the Nigerian people was an instrument of coercion against its people. At this time, the basic function of the police was operational and enforcement for the singular interest of the British colonial master.” According to Nwolise (2004), the Nigeria police force from its inception was not a natural growth of the indigenous Nigeria efforts. It was brain child of the British colonial government to protect the colonial government and suppress the indigenous Nigerians that opposed to the success of colonial exploitation mandate. Hence, from the history of the police establishment in Nigeria, it was doctored in fighting for the British colonial interest as against securing freedom and peace of Nigerian citizens. This establishment became the genesis of problems the police have with Nigerian citizens today.

Contributing, Dawodu (2007:7) argued that “no country prospers when its citizens and their police are at dagger-drawn.” Therefore, it is strange that pervasive crimes and criminalities have now occupied Nigeria space and rebranded the country as an insecure nation. Consequently, Ogunyemi (2022) made a detailed account of the lamentation of the Ogun state league of Imams and Alfas over continued rising insecurity in Nigeria. According to the statement which was signed by President-general, Shaykh Dhikrullahi Afe-Babalola and Secretary-General, Shaykh Imam Tajudeen Adewunmi, “the entire Muslims of Ogun State were concerned about the unpleasant state of the country. The insecurity had pervaded the length and breadth of the country such that no part of Nigeria is secure anymore. The unfortunate killings, kidnappings, terrorism, and other act of banditries perpetrated are indisputably carried out by humans who live and interact within the vulnerable communities. The fate of public higher institutions in this country is gradually becoming like those of primary and secondary schools, which were killed as a result

of mismanagement and bad policies of our government. Nigeria, as a country would remain a failing state if there are no deliberate commitments by government at all levels. Corruption is killing Nigeria in a way that it could send the country to an early grave.” There is no doubt that the incessant and prolong strike of the Academic Staff of University Union (ASUU) was provoked by long time neglect and draconian policies of government. For about four years now, Nigeria has earned itself the notorious name of the poverty capital headquarters of the world. In the area human insecurity, table 1 below is presented to show what can be described as a cruel waste to human capital development through genocide attack on Nigerians.

Table 1: *Incidence of People Killed, Kidnapped, and Injured from 1st January to 29th July, 2022 in Nigeria*

Six Geo-Political Zone	No. of Persons Injured	No. of Persons Killed	No. of Persons Kidnapped
North-East	1,304	4,798	1,200
North-West	1,845	3,229	2,989
North central	994	1,748	950
South-West	820	986	695
South-East	910	1,020	557
South-South	578	886	705

Source: Odeniyi (2022); Transparency International (2022).

Data showed in table 1 above is not just a sacrilege portraying unfortunate misery and agony of insecurity that Nigerians are being faced. This has raised the question whether life is not having value in Nigeria anymore. Sequel to this, Umoru (2022) documented the alarm raised by the Southern and Middle-Belt Leaders’ Forum (SMBLF) over persistent rising of cases in terrorism, killings, kidnappings, and wanton destruction of lives and property in all parts of Nigeria and particularly the inability of the police to nip them in the bud. In other words, this according to them is provoking agitation for state police and self-defence. In other words, Johnson & Akinrefon (2022) stated that the Chairman of the Southern Governors’ Forum, Mr. Rotimi Akeredolu saw the directive of Zamfara state government to its citizens to be armed for self-defence as frustration from not being protected by the national police.

All of the above discourses are in conformity to Professor Femi Odekunle cited in Oikhala (2022:113) that figuratively, blood has been flowing on the streets of many of our erstwhile commercially-viable cities, particularly Maiduguri, Jos, Kano, and Kaduna, which transformed into semi-battle ready with government security operatives and citizens living in perpetual fear of unsurprising eventualities of mayhem. This is also in tandem with Oikhala (2022:116) as a catalyst to put an end

to incessant destruction of lives and property via bombings, ritual killings, kidnappings, and especially to prevent further infiltration of Boko Haram bombers and herdsmen aggressors into the South-West geopolitical zone, the six State Governments consisting of Osun, Ondo, Ogun, Oyo, Ekiti, and Lagos organised a regional security summit to look at the possible ways to restore security and liberate their people from such undesirable and perfidious threats of criminals and secure their region.

In line with the foregoing, all appeared not well about police and governance for sustainable development in Nigeria. The paper is uncomfortable with how the Nigerian government can afford to attest that it stands to give out its best for security and welfare of Nigeria and sustain it, when its citizens are being slaughtered with tumultuous flowing of blood daily that has flooded and drenched nearly all streets of the country. It is on this note, the question may be easily asked on what the police have been doing to the extent that internal security has gone towards a level of crossroad with Nigerians being mercilessly killed in thousands on daily basis? It may also worth asking if national police force is still being relevant in governance for sustainable development in Nigeria when virtually all socio-economic sectors of the economy were on the brink of collapse on account of insecurity and bad governance? Hospitals are becoming mere consulting clinics; educational standard is deteriorating on daily basis; dilapidated structures are being paraded in the name of school buildings; universities structures are becoming gloried secondary schools; pot-holes on the roads are being turned to kidnapping and other death traps for road users; erratic power and acute scarcity of water supplies are sending technical with other socioeconomic businesses into untold oblivion; plethora of daily terrible fierce crimes are becoming more heartbreaking; while the values of social life being dropping below tolerance level; the monumental rising rate of poverty, unemployment, and underemployment have been growing at astronomical level daily to say the least.

As noted in Adelegan (2009), majority of people have not even acknowledged the fact that governance is different from government. In a wider perspective, governance is used to refer to all activities of governing a country as prescribed and permitted by rules. In real sense of it, governance is as old as humanity itself. It can be said to be a process that might have originated from the biblical Garden of Eden, where Adam as the head of his family directed affairs and activities of the garden. In this context, governance is a process, which involves the controlling and steering of public affairs to meet the needs that make society to enjoy the basic needs of life.

It is when these needs are gainfully sustained that issue of sustainable development comes about. This makes governance a very wide and complex issue because its intent and purpose gives power to some people to legally direct the affairs of a country; control people; make laws for good order; enforce laws; interpret laws; administer justice; establish and organise public services; develop regulatory policies and generally; oversee the conduct of populace and ensure that people demonstrate strong and absolute patriotism, commitment and humility to governance in order to achieve the basic needs of the entire people for this present and future generations. It needs to be added that the agent in which state has vested power and entrusted to undertake its business of governance is referred to as government (Aghayere, 2007; Akpotor, 2015).

According to section 14 (2) (b) and (c) of the 1999 Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, security and welfare of the people is defined as the “A to Z” of government while people must be allowed to participate in their own government in the way and manner that the constitution recognised. Therefore, government is the institution of the state, which deals with the constitution in steering the control of people and public institutions. On the other hand, government is a process or art of governance in order to meet the needs of the people. This makes government as the propeller or the force that drives governance.

2. Literature review and theoretical framework

This part attempted discussions on two issues. These are theoretical and conceptual issues. Beyond the fact that theoretical issue assists in knowing this paper direction, it helps to choose the precise methods of data and suitable analysis. Also, the theoretical issue is useful to explain the relationship between the police and governance for sustainable development in Nigeria with a view to knowing the major domestic issues confronting the police performance and the remedial actions that are needed to be taken. In the contrary, the conceptual issue is simply about the identification of some inseparable concepts known to have been associated with police and sustainable development in Nigeria and discuss them in order of their relevance to the paper.

On a general note, there is yet to be agreement among police scholars on one-best fit definition of police. This has not just been problematic in attempt to theorise the concept, but it even become difficult to give it a common definition. The reason for this definitional challenge is not unconnected with the wide scope and complex

nature of police functions. The police perform the tasks allocated to it by legislations of a given country. These tasks are varied from one country to another. In Nigeria, the scenario is even different in some aspects within the country especially between the Northern and Southern part. For instance, in the North, the criminal procedure code allowed the court to develop charges against suspect while in the South; the criminal procedure act vested the responsibility for charging a suspect on police.

2.1. Theoretical Issue

Many intellectuals have always based their work on any perspective that suits their interest or area of their studies to achieve better, valid or reliable results. This can be understood from the point of view that policing is a wide and very complex concept with different faces. Hence, in police studies, the challenge of one-best-fit definition still subsists. In view of this, Frustration-Aggression Theory (FAT) associated with Dollard et al (1939) is adopted as the theoretical underpinning of this paper.

From the assumption of this theory, aggression is the result of frustration. In other words, a hungry man is an angry man. As used in this paper, one critical issue is raised for clarification. It helps to comprehend that the terrible state of crimes and criminalities thumping Nigeria is the result of prolong years of neglect of citizens' welfare by government. To put it in another way, the rising insecurity that is defying police efforts in Nigeria is youth revolt against injustice, hunger, poverty, hardship, unemployment, underemployment, starvation, and socio-economic disasters inflicted on Nigerians by bad leaders who used public resources to pursue their self gains and abandoned the masses to suffer. This conformed to a wise saying that "it is only a mad man that would stand on the way of a moving trail." In a situation where citizens are being pushed to revolt against poverty, hardship and hunger inflicted by bad government, it will amount to chasing a shadow and scheming for the police confront almost the entire masses.

The foregoing supported the view of Nwolise (2019:100) that "may be our leaders in their in-fighting and struggle over national resources, have not noticed the great malady Nigeria is currently facing. Nigerian youths have revolted against the society after decades of neglect. Those that could not bear staying here anymore left for abroad, and hundreds of them have died in the deserts of Morocco trying to cross to Spain, or in the seas. Many have walked into slavery abroad. Thousands of

those who chose to remain in Nigeria have taken to kidnapping, armed robbery, yahoo-yahoo, yahoo-plus (the spiritual dimension of yahooing), ritual killing, ritual-rape, grave hunting for human parts, cults and cult wars, cattle rustling, exam malpractices, marks buying, vote buying and vote selling, terrorism and insurgency...”

2.2. Conceptual Issues

There are some concepts that are so much related to the subject of discourse. There are many of them. But, attempts are made to identify five of them. These are the Nigeria police force, objective of the police, government, governance, development, sustainable development, and constitution. Their clarifications were based on the values to the study issues.

2.2.1. The Concept of the Nigeria Police Force

As noted in Nmerole (2008:1), the word police was derived from the Greek word “polis.” It is used to refer that part of non-ecclesiastical administration that is concerned with “safety, health, and order of the State.” It is an institution of government, which is responsible for the preservation of law and order, detection of crime and enforcement of law. Drawing from this, the 1979 Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria uniquely established for the entire country a single police force. It went on to prohibit the establishment of any parallel police force in any part of the federation. This provision was also re-enacted by section 214 (1) of the current 1999 Constitution, which stated: “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.”

Ezeife (1994) described the police as a civil force of Nigeria, which is established by law to maintain law and order through the protection of lives and property; prevention and detention of crime; enforcement of laws of the land and performance of other ancillary services such as rescue operations as determined by the state based on the peculiar needs, and the historical evolution the country itself. This is aligned with section 215 (3) that the “President or such other Minister of the Government of the Federation as may authorise in that behalf may give to the

Inspector-General of Police such lawful directions with respect to the maintenance and securing of public safety and public order as may be considered necessary..”

The description given above also aligned with Dawodu (2007:9) that described the Nigeria police force as the only force that stand out with an age long distinguishing characteristics. It is the only force that spans the whole country with relatively high and increasing public role. As he puts it, “the pressure exerted by this rising role; the resulting intensification of political activities and the promotion of a widening range of socio-economic pursuits, all of which are impacting on the role of the police not always in a rational manner.” Observably, this is why; all over this country, there is a concern that some assessment is needed of the capabilities and potentials of the police performance especially when governance in this Nigeria is being contemplated. Such review will help to appreciate the challenges facing this critical government institution that is responsible for the internal security service of this country. Dawodu however, was not economic with the truth in saying that the Nigeria police force has not been a critical success factor in the development process of the country.

2.2.2. Objectives of the Nigeria Police Force

The concept of police goals in Nigeria governance process is sacrosanct to determine its performance and challenges it has faced. As observed in Nwakanma (2010:35), policing all over the world is a serious business. “A serious business because; the survival of every society is dependent upon the effectiveness of its police; as in the medieval era, many societies went into extinction as a result of a poorly coordinated policing system.” In Nigeria, the police are meant to maintain law and order as well as to ensure a secure and peaceful co-existence of the citizenry. According to Abba (2015), the purpose of the Nigeria police force includes securing life, securing property, and securing environment, which is good enough for transacting government business. He added that is the core function of the police to provide security for electoral process and in securing the electoral process, the police are to ensure the safety and security of people, property, and environment before, during, and after the voting exercise without bias and in line with extant laws (Electoral Act, 2022).

Section 4 (a-i) of the Police Act No. 2, 2020 gave elaborate reason for the existence of the police in Nigeria. Unequivocally, it spells out the primary functions of the police force as stated below:

- (a) prevent and detect crimes and protect the rights and freedom of every person in Nigeria as provided in the Constitution, the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights and any other law;
- (b) maintain public safety law and order;
- (c) protect the lives and property of all persons in Nigeria;
- (d) enforce all always and regulations without any prejudice to the enabling Acts of other security agencies;
- (e) discharge such duties within and outside Nigeria as may be required of it under this Act or any other law;
- (f) collaborate with other agencies to take any necessary action and provide the required assistance or support to persons in distress, including victims of road accidents, fire disasters, earthquakes and floods;
- (g) facilitate the free passage and movement on highways, roads and streets open to the public;
- (h) adopt community partnership in the discharge of its responsibilities under this Act or under any other law; and
- (i) vet and approve the registration of private detective schools and private investigative outfits

As noted above, the basic objectives of the Nigeria police include ensuring social order, peace and safety of the citizens and environmental tranquillity. As well observed from the various legislations, the synopsis of the police objectives have centred round the phrase “to make Nigeria a safer and more secure for socio-economic development for everyone living in Nigeria.” As Arase (2015:26) puts it, “the prime concern of the is to lessen the opportunity for crime; enforce laws and maintain peace within Nigeria; to bring police and public together for teamwork to enhance police efficiency and make Nigeria comfortable and a safer place for all.”

The foregoing properly captured the thoughts of Odekunle (1991), Alemika (2011), and Shaw (2012). According to Odekunle (1991), the central objective of the police is to provide security or at least a social and psychological feeling of security for a majority of the populace, and for the most time. In his view, Alemika (2011) saw police as a mirror in which the public could view the direction of government with regards to governance process in public interest and welfare. It is here, that he anchored his argument that a country is good when the police system is effective, efficient, and command public confidence. Hence, the essence of the police in Nigeria is to be the defender and guarantor of public safety. For Shaw (2012), the ‘abc’ of the police is protection of lives and property as well as prevention of crime

and disorder. The summary of the police objective in order to make Nigeria governable for sustainable development therefore, are to:

- 1) prevent, control and fight criminality;
- 2) maintain peace and order;
- 3) render assistance and services to all citizens needing or requiring security; and,
- 4) favourably symbolise the law and the government by always upholding the rule of law among others.

To accomplish its objectives, the police are guided by rules and legislations. As prescribed in the Nigeria Police Regulations 353 of 2020, a police officer shall not conduct himself in such manner as to bring his private interests into conflict with his public duties or in such manner as is likely to cause a suspicion in the mind of any reasonable person that he has:

- (a) allowed his private interests to come into conflict with his public duties; or
- (b) used his public position for his private advantage.

As provided in sections 43, 44, 50, 52, 55 and 56 among others of Administration of Criminal Justice Act, 2015, the police are to execute warrant (s.43); arrest with or without warrant (s.44); prevent offences and injury to public property (s.50); arrest offenders and prevent wrongdoing (s.52); maintain security for good behaviour for suspected persons (s.55) and for habitual offenders (s.56). Besides, sections 1, 2, 3, and 4, of the Public Order Act, 1979, empowered the police to regulate assemblies, meetings, and processions (s.1); stop assemblies, meetings, and processions that violate the rules (s.2); stop unlawful assemblies (s.3); and issue proclamations among others for the preservations of public order (s.4).

But, with all of the above, the police performance has not only been too low; the police and the Nigerian public have been living as cat and rat. It cannot be understatement to say that if some Nigerians may see snake and police, they would prefer to kill the police and let the snake go. To worsen this unfriendly police-public relation, some police personnel have not relaxed from the disgraceful act of extortions, extra-judicial killings, tortures, brutality, and incivility to the public they are employed to serve.

While presenting his ten point agenda, which he called the philosophy of the paradigm shift, Ehindero (2006:4) lamented the sad 'Apo Six' incident in Abuja where six Igbo traders were shot dead by the police on allegations of armed robbery. As envisaged, this case became litmus test for the then Inspector-General of Police to resolve that the Nigeria police force was no longer safe haven for erring police

personnel. So, the arraignment and prosecution of such errant personnel and payment of compensation to the victim families did not reduce the unprofessional conducts of some of them. In his lamentation, the former Police Chief said: “let me say that few of you are still tarnishing the image of the Nigeria police and our great Mopol. Some of you are still busy extorting money from motorists. Some have been arrested for criminal activities. It is your job to identify and expose those of your colleagues who are tarnishing your image. Don’t hide them; they might implicate you if you don’t expose them” (Dawodu, 2007:107).

2.2.3. Government

Every country has government. Government in this sense, is the agent of the country through, which the country can achieve its goals. The organisation of government varies from one country to another. For instance, Nigeria operates a federal and presidential government while United Kingdom operates unitary and parliamentary (Aghayere, 2007). Irrespective of any organisation of government of a country, the fact is that government acts as livewire, eyes, and nose of every country. The rules and laws, which exist in managing the business of the country, are the direct responsibilities of government.

Therefore, government makes laws, which are translated into different policies that are implemented by the various ministries such as health, education, works, power and extra-ministerial agencies established to assist the government to govern and pursue all the policy objectives of a country to achieve all the needs of a country and the people. It is from this angle that this paper adopted the concept of government prescribed in section 14 (2) (b) of the 1999 Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria that “the security and welfare of the people shall be the primary purpose of government” (The Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999).

2.2.4. Governance

Like the police, the concept of governance is also a controversial one. It is controversial in the sense that it is still lacked a single sentence definition. This view not different from the opinion held by Pierre & Peters (2000:7) that the definition of governance “is notoriously slippery and frequently used by social scientist and practitioners without a concise definition.” But, notwithstanding the different definitions that may have surfaced in attempt to locate the meaning of

governance, Adejumobi (2004:14) noted that it can be subsumed into two categories. On one perspective, it has to do with those who perceived governance in a technical sense. By this, the concept makes use of corporate world, which inspires the effective and efficient management of nation institutions with reference to public accountability, transparency in distribution of public goods, due process in the conduct of all government businesses, strictly application of rule of law especially in the public sector management. This dimension of governance is concerned with the view adopted by the World Bank as cited in Adejumobi (2004). In this case, the essence of governance is not just to improve the standard of living for the common good for the present Nigeria and tomorrow, it is meant to instil discipline for government officials to channel the state resources to build a stable and functional socio-economic fortune for Nigeria.

The other dimension of meaning of governance is that it is a holistic one, which transcends the nation and its institutions towards actualisation of collective goals for the betterment of everyone within the country. It is in this sense that governance is viewed as a process of steering a nation through prudent sourcing and managing a nation's resources for the gain of all the inhabitants. For this to occur, all the institutions of governance must be efficient and consciously performing well.

In all of the above, governance is mainly about the art of exercising the legitimate authority with a view to providing services, promoting and ensuring the needs of citizens and the communities are not just on course, but that are objectively being pursued and realised. In the present day Nigeria, governance seems to have hit a rock. Against the backdrop of the preceding discourses, besides the fact that Nigerians are no longer safe, men cannot go to farm, women cannot go to market, children cannot go to school, and people cannot even go to church or mosque to worship. The calamity that poverty is afflicting on Nigerian citizens is proverbial and the situation is biting people hard and it appears getting worse daily such that as at date, this country has not vacated its position poverty headquarter of the world it has occupied for well over four years ago. This is because, government leaders this days no longer heed to governance for the benefit of Nigerian citizens. This situation has not manifested into restiveness but there has been a coloured scam of unemployment, underemployment and unprecedented rush to sap public resources and steal public fund by political office holders. Hence, Akhere & Omoregie (2018), described governance as the bane of poverty in Nigeria.

2.2.5. Development

Like governance and other concepts, development has problem of one-best-fit definition. But, for this paper, development means modernisation or change for better (Nwizu, 2010:164). It is a generic term that emphasised the change in change for transformation and continuous improvement process that aimed at constant progress of people and all economy issues of a country. The paper equally found the view of Onyekpe (2004:133) relevant. As he described it, development is a positive change from lower stages or level of progress and wellbeing to higher ones. It may be likened to “metamorphosis in insects, which involves changes from the egg to larva, larva to pupa, and from pupa to a fully grown insect.” It was at this point that development can be defined as a continuous process towards transformation and modernity.

As noted in Ebo and Oleru (1993), Todaro (1977) perceived development as a multi-dimensional process, which involves reorganisation and reorientation of entire economic and social systems so as to improve incomes and output. This typically involves radical changes in institutional, social and administrative structures. It also includes changes of popular attitudes, customs, and beliefs. In this sense, development must represent the entire gamut of changes by which an entire social system has tuned to the diverse basic needs of individuals and other social groups within that system to move away from a condition of life widely perceived as primitive and substandard towards a condition of life regarded as materially and spiritually better.

Riggs (1979) interprets development in terms of differentiation of structures. As he argued, the phenomenon of development involves a gradual separation of institutionally distinct spheres. This differentiation of separate structures for the wide variety of functions must be performed in any society. In a simple sense, it would mean that for Nigeria to develop and sustain it, the different sectors such as the security, power, water, health, educational, agricultural, or better still, the political, and socio-economic sectors of the country must be always functional. It is here that the relationship between development, police and governance is aligned. In all of these, security is rather sacrosanct for governance and development. Thus, development will be achieved and sustained only when the police are not deficient to perform its protective and safety functions. Seers (1963) argued that the basic questions to ask about a country's development include what has been happening to poverty? What has been happening to unemployment? And

what has been happening to inequality? If all these three questions have reduced from high levels, then, such country is at the verge of development. But for the purpose of this paper, the scholar would have added the questions of what is happening to insecurity? And what is happening to poor leadership? These questions are predicated on fact that development is obscured without security and safety on one hand. While bad governance which causes unemployment, poverty, inequality, and insecurity occasioned by poor leadership. At the moment, it cannot be argued that insecurity has marred the proper functioning of things in Nigeria having grave effects on the country's development stride.

2.3. Sustainable Development

In attempt to locate the meaning of sustainable development, it was noted that the establishment of government across world was not for fond. It was done to meet the aspirations of peace and progress of various societies and their people. It was also observed the structures of public and private sectors across each nation have their functions. While private engages in pursuit of private interest, it cannot functions with being regulated. The public sector is vested with the task of providing public service and with the onus to regulate the private sector. This is simply emphasised the collective responsibilities for all sectors and institutions to be committed in performing towards adequate meeting public needs and sustain them.

Aiya & Anetekhai (2018) described sustainable development as a form of recourses utilisation that aim at meeting human needs in all ramification and preservation of the environment in a way that these needs could be met not only in the present, but also by generation to come. Chucke & Anetekhai (2018:46) saw Nigeria as lacking behind in terms of sustainable development because certainly the country is one of the most endowed Countries in the globe that occupies a huge landmass with human resources, and sold mineral resources in terms of Oil and Gas as well as arable among others. "Poor in abundance are a common phrase used to describe the Nigeria paradox of decaying socio-economic and political status in the midst of plenty."

For Akinroye (2016), sustainable development has got some goals, which are universally set up by the United Nations Organisations (UNO) member states at the UN Summit held in September 2015 and it became implementable from January 2016. It was expected that the United Nations member states used the set goals to

frame polices from 2016 to 2030. Table 2 presented below captured the seventh sustainable development goals to understand this paper better.

Table 2: *Goals for Sustainable Development set by the United Nations from 2016-2030*

Factors
Goal 1: End poverty in all its forms everywhere
Goal 2: End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture
Goal 3: Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages
Goal 4: Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote life-long learning opportunities for all
Goal 5: Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls
Goal 6: Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all
Goal 7: Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all
Goal 8: Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all
Goal 9: Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialisation and foster Innovation
Goal 10: Reduce inequality within and among countries
Goal 11: Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable
Goal 12: Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns
Goal 13: Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts
Goal 14: Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable Development
Goal 15: Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss
Goal 16: Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development and inclusive institutions at all levels
Goal 17: Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalise the global partnership for sustainable Development

Source: The United Nations Organisation cited in Aransi (2017).

A cursory look at table 2 above showed that the police have a vital role to play. This corroborated to Abba (2015) that the basic goals of the police include securing lives, securing property, and securing environment to be safe enough for activities of governance to take place. The information revealed from the above table indicated collective efforts to meet the needs of people and sustain all of these needs. Data contained in table 2 also means that every institution of government is needed to do their function. In other words, the inability of any other cognate government institutions to perform well in their tasks will also have negative effects on governance for sustainable. But, without prejudice, the police must maintain peace; provide safety and security for environment and people to be free in going about to do their job. If this happens, it will unrealistic to achieve the dreams of sustainable development in Nigeria.

Relying on the foregoing discussions, it can be easy to talk about sustainable development when the functional ability of a nation institutions blossom to meet the present needs of people and their environment without compromising the ability of the future generation to meet their own needs. Over the past four years, Nigeria

has earned the notorious name of poverty headquarters of the world through self-centred leadership and politicians. The entire public service is dysfunctional and the rate of unemployment, underemployment, social injustice, general viability of Nigeria economy and insecurity are all alarming for revival. Sustainable development is often uncertain in a country in which the ruling class and politicians struggle to become kangaroo leaders that recruit and arm youths as thugs to eliminate opponents, ring election and snatch ballot boxes.

2.4. Constitution

The concept of constitution is yet to have an undivided meaning. It can be defined as agreed principles and rules under which a country is governed. This definition may not be acceptable in some senses. For example, some constitutions are made by military junta as in the case of the 1999 Constitution of Nigeria that is currently used to govern the country. Although, the Nigerian populace may have been involved in the various processes of drafting the constitution, the drafted constitution is subject to the review and approval of the Armed Forces Ruling Council that is made of only military high command.

It is from the above angle that constitution is described as a set or body of principles and rules, which may be written or unwritten that determine the structures, powers, duties, and limitations of government of a country as well as the rights and obligations of the governed. It is the apex law of the country. This corroborated the view of Wade & Bradley (1993:4) that constitution is the “system of law and government by which the affairs of a modern state are administered.” In the same manner, Akpotor (2015) viewed constitution as the system of government of a country; collection of rules, which establish and regulate the government as the people that are being governed. This is often referred to as constitutionalism, which means limited government. Anifowose (1999:167) described it as “a system of limitation between rulers and the ruled.”

But, in Nigeria most government officials have no respect for law and some bull and torture members of the public (Akpotor, 2015). Most Nigeria rulers especially do not obey law. We have the laws of God in the Bible and Quran. The politicians in Nigeria are not obeying the law of God. If they do, they cannot recruit thugs and armed them to kill their political opponents. They are not obeying the constitution. If they do, they cannot ring elections, buy votes, and hijack governance process to their personal gains when they assume public offices. To make the matter worse,

the politicians are not even obeying their own party rules, which they made to guide them. If they do, they cannot be running to court to interpret their own party constitution; and they cannot involve in anti-party activity or involve in moving 'out-and-in' from their party or decamping into every ruling political party in Nigeria. With this syndrome self-interest and only self-stomach infrastructural development pursuit of politicians and government leaders, how can the police perform well to make governance meet the needs of people in the present and future generation?

3. Methodology

This section presents the procedure adopted to achieve the goals set for this paper. The police and governance for sustainable development in Nigeria is the broad objective of this paper. It specifically looked at the aspects of police performance and its challenges. As the paper was mainly theoretical, its data collection was based on published materials and its analysis was descriptively done. The choice of this paper was predicated on the narrative of highly recurring of quite excruciating and thumping activities of criminal threats to nooks and crannies in Nigeria in the face of desires to govern towards better Nigeria for the present and future generations.

To resolve the problems of triangulation for the study outcome to be more valid and reliable, the paper adopted a multiple methods of data collection from related literatures over and over again and reviewed them in the same manners to arrive at the same viewpoint. Tables were used to present some published issues of incidence of people killed, kidnapped, and injured from 1st January to 29th July, 2022 in Nigeria; some specific police powers and enabling laws in Nigeria; and goals for sustainable development set by United Nations from 2016-2030 to give specific information about the police relevance to governance for sustainable development and its extent of performance.

For a logical accuracy and better understanding, the paper was structured into five parts. The first part is introduction that gave detailed background information of the paper. The second part dealt with the method and procedure adopted to accomplish the objectives set for the paper; and the third parts focused discussion on literature review that centred on theoretical and conceptual issues while the fourth part was used for results and discussions. In this part, the performance of police and the major challenges it faced in the course of discharging its functions were given attention. The fifth part concluded the paper and made remedial recommendations.

4. Results and discussions

The broadly crux of this paper is about the police and governance for sustainable development in Nigeria. The police performance with its challenges was specifically examined and workable remedial actions were recommended on the basis of what the paper discovered. In order to properly know the relationship between police and governance for sustainable development in Nigeria, the paper enquired into multiple literatures for reassurance and saw government as the brain-box of governance that countries relied on. In Nigeria, section 14 (2) (b) of the 1999 Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria said that government exists mainly to provide security and welfare of the people (The Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999). This would mean for whatever reason, if the government fails to provide the basic needs to meet the security and welfare functions has betrayed Nigerians confidence and the provision of the constitution.

As a government it should be able to determine, identify, provide, and manage all the socio-economic and appropriate institutions, which are needed to render the necessary functions to meet the security and welfare of Nigerians and sustain them. Therefore, it is within the purview of government to among others establish and maintain the police institution that renders the services for keeping peace and safety; protecting lives and property; preventing and detecting crime; apprehending and prosecuting offenders; promoting safer environment for people to live well and transact business for their collective benefits and so forth. Recognising the value of internal security to human and nation survival, the constitution went further in its section 214 (1) to establish a national police as the lead internal security architecture for the nation (The Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999). By this token, it is the oversight function of the federal government to maintain the police for efficient performance.

In the entire discourse, the results have not only captured governance as a process of meeting the needs of people, but, the police act as governance work in progress for sustainable development in Nigeria. Also, the police statutory duties that include protecting life peace and property; enforcing law and regulation; and maintaining safer environment governance for sustainable development in Nigeria are the line of discussion to know whether or not the police have been able to perform them well.

4.1. Police Performance and Governance for Sustainable Development in Nigeria

The task here is to review the extent in which the police have discharged its statutory functions. By this, the question to be answered is how police performance has promoted governance for sustainable development in Nigeria. In doing this, secondary information were used. Apart from the constitution, police act, electoral act; and administration of criminal justice legislation among others that were consulted, the work of some erudite thinkers were also utilised to get valid and reliable information on how the function that the police was established to perform was done.

To say the least, police literatures in this paper presented a charming goal of the Nigeria police as an institution to provide the services of protection of lives, property, environment; maintenance of peace and order; prevention of all wrongdoings; enforcement and preservation of laws; and apprehension and prosecution of all offenders to make environment more safer for citizens to live and participate in all the socio-economic and political activities of Nigeria for the benefit of everyone in this present and future generations (Police Act No. 2, 2020). To diligently and efficiently perform its functions, the Nigeria Police Regulations 2020 prescribed the quality and code of conduct to guide police personnel. Regulation 340 required police to have a thorough understanding and knowledge of laws. It also required the police to have knowledge of police orders and instructions. According to Police Regulation 340 of 2030, the police are to develop and demonstrate the following attributes:

- (a) efficiency and thoroughness through meticulous attention to details in the performance of their duties;
- (b) courtesy, forbearance and helpfulness in their dealings with members of the public;
- (c) tact, patience and tolerance, and their control of temper in all trying situations;
- (d) integrity in refusing to allow religious, racial, political, or personal feelings, or other considerations to influence them in the execution of their duties;
- (e) impartiality in avoidance of feelings of vindictiveness, or the showing of vindictiveness towards offenders; and
- (f) strict truthfulness in their handling of investigations, and in the giving of evidence.

Furthermore, Police Regulation 341 of 2020 warned the police against misuse of powers. As it stated, “every police officer shall be personally liable for any misuse

of his powers, or for any act done in excess of his authority.” All of these are addendum to Police Regulation 353 of 2020 earlier discussed. The essence is for the police to discharge its functions well. Again, the paper noted that the functions assigned to the police with its operational guidelines as well as the code of conducts were without prejudice adequate to attract police better performance.

However, available literatures showed a very sad plethora of daily crime occurrence. As noted, this has been seriously causing wanton destruction of lives and property and making the Nigeria environment unsafe to the extent that issue of insecurity has now become household news in this country. While blood of innocent people has continued to flow in nearly all the streets of Nigeria, police efforts to nip the crime in the bud have failed (Odeniyi (2022). Instead, the insecurity situation has continued to be more saddened as no one is safe anywhere in Nigeria. Hence, the rate at which the insecurity upheaval is growing worst everyday to the extent that women are no longer free to go market; most parents are withdrawing their children from school; farmers are also not safe to go to farm; majority of Nigerians are being afraid to even go to worship places. All for fear of being kidnapped, robbed, bombed, raped or killed for money ritual by Boko Haram, herdsmen, ritual criminals, or other bandits. At the moment, it is no longer news that the police inability to tackle this plethora of crime insurrection in Nigeria is sweeping away the virtue of governance. It is from this angle, Dawodu (2007:9) maintained that “the police have not been a critical success factor in the development process of Nigeria.” Supporting, Odekunle (2014) stated that non-performance of the police in Nigeria should no longer be an issue for debate. Instead, scholarly energies should be directed to identification of the factors responsible for non-performance of the police in Nigeria.

4.2. The Major Challenges of Police Performance in Nigeria

First of all, it may be unarguable that most thinkers and practitioners have always identified poor equipment, shortage of manpower, corruption, inadequate training, paucity of funding, and poor remuneration as reasons behind poor performance of the Nigeria police. Secondly, inasmuch as this paper does not intend to contend against any of the aforementioned factors, but it argued that there can be no smoke without fire. Going by the issues raised from the foregoing discourses in this paper so far, it was obvious that some fundamental governance challenges in Nigeria have

affected the police as partners in progress. However, for easier and better comprehension, four of these challenges were captured for discussion and attention was particularly drawn on how police performance was daunted.

4.2.1. Poor Leadership and Followership in Nigeria

As noted in Huntington (1991:259), the stability of democratic government depends, first on the zeal and ability of the ruling class, government leaders, political party leaders, private business leaders, religious leaders, and community leaders with every of their followership to work together to deal with problems confronting their society and eschew from exploiting those problems for their own immediate material or political advantage. While working together, two things have always happened. The first is that the spirit of nation building is being maintained. The second is the maintenance of value system and national integration are being emphasised. In all of these, there will be undivided loyalty to the country, which leads to sincerity of hard work, genuine promotion of national patriotism, de-emphasise the recognition of individuals based orientation mainly on ostentatious materialism, which propels the syndrome of “get rich quick.”

But in the present day Nigeria, democratic government has been hijacked into government of the indicated few where government business is now transacted to serve the interest of the leaders and few favoured associates. If a government is not of the people, for the people and by the people, the police cannot be efficient. At best, police efforts will be devoted towards enforcing and defending government draconian laws, directives, rules, inactions and forcing the people to obey such anti-progress and anti-people rules of bad leaders and governance. There are scarcely politicians that are not recruiting thugs and equipping them with guns to harass, kill, or kidnap political opponents and ring election for their favour in Nigeria of today. This bad approach to govern at all cost has been enjoying Nigerian acceptance and patronage. This has grave and many consequences. The first is that it has caused monumental increased of crimes in Nigeria. The second is this unholy Nigeria situation has forced the police into deploying its substantial personnel to protect the ruling class and other privileged elites. Third, the common masses have withdrawn friendly relation from the police who some of its personnel violate their rules of engagement and rule of law and become brutal and uncivil to most of the underprivileged people they are being employed to protect. The concern here is that when Nigerians are electing leaders who have only passion for self-esteem, and

who do not have the mentality to fight poverty, reduce unemployment, or govern for the interest of the public, how will the police perform well?

For instance, in campaigning for votes, most Nigerian politicians of today are known for using provocative utterances, blackmail, vendetta, and other unholy speeches instead speaking to their manifestos or making issue based campaigns (Akpotor, 2015). All these are geared towards self-esteem and private political gains, which has bastardised governance institutions in Nigeria. According to narratives, over 85% Nigerians cannot feed themselves. The health sector is no longer working and in education sector, public universities strike has become annual ritual for this year students have been at home for more than seven (7) months because of strike embarked by Academic Staff Union of Universities (ASUU) to draw attention of the federal government to deplorable and dilapidating facilities due to prolong neglect of the government. They also included their poor wage to be increased among others. While attempts to make ASUU to call off the strike failed and parties are at dagger-drawn, the federal government seek court intervention. The government that took ASUU to Industrial Court with affidavit of urgency for the case to be given accelerated hearing to end the prolong strike also approached the court with application for interlocutory injunction for the court to order the union to go back to work pending the determination of the case. The court accepted and granted the prayer. In the spirit of fairness, justice, equity, and good governance, one would have expected the court to set aside the application and accelerate hearing on the main case and resolve the case once and for all within fourteen days. In a society of this nature, the police chances of better performance are weakened (Omoleke, 2018; Nwolise, 2019; Adeniyi, 2022).

4.2.2. Culture of Disrespect to Rule of Law

As earlier pointed out, having adequate knowledge and observance of fundamental human rights in a country by everyone is central to governance process. Also, obedience to rule of law and acquaintance with the scope of rights, duties, and limitations by all citizens including political leaders and the police are all good ingredients and pre-requisite for better performance not only for the police but for all institutions of governance in Nigeria. In the discharge of its duties, the police are never expected to take sides but to be guided by the provisions of the law in relation to all the categories of duties. This is why Marx (1971:4) said “in an important sense, a democratic police is a politically neutral police. For example, in

a racial or labour disturbance, police are not to take sides.” Again, the Police Act No. 2, 2020 warned the police not to disrupt legal actions of civil population. It emphasised the fact that the police are trained to keep the peace and enforce the law to guarantee public security and safety for good order with safer environment.

In discharging these duties, Dawodu (2007:72) noted that a Nigerian policeman has often come under pressure of interest groups who would have him to act in a particular way, which would be their own political advantage. When the policeman refuses to be swayed, he is labelled either as corrupt or inefficient. Using election scenarios as a case note especially in the guarding of polling stations or ballot boxes before, during, and after the conduct of an election, dealing with polling station complaints used to be a common function of the police. It is also a fact that the police are in a more exposed position to be criticised for actions that favoured one party over another (Graham, 2006:6). But, in Nigerian situation, we are yet to reach that level of political maturity where our narrow personal interests will give policeman a room for objectivity in all situations. So, even if the police objectively enforced the electoral laws and do not reflect the personal interests of all the groups, and to those not favoured will hardly agreeing with it that the police were not biased and have done well in accordance with the laws. Instead of accepting the election outcome, the group that is defeated will rather blame the police for not as neutral as expected (Dawodu, 2007:73)

4.2.3. Deprivation of Citizens' Social Needs and Struggle for Survival

As perceived in Huntington (1991:271) there is a correlation between the level of socio-economic growth and governance for sustainable development. This coincides with Aristotle postulation as cited in Dawodu (2007:77) that economic consideration is paramount in determining the behaviour of individuals in the society. It was noted that it is when people are economically liberated that the notion of freedom, liberty, and expression of free-will of people is feasible. By extension, the emergence of godfather phenomenon, which in the present Nigeria context is the euphemism for a sole proprietorship in our political space and process has perpetually consumed the benefit of governance and has also, weakened police performance.

As observed in Nnamani (2003) incidence of poverty has a strong influence in the emergence of those who may see themselves as the owners of government where citizens are poor, and cannot boast of a single meal in a day. In other words, citizens

are incapable of taking care of their basic needs can easily be enticed with even food item or to sell their votes by bad politicians. Added to this is the acute scarcity of employment opportunities. Better still, the few people that are employed by government who being paid a token, which is inadequate to pay for their transport fare to the next bus stop of their work places in the face of constant increment of fuel prices by government can be influenced easily when politicians offer them some money including the police whose conditions of service has not been attractive. In other to survive, the citizens turn mutual predators to one another in what can be described as “an orgy of dog eats dog” while they hit at themselves promoting every unimaginable unpleasant breakdown of peace, law and disorder in organised manner by formal and informal means. In a country that has earned itself the notorious name of world headquarters of poverty in which people including the police are struggling to eat in the face of constant and strongly depressed economy, the police cannot perform magic.

4.2.4. The Nigerian Factors

In anywhere of the world, it is the responsibility of the people to establish and maintain the nature of the police they need. In this sense, they are able to have people-police system that share same interest and ideal. Hence, police powers are derived from the people and are used in accordance with the rule of law and not according to the whims of the rulers or the police agent. This conformed to Sheidu (1994:29) that “a society is said to get the type of police it deserves.” Nigeria has been dragged to a cross-road with consequence of high potent of economy depletion. This precarious economic situation was caused largely by the Nigerian political office holders who are working into their pockets. They have made casting of votes a brisk business for the poor electorates in selling their votes. This situation gives more concern when most Nigerians are still accepting oil, bread, cake (akara), and one thousand naira (N1,000), to sell their votes to desperate politicians while their children are moving from corner of a street to another looking for any job and food to eat. These Nigerian political office holders are by their cultures of divide and rule imported more hardships, hunger, and poverty, unemployment among others to continue to threaten the peace, safety, and security more excruciating in the country in order to continue to use the poor living conditions of the masses for their self political gain. Under this situation how can the police perform well? Unfortunately, section 308 of the 1999 Constitution of the Federal Republic of

Nigeria exempted the principal political office holders from arrest and prosecution while in office and to avoid prosecution after their tenures, they shop for and implant a succession who will protect their interest and cover their wrongs and still these set of bad leaders are getting the supports of the general masses they have pushed into the world of suffering and smiling. With this type of scenario in Nigeria it will not be easy for the police to perform well.

Also, sequel to the rapid political advancement of Nigeria, the need for the police services and presence has always outstripped their strength. This trend has not only over-stretched the police, but also gives rise to a decline in its performance as it grapples with the suddenness of the situation. The training of the police personnel is no longer thorough and adequate. To further compound the situation, both the successive and present governments have failed to maintain people-friendly police and provide them with modern working tools and reasonable incentives. So, the concomitant result of all the above is the general decline in police performance, which has negative effect on governance for sustainable development in Nigeria.

5. Conclusion and recommendations

The paper assessed police and governance for sustainable development in Nigeria. Specifically, it evaluated the police performance, its challenges and suggested remedial actions to mitigate the problems discovered. As the paper was theoretical in nature, it carefully sourced its data through multiple published materials that were useful and explained the sourced data in tandem with the goals. The paper found the police as governance work in progress for sustainable development in Nigeria. It also found the police performance as very low. It identified poor political leadership and followership, disrespect to rule of law, deprivation of social needs of citizens and their struggles for survival, Nigerian factors, pervasive poverty and unemployment among others as the major factors responsible for police abysmal performance. In line with the findings, the paper concluded that the police abysmal performance is a clear reflection of characters of those who are elected to govern Nigeria. With respect to the conclusion and findings, the paper made recommendations as follows:

- 1) Nigerians should withdraw their supports from politicians that are found using armed thugs because; these are set of greed and corrupt politicians who are anxious to occupy public office at all cost to pursue their selfish interest. Those acclaimed political leaders that are impervious to when to demarcate politics

from governance should be voted out from holding public office. Only people who want to be true Nigerian leaders that would be interested in provided security and welfare for Nigerians should be voted to public office. Nigerians should eschew ethno-religious sentiment and vote for competent and accountable leaders with conscience to serve the people and make governance institutions to work optimally. This is the true sense that will make Nigeria to work again and put unemployment, corruption, hardship, poverty, underemployment, and insecurity among others behind us in this country as the police will become people oriented and efficient in its performance to improve governance for sustainable development in Nigeria.

- 2) In any country that has culture of disrespect to rule of law, injustice is pervasive. But, if injustice is allowed to become law, then, resistance will be a duty. The consequence of all of this is that people will be forced to defend themselves which speak volumes of total breakdown of peace, law and order. Therefore, Nigerians should elect people who have passions for respecting laws of God and the constitution of Nigeria. It is these categories of leaders that will lead by example that Nigeria deserves to stir its ship of governance. Moreover, people who cannot read and understand law to know what they are permitted to do or not to do will be difficult to understand the value of obeying law. So, this set of people should not be elected to govern Nigeria anymore in order for Nigerians to begin to regain and enjoy their freedom and fundamental human rights, which have been denied on account of bad leaders. This will make things to work normal and the police will also do the needful.
- 3) The only prescription that works for a hungry man is to make food available for him to eat. It is heartbreaking for any responsible government to watch its citizens dying of hungry and suffocating in poverty as it is being experienced in Nigeria today. While the rate of unemployment and underemployment are getting worse daily among others, some keys government officials as seen in the Accountant General of the Federation, Mr. Ahmed Idris who allegedly stolen over one hundred and seven billion naira (N107b) (Sanusi, 2022), which is enough to establish a productive industry to employ most of the Nigerian youths who are tired of staying idle and moving from one street to another looking job. Without delay government should stop starving Nigerians by providing reasonable employment opportunities to reduce the stream of unemployed Nigerian citizens. This will reduce the increasing crime rate and make the law enforcement job easy for the police in Nigeria.

- 4) On a final note, it will be sad for any reason, to see that a government, who has failed to provide employment opportunities for people who are living in an abject poverty still tolerate all the questionable acquisitions of mansions by its officials is unfit to be regarded as government of the people. There will be no progress in government business, when Nigerians are still economical with the truth. Nigerians should stop to be mere onlookers in governance process. They should play their roles as deciding factors for who should rule Nigeria henceforth by making sure that they exercise their voting rights. In doing this, they should no longer queue behind politicians who are only interested in using the masses to achieve their political comfort. It is not flattering in saying here that there is no political party in Nigeria that has a member keeping to a party ideology. This makes politicians to decamp in and out from any political party. This has also made political party in Nigeria to be seen as a party of nobody. Unfortunately, it is only in Nigeria that a national chairman of a political party can decamp to another political party. The lessons to learn from all of this are that all the governance problems including the police non-performance in Nigeria are largely caused by self-centeredness of the political leaders in Nigeria. This should not be allowed to continue. Since the police do not exist outside Nigeria, the politicians, the political leaders, the police and the entire Nigerians need ethical rebirth and self cleansing to reposition Nigeria governance for sustainable development in Nigeria.

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