

**THE NEED FOR THE
ESTABLISHMENT OF
NATIONAL COUNCIL
ON
CRIME PREVENTION
AND
SAFETY (NCCPS)**

(BRIEF RESEARCH, DOCUMENTATION AND
BACKGROUND TO THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE
NATIONAL COUNCIL ON CRIME PREVENTION)

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Acronyms

| | | |
|-------------|---|--|
| NCCPS | - | National Council on Crime Prevention & Safety |
| YCW Nigeria | - | Youth Crime Watch of Nigeria |
| ACCO | - | African Centre for Citizens Orientation |
| UNGA | - | United Nations General Assembly |
| NPF | - | Nigeria Police Force |
| NDLEA | - | National Drugs Law Enforcement Agency |
| NSCDC | - | Nigeria Security and Civil Defense Corp |
| DSS | - | Department of State Service |
| CLEEN | - | CLEEN Foundation |
| World Bank | - | World Bank |
| WHO | - | World Health Organizations |
| OAGF | - | Office of the Attorney General of the Federation |
| MOI | - | Federal Ministry of Interior |
| FMIC | - | Federal Ministry of Information & Culture. |
| NCPC | - | National Crime Prevention Council |
| EFUS | - | European Forum for Urban |
| GCCP | - | German Congress on Crime Prevention |
| CPCA | - | Crime Prevention Coalition of America |

African Centre for Citizens Orientation

The Impact of Crime

A crime is the commission of an act prohibited or the omission of an act required by the penal code of an organized political state. While crime is a national problem its control is primarily a responsibility of local units of government. An inability to prevent or deal effectively with acts of criminality has a number of negative consequences. When individuals commit violations and escape being processed through the criminal justice system, future illegal acts are encouraged.

Violent crimes have a significant impact on the livelihoods and quality of life of citizens, most particularly the poor, women and young people. Insecurity undermines socio-economic and political stability and sustainable development (See Resolution A/RES/66/181 of the United Nations General Assembly).

High levels of crime and violence pose a serious threat to Nigerian emergent socio-political and economic development. It results in the deprivation of the rights and dignity of citizens, and poses a threat to peaceful resolution of differences and rightful participation of all in the democratic process.

Crime and violence cast fear into the hearts of many citizens. These tendencies prevent the nation from taking her rightful place in global development and growth. It inhibits citizens from interacting or communicating with one another freely in this information age. An escalating crime rate requires that resources, which could be devoted to other social problems, be diverted to the crime-control effort, resulting in the further entrenchment of such ills as poverty, substandard housing, and inadequate medical delivery systems.

Too, as the crime rate increases, our system of government faces the real possibility of a crisis of confidence in its ability to maintain the welfare of the public. A final major impact of crime is upon the fabric of social relations and living patterns. People become fearful of strangers and of being on the streets after dark; homes become fortress and families move to new locations in search of a secure life. A terrible reality is that until significant inroads are made in controlling crime the overall quality of life is lower than it could be.

Police and other security institutions like National Drugs Law Enforcement Agency (NDLEA), Nigeria Security and Civil Defense Corp (NSCDC), and the Department of State Service (DSS). Security of lives and properties is not the sole responsibility of the security agencies alone, it is the duty of every citizen to find lasting solutions to the criminal acts and behaviours or togetherness face its consequences and have an unstable and unbalancing future. Crime affects everyone and we don't have to be the victim before we act. The security

agencies in Nigeria should allow an enhanced cooperation on crime prevention to ease their works and functions as enshrined in the constitution.

Current National Crime Situations

Crime levels in Nigeria are affected by many of the same universal factors which manifest themselves in other countries. The crime situation in Nigeria increased sharply immediately after the Nigeria Civil War. Our own rapid transition had the unintended consequences of breaking down the existing (and illegitimate) mechanisms of social control without immediately replacing them with legitimate and credible alternatives. This weakness has been exacerbated by the historical breakdown of other vehicles of social authority, such as schools, the family and traditional communities.

In the light of the worsening crime situation, and the ineffectiveness of the crime control apparatuses, Nigeria can be deemed to have a crime problem. Nigeria is among the developing countries of the world, and is experiencing a prevalence of rising crime waves, criminal intentions and varying degree of delinquencies. Nigeria has been on the global crime map since 1980s (Dambazau, 2007). The nature of these crimes includes armed robbery, murder, rape, car theft, burglary, fraud, bribery and corruption, food and drug adulteration, gambling, smuggling, human trafficking, kidnapping, drug trafficking, money laundering, internet scam, advanced fee fraud (419) and other illegal activities.

In the 1980s, serious crime grew to nearly epidemic proportions, particularly in Lagos and other urbanized areas characterized by rapid growth and change, by stark economic inequality and deprivation, by social disorganization, and by inadequate government service and law enforcement capabilities. Published crime statistics were probably grossly understated, because most of the country was virtually unpoliced--the police were concentrated in urban areas where only about 25 percent of the population lived--and public distrust of the police contributed to underreporting of crimes.

Annual crime rates fluctuated around 200 per 100,000 population until the early 1960s and then steadily increased to more than 300 per 100,000 by the mid-1970s. Available data from the 1980s indicated a continuing increase. Total reported crimes rose from almost 211,000 in 1981 to between 330,000 and 355,000 during 1984-85. Although serious crime usually constituted the larger category, minor crimes and offenses accounted for most of the increase. Crimes against property generally accounted for more than half the offenses, with thefts, burglary, and breaking and entering covering 80 to 90 percent in most years. Assaults constituted 70 to 75 percent of all offenses against persons.

In the late 1980s, the crime wave was exacerbated by worsening economic conditions and by the ineffectiveness, inefficiency, and corruption of police,

military, and customs personnel who colluded and conspired with criminals or actually engaged in criminal conduct. In 1987 the minister of internal affairs dismissed the director and 23 other senior officials of the customs service and "retired" about 250 other customs officers for connivance in or toleration of smuggling. In October 1988, Babangida threatened to execute publicly any police or military personnel caught selling guns to criminals. Indeed, one criminologist argued that the combination of discriminatory law enforcement and official corruption served to manage rather than reduce crime, by selectively punishing petty offenders while failing to prosecute vigorously major criminals and those guilty of white collar crime.

The public response to official misconduct was to take matters into its own hands. In July 1987, butchers, traders, and unemployed persons in Minna vented their wrath over police harassment, intimidation, and extortion in a six-hour rampage against police and soldiers that was quelled by military units. In November 1989, when a police team raided suspect stores in Katsina market, the merchants feared it was a police robbery and sounded the alarm, attracting a mob that was then dispersed by riot police. As loss of confidence in law enforcement agencies and public insecurity increased, so also did public resort to vigilante action. Onitsha vigilantes killed several suspected criminals in 1979. In July 1989, after a gang of about thirty armed men terrorized and looted a neighborhood in Onitsha without police intervention, residents vented their rage on known and suspected criminals and lynched four before riot police eventually restored order.

Drug-related crime emerged as a major problem in the 1980s. At least 328 cocaine seizures were made between 1986 and 1989, and the number of hard drug convictions surged from 8 in 1986 to 149 in 1989, with women accounting for 27 percent of the 275 total convictions during this period. Drug-induced psychoses accounted for 15 percent of admissions to four psychiatric hospitals in 1988. In a related development, the federal Ministry of Health reported in 1989 that about one-half of the drugs available in Nigeria were imitations, leading to a series of counterfeit and fake drugs decrees imposing increasingly higher penalties for violations.

Nigerians also participated heavily in international drug trafficking. One study found that 65 percent of the heroin seizures of 50 grams or more in British airports came from Nigeria, which was the transit point for 20 percent of all heroin from Southwest Asia. Another study disclosed that 20 percent of the hard drug cases in Britain involved ships of the Nigerian National Shipping Line. By the late 1980s, Nigerians were arrested almost daily in foreign countries, and hundreds languished in foreign jails for drug trafficking.

Our country Nigeria is becoming unsafe due to the high rate of crime reported on a daily basis. This crime has continued to manifest in various forms such as; Boko Haram killings, armed robbery, kidnapping, abduction, rape, hostage

taking and assassinations. The most concern is the manner these crimes are perpetrated. The culprits do not discriminate as to place, age, sex, status and circumstances in committing these evils and these has lead to fear among the citizens of this country. This problem of insecurity of life and property in the country if not checked will spiel down to the economic and social development of the nation and damage our reputation abroad. It is the primary responsibility of the government to protect life and property. Therefore the government at all levels should as a matter of urgency address this problem now. The consequences of crimes on the economy, the individual and social life are enormous. The economic growth of the nation will continue to decrease because the flight of foreigners results in reduction of investments, individuals become traumatized and these problems will lead to a reduction in the gross domestic product (GDP) of the nation. Relying on the 2012 Crime Victimization and Safety Survey by the Nigeria Police and CLEEN Foundation shown as follows:

Fear of Crime

Fear of crime refers to the fear of becoming a victim of crime and results of the survey indicate that 3 out of every 4 Nigerians were fearful of becoming victims of crime (75%) in 2012. The percentage of people fearful of becoming victims of crime has increased from 72% in 2011 to 75% in 2012 though lower than 2010 when the figure was 86%. This therefore means that people are more fearful of becoming victims of crime now than they were one year ago. When analyzed across States, Taraba State recorded the highest with 99% while Osun State recorded the lowest with 40%.

Criminal Victimization

Overall, slightly less 1 in every 3 respondents (31%) admitted experiencing criminal victimization over the past one year covered by the 2012 survey. The findings show a progressive increase in crime victimization in Nigeria from the 2011 figure though lower than 2010 where nearly 1 in 2 respondents experienced criminal victimization. The survey also indicated that criminal victimization was highest in Kebbi State (96%), followed by Ebonyi State (95%), Enugu State (87%) and Niger state (77%), which were all extremely higher than the national average. Lagos State (23%), Nasarawa (7%) and Kastina (6%) all fell below the national average.

Experience of robbery has increased on a steady rise from 11% in 2010 to 17% in 2012. When disaggregated by States, the results of the 2012 survey showed that Edo State recorded the highest of 63%, Anambra State 47% and Ondo 33%, while Jigawa and Kwara were among the least in robbery with 4% and 2% respectively. The survey also revealed that security in the home is still a challenge as 47% of robbery occurred mostly in the homes of respondents, 24% near the home, 20% else where and 9% in the workplace or school.

Armed Violence other than Robbery

Armed violence entails the use of weapons in altering or extending physical force or power against someone that results in injury, death, psychological harm or deprivation. It encompasses such acts terrorism, bombings, community violence etc. The results of the survey indicated that 5% of respondents were victims of armed violence. The highest occurred in the South-south with 12%, followed by North East (7%). North West central recorded 5%, South East 4%, North Central 3% with South West recording the least of 1%. The survey also indicated that 26% of armed violence occurred in the home, 39% near the home, 15% at work place or school and 20% somewhere else.

Rape and Attempted Rape

Four percent of respondents admitted being victims of rape/attempted rape. South-south and Northeast led the victimization rate with 5%. When asked where the rape occurred, More than 1 in 3 (37%) of the victims said it happened in their own homes, 34% said near their homes, 26% said it occurred in the school or work place with 3% saying it happened elsewhere. This finding validates the literature on rape, which shows that rape is more likely to occur at home and near home than other places. The challenge of security and safety in homes is explicitly exhibited in rape cases. Respondents were further asked how widespread the incident of rape was and 9% believed it was very wide spread, 27% said it happened occasionally while 54% believed was non-existent.

Physical Assault

35% of respondents admitted being victims of physical assault in the 2012 survey. The national average witnessed a maximal increase of 19% from 2011 to 2012. This was principally due to the increase recorded in States like Kebbi (74%), Niger (68%), Edo (61%), Ebonyi (55%), Benue (53%) and Delta (47%). Declines were recorded in FCT (15%) , Oyo State (14%) and Ondo State (12%).

Attempted Murder

3% or respondents admitted being victims of attempted murder. The highest was recorded in the North East 7%, followed by 5% and North West 2%.

Kidnapping and Attempted Kidnapping

A total of 2% of all respondents interviewed nationwide disclosed having been victims of kidnapping or attempted kidnapping. The South-south had the highest incidence of kidnapping with 4%, followed by South East with 2% with the least being North East with 1%.

Domestic Violence

Nearly one in every three respondent interviewed admitted having been a victim of domestic violence (31%). There is an upsurge in respondents' admission of being victims of domestic violence in Nigeria. Whether this increase is a function of spike in reporting as a result growing level of awareness or actual

increase in the crime requires further investigation. The findings of the 2012 survey revealed that domestic violence ranks amongst the top four most committed crimes in Nigeria. It increased from 17% in 2010 to 31% in 2012 with South West leading with 42% followed by South East 36%. North East recorded the lowest with 22%.

Theft of Mobile Phone

Nearly one half (47%) of respondents indicated that their mobile phones were stolen in the 2012 survey. However, the national average of theft of mobile phones declined from 50% in 2011 survey to 47% in 2012 survey. Despite such observation, theft of mobile phones has remained the number one crime committed in Nigeria in the past two years, with States like Edo (71%), Plateau (69%), Kebbi (65%), Delta (62%), Kwara (59%), Niger (58%) and Kaduna (54%) suffering the most.

Theft of Car

Under theft of car, 8% of respondents attested their cars were stolen in the past one year covered by the 2012 survey. The highest incidence of theft of car occurred in the North West (8%), followed by South South (4%), and Northeast and North Central 3%. South East recorded the least with 1%. The survey also indicated that 30% of cars were stolen in victims' homes, 30% near victims' homes, 11% at work place and 28% elsewhere.

Reporting of Crime to the Police

The findings of the survey revealed that most crimes are unreported. Just a little above 2 in every 10 respondents (21%) who suffered crime victimization reported to the police. Comparative analysis with previous survey however indicated an increase in the rate at which people reported crime to the police. In the 2011 survey only 16% of victims report to the police revealing an increment by 5% in 2012, which is still far below expectation. When analysed by States, the least reports were made in Sokoto (6%), Oyo (6%), Nasarawa (7%), Kaduna (8%), Plateau (9%) and Niger States (9%). The highest reports were made in Yobe (50%), Benue (43%), Zamfara (41%) and Cross River (38%).

Those who reported were asked if they were satisfied with police handling of their cases. Slightly less than one half of them were satisfied (48%), 39% were not satisfied and 14% were neither satisfied nor not satisfied. Satisfaction of victims has however increased from 29% in 2011 to 48% in 2012. Those who were not satisfied were asked to state the reason. Nearly 2 in 3 of them (66%) sighted police ineffectiveness. Other reasons were corruption (17%), inadequate feedback (12%) and police insensitivity (5%).

Responding to Terrorism

More than half of respondents (54%) interviewed said they were dissatisfied with the performance security agencies in the fight against terrorism in the country. Only 31% said they were satisfied while 13% said they were neither

satisfied nor dissatisfied. 33% of respondents suggested that the federal government should dialogue with the Boko Haram set, 31% were of the view that strengthening the capacity of the security personnel will solve the problem of Terrorism, 19% suggested the use of force while 15% believed the use of force and dialogue will solve the problem.

Demand for Bribe by Government Officials

The findings of the survey indicated that there is an upsurge in bribery and corruption among government officials in Nigeria. Nearly 1 out of every 4 respondents (24%) attested paying bribe or being asked to pay bribe by government officials before services could be rendered to them. In terms of trend, demand for bribe has increased from 20% in 2011 to 24% in 2012. The 2012 survey also showed that bribery and corruption among public officials such as police, customs officers, court personnel, tax officials, anti corruption agencies, NEPA officials etc. were higher in States like Kebbi (61%), Ebonyi (50%), Kwara (45%), Ondo (43%), Edo (42%), Bauchi (39%), FCT (37%), Ekiti (34%), Sokoto (34%) and Gombe (34%) which far above the national average. The lowest were recorded in Taraba, Adamawa and Kaduna, which were all 10% respectively. Among public officials who demanded for bribes, the police (76%), immigration (66%), custom (65%), prison officials (52%) and road safety officials (51%) were the highest.

Constraints against Anti Corruption Agencies

Government insincerity (40%), lack of funds and facilities (28%), corruption of the EFCC and ICPC Officials themselves (21%), and weak and corrupt judiciary (11%) were major constraints identified by respondent

Ownership of Firearms of guns

At the national level, 3% of respondents admitted owning firearms or guns with the highest in North East (5%). Half of the people who owned guns (50%) said they use it to protect themselves.

Road Safety and Accidents

The national average for road accidents is 13% with the highest in FCT (39%), Ebonyi (27%), Kogi (24%), Bornu (24%), Enugu (24% , Bayealsa (23%) and Cross-River States (23%). In terms of national trend, there was no significant change as the national average in 2011 was also 13%. Commercial motorbikes or Okada accidents (42%) accounted for the highest form of road accidents in the country followed by commercial mini buses (32%). Most road accidents occurred in the in Afternoon (36%), with 29% occurring in the Morning and 34% in the evening.

On Possession of driving license, the survey revealed that only 14% of all motorists had valid drivers licence. There was however an increase from 12% in 2011 to 14% in 2012. When disaggregated across States, it showed that only 4% of motorist in Sokoto and Katsina had valid driver's licence, 5% in Taraba,

Bauchi 7%, Adamawa 7%, Jigawa 8%, Kano 8%, Kaduna 10% and Kwara (10%). More than half of drivers (59%) did not go through driving school. Common behaviours exhibited by motorists while driving are overtaking by the right side (65%), running traffic light (35%), driving on the wrong side of the road (33%), driving after drinking more than one bottle of beer or one tot (shot) of hot drink (30%), and getting involved in unofficial races with other drivers (24%).

Priority Areas for Government's Attention

Finally, respondents were asked to recommend one priority area the government should focus on. Crime control (19%), road construction and maintenance (14%), responsiveness to public opinion (11%), controlling terrorism (11%), improvement of health facilities (7%), payment of civil servants salaries and employment (3%) were priority areas emphasized.

However, our unique situation and history have however contributed to a range of factors specific to our situation. Some of these factors are outlined below:

Insufficient and ill-equipped personnel, combined with outdated systems, and fragmented departments, have contributed to a system that has been unable to cope with the demands created by the need to provide services to the citizens in Nigeria. The political transition also generated substantial material expectations many of which were largely beyond the immediate delivery capacity of the government in the 1990's. This has generated frustrated expectations. The very high, and often unrealized, expectations associated with transition from military to democratic rule have contributed to the justification of crime.

In addition, the legitimating of violence associated with political causes has served to decriminalize certain categories of crime related to intergroup conflict or political rivalries. Historical criminalization of political activity and protest has also contributed to a blurring between legitimate forms of protest and criminal activity. Nigeria's violent history has left us with a "culture of violence", which contributes to the high levels of violence associated with criminal activity in Nigeria.

Historically shaped, poverty and underdevelopment provide key contextual factors in understanding increasing crime levels. Although poverty does not directly lead to higher crime levels, together with a range of other sociopolitical and cultural factors, it contributes to conditions for an increase in crime and the growth of criminal syndicates and gangs.

The historic marginalization of the youth, combined with the slow growth in the job market, has contributed to the creation of a large pool of "at risk"; young people. While economic growth and development are crucial in addressing the

factors which lead to crime, poorly managed development can itself contribute to increased crime rates.

The absence of services to victims of crime means that the negative impact of crime on individual, family and community is largely ignored. Not only does this contribute to the incidence of repeat victimization, but may lead to retributive violence, or the perpetration of other crimes displaced into the social or domestic arena.

The number and easy accessibility of fire-arms is a major contributor to violent crime. The fact that a large proportion of the citizenry is armed serves to escalate the levels of violence associated with robbery, rape and car theft. Gender inequality, both in terms of popular attitudes and the inadequate service offered by the criminal justice system to women, contributes to the high levels of violence perpetrated against women.

Crime Statistics 2008 by the Nigeria Police Force – See Attached

African Centre for Citizens Organization

African Centre for Citizens Orientation

The costs of crime and violence

The costs of crime and violence are often divided into four categories:

Direct and indirect costs

Direct costs that can be directly attributed to a violent event (or a series of events, as in a war) can be, in principle, counted using conventional accounting methods¹⁰. Direct costs measure the value of goods and services spent dealing with the effects of and/or preventing crime and violence, and of limited public and private resources spent on the criminal justice system, incarceration, medical services, housing and social services.

Indirect costs include lost investment opportunities, and unrealized earnings of criminals and victims of crime and violence.

Non-monetary costs

- Non-monetary costs measure the effects on the victims of crime and violence, and are evaluated by taking into consideration:
- Increased morbidity (diseases resulting from violence like disability, mental injuries)
- Increased mortality via homicide and suicide;
- Alcohol and drug abuse; and
- Depressive disorders.

Economic multiplier effects

Economic multiplier effects measure the overall impact that crime and violence have on a country and its labor market, such as erosion of the tourism industry in a country with a high insecurity level. In addition, multiplier effects imply intergenerational productivity impacts. For example, victims of domestic violence have higher rates of absenteeism at work, are more likely to be fired from their jobs and earn less income over time.

Social multiplier effects

Social multiplier effects measure the impact of crime and violence in such areas as the: Erosion of social assets¹¹; intergenerational transfer of violence; reduction in quality of life; effects on citizenship; and decrease in public confidence and the functioning of the democratic process, government and its institutions (World Bank, 2003).

Factors That Contribute to Crime and Violence

Various policies and frameworks have been developed to understand crime and violence and to develop corollary policy responses. One prominent approach comes from the field of public health and is based on identifying and addressing risk factors.

What are “risk factors”?

Risk factors are a set of presumed cause and effect dynamics that place the individual, family, group or community in danger of negative future events. Thus, specific behaviors, attitudes or deficiencies provide initial markers of future problem behavior, conduct disorders, aggression or delinquency (McWhirter & McWhirter, 1993). In other words, risk factors are characteristics that increase the likelihood that an individual will become involved in crime and violence (either as a victim or a perpetrator).

Risk factors that lead to the types of violence previously explored are created within four levels of the social environment: Individual, relationship, community and societal (WHO, 2002).

Violence is firmly established in these four different levels of our social environment, thus if we are to work effectively to end violence, we must address these factors at each level. They interact with and reinforce one another, so focusing only on changing factors at one level may not lead to a significant reduction in violence (World Bank, 2010).

The four-level social-ecological model provides a better understanding of violence and the effect of potential prevention strategies, considering the interplay between individual, relationship, community and societal factors. It allows us to address the multiple factors that put individuals at risk for experiencing or perpetrating violence.

Ecological model for understanding crime and violence:

Level 1: Individual factors

Namely biological and personal history factors (such as education level, self-esteem level and marital status), identify the likelihood of becoming a victim or perpetrator of violence. Other examples of these factors include age, income, substance use, biological and physiological characteristics, or history of abuse. Brain defects, neurological dysfunctions, learning disabilities, prenatal and perinatal complications, and head injuries can also be responsible for violent conduct.

The following strategies are proposed to work on individual-level risk factors in order to change an individual’s social and cognitive skills and behavioural practices:

- Educational curricula
- Counseling/therapy
- Social development programs
- Vocational training
- Victim care and
- Support

Level 2: Relationship factors

Include factors that increase risk because of relationships, e.g., relationships with peers, intimate partners and family members. A person's closest social circle influences his or her behaviour and contributes to his or her range of experience.

Some strategies for working on relationships and the factors that contribute to violence include:

- Peer-based educational programs
- Educational/support programs for family and friends
- Individual counseling
- Family therapy
- Parent training (through home visitation or group workshops)
- Mentoring programs

Level 3: Community factors

Include the broader context of social relationships in environments, such as schools, workplaces and neighbourhoods, and seek to identify the characteristics of these settings that are associated with becoming victims or perpetrators of violence (i.e., situations and events at the community level that may trigger crime and violence). For example, easy access to firearms is a significant risk factor. South Africa has one of the highest firearm-related homicide rates per 100,000 people.

Strategies at the community level can involve seeking to improve attitudes, skills and behaviours of those who work or serve in the community and to change institutional practices and community norms. Some examples are the following:

- Professional training
- Community organization and mobilization
- Advocacy for institutional policy changes
- Reducing alcohol availability
- Reducing weapons availability
- Reducing illegal markets
- Changing institutional settings
- Referring people at risk for violence for counseling
- Improving trauma services provided
- Job creation programs

Level 4: Societal factors

Include the broad societal factors that help create a climate in which violence is encouraged or inhibited. These factors include social and cultural norms, as well as economic conditions. Other important societal factors include the health, economic, educational and social policies of government that help to maintain economic or social inequalities between groups in a society. For example, income inequality may cause economic frustration, which may lead to

violence. Media violence is often noted as an important influence on violent behaviour, not only among children (i.e., youth violence, gangs), but also among adults (i.e., domestic violence, rape). Weak police and legal systems, and widespread impunity, also affect levels of crime and violence. Cultural norms may also be a risk factor, particularly where corporal punishment of children and a husband's right to control his wife and other dependents, through any means, are widely accepted (Buvinic, M., A. Morrison and M. Shifter, 1999).

Proposed strategies at this level involve, for example, collaborations between groups and organizations to raise social awareness about violence, educate the general public and policymakers, and promote and press for changes in policies, laws, norms and attitudes. Some examples include:

- Public education
- Social norms projects
- Media campaigns on social norms and attitudes
- Advocacy and lobbying for legal and policy

Crime Prevention Concept

Accompanying community policing, is the development of a proactive approach to crime prevention. The most strenuous efforts by the police alone will not produce the desired results if the community stands by passively in the erroneous belief that crime is purely a police responsibility. The community must accept that the task of crime prevention is as much a community responsibility as it is a police responsibility, and must join hands with the police to make crime prevention effective. The failure of public involvement in crime prevention may be attributed to ignorance. It is the police responsibility to overcome this ignorance through a sustained programme of education that brings about crime prevention awareness throughout the community.

Crime prevention education makes people aware that:

- (i) They are personally responsible for the safety of their property and themselves, and for the safety of their neighbourhoods;
- (ii) Many crimes are opportunistic in nature and are committed through the negligence and carelessness of the victims. Crime is prevented if the opportunity is denied or delayed;
- (iii) They can prevent crimes by taking simple and effective measures on their own or in cooperation with their neighbours. Crime prevention measures must be commensurate with the threat. Effective protection will not come from any single measure but from the sum total of all practical and possible measures.

Why Crime Prevention

The prevailing moral climate within communities, attitudes towards crime, and the willingness of citizens and communities to take responsibility for crime are critical factors in reducing tolerance towards crime, and hence reducing crime levels. This pillar covers strategies aimed at intervening in the way in which society engages with and responds to crime and conflict. Given fiscal constraints, it is vital to improve public information and harness greater citizen responsibility and involvement in crime prevention.

This pillar aims to:

- Improve public understanding of the Criminal Justice System, to enable fuller participation
- Enhance crime awareness to underpin the development of strong community values and social pressure against criminality.
- Promote nonviolent conflict resolution, awareness of gender issues and the empowerment of sectors prone to victimisation.

Public Education Programme

Public awareness of the causes and implications of crime, including the purchase of stolen property is a key factor in crime prevention. This programme involves the development of a focused, need based public education programme, which aims to alter public attitudes and responses to crime and to activities which support crime. It is also vital in forging a national vision around crime prevention.

Key Actions:

- The launch of a National Council on Crime Prevention.
- Liaise with state government to initiate State and local public education programmes.

School-based Education Against Crime

The school is a key arena in which attitudes, values and life skills are developed. Formal schooling provides an opportunity for the creation of responsible and empowered citizenship at an early age. By providing a basic grounding in the workings of the criminal justice system as well as key life skills which build confidence and provide ammunition to deal with victimisation, this programme aims eventually to create new relations between citizens and to facilitate the administration of justice.

Establishment of the National Council on Crime Prevention & Safety (NCCPS)

Establishment of the National Council on Crime Prevention & Safety (NCCPS) is to mobilize the support of corporate citizens, corporate entity, groups, business organizations, civil societies, Non-Governmental Organizations and individuals from the community to work closely with the Nigeria police and other security

agencies on crime prevention and public safety awareness, education and education without the financial involvement of government at all levels. While it is the responsibility of the Nigeria Police to prevent crime and protect lives and properties in the country, it is to be noted that little efforts has been given to crime prevention education, awareness and citizens education about crime and violence. The Crime Prevention Unit is a silent unit under the Investigation Department of the Nigeria police. The proposed Council is not to do the work of the Nigeria Police but to complement it by raising awareness and education about crime prevention and encourage citizens' participation in public safety and security awareness.

The Proposed Council will be committed to promoting public awareness of and education about crime and to propagate the concept of self-help in crime prevention. The proposed Council would comprise influential representatives from the commercial and Civil Society and Non-Governmental Organizations sectors, as well as from the public sector and the Nigeria Police Force including commercial, manufacturing, construction and insurance sectors, the security industry, Office of the Attorney General of the Federation, Ministry of Interior and the Ministry of Information & Culture.

When the Act that establishes this Council is being enacted, the Council will depend entirely on **voluntary donations** from business organizations, donor agencies, corporate citizens and individuals **and NOT special provision from the national budget** to run its programmes and activities. The Secretariat of which shall be under the Office of the Inspector General of Police and to be headed by one of the influential representatives from any of the sectors.

The NCCPS will be a catalyst, advisor and partner to mobilize the support of groups, organizations and individuals from the community to work closely with the Police to prevent crime and promote public safety awareness and education. NCCPS will forge close and strategic alliances with various professional, social and trade organizations to tackle the problem of crime.

The proposed Council will identify problems of crime, studies and makes recommendations for its prevention. It assumes an advisory role and formulates necessary guidelines for crime prevention. The measures and strategies undertaken by the Council complement the role of the Police in its overall mission to fight against crime.

Vision

Enhanced citizens' collaboration and participation in the prevention of crimes and the promotion of public safety in Nigeria.

Mission

Working together as a Community to make Nigeria a safe and secure country by improving public information and education, and harness greater citizen responsibility and involvement in crime prevention.

Objectives

The proposed National Council on Crime Prevention and Safety objectives among others are:

1. To increase the level of public awareness and education about crime prevention and safety;
2. To encourage citizens' participation and collaboration in crime prevention;
3. To research, develop and improve crime prevention measures suitable for adoption by the public;
4. To co-ordinate the efforts of organizations interested in such activities;
5. To produce tools that communities can use to learn crime prevention strategies, engage community members, and coordinate with local agencies.

Why National Council on Crime Prevention and Safety

The main thrust of the police-community partnership is based on mutual help, with the public being persuaded and encouraged to take personal responsibility both individually and in partnership with others in safeguarding themselves, their property and their neighbourhood with the advice and assistance of the police. It is based on the principle that prevention is a community responsibility and crime prevention measures taken by the community can limit and reduce opportunities for the commission of crime. Further, the community has a role in mitigating the impact of crime on unintended victims, such as the dependents of victims, offenders and others who suffer collateral damage from these crimes. The community also has a role in reintegrating people into society.

All the security agencies saddled with the responsibilities of preventing crime and protecting lives and properties cannot be said to not be doing their jobs, but all silent and financial hindered or constraint in providing and creating constant and deep-rooted prevention education, awareness and orientation needed for achieving a safer and secure community. To promote peace and security in a community, education, re-orientation and awareness of the citizenry is key. Therefore, a citizens-led approach to crime prevention is needed in partnership with the established, constitutional-backed crime control institutions.

The rights and freedoms which the constitution entrenches are threatened every time a citizen becomes a victim of crime. Some of the causes of crime are

deep rooted and related to the history and socioeconomic realities of our society. For this reason, a comprehensive strategy must go beyond providing only effective policing. It must also provide for mobilization and participation of civil society in assisting to address crime and conflict

To effectively reduce crime, it is necessary to transform and re-organize government and facilitate real community participation. We need to weave a new social fabric, robust enough to withstand the stresses of rapid change in a new-born society. Government should strategize to maximize civil society's participation in mobilizing and sustaining crime prevention initiatives. Creation of a dedicated and integrated crime prevention capacity which can conduct ongoing research and evaluation of departmental and public campaigns as well as facilitating effective crime prevention programmes at provincial and local level.

We need a new approach by government and requires the development of wider responsibility for crime prevention and a shift in emphasis from reactive "crime control"; which deploys most resources towards responding after crimes have already been committed, towards proactive "crime prevention" aimed at preventing crime from occurring at all.

Media representations of crime are very influential in shaping public perceptions. These are however, often disproportionately responsive to audible interest groups in society, rather than to less obvious, but important, crime issues. An effective communications strategy, based on reliable information, is important in properly informing public opinion in the fight against crime.

Is there Such Council in the Committee of Nations?

The establishment of National Crime Prevention Council (NCPC) is **not a new phenomenon** and has contributed to crime reduction; public safety and public confidence in the institutions of government saddle with the responsibilities of enforcing the law and prevent crime. In Canada, National Crime Prevention Council is initiated by their government; the same with NCPC Australia which is under the Office of the Attorney General. Denmark and Estonia have well-functioning National Crime Prevention Council to promote crime prevention which they see as urgently needed.

European Forum for Urban Security is a network of 250 local authorities from 16 countries – government, NGOs and universities involved in crime prevention. German Congress on Crime Prevention comprises leaders from government – local, state and national; health care, child & youth welfare, justice, churches, media, politics, business, police, civil societies, NGOs and schools.

In Singapore, NCPC was established by the Ministry of Home Affairs, as a non-profitable voluntary organization to represent leading figures from the private

and public sectors and government. National Crime Prevention Council USA was founded in 1982 by Crime Prevention Coalition of America to manage the National Citizens' Crime Prevention Campaign and McGruff the Crime Dog. Civil Societies and security experts in Switzerland are working together to establish their National Crime Prevention Council to reduce and prevent crime in their country, knowing the implication of crime on their economic and country stability.

So having Nigeria's National Council on Crime Prevention and Safety is long overdue and needed for public safety and crime prevention awareness in Nigeria. If a more safer and secure nations and cities can have functioning NCPCs, then there is no reason why Nigeria cannot adopt same with the aim of providing a conducive environment free of crime and violence for learning, living, economic development and political stability.

Formation

The proposed Council would comprise influential representatives from the commercial and Civil Society and Non-Governmental Organizations sectors, as well as from the public sector and the Nigeria Police Force including commercial, manufacturing, construction and insurance sectors, the security industry, Office of the Attorney General of the Federation, Ministry of Interior and the Ministry of Information & Culture, social leaders, professionals and police officers. It is involved with other organizations and government departments in promoting crime prevention. It works closely with the police and organizes exhibitions, workshops, courses, contests and talks to involve and educate individuals and organizations on crime prevention. It also conducts research into various aspects of crime prevention.

The proposed Council will be made up of a Chairman, a Vice-chairman and 17 members appointed by the Minister for Interior. All members of the Council serve as volunteers. A secretariat located within the Office of the Inspector General of Police to support the Council.

The Council's membership will reflect our diversity and includes individuals with varied and diverse experience in organizations such as civil society, NGOs, banks, construction companies, insurance companies, religious bodies, real estate, media, hotel association, persons with disabilities group, professional body, road transport association, security organizations, etc.

Each appointment is for a term of 3 years. The Minister for Interior may renew an appointment for an additional term.

The Board of Directors meets once every month for briefing on state of crime and crime preventive measures. The annual General Meeting is held once in a

year to receive and approve the report of the Board of Directors, and to transact any other business.

Finances

Except otherwise the federal government and that of states and local decided to support the work of the proposed Council, the income of the Council shall be solely from **voluntary donations** from business organizations, donor agencies, corporate citizens and individuals to run its programmes and activities

Implementation

Crime prevention cannot be tackled by government alone, or by one sector of government alone. It requires an integrated, multi-agency approach where all relevant departments view crime prevention as a shared responsibility and collective priority;

Consultation with civil society around crime prevention should aim to give effect to the contribution that can potentially be made from civil society.

The Inspector General of Police will be tasked with ensuring the success of the Council. Support structures should also be established by the Office of the Honourable Minister of Interior to ensure that necessary planning, budgeting and the redirection of resources takes place in support of the Council's programmes and Projects.

The Inspector General of Police will also be responsible for monitoring implementation of the various aspects of the Council and report progress to the Minister of Interior. The Council Secretariat will be responsible for communicating programmes and activities, both within government and publicly. Such communication is vital if all the role-players are to play their roles in this vital project.

Programmes and Projects

With community policing firmly in place, and strategic networks established with public organizations such as grassroots organizations, private bodies trade associations, it becomes possible to leverage on their cooperation and expertise in crime prevention. The reach of crime prevention programmes initiated by the Nigeria Police is greatly enhanced through these collaborations with leading public and private organizations that aim to enhance security-awareness and security within their respective trades and spheres of operation.

Secretariat

The Secretariat of the NCCPS is instrumental in providing the administrative and operation support to the Council for the initiation and implementation of a large number of community involvement programmes for the promotion of crime prevention.

The Secretariat of which shall be under the Office of the Inspector General of Police and to be headed by one of the influential representatives from any of the sectors.

Conclusion

The NCCPS represents a turning point in the fight against crime. The fight against crime requires commitment, clarity of vision and leadership from within all national government institutions, provincial and local government, and participation by civil society, NGOs and private business organizations in Nigeria.

Reference

African Centre for Citizens Orientation