

INTRODUCTION

I welcome you to the alluring beauty of the River Benue and the serenity of the venue of this 2013 Police Service Commission Biennial retreat on ***"Sustaining Police Reforms in Nigeria"***

Please shelve your weight plan for the next couple of days and explore the culinary maze of Benue State, ***the Food Basket of the Nation.***

My paper is on ***"Public Expectations of the Reformed Nigeria Police as a Law Enforcement Agent"***

The Nigeria Police in this country is the principal law enforcement agency and an indispensable organ of the executive arm of government through which the primary purpose of provision of security and looking after the welfare of the people are realized. The Police play important roles without which the sustenance of internal peace and security may be difficult. Nigeria does not face external threats, the threat to our security is internal from criminal activities, invasion of our homes and aspects of our lives and property. We have lost our moral values and principles. So much have gone wrong in our family life, schools and Churches.

The Nation is faced with incidents of armed Robbery, inter communal violence, extra judicial killings, rape, money laundering, cyber-crimes, upsurge in terrorist-related attacks, human trafficking etc. In a society faced with such challenges, policing has always been necessary for the preservation of law order and social relations. Peace, law, order, security of life and property are prerequisite for progress and development of any society. Policing undoubtedly involves a variety of tasks and responsibilities. Hence policing in law enforcement embraces

all the activities carried out by the police to fulfill its mandate of maintaining internal peace and security.

The authority of the Police in Nigeria is derived from two sources

- (a) Law
- (b) Public Trust

A. POLICE AS LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENT

The Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria an organic instrument and our supreme law confers powers and also creates rights and limitations.

The Nigeria Police Force is established under section 214 of the 1999 Constitution – which provides that

- 1) 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:-
- 2) Subject to the provisions of this Constitution –
 - (a) The Nigeria Police Force shall be organized and administered in accordance with such provisions as may be prescribed by an Act of the National Assembly
 - (b) The members of the Nigeria Police Force shall have such powers and duties as may be conferred upon them by law
 - (c) The National Assembly may make provisions for branches of the Nigeria Police Force forming part of the armed forces of the Federation or for the protection of harbours, waterways, railways and airfields.

(3) FUNCTIONS OF THE NIGERIA POLICE FORCE

The functions of the Nigeria Police Force were specified in section 4 of the Police Act (Cap 359) laws of the Federation of Nigeria 2004

These are:-

- (a) Prevention and detection of crime
- (b) The preservation of law and order
- (c) Apprehensive and prosecution of offenders
- (d) Due enforcement of all laws and regulations with which they are directly charged and
- (e) To perform such military duties within or without Nigeria as may be required by them or under the authority of this or any other Act
- (f) Protection of life and property.

Powers Exercisable By The Nigeria Police

The community reading of the Police Act, Criminal Procedure Act (CAP) and the Criminal Procedure code gave the Police wide powers as follows:

- 1) To take measures to prevent crime
- 2) To investigate crime
- 3) To interrogate suspects
- 4) To prosecute suspects
- 5) To search properties and persons in order to prevent crimes, detect or investigate crimes, or detect and apprehend offenders and collect evidence for prosecution
- 6) To grant bail to suspects pending investigation or arraignment in court

- 7) To serve summons
- 8) To regulate processions and assemblies.
- 9) To disperse illegal or unlawful procession and assembly

Section 215 of the 1999 Constitution is obvious of the command of the Police, the appointment of the Inspector-General of Police by the President and the Commissioners of Police for each State of the Federation by the Police Service Commission.

The current organization of the Police Force is the Headquarters, 12 Zonal Commands, 36 State Command and a Federal Capital Territory (FCT) Command. The overall head of the Force is the Inspector-General, while each of the 12 Zonal Commands with which the 36 States and FCT Commands are grouped, is under the command of an Assistant Inspector-General of Police. Each of the 36 States and the FCT Commands are under the leadership of the Commissioner of Police.

The Police Act and Regulations provided for disciplinary measures and mechanism in the Nigeria Police Force

Section 339 of the Police Act Cap 359 of the Laws of the Federation of Nigeria 1990 provides that:-

"The Standards of conduct required of a Police officer are that he shall –

- (a) Offer prompt obedience to lawful orders;
- (b) Be determined and incompatible in the exercise of his Police duties
- (c) Have a strict regard to the correctness of his general behaviour
- (d) Take a proper pride in his appearance both in uniform and out of uniform

Section 340 of the Police Act prescribes the attributes of a Police officer as follows:-

"A Police officer is required to have a thorough understanding and knowledge of the laws and of police orders and instructions and to develop the attributes of:-

- (a) Efficiency and thoroughness through meticulous attention to details in the performance of his duties.
- (b) Courtesy, forbearance and helpfulness in his dealings with members of the public
- (c) Tact, patience and tolerance and the control of his temper in trying situations
- (d) Integrity, in refusing to allow religions, racial, political or personal feelings or other considerations to influence him in the execution of his duties.
- (e) Impartiality in the avoidance of feelings of vindictiveness, or the showing of vindictiveness towards offenders
- (f) Strict truthfulness in his handling of investigations and in the giving of evidence

Section 341 provides that:-

"In the individual exercise of his powers as a Police officer, every police shall be personally liable for any misuse of his powers or of any act done in excess of the first schedule of the Police Regulations (Appendix 1). The Provision has listed several offences which are referred to as offences against discipline and which are subject to internal disciplinary processes and sanctions. The regulation of the work of the police and other law enforcement are no longer left exclusively within the ambit of domestic law because of the potential for abuse.

International Standards were evolved to guide their operations. The General Assembly of the United Nations developed instruments to provide guidance for the Police as follows:-

- (a) The Universal Declaration of Human Rights
- (b) The International Covenant on Human Rights
- (c) The covenant against Torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment

There is also the Code of Conduct for Law Enforcement officials adopted at 106th Plenary Meetings of the United Nations General Assembly in 1979. Here in Nigeria, Chapter 4 of the 1999 Constitution has enunciated that the responsibilities of the Police must be performed diligently and with dignity in compliance with the principles of human rights, and in addition according to International Standards of human rights. The police have adequate laws covering the field but the major challenge is its disposition to the enforcement of those laws.

B. PUBLIC TRUST

The service NPF provides is people orientated, the performance of the activities by the police must be people friendly. The tasks of the police require the full cooperation of the public in order to properly detect crime and be successful. Conversely, the Nigeria people regard the police as necessary evil, rather than a source of confidence and protection. The resultant effect is a severe loss of confidence in the Police on the part of the citizens. One of the most critical issues facing Nigeria today is how to turn the Nigeria Police Force around, reform it massively and make it a friendly and efficient force organization.

(a) TRADITIONAL POLICING – ITS CHALLENGES/SUCCESES

The Inspector-General of Police M.D. Abubakar created a Mini Hall of Fame on the 7th Floor of the Force Headquarters Abuja. In his Epitaph at the entrance of the Mini Hall, the last paragraph has this to say:-

“As you embark on this little but inspiring journey of discovery we hope that you will learn a thing or two about the challenges, constraints, prospects and success of the force over the years. The journey to the larger Hall of Fame and Museum however continues”

The Mini Hall of Fame is an impressive story of the evolution of the Nigeria Police over the years.

The role of police is a privileged one whereby police officers are entrusted by their fellow citizens to protect the citizens fundamental rights to liberty equality and justice under the law. Globally and in Nigeria in particular, performance and efficiency of the police vary from State to State due to a number of reasons – namely incompetent leadership, prevailing social, political and economic factors, which have impacted negatively on police performance. In this country the years after independence were years of great fear, discord and strife. The plight of the police is easily attributable to its historical origin, and long years of neglect by military government which rule the country for over thirty years of our country's life. The Nigeria Police was established in 1930 by merging the Northern and Southern Nigeria Police Forces. Between 1930 – 1966 the Nigeria Police Force co-existed with local administration Police Force in Local Government Areas in Western Nigeria and the Native Authorities in Northern Nigeria. The primary purpose of

the colonial police force during the colonial era was to protect newly acquired territories by the British imperialist power against indigenous popular revolt against oppression and exploitation.

The police culture was captured in the colonial Era as follows:-

“The Police was conceived not as a service organization for the native but as an instrument of correction or oppression of the natives – because of the use to which the colonial masters put the police, i.e harassing and arresting tax defaulters, brutalizing trade unionists and other nationalists and torturing persons accused of criminal offences”¹

During the military era the Inspector-General of Police and the entire Police Force were brought under the control of the Military Heads of State who had no regard for the rule of law and human rights. The Police was deliberately underfunded. The performance of duties became ineffective while internal discipline was eroded. Police were involved in government and judicial functions. Numerical strength was reduced while standard was lowered and Police efficiency deteriorated. There was abuse of fundamental human rights of citizens with impunity.

CONSTITUTIONAL ROLE OF THE POLICE

Two factors emerged from the relevant laws 1979 and 1999 Constitution as amended, which established the Police as a ***monopoly***.

Section 214 subsection (1) provides that:-

1. "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.
2. Section 214 (2) (c) provides as follows:-
"The National Assembly may make provisions for branches of the Nigeria Police Force forming part of the armed forces of the Federation or for the protection of harbours, waterways, railways and airfields".

Section 4 of the Police Act Cap 359 laws of the Federation 2004 gave the Police power to perform such military duties within Nigeria as may be required of them by or under the authority of this or any other act.

Statutorily, Police in this country perform dual functions –

- (1) **Policing the country as well as performing military duties:-** Nigerians at the receiving end have to cope with these conflicting roles of the police – crime fighting and peace keeping. They enforce the law by which they arrest and prosecute in the process, on the other hand, they are social workers, managers of social conflicts, though gunmen in social work. They have been described as friends of all those who need their services and yet armed agent of vengeance for some"²
- (2) Before and since Independence the role of the Police has not been re-defined to suit the need of the Nigeria people. There has not been room to establish Police confidence. During the colonial era, the Police was started as a para – military force bearing arms and used as a weapon to sustain British administration and oppress the natives. During the military regimes, the military

governments who had no respect for the rule of law, and human rights used the Police to oppress, arbitrarily arrest and incarcerate those who criticize military rule. Since the Police use the law as guide in the performance of their duties, the Political leaders have found it convenient to capitalize on this to control the Police Force and use them as necessary agent to foster their political exploits.

The Nigeria Police Force became a regimented and highly disciplined organization, with a near autocratic style of leadership. There was a pronounced police – public alienation.

Reformed Nigeria Police/Public Expectations

Public Trust affects the values that the police represent. The effectiveness and efficiency of the police depend on the perception of the people. The operational perception must meet public satisfaction.

Public Trust demands that in exercising their authority the police must-

1. Respect human dignity
2. Behave with integrity
3. Act without prejudice to the rights of others regardless of race, faith, gender or social standing
4. Exemplary in their professional competence and civility
5. Be responsive to community needs and priorities
6. See that the underlying causes of crime and public complaints are identified
7. Lay emphasis on and adopt a systematic and integrated problem-solving approach with a view to reducing and preventing such incidents
8. Do away with unfriendly investigation techniques

9. Stop extra-judicial killings and Revenge killings which resort to jungle justice
10. Tackle allegations of so called collusion with criminals, armed robbers, kidnappers etc
11. End abuse of powers of arrest
12. Lay emphasis on exclusive law enforcement
13. Stop monetization of erstwhile free police bail at police stations
14. Be effective in preventing crime and anti social behavior within the society

CAUSES OF POOR PUBLIC PERCEPTION

The public perceptions of the police are caused in varying degrees by the government, the police and the public.

Government

The police is that agency through which the tempo of the government and the political system may be assessed. Successive governments in the past from military to civilian must accept full responsibility for police failures because of factors attributed to their respective governments.

These are –

- (1) Failure of government to implement the past recommendations to reform the police
- (2) Corruption
- (3) Disastrous Economic policies

- (4) Non-observance of the rule of law
- (5) Non compliance with local and international human rights obligation
- (6) Lack of proper funding of the police by government, particularly to implement police reform initiatives
- (7) Reduction in the numerical strength of the police through government policies
- (8) Poor conditions of service of the police
- (9) Lack of vehement policy to guide the affairs of the police force.

Leadership has a major role to play in the effectiveness of any police force and leadership includes – political Leadership. The democratic administration in Nigeria has been totally committed to building a virile, disciplined, well-trained, properly equipped, community and people friendly police force. Several committees were set up to achieve this goal like;

- (a) M.D Yusuf Panel to reform and re-organize the Nigeria Police Force 1994;

- (b) Danmadami Committee on Police Reform, 2006; and

- (c) M.D Yusuf Presidential Committee on the Reform of the Nigeria Police Force, 2008

Mr. President, Dr. Goodluck Ebele Jonathan GCFR set-up the DiG Parry Osayande Committee on the re-organization of the police in 2012. It is hoped that the cumulative work of these Committee will yield fruit with proper funding from Government.

Permit me to further reflect the perception of the police in our society today with quotations from the reports of two committees set up for police reform.

In 1994 M.D Yusuf Committee observed that –

“One seriousness of the present situation is borne out by the fact that nearly every Nigerian or a visitor to Nigeria has one unsavory story or the other to tell about the police. If it is not non-challance in the handling of genuine cases, there it would be for over zealousness in the pursuit of self serving ends. To say that public confidence in this vital national institution has been severely eroded is not merely to state the obvious it is to understate it”

The Committee on the Re-Organization of the Nigeria Police 2012 Report states that –

“The Nigeria Police have been the butt of jokes, derision and abuse by Nigerians due to non-performance, corruption, inefficiency and unfriendly disposition to members of the public. From being the first line of defence on the matters of internal security the police have been relegated to the position of a poor co-efficient in the management of national security.”

The government must produce a comprehensive National Police Reform policy to achieve a functional responsibility for the police.

The Police

It has been repeatedly echoed that Nigeria Police officers perform excellently in international assignments but poorly in their local duties at home. It is obvious that they perform excellently outside Nigeria because of provision of equipment and conducive environment of operations.

The Nigeria Police has its own constraints. This is part of the story in the Epitaph of the current Inspector-General of Police in the Hall of Fame at the Police Headquarters. They have suffered neglect and abandonment by successive governments – during the colonial Era and during the 30 years military rule. Nowadays the challenges facing the Police include poor funding, corruption, lack of proper community policing, public image problems, issues with inter – service and agency co-operation, condition of service and welfare of police officers and need for attitudinal change in policing. Regardless of the increase in Police salaries, the Nigeria Police is the least paid in the West African Sub-Region.

Poorly developed human resources, poorly equipped, accountability, lack of motivation, corruption in the system and internal security challenges. Nigeria as country is now witnessing terrible challenges. Unfortunately the Police have borne the brunt of the casualties, fatalities in their ranks at the police stations or during patrol duties and on other law enforcement assignment. The Ombatse/Alakyo massacre in Nasarawa State is still fresh in our memories. There is an upsurge in crime waves with Armed Robbery, Kidnappings, Internet crimes, insurgent attacks in stubborn defiance. Corruption is a cankerworm

eating into all fabric of the nation, no institution is left out of the allegation, though the pattern of corruption in the police is described as unique as it lacks secrecy.

Low morale of the police –

Successive government continue to carve out integral unit of the police as autonomous entities as against Section 214 (1) of the 1999 Constitution (as amended) which provides for only one Police Force for the country. Such quasi organizations are:

- (a) State Security Service (SSS)
- (b) Federal Road Safety Corps (FRSC)
- (c) The Nigeria Security and Civil Defense Corps (NCDC)
- (d) Independent Corrupt Practice Commission (ICPC)
- (e) Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC)

Unfortunately the public not being properly informed continue to blame the lapses of such agencies on the police.

These agencies only duplicate Police functions and responsibilities, however they are better funded and their staff better paid and motivated than personnel of the Nigeria Police Force.

FUNDING OF THE POLICE

There are a lot of Police officers in the Nigeria Police Force who are honourable, patriotic and hardworking yet they are poorly remunerated. The salary structure of the Police does not reflect high responsibility attached to the duties of the officers.

Police officers who retire have no encouraging pension scheme and those who die in active service have no buoyant insurance scheme to keep their memory alive and relatives well taken care of.

Nigeria Police officials perform excellently in international assignments because of the provision of equipment and conducive environment of operations. This culture must be imbibed at home.

The Nigeria Police must be properly funded else the country will be faced with a force that is unable to perform its mandatory functions effectively and meet the expectations of the people which will lead to a decline in our economic and social developments. It is therefore suggested that the fiscal and financial responsibility and accountability of the resource of the Nigeria Police should be vested in the Inspector-General of Police who is the operational head of the Police. The Police should determine its priorities, draw its budget based on its needs and should be held accountable for the use of the funds. The "envelop system" of budgeting for the Police whereby the Ministry provides a budget template encourages inefficiency. This is because rather than allow the policing plan to influence the budget, the budget influences the policing plan. He should present the financial statement, annual budget, his policing plan and the report of his activities to the Nigeria Police Council. Government should provide for the operational efficiency of the Nigeria Police Force through adequate funding and capacity building.

HUMAN RESOURCES

There must be an improvement in the human resources management of the Police. The numerical strength of the Police was reduced during the Biafra war and the military rule.

Recruitment must be geared towards achievement of the United Nations standard of one Policeman to four hundred Nigerians. In the recruitment exercise, care must be taken to ensure that only the best candidates who are educationally, morally, physically and mentally qualified are recruited. The present Police deployment should be spread to other unpoliced areas to ensure full Police coverage of the entire country. The Nigeria Police must train and retrain the officers. There must be re-orientation, establishment of training schools, modernization of its training institutions and curricular to meet the needs of 21st Century policing. Undesirable elements with corrupt and bad disciplinary records should not be allowed to remain in the Force. Such purge must be on a continuous basis so as to ensure the sustenance of a Police of our dream. The general conditions of service and remuneration of Police Personnel should be reviewed upwards to boost morale, instill discipline in the Police and restore the dignity of the Nigeria Policeman.

ICT

In order to deal with the complexity of policing and the use of sophisticated tools and techniques by criminals, the Nigeria Police like its counterpart all over the world is passing through strategic changes depending more on the use of ICT and other scientific aids in prevention and detection of crime including CCTV.

The government has procured arms and ammunitions to address the challenges posed by religious insurgents, miscreants, armed bandits and kidnappers whose activities constitute serious dangers to the lives and properties of innocent citizens.

Police Leadership

Leadership of the Police must be ready to re – establish a sense of confidence on the part of the general public in the areas of :-

- (a) Enhancing efficiency
- (b) Fairness
- (c) Impartiality

Importance of leadership for the success of any organization cannot be overemphasized. In the Nigeria Police the leadership must be ready:

- (a) To practice the values it preaches
- (b) To create an enabling organization whereby skills, attitudes and behaviour to achieve such ideals are inculcated through effective selection, meaningful human resources policies and personnel development processes for individual officers
- (c) Institute formal and informal training for strategic target oriented policing. There is need for systematic training for Police officers leadership and managers. Police leadership under the incumbent Inspector – General M. D. Abubakar, mni, has been very proactive, full of ideas for reform and optimum efficiency. The activities so far have portrayed him as a visionary and an achiever. By reputation he has been leading by example I believe that the entire Nigeria concurs, going by his

beehive of activities, including those already executed and those in the pipeline like –

- (a) Efforts to regenerate a Police Force that is professional in all ramifications
- (b) Proposal of an improved welfare packages for the rank and file
- (c) Provision of improved equipment
- (d) Improved logistics and training facilities in Police Colleges and training institutions
- (e) Replaced road blocks with highway patrols and border patrols
- (f) Secured additional vehicles, communication tools with modern crime fighting gadgets
- (g) Partnership with corporate individuals and State Government's for technical and financial assistance to implement his plans
- (h) Officers given assignments for which they have professional qualifications
- (i) Improvement on the issue of human rights image of the police through collaboration between the Police and Human Rights Commission
- (j) Launching of Code of Conduct and Professional standards for Police officers
- (k) The vision and mission of the IGP to build a people friendly Police is on ground.

The Inspector-General must indeed be applauded for his work.

In order to sustain Police Reform there must be continuity in the reform agenda of an Inspector-General by his successor

However, it is no gainsaying that the leadership of our security services has to work much harder to earn public trust and co-

operation. The traditional policing based on force, hostility, coercion and brutality, has only succeeded in developing a Police culture that alienated the public. Modern day policing must undergo philosophical operation characterized by the notion of ***"Police Service" rather than "Police force". The most significant goal for the Police is public satisfaction, trust and confidence in the quality of services provided by the Police. The word "force" I think, should be dropped from the nomenclature.***

Accountability/Transparency

A key factor required for effective policing is accountability and transparency which entails that:-

- (a) All Police personnel are accountable for their professional and personal standards and answerable for their treatment of citizens and what they do;
- (b) Policing effectiveness is monitored, evaluated and open to scrutiny; and
- (c) Effective means of seeking redress are available to citizens with genuine grievances against the Police. The importance of having civilian oversight bodies and public access procedures on the Police is borne out by the widespread citizens concern about Police exercise of enormous and often intensive powers they enjoy under the law.

The government has created a trilateral arrangement to look after the affairs under the constitution. The Nigeria Police Council, the Police Service Commission and the Inspector – General of Police. The institutions responsible for external and

internal mechanisms of Police accountability and civilian oversight functions in Nigeria are

- (1) The Ministry of Police Affairs which should hold the Police responsible for the implementation of policies and programmes and for the use of allocated resources.
- (2) The Police Service Commission by virtue of the constitutional provision and the Police Service Commission Establishment Act No. 15 of 2001, which defines its powers and functions. Its composition of membership includes a broad representation of human rights community, organized private sector, women, the media and a retired justice of Superior court of record. The Police Service Commission if strengthened financially, and administratively, is designed to be a powerful and autonomous civilian oversight body for the Police.

The members have enormous responsibilities arising from the constitutional and statutory provisions. The potentials have not been fully utilized. The Commission is poorly funded which has constituted a serious limitation on its operations and exercise of its powers and functions. The Commission engages in direction, reviews decisions of NPF, receives complaints from public and engages in proactive approach to Police misconduct. The Commission must be repositioned to carry out its mandate and reform the Police. The Commission must be fully engaged in formulating and implementing policies aimed at efficiency and discipline within the Nigeria Police Force performing such other functions as in the opinion of the Commission are required to ensure optimal efficiency in the Nigeria Police Force. The Commission at present has no adequate training for its staff and this must be urgently addressed. The Commission

must also respond to acts of injustice perpetrated by the police on members of the Nigerian Public.

Other bodies with public access procedures are the National Assembly Committee on Police Affairs, Nigerian Human Rights Commission, Public Complaints Commission, and other civil society organizations. I must commend the human rights organizations and particularly the media which have been vigilant and ensuring that complaints against the Police by members of the public are not swept under carpet but they have been getting the appropriate publicity and attention that the justice of the complaint deserves.

It must be explained that no statutory body can make a meaningful impact on social problems or internal security issues if it acts in isolation of other related agencies and stakeholders. The Police must liaise and work together with other statutory agencies and voluntary organizations in addressing crime and other disturbances to internal security.

POOR PERCEPTION BY THE PUBLIC

1. Poor perception of the police has succeeded in developing a police culture which alienates people. People have resorted to self help or in cases jungle justice with people in high crime areas, creating organization for self defense like OPC, Bakassi-Boys, Egbesu, ethnic militias and vigilante groups.
2. Lack of public support for the work of the police as those with useful information that could assist the police do not often volunteer such information.
3. Lukewarm public support for the demands by the police

4. Inabilities for the police to discharge their functions effectively or efficiently as policing potentials are not assured.
5. Mounting litigation against the authorities of the police for human rights violation by policemen.

By virtue of laws establishing the police and defining their powers and functions, the police have enormous responsibilities which impact positively on the quality of life of individual and society as a whole. Instead of enjoying public confidence and co-operation; the police in Nigeria are avoided as much as possible by the public. A diligent performance of law enforcement duties in line with human right standards is a condition precedent to the existence of a mutually beneficial relationship between the police and the people. The Nigeria Police must be and also be seen to be responsive to public perception and expectations so as to serve humanitarian need. Nowadays one of the most damaging factors responsible for poor public perception of the police is the apparent lack of a transparent and effective means of maintaining police accountability to the public. The public see the police as an instrument of oppression.

This is a clarion call that Police must now redeem its poor public perception , get out of traditional cocoon of being a para-military organization and live up to its slogan of **"Police is your friend"**. When we talk about Police accountability, it must be one that is broadly based running through the entire system, like policing policies, resource allocations, management, performance conduct and integrity. The emphasis must now be in support of community policing, laying emphasis on the culture and tradition of the people. Police – Community Relations Committee should be encouraged and made more

effective. The public must be enlightened about the existence of the Committees. There must be intensive enlightenment campaigns and trainings aimed at re-orientating the officers and men of the Police Force to see themselves as servants of law for the protection of the people.

Reformed Police Force

The primary or fundamental responsibilities of the reformed police are-

- (a) Uphold the Rule of law
- (b) Protect life and property
- (c) Prevent crime and the fear of crime
- (d) Preserve public tranquility
- (e) Detect offences and enable appropriate resolution for victims and offenders
- (f) Befriend those who turn to the police in need
- (g) Ensure a caring, approachable and re-assuring community presence
- (h) Foster a close relationship with the public and fellow citizens as they cannot perform their statutory duties on their own.
- (i) Meet public expectations and be worthy of public trust

A diligent performance of law enforcement duties in line with human right standards is a condition precedent to the existence of a mutually beneficial relationship between the police and the people.

Nigerians must look inwards and effect a fundamental change in our way of life and social values.

I shall end this paper with a quotation from Charles Darwin (the scientist) that - ***"It is not the strongest of the species that survive, nor the most intelligent but the one most responsive to change"***.

Thanks for listening.

Olu Adekeye, JSC (Rtd)

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