



FEDERAL UNIVERSITY, NDUFU-ALIKE, IKWO, EBONYI STATE, NIGERIA
DEPARTMENT: CRIMINOLOGY AND SECURITY STUDIES
COURSE: INTRODUCTION TO LAW ENFORCEMENT (SOC 103)
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Course Outline/Content

- Meaning and Origin of Primitive Law Enforcement/Social Control
- Types/forms of Law Enforcement/Social Control
- Importance of Law Enforcement/Social Control
- Agents of Law Enforcement/Social Control
- Strategies for Law Enforcement/Social Control
- Development of the Nigeria Police
- Organisational Structure of the Nigeria Police
- Command Structure of the Nigeria Police
- Modus Operandi (Mode of Operation) of the Nigeria Police
- Challenges of the Nigeria Police

MEANING AND ORIGIN OF PRIMITIVE LAW ENFORCEMENT/SOCIAL CONTROL

- Man by nature is a deviant and as a result it will be difficult or even impossible for people to conform to the societal norms and values. This implies that the society takes precedence over individuals in it. Nonetheless, man has to be kept in check; placed under serious restrictions for mutual understanding and peaceful coexistence in human society. In other words, social control simply means the influence of the society over individual members. It is the imposition of sanctions (both treatment and punishment) for the prevention and control of antisocial behaviour as well as to maintain law and order in the society. Put differently, social control is synonymous with law enforcement and social restraints. It is therefore a concerted and organised effort made to guarantee public safety at its maximum level by the formal and informal agents of social control in society.

- Although unsophisticated in nature, law enforcement was known to our forebears. Different law enforcement mechanisms were adopted by traditional societies in the prevention and control of crime, delinquency and deviant. A look into the structural organisation of various African societies reveals that different traditional societies in the continent had instituted their own, though informal in nature, forms of policing prior to the European contact with Africa. For instance, law enforcement in some traditional Nigerian societies like the Igbo nation was carried out by age grades, masquerades, the extended family, secret societies and other local paramilitary formations before the era of colonialism. Serious or mere flouting of societal etiquette and ethos were punished and corrected by these organisations. While such informal agents of social control or policing were operative in Igboland, the Hausa, Yoruba and Niger Delta communities had their own law enforcement/police subsystem which was somewhat formalised and centralised at that point in Nigerian socio-political history (culled from Nnam, Agboti & Otu, 2013: 72).

TYPES/FORMS OF LAW ENFORCEMENT

SOCIAL CONTROL

- **There are two major forms of social control:** formal and informal. Formal social control is carried out by the conventional law enforcement and order maintenance agents and agencies such as the military or armed forces (Army, Navy and Air force) and paramilitary formations (Nigeria Police, NP; Nigerian Immigration Service, NIS; Nigerian Security and Civil Defence Corps, NSCDC; Department of State Security, DSS; Federal Road Safety Corp, FRSC, National Drug Law Enforcement Agency, NDLEA; Courts; certified and approved Private Security agencies; etc). These formal social control institutions are empowered by the law/constitution to arrest, investigate, arraigned/prosecuted and reward positively (treatment) or negatively (punishment). Informal social control, on the other hand, was the first type of social control ever known to humanity. It was developed to liberate man from the state of nature (which was characterised by solitude, brutish, nasty, poor and short). Under informal form of social control, individuals' behaviour was regulated by folklore/folkways, social norms, mores (pronounced Mo-rays), customs, masquerades, age grades, and reasonable members of the primary groups in society.
- It is interesting to note that social control also takes both direct and indirect forms and as such could be directly or indirectly applied. As the name implies, direct social control is a direct regulation of individuals' behaviour, and it takes place mainly in the primary group settings such as family, peer group, neighbourhood, and the like. In direct social control, every mature and sensible person is a 'social controller' or 'law enforcer'. Here, parents, guardians, caregivers, older siblings, neighbours, teachers, playmates, classmates and the clergy are naturally empowered to prevent and control any excesses identified in their respective domains. On the other hand, indirect social control invokes a somewhat distance factors or measures in the control of societal members' behaviour. Here, the norms and values, customs and traditions, among others play a leading role in controlling the behaviour of individuals in society.

- Most people in Nigeria perceive the Nigeria Police Force (NPF) as the only law enforcement organisation, probably because the police have more physical contact with the society at large than any other law enforcement agencies. The other law enforcement organisations include: Nigeria Immigration Service (NIS), Nigeria Custom Service (NCS), Nigeria Army (NA), State Security Service (SSS), National Drug Law Enforcement Agency (NDLEA), Federal Environmental Protection Agency (FEPA), Consumer Protection Council (CPC), Defence Intelligence Agency (DIA), Economic and Financial Crime Commission (EFCC), Federal Road Safety Corps (FRSC), Independent Corrupt Practices Commission (ICPC), National Agency for Food and Drug Administration and Control (NAFDAC), National Agency for the Prohibition of Trafficking in Person (NAPTIP), National Intelligence Agency (NIA), National Taskforce (Natforce), Nigeria Maritime Administration and Safety Agency (NIMASA), Nigeria Prison Service (NPS), Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps (NSCDC), Nigeria Copyright Commission (NCC) and Standard Organisation of Nigeria (SON). Each of these law enforcement organisations is commissioned to protect lives and property in Nigeria.

IMPORTANCE OF LAW ENFORCEMENT/SOCIAL CONTROL

- Social control is necessary in society, as it reduces antisocial conducts to the barest minimum and increases conformity to a significant level;
- Social control guarantees proper socialisation and good upbringing of children which in turn gives rise to meaningful growth and development to take place in the society;
- Social control is important because it maintains the ‘status quo’ (old social order) in the society;
- It is used to establish and maintain social unity, order and progress;
- The importance of social control philosophy is felt much in its ability to maintain relative peace and order in some pluralistic and crime-ridden societies like Nigeria;
- Social control checks and balances the power and authority bestowed on societal members and social institutions;
- It helps to produce and preserve cultural heritage for the benefit of the society and its members;
- Social control minimises the level of anomie and social disorganisations in society;
- Social control guarantees both familial and societal reputations and respect;
- It guarantees respect for human dignity and fundamental human rights;
- Without social control, the collective sentiments (shared norms, core values, and moral beliefs of the society) will lose its potency to regulate individuals’ behaviour, thereby making crime a dysfunctional phenomenon by allowing it to reach unacceptable level of tolerance;
- Social control strengthens the ethos, etiquette and ethical standards of a society;
- It paves way for compliance and obedience to social decision and sanctions; and
- Etc.

AGENTS OF LAW ENFORCEMENT/SOCIAL CONTROL

- The agents or agencies of social control are numerous, viz:
- Family
- School
- State
- Church
- Associations
- Public opinion
- Masquerades
- The media
- Peer group
- Etc.

- **STRATEGIES FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT/SOCIAL CONTROL**
- There are two broad strategies for law enforcement/social control: formal and informal

- **Formal Law Enforcement/Social Control Mechanisms**
- Education
- Law/Constitution
- Treatment versus Punishment
- Coercion
- Fine
- Etc

- **Informal Law Enforcement/Social Control Mechanisms**
- Generally, informal methods of social control are strongly anchored in social norms, folkways, mores (pronounced mo-rays), values, art, belief system, custom, etc, but special attention is paid to some social control strategies that are common in Africa:
 - Satirical masquerades
 - Oath-taking
 - Symbolic interactions (e.g. the use of slightly yellowish palm frond called ‘Omu’ in the South-East Nigeria, etc)
 - Trial by ordeal
 - Ostracism/Banishment
 - Age grade associations
 - Village assembly
 - Elders council
 - Socialisation
 - Etc.

- *Using Igbo society as a unit of analysis, Nnam, Agboti and Otu (2013a: 100), lucidly captured the informal means of law enforcement/social control in Africa thus:*
- *Age grades play the role of the police virtually in all Igbo societies. The older age grades or elders council are inherently empowered by tradition to formulate policies and make local laws to guard against antisocial behaviour while the younger age grades comprising able-bodied youths implement the instrument of the law. Social control techniques manifest in the form of social satire by masquerades and the initiates, corporal punishment, fine, women folk vituperations, ostracism/banishment/exile, social and economic deprivations, incommunicado especially in the areas of buying from and selling to, social discrimination and exclusion, and expiation/death penalty (such as impalement, hanging, clubbing, drowning and throwing into the evil forests at the mercy of carnivores). One of the greatest law enforcers in Igbo culture is the traditional secret societies via 'Nmanwu' (Igbo Masquerades). Membership into the society is marked off by rigorous and regimented rite of passage, and the system is shrouded in mystery and secrecy. The 'Egbele' or 'Maa' (masquerades from 'Ogo' secret cult in Afikpo community, Ebonyi State of Nigeria) are powerful spirits that metamorphose into various human forms with costumes of high artistic merit to perform a multiplicity of functions (including social control) after which they return to the spirit world. A classical example of these masquerades is the blunt, articulate, impeccable, great and awe-inspiring 'Nnade Okumkpo' who satirically exposes the ills of the society and their perpetrators without mincing words.*
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- **DEVELOPMENT/ORIGIN OF THE NIGERIA POLICE**

- The British colonisation of different societies that is presently called Nigeria in 1861 replaced the local police by military-like police organisation. The British hegemony carried out their colonial projects using violence, coercion and treacherousness. The establishment of police system in colonial Nigeria reflected administrative policy, concern and contents—Indirect Rule System—which was adopted as a way of cutting cost in running colonial bureaucracies, and to protect the political/upper class from the downtrodden/lower class’ revolution as the police then applied brutal repression. The police system was equally established in various communities in agreement with the interest and dictates of the Colonial Governor in power. Following the annexation of Lagos in 1861, a Consular Guard was established in the Bight of Biafra to carry out the British Consular assignments. In 1863, the Consular Guard became known as the ‘Hausa Guard’. In 1879, it was regularised by an Ordinance creating a Constabulary for the colony of Lagos. The ‘Hausa Constabulary’, which had a military character, was commanded by an Inspector-General of Police (Iwarimie-Jaja, 2003; Dambazau, 2007; Igbo, 2007).
- In 1896, the Lagos Police Force was created and armed with the ‘Hausa Constabulary’ and it was headed by a Commissioner of Police. In 1898, a Criminal Investigation Department (CID) was established. As these developments were going on in Lagos, the areas presently known as Delta, Rivers, Bayelsa and Cross River States were declared the Oil Rivers Protectorate in 1891. Later in 1893, the area was proclaimed Niger Coast Protectorate, and in 1894 the Niger Coast Constabulary was formed. It was armed like the ‘Hausa Constabulary’, and it featured prominently in the British expeditions up to 1896 (Iwarimie-Jaja, 2003). The unification of the Southern and Northern Nigeria in 1914 paved the way for both the Southern and Northern Police Force to be merged into present-day Nigeria Police in 1930, with headquarters in Lagos. The Police Ordinance No 2 of 1930 addressed the Police Force as the Nigeria Police Force headed by an Inspector-General. Consequently, duties of the police were distinctly spelt out with emphasis on combating crime and maintenance of law and order, that is, law enforcement (Nnam, Agboti & Otu, 2013b).

ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE OF THE NIGERIA POLICE

- The organisational structure of the Nigeria Police is represented thus:
- Force Headquarters
- Zonal Headquarters
- State Command Headquarters
- Divisional Police Headquarters
- Police Station
- Police Post
- Village Police Post

COMMAND OR AUTHORITY STRUCTURE OF THE NIGERIA POLICE

- The command or authority structure of the police is hierarchical, as presented below:
- The Inspector-General of Police
- The Deputy Inspector-General of Police
- The Assistant Inspector-General of Police
- The Commissioner of Police (In-Charge of Contingents in a State)
- The Deputy Commissioner of Police
- The Assistant Commissioner of Police
- The Chief Superintendent of Police
- The Superintendent of Police
- The Deputy Superintendent of Police
- The Assistant Superintendent of Police
- The Inspector of Police
- Sergeant Major
- Sergeant
- Corporal

- **MODUS OPERANDI (MODES OF OPERATION) OF THE NIGERIA POLICE**
- Target hardening*
- Arrest, investigation and prosecution
- Foot and motorised patrol
- Suppression
- Imposition of curfew
- Beat and checkpoints
- The use of informants
- Police Diary*
- Community policing or neighbourhood watch*
- Restorative justice*
- Public education
- Periodic raids
- Undercover and surveillance
- Stop and search or frisk
- Sex and honey *
- Identification parade or police line-up*
- Cordon and search*
- Etc

CHALLENGES OF THE NIGERIA POLICE

- Alemika and Chukwuma (2003), cited in Isima and Okenyodo (2009: 19–20) and Nnam *et al.* (2013b: 76), clearly delineates the problems of the Nigeria police thus:
- Inadequate manpower, both in terms of quantity, but more especially of quality;
- Inadequate funding;
- Poor crime and operational information management, including inaccurate recording and collation, poor storage and retrieval, inadequate analysis and infrequent publication of criminal statistics;
- Poor remuneration and general condition of service;
- Inadequate initial and on-the-job-training and deficient syllabi which place too much emphasis on law enforcement and order maintenance without adequate liberal and broad training that can illuminate the nature and sources of law and criminality;
- Poor resource management;

- Inadequate logistics, arms and ammunition, uniform and accoutrements, telecommunication and transport facilities—both in terms of quality and quantity;
- Inadequate office and residential accommodations; inhuman conditions under which suspects are held in police cells;
- Unhygienic working environment; limited contacts or relationship with the citizens outside law enforcement and order maintenance functions;
- Low commitment;
- Indiscipline and involvement in crime or collusion with criminals;
- Lack of integrity;
- Perversion of the course of justice (i.e. procuring and supplying of false evidence, tampering with exhibit, and false accusation);
- Poor knowledge of law and disregard for human rights;
- Corruption and extortion; and
- Brutality.