Issues Surrounding the Creation of Operation Amotekun Security Outfit in the South West Region of Nigeria.

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Abstract

This paper examined the issues and problems surrounding the creation of operation Amotekun security outfit in the South West region to fight crime and criminality. But critics of Operation Amotekun security outfit, like Barabe Musa, and Junaid Mohammed blackmailed the South West security outfit as tribalmilitia to bring about Oduduwa Republic. On the other hand, the six South West governors, who are the promoters of Amotekun said, we won't succumb to blackmail; they said Amotekun it's neither a regional army nor ethnic agenda aimed at obliterating and undermining national cohesion. Unfortunately, Abubakar Malami (2020) the Attorney General and Minister of Justice said Operation Amotekun security outfit was illegal. Meanwhile, a legal luminary, Chief Afe Babalola (2020), SAN, advised the Attorney-General and Minister of Justice, Malami to take the six South West governors to court over the creationof the joint security network code named "Operation Amotekun," rather than constituting himself to a court dishing out judgment. Also, former Aviation Minister, Chief Femi Fani Kayode (2020) urged the President Muhammadu Buhari–led government to parish any thought of out lawing Amotekun, saying it has come to stay to safeguard lives and property of the people. Similarly,the Aare Ona Kakanfo of Yoruba land, Iba Gani Adams (2020) called on traditional rulers in the South-West, to throw their weight behind Operation Amotekun for it to see the light of the day while urging the various state houses of assembly to passlaws legalizing Amotekun Security outfit in their states. All the effort of the SouthWest governors and leaders is to give Amotekun security outfit a legal strength by getting their various houses of assembly to enact a lawlegalizing it in each state. The study adopted the descriptive methodology. It drew upon primary and secondary sources. Primary sources include oral information and testimonies.

Newspapers and magazines reports were also used together with officialrecords in government publications. Security sources include relevant books. The researcher makes use of direct observation method; all the informationgathered were subjected to historical analysis.

Keywords: Operation Amotekun, Security outfit, Problems, South West Region, Nigeria.

Introduction

On January 9, 2020, the six South West governors inaugurated and launched Operation Amotekun security outfit in Ibadan. The security network was aimed to complement the police and other state security agencies in the south West region and not to replace them. Ekiti state Governor, Kayode Fayemi (2020) rightly explained it thus: "Amotekun is a complement that will give our people confidence that they are being looked after by those they elected into office. So, we do not want this to create fear in the mind of anybody as we are not creating a regional police force and are fully aware of the steps we must take to have state police. We do not want anybody to misconstrue the concept of Amotekun. After the formation of Amotekun security outfit in Ibadan, the Northern Youth Council of Nigeria (NYCN), kicked against it describing the outfit as the military wing of Odua Peoples Congress (OPC) National President of NYCN, Alhaji Isah Abubakar (2020) in a statement issued in Kaduna, urged President Muhammadu Buhari not to allow what he describe as "Unconstitutionality". On the same day, governors of the North-West states said they were ready to emulate the South West counterparts by launching their ownbrand of Amotekun security outfit to checkmate the growing state of insecurity in the region. Chairman of the governors of the region, Alhaji Aminu Masari, (2020) made the disclosure during a media chat in Kaduna.

On January 10, 2020, Ohaneze Ndigbo declare its support for the creation of Amotekun security outfit for the South West. In this light, Ohaneze Ndigbo said Amotekun was necessary because the country has the armed force controlled by officers from one ethnic group who ought to have retired from service. On the same issue, on January 11, 2020, the Indigenous People of Biafra (IPOB), praised South West governors, explaining that the launched of Operation Amotekun, was akin to an idea its leader initiated in the South-East which Igbo leaders condemned. Meanwhile, convener of the Northern Elders' Forum, Prof. Ango Abdulahi, (2020) commanded the South West governors. He said the Inauguration of Operation Amotekun security outfit was a welcome development considering the current wave of insecurity across the country. He promise to Support any cause that would enhance security. On January14, 2020, the federal government declared Operation Amotekun security outfit illegal, saying it was not backed by law. The Attorney General

of the Federation made the position of the Government known in a statement by his Special Assistant on Media and Public Relations, Dr. Umar Gwandu. He said the setting up of the Paramilitary organization called "Amotekun" is illegal and runs contrary to the Provisions of the Nigeria Law. The Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria 1999 (as amended) has established the Army, Navy and Air force, including Police and other numerous paramilitary organisations for the defence of Nigeria.

On January 15, 2020, displaying from resolve by the six-governors of the South West region to go ahead with Operation Amotekun security outfit, the governors said they were not backing down on account of the federal government opposition. Chairman of the South west Governor forum, Rotimi Akeredolu (2020) said Operation Amotekun Security outfit was legal, saying they were ready to defend the continued existence of the Security network. Similarly, Wole Soyinka (2020) the Nobel Laureate, urged the governors to ignore Malami, the Attorney General and Minister of Justice of the Federation, and not waiver in their commitment to protecting lives and property. Soyinka (2020) said those opposed to Operation Amotekun security outfit were sleeping when Nigerians were being killed. Likewise, on 16 January, 2020, Pan Yoruba Socio-Cultural Organization, Afenifere, urged the governors to ignore Malami. Leader of the body, Pa Reuben Fasoranti, whose daughter was murder in 2019 in the South West Region. Said, "I want them to go ahead and do it in the interest of our people". We cannot leave ourselves here, and be helpless in the face of incessant onslaught (Kumolu, 2020, p.7).

On January 16, 2020, in a strong opposition, and warning over Amotekun, herders under the auspices of Miyetti Allah Kautal Hore, asked South West governors to dump Amotekun or risk the chance producing the next President in 2023. In reaction, leader of the Yoruba World Congress, (Banji Akintoye, 2020, p.10) said the South West will not allow its citizens to be killed because of the Presidency. (Akintoye, 2020, p.10) said, "what is the presidency? Is that a commodity they are holding in their hand? Because we want the presidency. Should we allow ourselves to be killed without defending ourselves? …….So, they want us to lie down and allow marauding herdsmen to kill us and then have the presidency. Our answer to that is we cannot fold our hands and allow you kill us again." (Kumolu, 2020). (As Akintoye, 2020, p.10) aptly explains; "Amotekun is not a political scheme, it is a self defence scheme and the constitution expressly allows you to defend yourself, it allows us to form organizations and agencies to defend ourselves. What border the Yoruba nation to challenge the false federal system over the North critic of Amotekun security outfit was that the North have Hisbah, the sharia police and other parts of the country have vigilante groups in existence. While the creation of Amotekun security outfit made the Buhari led –administration called theirs illegal, because they are doing exactly as

other Northern states have done". This makes the Yoruba people feel they have been unfairly treated. It is time the Nigerian state have a sense of fairness to all the federating units. On January 17, 2020, the call by Miyetti Allah group, for the arrest of Yoruba leaders promoting Amotekun security outfit provoked anger in Yoruba land, despite the fact that operation Amotekun security outfit was the right way to go for the nation to surmount her security challenges.

On January 21, 2020, there were solidarity protests for Operation Amotekun across the six states in the South West region. 78 socio-cultural groups under the aegis of Yoruba World Congress (YWC) led by Prof Banji akintoye, a renowned historian, facilitated the rally which serve as a pointer that the South West region need Amotekun. The South West governors have made it clear during Amotekun launch that it was not meant to divide Nigeria but to complement the existing security apparatus in the country. As (Odumakin, 2020, p.37) pointed out about Amotekun, whether exclusive or concurrent, security is not on any list. He says those who are afraid of the Amotekun security outfit are criminals. Whereas Gani Adams (2020) explain that Amotekun has gone beyond threatening Yoruba – we have been talking about restructuring and what people don't know is that police and Amotekun are some of the components of restructuring.

The Problems and Challenges of Amotekun Security Outfit in the South West Region.
Even though operation Amotekun security outfit has been launched on January 9, 2020, at Ibadan in the South West region to fight crime and intruders. Critics fear that governors in the South West geopolitical zone may abuse the outfit and use it for their selfish political agenda during elections to oppress political opponents in the region. But Alajide (2020), the secretary of Yoruba Council of Elders (YCE), argued that "The governors of the South West region can't use Operation Amotekun for political agenda. It would be fiercely challenged and people would resist it. Furthermore, critics argued that even though Amotekun have been launched, but they do not know the organogram and administrative structure of the Security outfit. This is because well meaning Nigerians do not want the security outfit to become another group that extorts money from people on the high ways or market places. But the South Westerners want Amotekun to be an exemplary security outfit and perform its duties as friends of the people, not terrors like they have found in some of the members of the police force. Amotekun security outfit should be patriotic and people should know their administrative structure and phone numbers to report whoever misbehaves. They must also have their name tags on their uniform. They must also be properly trained to be civil, accommodating, civilized, complaisant, polite, polished, and well-mannered and not to have the mentality of dictatorship, barbarity, rudeness and

primitiveness to harass, persecute and torment innocent people; who are law abiding and obedience. (Olajide, 2020, p.11).

Another challenge facing Operation Amotekun security outfit is their level of arms built up to match terrorist with sophisticate weapons as AK47 riffles; this will determine the success and measure by the ability to assure and convince the locals to remain in their localities and go about their business and private lives safely. The question is, would Amotekun security outfit have the trained capacity of personnels on ground in the South West to complement the role of the police and other security agencies to enforce community policing? Would Amotekun security outfit have the equipment and experience to allayed the fears of the ordinary farmer in the village that is confronted with terrorists from Mali, Lybia and Chard? Citizens in the South West can only feel safe today in rural areas with the presence of armed Amotekun. The Governors in the South West must be ready to support Amotekun wholeheartedly by arming them with their security vote money. No amount of talking or re-assurance of safety can decongest the IDP camps if armed men with boots are not on ground, not even the presence of police and army. If Amotekun security outfit should operate effectively in intelligence gathering and to secure South West region from criminals and intruders; the governors and stakeholders should therefore be willing to pushed with additional vigour to support Amotekun not only by talking but with action, resources and finance. The challenge before the governors of the South West is, where would they source the finance with weak, impoverished, bankrupt and exhausted six-states operating in the South West region to support Operation Amotekun security outfit. More so, some of the political leaders of the zone are selfish, indebted, beggary and bankruptcy to finance operation Amotekun in the longrun without the support of the federal government, which is penurious and reluctant to support Amotekun as they perceive it as a threat to federal police and the unitary system they are practicing. It is advised that to curb crime in the South West region, a strong Amotekun should be put in the region immediately by the political leaders and stakeholders. The challenge before the leaders and people of the region is that Amotekun security outfit needs high level of community integration and endorsement, as all hands must be on deck to support Amotekun.

Another factor that challenged the creation of operation Amotekun was the declaration of the Attorney General and minister of Justice, Abubakar Malami (2020) who declared Amotekun as illegal because the power over security belong exclusively to the Federal Government and no part of the Federation either singly or jointly has the right to take such security measures. There have been many reactions to the AGFs statement, Nobel Laureate (Wole Soyinka, 2020, p.10) urged the governors to go ahead with the idea which he said

had come to stay as it was borne out of the yearning of the people. Other reactions from the people in the region have also queried what makes Amotekun different from Hisbah, the Sharia police, the civilian JTF that had been assisting the Nigerian Army in the North East in the fight against Boko Haram, all which had been operating in the country with no eyebrow raised. Hisbah is said to have even arrested a police officer, a federal operative, alleged to have been found in the midst of three women (Bolaji Tunji, 2020).

Another factor that challenge operation of Amotekun security outfit is the fears among the promoters of Amotekun who would not want to rock the political boat. According to Bolaji Tunji (2020) "it is no longer a hidden fact that among the promoters of Amotekun in the governor's fold are one or two with ambition to take their political journey further than the present. Some of them are convinced that in order to realize their ambition, they have to dance to the Abuja music. They also want to be seen by the Unitarists as those who would not rock the political boat in the political calculation". Here in lies the problem and challenge, if per chance Abija expresses its opposition to the idea of Amotekun. The initiators of Amotekun should not allow it to die. It should not be sacrificed on the platform of political expediency. It would not reflect positively on the promoters. Amotekun is the beginning of restoration of true federalism in Nigeria in the 21st century. Because of Amotekun, Yoruba Council of Elders (YCE) cautions Tinubu against being more federal than regional (Oluseye Ojo, 2020).

There are other factors that challenge the functioning of Amotekun security outfit, such as, the South West governors still have a lot to do in order to legitimize the framework of the security outfit. Others are, what are the structures that would drive the initiative? What guidelines did the promoters put in place? Where would the headquarter be and would all the affiliated states have their own officer? Would Amotekun have a manual of Operation? How would you differentiate the Amotekun operation from Ondo state from the one of Ekiti state, would it be through different uniforms, especially since their operation would cut across the six states in the South Westregion? Are they going to be categorized as civil servants and what would be the qualification and the entry salary? What would be the funding arrangement? All these should be in the instrument setting up the Amotekun security outfit. (Bolaji Tunji, 2020) these issues and problems should be tackled by the promoters of operation Amotekun security outfit.

Another factor that hinders operation Amotekun as a security outfit in the South West is the fear of Miyetti Allah Cattle Breeders Association of Nigeria. Amotekun is certainly perceive a threat to the business interest of (MACBAON). The association views Amotekun complementary security outfit as a ploy to chase them out of the South West region. They

need not worry but need to behave in conformity with the norms of the society which they have decided to be part of. Who among them dare to challenge the deities in Ekiti which killed deviant cows that climbed the sacred Hills? The gods could not be blamed! For sure, according to (Oludayo Tade, 2020, p.17) we must not threaten the livelihood of others to guarantee our own. This is why Amotekun has state backing with a clear cut structures of checks and balances. Miyetti Allah cattle Breeders Association of Nigeria perceive the concept of Amotekun as a security outfit designed to outshine or to compete with the Nigeria police or any of its sister Federal Security Agencies. Rather Amotekun is a form of community policing (which Nasarrawa state has adopted).

Another factor that challenge Operation Amotekun as a security outfit for the South West region, as (Tinubu, B. 2020, p.40) aptly pointed out, there are several organizational and functional aspects of the proposal that could cause some problems if left unresolved, "First, the stated mission is information gathering by civilians. Such tasks are always and everywhere best done in low-key fashion. Some aspects of Amotekun seem to undermine rather than enhance this function. "Second, equipping Amotekun with showy paraphernalia may cause the public to misconstrue the role of Amotekun, incorrectly believing its mandate is more expansive than it is. This possible disconnect could impede the good aims of the programme. (Tinubu, B. 2020, p.40) further explain the shortcoming of the governors that consulted regularly with the police and other security agencies to the formation of Amotekun and their failure to include the office of the Attorney General in these discussions is the fount of the current public uproar. This was an unfortunate omission the governors of the South West should regret and seek to remedy… while the Attorney General is a conscientious public servant, he is also human, not being consulted, he was suddenly faced with an unexpected public pronouncement regarding a matter within his official ambit. He likely feared the failure to consult him meant that federal prerogatives were being encroached, to blame him for this conclusion would be to blame nature itself (Osewele, 2020). There is a lot of suspicious surrounding the creation of Amotekun Security outfit that challenges its operation in Nigeria.

Another factor that challenged the functioning of Operation Amotekun security outfit is that politicians, particular from Northern Nigeria has used Amotekun to heat up the polity. Whereas, security is a serious issue and it should not be toyed with. In the recent history of Nigeria, operation Amotekun was surrounded by controversy. Some of the controversy and insinuations was that thesecurity outfit in the South West code-named, Amotekun, was designed to drive herdsmen out of the region. However, (Yinka Odumakin, 2020, p.9) dismissed the insinuation that "we are aware that members of the Miyetti Allah are Jittery and are saying operation Amotekun will chase them out of the South West. But we dare

say they have nothing to fear because Amotekun is to protect the Yoruba, Igbo, Miyetti Allah, and other tribes as long as they live and conduct their business in the South West peacefully.

Other controversy and insinuation surrounding the creation of operation Amotekun security outfit is that Miyetti Allah Kautal Hore, (2020) which spoke to vanguard, warned the South West governors to give up, Amotekun, describing the security outfit as political. They further comment that the South West terminate the Amotekun security outfit, warning that failure to do so may affect the region's chance of producing the next president in 2023. This has, however, drawn the irk of notable South West leaders, such as, Pan – Yoruba socio-cultural organization, Afenifere, while reacting to the comment by Miyetti Allah, berated the group, saying the North can go to hell with its presidency. Afenifere's National Publicity Secretary Yinka Odumakin (2020) lampooned the herders' association, describing its remarks as insolence…. To hell with their presidency if the condition for it is that we must allow them to continue to waste the lives of our people. Who told these people Yoruba cannot opt for self-determination and have our own president? If they see the protection of our lives as politics, we are definitely in a wrong and impossible country." Also blasting the Miyetti Allah group, over the creation of Operation Amotekun security outfit, Afenifere Chieftain, Pa Ayo Adebajo (2020) said "the Miyetti Allah's leaders should go to blazed with the presidency. What we are interested in is the restructuring of the country. We are not keen on the presidency, who are they deceiving? Let us restructure Nigeria first before talking about 2023. We are not interested in the 2023 presidency until Nigeria is restructured. For all I care, they can go to blazes with their presidency".

Other controversy, insinuation and challenges surrounding the creation of operation Amotekun security outfit is that the National President General of Miyetti Allah Kautal Hore, Bello Abdullahi Bodejo (2020) called on the federal government to arrest Yoruba leaders promoting Operation Amotekun; the South West Security network. The Miyetti Allah group also emphasized that the aim of setting up Operation Amotekun, was to ban Fulani herdsmen from Yoruba land. As a factor against Amotekun, Bodejo (2020) argued that "if the national security agencies – the Army, the Police, the DSS, the Civil Defence, etc were not living up to expectations. Will Amotekun have more security intelligence than these national security organization? There answer is no!" for the Miyetti Allah group anything security should be left with those security organization above, they do not believe and trust the reason for formation of Amotekun from the South West region, except that it has sinister, evil, malevolent, injurious, and threatening motives. Miyetti Allah group are suspicious that Amotekum agenda is against Fulani; this is a big challenge to the creation of the security outfit. (Kalu, 2020) as the group applauded the federal government for

declaring Amotekun security outfit illegal. Meanwhile, (Ray Ekpu, 2020, p.47) advise that law should be an instrument for solving society problems not for compounding it. Afenifere, However, the Yoruba socio, cultural and political group dares the federal government, says, we wait for arrest over creation of operation Amotekun security out fit for the people of South West region. The last time the North test the will of the Yoruba people was over the June 12 presidential election, and Nigeria was at war. It was the battle that drove the military away, so we are waiting for them with all pleasures to come and arrest us. (Odumakin, 2020). As a challenge to regional security, shall we say that Hisbah Sharia police, Civilian Joint Task – Force (CJTF) in Borno, Yobe, Kaduna, Katsina, etc are different from what Amotekun is set up to accomplish? (Obaditan, 2020).

Another challenge to Operation Amotekun came from the former governor of Old Kaduna state, Barabe Musa (2020), who said in an interview with the Sun Newspaper title that operation Amotekun was a ploy by the Yoruba preparatory to the declaration of Oduduwa republic. Meanwhile, operation Amotekun was launched by the six South West governors to curb kidnapping, banditry, ritual and herdsmen killings that had thrown the region into panic. Declaration of Amolekun illegal is uncalled for because we have other similar security organizations like the Hisbah in the Northern part of the country. Amotekun, as a security institution was also created because there was a need in the South West region. There was nothing wrong with it as its enforcement was within the South West region. What is good for the goose is also good for the gander, but the process of actualization was faulty, that was what made it a challenge, Regional security is important and it can be achieved by strengthening the present security architecture alongside Amotekun. So the legal framework of Amotekun must be perfected which wasn't done ……. Unfortunate, the false federal system we practice do not permit the way Amotekun was created. It needs to be address urgently by restructuring the over centralization of police to regional police and community policing.

Another challenges confronting operation Amotekun and the Nigerian state is that there is no time a section of Nigeria came so close challenging the country's faulty federation since the end of the civil war as it is now with promoters of Amotekun.

This was precipitated by the declaration of Amotekun security outfit as illegal by the Attorney General of the Federation (AGF) Abubarkar Malami, the message had come through terse press statements, but it implications and challenges were reverberating, and re – echoing the evil of false federation in Nigeria, as the South West region, seen by, other parts of the country to be in a political romance with North, especially the Buhari led administration, surprisingly lost it cool with the centre as the both side of the divided

disagree and challenge each other over the creation of operation. Amotekun security outfit. From the political leaders, governors, socio – cultural groups, academics, state men, traditional rulers to market women and the grass root masses, the Yoruba nation put aside partisan and personal differences to protest in a manner never seen. They reflected and thinking over the June 12 announcement by the Military Junta of General Bagangida, who was a northerner, in order to protect the Yoruba nation, in one accord, they challenged what seemed like an affront to the race. The speeches of the Yoruba leaders and people across the South West region, were not just reminiscent, remind fullness, recollection and retrospection of the memory of the June 12 election announcement protests that dr ove the military from power in Nigeria, they also provided an insight into what the fusion of people power and political strength results in the Yoruba nation and leader used the driving force of the social media and solidity movement to invoke grass root support, authority and will power to support operation Amotekun, thereby opening of other regions to consider the eyes launching their own brand of Amotekun Security network to complement the failure of the federal police. This grass root mobilization challenged and forced the control government to urgently began to reconsider the introduction and strengthening of community policing.

It is important to note that the meeting between Vice President Yemi Osibanjo Malami and the South West governors may have reduced tensions over the creation Amotekun security outfit, but the debate over the real intent behind Malami's earlier position by declaring Amotekun illegal continues rage anger and agitation over the false Federal system in contemporary Nigeria. Amotekun seems, to have pushed the boundaries of Nigeria's federalism. Thus, --- more disturbing questions about the federal structure have popped up with the scenario. It is now obvious in the recent history of Nigeria under the Buhari administration that the rate of insecurity in Nigeria make states or regional police inevitable. (Kumolu, 2020).

Meanwhile, it is also important to note that item 145 of the 1999 constitution, as amended, authorized the police and other federating security services to maintain law and order in Nigeria. But as killer herdsmen from, Mali, Lybia, chad, e.t.c and kidnappers become above the law. Nigerians daily lose confidence in the ability of the government and its security agencies to protect them, with the disturbing and sad situation at hands, any alternative to self defence security structure appeals to people. That is what the growing acceptance, approval and recognition of Amotekun even beyond the South West Suggest. This account for the unprecedented, extraordinary and revolutionary out pouring of support for the governor of South West region, who shunned partisanship, bias, partiality, politics and APC partyism to protect lives and properties of the people of South West region. In

Amotekun, the South West political elite, elders and socio – cultural groups joined forces to question a system that had long deprived components of the federal structure their right in federalism. The Buhari – led administration did not realize that its opposition of Amotekun would provide the south westerners the needed opportunity to stoutly, boldly, courageously and fearlessly challenge the centralization of power and interference with affairs of state governments. The opposition against Amotekun made the Yoruba nation to join forces to uncage the leopard to destroy any of their intruder into the region's domestic affairs.

Another challenges to operation Amotekun security outfit is the creation of a regional security outfit called Sheka-Ka-Fasa formed by the coalition of Northern groups which announced its presence the first week of February, 2020. The aim of the group was nothing but a direct challenge to Amotekun floated by the South West governors. According to Balarabe Musa (2020) with the formation of Sheka-Ka-Fasa to confront Amotekun, Nigeria is facing what we can compare at the moment with what is happening in Somalia. While the symbol of Amotekun is a Leopard, Shege-Ka-Fasa have made their own a lion and said, Shege-Ka-Fasa, which means only a bastard should stop this, which is direct Northern challenge to Amotekun. Musa (2020) explain the situation as anarchy arising from the incompetence of the government. The reactions of the coalition of Northern group is that they are challenging Amotekun and they are doing it with impunity. What Shege-Ka-Fasa security outfit is saying is that if Amotekun is a Leopard, our own is a lion for only a bastard should stop it. It is a challenge to Amotekun, the end result may lead to anarchy caused by incompetence governance and failure of the security agencies to protect lives and properties of people. Conflict between Amotekun versus Shege-Ka-Fasa is a platform for South West, North brewing anarchy.

Strategies to overcome the Problems and Challenges of Operation Amotekun security outfit.

This study has comfort with the following strategies to overcome the problems and challenges facing operation Amotekun security outfit:

(1) The Federal Government should take a greater initiative by increasing the number of policemen, train them and equip them to do the job of protecting life and property in the South West and other federating units in contemporary Nigeria.
This is because the number of policemen we have and the training is insufficient, Cairo, the Egyptian Capital alone, has about one Million security men tackling crime there. And Egypt is about half the population of Nigeria. Nigerian has over 200,000,000 people and the number of policemen in Nigeria is in the range of 300,000 to 40,000.

This is grossly insufficient to deal with the security situation on the ground. (Sani Safi, 2020). Amotekun security network was form to complement the effort and number of the Nigeria police force.

(2) Police are essential part of Nigeria's security network. This is an outfit that can be utilized for good or bad. Well-meaning Nigerian are of the opinion that Amotekun should not be used for bad purpose by corrupt politicians and the people. It is the responsibility of the South West leaders to allay such suspicion and fear from the people's minds that they would resist any attempt to use Amotekun security outfit for any evil purpose.

(3) Any security organization to be used for policing should be established within the prism of the law. Amotekun security outfit should be put into proper procedure of establishing such an outfit. For example, when Kano state found that the number of police men was insufficient to meet its security needs. They decided to establish Hisbah. And when they did that, they went through all the processes that were required. A law was made within the state by the Kano House of Assembly to setup Hisbah and the law was even further amended. This was challenged by the Federal Government thinking the state was now creating an outfit to do the police work. But the condition was that Hisbah was not going to carry arms. They were to help the police in intelligence gathering and detecting crime. Amotekun security outfit should be backed by the law (Sani Safi, 2020)

(4) The South West Governor's and Speakers of their various House of Assembly in the region should pass into laws backing up the establishment of operation Amotekun security outfit. So that it would be empowered by the law to protect life and properly in the region. In a unitary system of government disguise as federalism fears are always there by the ethnic groups holding power at the centre at the expenses of the other weaker ethnic groups. What is to be there is to allay the fear and reassures the people that the goal of such security outfit like operation Amotekun is to ensure security for everyone.

(5) It is important to note that we are living within the context of sovereign nation. And the constitution is the guiding document. If there was a law establishing Amotekun security network, there will be no problem absolutely because we have now the required framework and we will know what it can do and what it cannot do.

(6) It is also good that if a state or region had a legal framework to establish a security network like operation Amotekun, there should be no tussle with other stakeholder to confront such a security outfit. In Benue state for instant, state government made the anti gracing law and there was a problem with it. Miyetti Allah group said the law was discriminatory, whereas the Benue State Government said it was to protect everyone in the state. So is the law really the problem or the fears of the people. Thus, Amotekun is established by the South West governors to protect life and property of the people. People from other states residence in South West must learn to comply with the security network. If only it those not extort and discriminate strangers. Therefore, the issue of security of lives and property should be allowed to be handed by the federal government and the state government since the governors are the chief of security of their various states.

(7) The federal government should ensure that federal character and regional balance is ensure in the composition of appointments of service chiefs across the six – geo – political zones to allay fear of domination. The police and the armed forces should be controlled by all the officers from all the ethnic groups; for example, Ohaneze said Amotekun was necessary because the country has the armed forces controlled by officers from one ethnic group who ought to have retired from service.

(8) The federal government should ensure the community policing and Amotekun work in a way to fight crime, and criminality in the South West region of Nigeria.

(9) Nigeria need quality leadership that would produce, quality, sincere, and effective policing system in Nigeria to protect lives and properties of the citizens.

Conclusion and Recommendations

The formation of operation Amotekun security outfit in the South West region of Nigeria by the six governors of the region was the right step forward and the way to go. The step was the beginning of restructuring, regionalism and true federation. Each region should watch its own back and provide security. It is happening in the North where they have the Hisbah police and the civilian JTF. The duty of Hisbah is to police the sharia implementation which restricts their job to the adherents of sharia. As a result, it has a functions and structure. Part of the functions is to assist the police by putting an eye on issues that are related to the disobedience of the sharia law which include drinking and selling of alcohol, drugs and other intoxicants, as well as prostitutions and similar acts considered as volition of the sharia law. It reconciles and serves as an arbiter in violation of the sharia law. It reconciles and serves as an arbiter in voluntary and domestic family

disputes and others. It also helps non Muslims recover their property in cases where a Muslim might have cheated on the non-Muslim (Murtala, 2020). Hisbah officers are also trained to assist in disaster response operations, Hisbah also provides security during Friday prayers at Mosques across the state and also looks after orphanages. Hisbah officers also preach to those on first arrests and remind them of their duties as citizens and believers in Sharia. (Murtala, 2020, p.11).

Now there is operation Amotekun security outfit in the South West and may be for once, the South East has spring its surprise with formation of Ogbunigwe security outfit. The Middle Belt and the South - South should also come up with their brand of operation Amotekun security outfit to protect life and properly in their regions. We should not play with security issues, Nigeria's borders are now open to all manner of people, we used to have Boko Haram and herdsmen. Now we have ISWAP and who knows, other new names that will crop up soon (Chioma, 2020, p.34).

Operation Amotekun is a pointer that means every ethnic group in Nigeria should protect themselves and their people. This will reduce the burden off the federal government. To put it more clearly, everybody is entitled to self defense if attacked. He can do it alone or in concert with others depending on the seriousness of the danger. Every citizen has a duty to assist the security agencies in the maintenance of law and order. Section 24(e) of the constitution of Nigeria as amended states that "it shall be the duty of every citizen to render assistance to appropriate and lawful agencies in the maintenance of law and order. If is in this regard Amotekun that Amotekun is legal, the civilian JTF is legal. When the Boko Haram insurgents unlashed their initial attacks on the North East and overwhelmed the security agencies, some civilians and hunters came together to defend themselves and their people with their hunting equipment. Later the security agencies found them a worthy ally in the war against terrorist and co-opted them. (Okonkwo, 2020). Furthermore, section 11(2) empowers all tiers of government to establish security outfits to maintain public safety and order. Amotekun, has the unique quality of being the first to operate on regional basis.

The main benefit of regional security formation like Amotekun is the reduction in the cost of governance associated with the operation of the security outfits. With the coming together of the six (6) governors of the South West the cost of running Amotekun will be less burdensome that it would have been for one governor. This is called the economy of scale. This is important because Nigeria's recurrent expenditure is high and should be reduced so that the much needed resources for capital expenditure can be released. Especially in Nigeria where a lot of the states are not viable and cannot pay salaries. It is

commendable that some of them can come together and pull their resources to combat the insecurity problem (Okonkwo, 2020). Nigeria need to beef up Amotekun security outfit and increase the number of security agencies across the country to confront the monster of insecurity in the Land.

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