Aspects of Policing in Colonial Southern Nigeria: 1861-1960

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Abstract

The paper examines aspects of policing and crime control in Southern Nigeria between 1861 and 1960. The entrenchment of British influence in Southern Nigeria in the second half of the 19th century led to the introduction of the police force that was designed to maintain law and order, suppress resistance, etc. The colonial police force consisted of local recruits who were trained and commanded by British officers. The British authorities also introduced a system of crime control, embedded within the purview of the police force that was based on British law and jurisprudence. Intelligence gathering, arrest, prosecution and imprisonment of offenders were methods adopted to combat crime. The system was designed to punish offenders and maintain social order. Findings show that policing and crime control in Southern Nigeria, apart from engendering social control, resulted in the subjugation of the people and became an instrument of colonial domination and exploitation. The originating chronology is 1861when the police force was introduced in Lagos territory, following the annexation of the area by the British and terminates in 1960 when Nigeria became independent. It relies on secondary sources and adopts a historical narrative method.

Introduction

Southern Nigeria is situated between latitudes 4^0E and 140^0N and longitude 30^0E and 140^0E of the *Greenwich meridian*. By 1924, Southern Nigeria was projected to cover a landmass of 872,050 km (336,700 sq. m.). The area is mostly located in the tropical region. Southern Nigeria is made up of vegetation and tropical rain forest. Typically, there are two main seasons: rainy season and dry season interspersed by the Harmattan season (Nzemeke and Ergagbe, 1997). The area corresponds with present-day South-East, South-South and South-East geo-political zones of Nigeria.

Policing means the act of maintaining order and dealing with law breakers. Modern style police department began in the 19th century in England, and subsequently extended to Nigeria. However, it is important to distinguish between the ideas of "police" and "policing". Police refers to a particular kind of social institution, while "policing" implies a set of processes with specific social functions. The word police comes from the Latin word *Politia*, which means "civil administration." The word "politia" goes back to the Greek word *polis*, or "city" (Ahire, 1991).

Etymologically, the police can be seen as those involved in the administration of a city. *Politia* became the French word police. The English took it over and at and first continued to use it to mean civil administration. The specific application of police to the administration of public order emerged in France in the early 18th century. The first body of public order officers to be named police in England was the Marine Police, a force established in 1798 to protect merchandise in the port of London. It is worthy of note that the reference to the police as a "civil authority" is very important. The police represent the civil power of government as opposed to the military power (Daniel, 2024).

Colonial policing in Southern Nigeria involved a number of strategies, tactics and philosophies adopted by a colonial power to maintain control and suppress dissent within its territory. It involved managing a vast, often restive population with limited military resources. Indeed, in Southern Nigeria, coercion and violence were adopted by the colonial powers to maintain their rule, characterised by a doctrine of minimum force in theory, but often overwhelming and brutal force in practice, all underpinned by the logic of exercising authority over a large territory with limited resources.

The policing initiative initiated by the colonialists in various Southern Nigeria was deployed as occupation force to suppress the indigenous Nigerian peoples as the British coloniser exploited their resources to develop the Metropolitan. Southern Nigeria before the advent of the British colonialism consisted of many towns, villages, and city states. Each of these units maintained a peaceful life, exercised their autonomy and abided by their traditions and values. They also maintained good inter-group relations which involved exchange of trade, inter marriages and

cultural affiliations, especially during festivals. Sometimes, they found themselves disagreeing on some issues which usually led to conflict, conflict management and conflict resolution. The people had their government, economic and religious systems, as well as social organisations, perfectly working in line with their culture and tradition. Through certain institutions such as the extended family, the lineage system, the age grade, women societies, religious and other social groups. Others were divination, ordeals, secret societies, whose functions were detection, resolution and punishment for offences.

The Abolition of the Slave Trade and the Initiation of Policing

The history of the Nigeria Police Force began with the coercive activities of the colonial authorities in the 19th century, aimed at establishing and consolidating their spheres of influence over today's modern Nigeria. As in other parts of the African continent, the need by the colonialist to deal with the rebellious indigenous people, coupled with the stiff rivalry among the European powers for the control of the emerging colonial states, were basically responsible for the establishment of an organised body of men called the Police Force by the British in the sub-region.

By the Imperial Acts of 1807 and 1833, slave trade and slavery were abolished and the British Government. Among the various reasons responsible for the abolition of slave trade was economic. Britain, up to the late 1830s concentrated her effort on getting other European and American nations to give up trading in slaves. She endeavoured to realise this by the use of diplomacy and a detachment of the Royal Navy stationed permanently in West Africa to seize slave ships (this is often called the West African or Preventive Squadron). Both instruments, diplomacy and naval force, were complementary. The British Foreign Office negotiated treaties banning the trade with the nations which had not yet done so, while the Royal Navy enforced the terms of these treaties. In theory, all these nations which either outlawed the slave trade completely or restricted the area in which it could be carried out by their nationals were expected to co-operate with Britain in seizing and bringing to justice those who continued the trade. In practice, it was only Britain that was both able and willing to assign a reasonable naval force for this patrol (Ina, 1997).

As long, as Britain was not at war with the other nations of Western Europe and America, her gunboats could not capture their slaving ships on the high seas without breaking international law. The Foreign Office therefore took pains to negotiate treaties with the chief of slave-trading nations which would give British warships scope to perform their duties without fear of creating international crisis. Britain thus got France and Brazil to ban the trade for the nationals in 1818 and 1825 respectively, persuaded them to restrict their slave-trading activities in Africa to areas south of the Equator.

According to Noah (1990), Britain in 1917 negotiated Reciprocal Search Treaties with Spain and Portugal under which her warships could halt and search any ship flying the flag of either of these two powers suspected to be carrying slaves. Spain and Portugal enjoyed similar rights with regard to ships carrying the British flag. Any ship found to be carrying slaves was to be seized and carried to either Sierra Leone were a special court called Court of Mixed Commission were established to handle such cases. The court consisted of judges from countries which agreed by treaty to cooperate in this matter. France signed a similar treaty in 1831.

Within a very short time, it was discovered that the Reciprocal Search Treaties failed to give the British Preventive Squadron enough scope to deal with slavers because they provided that only ships actually carrying slaves could be seized. But many ships were seen which though not carrying slaves at the time, were certainly slave ships with equipment for the purpose. To make the naval patrol more effective, the Foreign Office negotiated treaties which covered this lope-hole. The Equipment Treaties originated in this way and Britain negotiated with France in 1833, with Spain in 1835 and Portugal in 1842. Under these treaties, ships could be caught and condemned if they carried equipment used in slave ships (Noah, 1990; Ina, 1997).

The effectiveness of the method of persuasion or force became evident. Many nations refused to co-operate with Britain partly because they suspected that the British zeal was not wholly the result of humanitarian intentions but was also economic interest. Some of the nations became envious of the British naval power and feared that Britain would misused rights granted her under the Reciprocal

Search and the Equipment Treaties. For instance, the United States refused to sign any of these treaties.

The effectiveness of the campaign was again due to the inadequacy of gunboats. Britain alone maintained naval force of any consequence in West Africa, and up to1832 the British West African Squadron never had more than seven ships at a time; often it had less, and sometimes it had only two. As these few ships had to watch the entire coast between Cape Verde and the Equator, many slave ships were able to escape carrying even more slaves annually from West Africa. It has been suggested that not more than 25 per cent of the slavers were caught. Furthermore, not all the ships used in this strenuous watch were suitable. Some of them were old, while the frigate ships were not only too large and too slow but were handicapped by their masts which were easily seen from long distances by slave ships which immediately and conveniently escaped. Also the ships engaged in slaving were built to suit the difficult times and were generally very fast (Ina, 1997).

Added to the difficulties was the question of unhealthy which existed along the West African Cost and preyed on the lives of the British crew of the Preventive Squadron. Difficulties also existed in the presentation of evidence before the Mixed Commission Court whose members were either unsure of their jurisdiction or unwilling to see their own nationals punished. Captured slavers were sent to only Sierra Leone on the West African coast for trial. This meant that even if a ship was caught at the southernmost end of West Africa, it had to be taken on a journey of nearly 2,000 miles before it could reach the nearest place for trial. What was worse, the members of the Courts of Mixed Commission did not always cooperate. The non-British members carried their national jealousies to the sitting of the Court and their intrigues caused delays and led to the acquittal of guilty ships (Ina, 1997).

According to Noah (1990), the difficulty of accosting slave ships once on the high seas was such that it was suggested that the court should be moved from Free Town to Fernando Po. The main problem was here was that Fernando Po was a Spanish island and not British, and even though the argument for the transfer was sound political and financial difficulties led to the abandonment of the proposal. In 1827, however, Britain acquired from Spain the right to use Fernando Po as a

naval base for the suppression of the slave trade and appointed Colonel Edward Nicolls as the first British Governor of the Island. As observed by Tamuno (1970), the squadron was a sort of "maritime police", the first attempt at an organised Police Force in the sub-region. He establishes that the European traders and missionaries took advantage of the new opportunities offered by the abolition of slave trade to break new grounds in this part of Africa. Noah (1990) adds that the appointment of John Beecroft as the British Consul for the Bights of Benin and Biafra helped to extend British influence in Southern Nigeria.

Consular Authority in the Bights of Biafra and Benin

The Consular authority of the Bight of Biafra was established in an attempt to ameliorate the increasing disputes and contradictions among the European traders and the local middlemen who controlled the trading inlets to the hinterland. The British was to protect the British commercial interests on the coast and to preempt any hostile activities and warfare on the coast, which led to the stoppage of trade (Abasiattai,
1990).

The first British Consul, John Beecroft, was a trader with many years of experience in the parts to which he was appointed, and was at this time domiciled in the Island of Fernando Po. Other consuls included Thomas Hutchinson (1855), Richard Burton (1861), C. Livingstone (1864), C. Hartley (1873), D. Hopkins (1879), and Edward Hewett (1882). In 1882, the British consul, Edward Hyde Hewett, finally moved the consulate headquarters from Fernando Po to Old Calabar (Noah, 1990; Ina, 2017).

The Evolution of the Nigeria Police Force

The British Government was initially reluctant to establish any effective police presence, due to high financial implication. In the correspondence between the Colonial Office and its officials such as Consul John Beecroft and Consul Harley in 1873, the authorities made it clear that they wanted them to provide a conducive atmosphere for traders and missionaries to operate. The Consuls were however advised to apply diplomatic measures to attract the cooperation of the indigenous people.

However, when the British government annexed Lagos territory in 1861 on the pretext of settling a dynastic squabble, the need for effective policing of the area became obvious. By taking over the affairs of Lagos, the colonial administration was also forced to be responsible for the safety of lives and property of the indigenous people, the European traders and the missionaries. In view of the strategic position of Lagos, with its access to the world because of its coastal location and its being a gateway to the rich hinterland, the British were ready to do anything to seize full control of the territory (Jemibewon, 2001).

The British colonial authorities dealt with suspected slave traders and those opposed to their attempt to exploit the area. As observed above, here were slave traders who managed to beat the British gun boats and though the Consuls knew about this, they were incapable to act decisively because of the absence of a functional Police Force. Tamuno (1970), observes that after much pressure from the Consuls, the British Government finally granted an approval for the establishment of a Police Force. Acting Governor of Lagos, William McCoskry in 1861 also built a jail house. His pioneering initiatives were followed by his successor, H.S. Freeman, who in 1862 made estimates for a Police Department, comprising one Superintendent, four Sergeants, eight Corporals and 100 Constables. Freeman also set up four courts – a Police Court, a Criminal Court, another for slaves and the fourth for commercial disputes.

The Governor went a step further by adding military duties to the functions of the new police, in that he attempted the abortive invasion of Dahomey with the force. He later decided on an armed force made mainly of Hausa freed slaves resident in Lagos. By 1863, the Force had been divided into civilian and military branches, which were boosted by an additional 600 Hausa recruits. The armed police applied themselves to the difficult task protecting the large colony. It was also involved in military expeditions in Ikorodu (near Lagos), Sierra Leone, The Gambia and then Gold Coast, between 1866 and 1873. These measures marked the beginning of Police involvement in military duties and the designation of the word "Force" (Tamuno, 1970; Jemiibewon, 2001).

According to Tamuno (1970, by Police Ordinance No. 10 of 1895, dated 27th December 1895, the Lagos Police, a strictly civil Police Force was established.

However, by an amendment – Police Ordinance No. 14 of 1887, it was made an "armed force". Its general duties included the prevention and detection of crime, the repression of internal disturbance, the defence and protection of the Colony against external aggression. With the earlier enactment, the Lagos Police replaced the Hausa Guard and the Policing of the colony.

Many administrative changes were made to the structure of the Force as the year progressed. In June 1896, the "Water Police" was formed to patrol the waterways. A year later came the Volunteer Fire Brigade; and after two years, the "Railways Police" was established to assist in the construction of the rail network.

The formation of "a small Police Force" in the Oil River protectorate with its headquarters iin Calabar happened in 1890. There were extensive trade disputes between the European traders and the local chiefs. Moreover, the chiefs rejected the treaties which they ignorantly signed which eroded their sovereignty over their ancestral homeland. Acting Consul Ammesley, conscious of the difficulties in maintaining law and order was well as safeguarding the property in the area, organized the police force. His successor Claude Macdonald, disbanded the notorious Force and made plans for his own Police for the Niger Coast Protectorate in 1893. He entrusted this task to Ralph Moor, a former member of the British Constabulary, who later became the Consul-General and Commissioner. The Force More established was divided into two – one military and the other civilian. While the former was named the "Oil Rivers Irregulars", the other was known as the "Court Messengers" (Tamuno, 1970; Noah, 1990; Akpan, 2018).

When Ralph Moor took over the administration of the Southern Protectorate, he reorganised the Force, appointing J.L.R. Parry as the first Inspector and later Commissioner. By 1906, when the territories of the Southern Protectorate had been merged, their Police Forces were joined under Southern Nigeria Police Force with Johnson as the Inspector-general, J.L.R. Parry served as the Deputy Inspector-General (Tamuno, 1970).

It is important to note that until May, 1906, there existed three separate Police Forces for the Colony of Lagos, the Protectorate of Southern Nigeria and the Protectorate of Northern Nigeria. Britain had by then begun to view very

seriously, its territorial acquisition, especially after the Berlin Conference of 1884-85. The colonial administration both in London and in Nigeria, did not deem it fit to set up an elaborate Police Force for the territories which it acquired. This was probably so because the colonialists feared the enormous cost that would be involved and believed that it could put down any serious threat to its interest whit sheer military might (Tamuno, 1970; Jemibewon, 2001).

According to Tamuno (1970), in the years of World War 1 (1914-1918), the only major development was the enactment of Police Ordinance (Cap. 32), 1917, which provided for the Southern Nigeria Police Force and the Colony and Southern Provinces; as well as the Northern Police for the Northern Provinces. Each had an Inspector General of Police, Deputy Inspector General, Commissioners, Assistant Commissioners, Superintendents and other ranks.

The colonial administration embarked upon the building of a depot in Lagos for the training of the indigenous Police locally and constructed barracks to accommodate some of them between 1921 and 1923. Nine years later, the Lagos depot was shut down after the Police Reserve Training Depot was established in Enugu. As the colonial administration progressed, it became necessary to merge the two forces for easy administration. Consequently, on the 1st of April 1930, the Police Forces of both the Protectorates were amalgamated, with C.W. Duncan as the first Inspector General of the Nigeria Police Force. Duncan was formerly the Inspector-General of the Southern Nigeria Police Force (Jemibewon, 2001).

Duncan was succeeded by Mr. S.H. Trathan, who assumed office in acting capacity from 1936 to 1947 at a time when the concept of regionalism with the introduction of the Richard Constitution came into existence. The Police Force was headed by the following British officers in succession: Major Saunders (1936-1937), Col. A.S. Mavrogordate (1939-1942) and Mr. W.C. King (1942-1947). Following the restructuring of the country into three Regions in 1947, thus: Eastern, Western, and Northern, the need arose for the establishment of regional commands headed by Assistant Commissioners in each region. Between 1947 up to the period after independence, when the first Nigerian Inspector-G was appointed, The NPF was headed by five expatriates in succession. They were: Mr. T.V.M. Finlay (1948-

1949), Sor. Ivor Stourton (1950-1952), Mr. R.J.P. Maclaughlan (1952-1956), Sir Kerr Bovel (1956-1962), and Mr. J.E. Hodge (1962-1964) (Tamuno, 1970).

It should be mentioned that unlike the North, local Police Forces did not come up until 1916, when the Native Authority Ordinance No. 14 was enacted. This enactment, like the Native Authority Ordinance 1943 (Cap. 140), gave power to the Native Authorities to maintain law and order in their areas.

Local Police were found in the Yoruba Provinces, where they were variously known as *Olopa* or *Akoda*. Suggestions were made in the later years to merge the local Police with the Nigeria Police Force, but these were strongly criticsed because the former were regarded as being inferior to the latter. However, the Yoruba Native Police were given a training school by the Western Region Government in conjunction with the Federal Government in 1955. After the 1955-1957 reorganisation, the local Police was renamed the Local Government Police Forces, and grouped under the Provinces in the Western Region. They were very important as they helped to police those remote areas of the hinterland, which the NPF could not get to. In 1955, for the first time, women were enlisted into the force (Jemibewon, 2001).

Crime/Crime Control

Crime is defined as an action which constitutes an offence that is punishable by law. It can also be defined as an illegal act for which someone can be punished by the government, especially a gross violation of law. It is a grave offence especially against morality and considered as something reprehensible, foolish or disgraceful. Crime is synonymous to offense, sin, vice, scandal among others. From all indications, crime is a serious anti-society phenomenon. Abomination according to vocabulary dictionary is a thing or action that is vile vicious or terrible. It is an action that arouses disgust or abhorrence. However, perhaps what constituted crime in British colonial state of Nigeria was considered as actions against colonial status and British interest.

The word "crime control" in general usage is synonymous with "security" or "safety," but as a technical term, "crime control" is the prevention, reduction or outright deterrence of crime within the society. It has to do with providing security

for the citizenry against the wiles of law breakers who would otherwise take the lives and property of the said citizens on a whim. Crime control guaranteed a situation of being protected against danger or loss. In the general sense, it is a concept similar to safety. The nuance between the two is an added emphasis on being protected from dangers that originate from outside. Individuals or actions that encroach upon the condition of protection were responsible for the breach of security (Monahan, 2006).

According to Schneier (2003), crime control or management has the following meanings: A condition that results from the establishment and maintenance of protective measures that ensures a state of inviolability from hostile acts or influences: with respect to the state, the condition that prevents unauthorised persons from having access to the lives and property of both the citizens and their leaders; measures taken by professional military or quasi-military units to forestall individual or group activities that contravene the law of the land; any activity or installation to protect oneself against all acts designed to, or which may, impair the safety of an individual and his/her possession.

Aspects of Policing in Southern Nigeria

Intelligence Gathering

Intelligence gathering refers to the process of collecting and analysing information to understand and evaluate threats, risks, opportunities, and challenges which was adopted by the British authorities for maintaining colonial order. Intelligence gathering was a critical component of decision-making in various fields, including colony's security, law enforcement, trade, and finance. British intelligence gathering required a range of skills, including data collection, analysis, interpretation, and dissemination. By gathering information, the British colonial authorities better understood the environment in which they operated, identified potential risks, developed strategies, and made informed decisions. Additionally, information gathering or intelligence helped to inform British policy and create public awareness on important topics (Esteban Borge, Information Gathering: Techniques and Tools for Effective Research, *Recorded Future,* 7th March 2024. Availableat:https://www.recordedfuture.com/threat-intelligence-101/intelligence-sources)-collection/information-gathering

Intelligence gathering enabled British colonial authorities to identify and prevent potential threats, such as resistances. It also helped British agencies to investigate and prosecute criminal activities. It played a major role in the conquest of territories, in the southern Nigeria where local resistance and opposition posed a serious threat to the colonial order. The British intelligence gathering did not only include reporting rebellious behaviour and political activities of the local people but also involved less contentious information about local demography, economic activity, cultural practices and the indigenous institutions of the people (Bayly,1996).

The success of the colonial "information order" rested in turn, on the degree of information gathered from the colony. The quality of infrastructure and internal communications systems determined the speed with which all intelligence was transmitted to the central power. Later in their scheme, road systems, postal and telegraph networks augmented the scale and speed of governmental activity, enabling British administrators to take a mass of diverse up-to-date information into account as part of the daily cycle of decision making and policy planning. The litanies of documents found in Nigerian archives were evidences of the type of information or intelligence needed by the colonial authorities (Brockmeier, 2015).

Much of the day-to-day work for those gathering information about the populations was routine, a cycle of clerical record keeping and statistical returns, provincial tours, meetings with local dignitaries, and the arbitration of minor disputes. These accumulated tasks were typically registered in summary reports of past activity of the British government about the southern Nigeria.

Physical and Human Crime Control

Physical crime control described measures that prevented or deterred attackers from accessing a facility, resource. It can be as simple as a locked door or as elaborate as multiple layers of armed guard posts. The field of security engineering in the British colonial state identified three elements to physical crime control: obstacles, to frustrate trivial attackers and delay serious ones; alarms, security lighting, security guard patrols; security response, to repel, catch or frustrate attackers when an attack was detected. These features were seen in security posts,

colonial offices and other administrative outlets. The first attempt by the British colonial authorities was to secure the area through signing of treaties.

Human crime control deals with human beings engaging in or desisting from certain activities to forestall crime. Security personnel were usually formally employed persons who were paid by the British colonial authorities to protect property, assets, and/or people (i.e., Warrant chiefs, District Officer, among others). Often, security officers were uniformed and act to protect property by maintaining a high visibility presence to deter illegal and/or inappropriate actions, observing (either directly, through patrols, or by watching alarm systems) for signs of crime, fire or disorder; then taking action and/or reporting any incidents to their client, employer and emergency services as appropriate.

For instance, after Lagos was declared British colonial in 1861, there were not enough British officers to oversee those area. The shortage was aggravated by the practice of some of these administrators taking frequent leaves of absence on the grounds that the tropical climate of Nigeria was harmful to their health. In order to establish a satisfactory and effective from of administration, systematic planning was necessary. The planning of administration for Lagos Colony and the protected areas was placed in the hands of a committee whose members had long experience in the area. This provided a sort of policing effect in under his area of administration.

Another physical crime measure taken by the British authorities was seen in the establishment of Native Authority system. The Native Authority system was established in the West and in the East. With the exception of Yoruba which had already been acquainted with organized system of government, the system met with some difficulties in the East. Also in Lagos, where there was a large European population, administration was direct (Afigbo, 1972).

The Court system was arranged in the ranking order. The Supreme Court came first in the rank, but was considered unsuitable as a form of tribunal at the early stages. The power of the Supreme Court was limited to criminal cases, and its jurisdiction did not extend to all areas in the South because a provincial court system was adopted. The Provincial Courts did not admit legal practitioners since

the legal practitioners could not be effectively supervised by the professional judges. At the bottom of the ladder was the Native Court system. District officers were members (James, 2025). Another structure put in place was through defence and internal security policies of the colonial government. Nigeria defence and police forces owed their beginning and growth to British colonial authorities.

The police service was empowered by the colonial authorities to ensure the safety and security of first, British facilities, personnel and citizens. The following were types of crime recorded by colonial authorities.

Crime	**1900-1920**
Assault	8,301
Murder	6,852
Treason	387
Sedition	183
Abduction	1,610
Smuggling	621
Immigration Offences	623
Stealing	7,689
Robbery	2,920
Armed Robbery	1,661
Sex Offences	666
Traffic Offences	3,023
Currency Offences	2,662
Indian Hemp Offences	4,225
Contempt of Court offences	3,784
Unlawful Possession of Arms	2,623
Escaping from Lawful Custody	904
Offences against Native Law and Custom	526
Unlawful Possession of Property	1,481
Economic Sabotage	662
Cultist/ Ritual Killing	225
Breach of Peace	233
Other Offences	30,428

Some Crimes/Offences in Southern Nigeria, 1900-1920

Source: Files collated from the National Archive, Enugu.

Conclusion

The study has examined aspects of colonial policing and crime control in Southern Nigeria between 1861 and 1960. It is obvious that the Nigeria Police was set up by the Colonial Government as an occupation force "for purposes of advancing colonial interests". The intimidating and despotic posture of the Police at the time shows the extent to which the colonialists utilised the agency as a coercive force to subjugate the indigenous people, which unfortunately still manifested at independence. Sadly, the Police which ought to be a community-of friendly agency did not earn the respect, trust and confidence of the people, who, from the outset saw the force as "an enemy rather than a friend, as the aggressor, rather than the defender and as the oppressor, rather than the savior (Jemibewon, 2000).

At independence, about 50 per cent of the officers in the Nigerian Police were foreigners. Most of them do not want to serve under the blacks so they opted for early retirement. First it started as a colonial police set up by the colonial masters to carry out colonial directives. When they left at independence, the police force was not adapted tour own needs as a young independent country (Daniel, 2024).

Jemibewon (2001) observes that it was not surprising that the problems inherent in this arrangement soon manifested in several ways. First, since the original concept of the Force was that of a colonial instrument of subjugation, the Police at independence merely found itself in an environment that it never contemplated. Thus, as the emergent political, economic, legal, scientific and social environment and the attendant problems of nationhood were never factored into the original concept of the NPF by the colonial authorities, there was little the Police itself could do.

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