

## Youth Violence and Policing Responsibilities in Nigeria

**Chijioke Sunday Ogbodo**

Faculty of Law, University of Nigeria, Enugu Campus

Email: copsupa@gmail.com

### Abstract

Youth violence now poses great threat to policing responsibilities in Nigeria. It is usually characterized by attacks at policemen and police facilities ultimately resulting in killing of policemen/officers and wanton destruction of police facilities. The Arab Spring that started in Magherb and spread like wild fire to many parts of the Arab world; the recent “End SARS” protest in Nigeria both had the youth as the driving force. Policing in Nigeria has never been the same after the “End SARS” protest. Officers now live in palpable fear and feel reluctant to perform their duties. Government of Nigeria did not help matters as families of the deceased officers were not compensated by Federal Government of Nigeria (FGN). Those wounded were left at the mercies of their families. Destroyed police facilities were also not repaired. These dampened the morale of police officers in Nigeria. That was the height of irresponsibility on the part of the government. Initially, “End SARS” protesters requested for better welfare of the Nigeria Police Force (NPF). However, the protest was eventually hijacked by the violent youth. Consequently, the FGN should take bold steps in employment creation for the youth and also embark on youth oriented policies. This article looks at the effect of youth violence to policing in Nigeria and ways to reduce it to the barest minimum. The paper will assess the extent to which Nigeria has complied with policies on human rights, youth empowerment and policing responsibilities. The paper adopts doctrinal approach with reliance placed on secondary sources of data. The major theory of violence Social Disorganization Theory (SDT) is examined.

**Keywords:** Youth, violence, policing, responsibilities.

### Introduction

Policing responsibilities are numerous, tasking and demanding. That notwithstanding the NPF appears to be at the receiving end. Be that as it may, the fact remains that the members of the NPF have always given good account of themselves especially in the area of peace keeping operations abroad.

The NPF is a creation of the constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria.<sup>1</sup> The organization is saddled with the responsibilities which includes but not limited to investigation, arrest, prosecution, crime prevention and detention.<sup>2</sup> Unfortunately, youth violence now poses great threat to poling in Nigeria. It is usually characterized by attacks at policemen and police facilities like police stations.

During the recent “End SARS” protest in Nigeria, many police officers were killed. Some were wounded. Police facilities were burnt. Yet the Government paid deaf ears and adamant attitude towards the police. The entire NPF were left on their own to say the least. The consequences of this attitude was that, save a few individuals with financial resources to hire both orthodox and unorthodox security to guard them, the vast majority of the population has been denied adequate security of lives and properties which is at the core of policing responsibilities all over the world. This has led to incessant killings and wanton destruction of lives and properties. Successive years after the “End SARS” brought no respites; rather the security situation has gotten even grimmer. Death rate as a result of insecurities and youth related violence in Nigeria has assumed an alarming rate. To buttress and particularize this alarming rate of killings, over 2,700 persons were killed within 3 months of violence in Nigeria.<sup>3</sup> Worse still,

---

<sup>1</sup> Sec. 214 of the Constitution of the federal Republic of Nigeria 1999 as amended.

<sup>2</sup> See part VII of the police Acts and regulation, 2020.

<sup>3</sup><https://www.aa.com.tr/en/africa/nigeria-over-2-700-killed-in-3-months-of-violence/1920052#> accessed 2nd February, 2023.



responsibilities to carry out is one thing, actual performance of such responsibilities is quite a different matter. And this is decidedly at the core of the problem. It is the nexus between these two facts of policing responsibilities in Nigeria by the NPF, the gulf between practice and statutory provision, enabling environment to perform, how the environment facilitates or whittle policy goals, which shapes the thrust of this discourse.

At the apex of the challenges of policing in Nigeria today is youth violence. A lot of challenges like paucity of funds, lack of operational facilities, training needs have bedeviled the activities of the members of the NPF while acting in execution of their onerous responsibilities. However, youth violence has since stood out as the most dangerous leading to the ill-informed death of many police officers, indiscriminate and senseless destruction of police facilities-vehicle, barracks and so on. Unfortunately, these unguarded and irresponsible actions have worsened the security situation in the country. Rather than engage in things that will benefit the society, most ill-informed youths resort to violence that are even unprovoked.

In recent times youth violence is growing at a very alarming rate that is increasingly worrisome. Youth violence is not just identified but recognized as one of the factors that hinder optimum performance by the NPF. In Nigeria today, the number of violence in which the youths are either directly the perpetrator or the victim remains very high. The “End SARS”, the boko-haram and the security challenges currently ravaging the south eastern part of Nigeria have the youth as the driving force.

### Major Theory of Violence

**The Social Disorganization Theory<sup>8</sup> (SDT):** This theory was proposed in 1918 during the world war I. It is a very popular theory of violence prominent in the field of sociology. This theory of violence has ancient historical root on sociological studies than in any other field of study. The major concern of this theory of youth violence is to know whether violence is more prevalent in a particular area. Bringing it home, questions like the following shall arise.

- a Which geopolitical zone in Nigeria do we record more attack on police?
- b Where in Nigeria do we have more religious attack? Questions of this nature are of abiding interest to the SDT. Youth violence against policing responsibilities in Nigeria aligns with the characteristic features and basic requirements in tandem with the SDT. Looking at youth violence from the influences of rural-urban migration, social change, population explosion on the core police responsibility in Nigeria which includes but not limited to protection of lives and properties of individuals, governments and cooperate bodies. The major concern of this theory therefore, is to find out the reason why a particular crime is prevalent in occurrence in a particular locality. Ascertaining the reason usually leads to proffering solution(s) to ensure that such crime is drastically reduced if not totally eradicated.

### Explanation of Concepts

There is variation in defining the term ‘youth’. This variation cuts across various societies of the world. However, age is usually adopted in defining the youth. Youth are persons of age of 15-24 years.<sup>9</sup> Youth is also seen as the period in an individual’s life and this runs between the end of childhood and entry into the world of work (Onuekunisi & Effiong, 2002). This period of transitions from one stage to the other, from dependence of childhood to adulthood’s independence, physical changes, rapid mental development, zealous and vigorous stage of life. Among the countries in Europe youth is seen as, the path from a dependent childhood to an independent adulthood. A stage in life when relatively young people transit between a world of rather secure development and a world of choice and risk.<sup>10</sup> However, in Africa, scarcity of resources and the inability of the available limited resources to satisfy human

---

<sup>8</sup> This definition of youth is contained in the United Nations Population Fund, 2019. Also by the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA).

<sup>10</sup> European commission 2009, p.7.

wants extend the years of dependency of children on their parents. It follows that the year/age of a youth in Africa may vary from that of a youth in Europe for instance. In view of the foregoing, the African youth charter which provides for effective youth participation in development process defines youths as people between the ages of 15-35 years. As far as Africa is concerned and bearing in mind the hardship in the continent a person can be depending on his family for livelihood up to the age of 35 or more unlike the situation in Europe. Western age categorization cannot be used as it is undoubtedly not suitable to the situation in Africa in general and Nigeria in particular.

### **Youth Violence**

The concept of youth violence has recently become a societal albatross not only in Nigeria but across the world. This is because the height of youth restiveness and violence is alarming, uncontrollable and ungovernable. In line with this, the National centre for injury prevention and control division of violence prevention (2021) defines youth violence as the intentional use of physical force or power to threaten or harm others by young people. UNICEF (2006) notes that young adult (males) between the ages of 15-25 are generally the most violent groups and in Nigeria, literature has shown that youths are responsible for 90-95% of conflict in the nation (Oreje, 2005). Youth violence is not a new phenomenon in Nigeria; it has been an issue of serious concern worrisome to the Government, political, religious and social leaders in the country. The Boko-haram, in the Northern part of Nigeria, the Niger Delta militancy in the South South, the crises in the western Nigeria, the recent “End SARS” protest all had the youths as the driving forces. Destructions by violent youth is not comparable in scale with any other type of violence. It is usually better imagined than being felt. The youth are usually brutal once they are engaged in violent activities.

Youth violence strictly speaking, is the intentional use of force, power or any physical means to threaten or harm others by young people. Such action of violence may include bullying, threats, fighting, use of harmful objects and so on. Ideally, young persons may be victim, offender or witness during violence by youth. Youth violence is very common in most places nowadays. It has various adverse effects on developed and developing nations especially Nigeria. The good news is that youth violence is preventable and young people can be helped to grow up in a violence free environment<sup>11</sup>.

### **Causes of Youth Violence in Nigeria**

The youths are the major part of the Nigerian population as shown by statistics and data on record, which conforms to the globally accepted view that the youths of today are the leaders of tomorrow. Political, religious, ethnic, academic, or economic controversies usually lead to violence by youths in the society.

Violence in Nigeria in its various forms have evolved over the decades; from use of traditional weapons, charms and hamlets. Today, violence in Nigeria has taken sophisticated dimensions. Political, electoral, religious, ethnic/tribal, cultism and other forms of violence are dominant in the Nigerian society and at varying degrees. Each region in Nigeria has its peculiar form of violence; in northern Nigeria, religious violence and extremist attacks is peculiar, in the South-South, militancy is popular and like extremist attacks in Northern Nigeria, it has received global attention. In the South-East, separatist agitation, cultism ferocity, kidnapping and robbery attacks are common forms of violence, while in the South West, political violence and thuggery are intrinsic. However, this doesn't mean other forms of violence such as gender based violence (rape, abuse, intimidation), tribal clash among others do not exist across the regions.

Consequently, causes of youth violence are inexhaustible and there are many factors that create it, which differs from one geographical area to another. However, visible and constant factors that trigger violence among youths in Nigeria are:

### **Economic Factor**

This is the critical cause of youth violence in any society. The economic factors include unemployment, poverty, inflation and economic deprivation. When the economy is bad, violence and insecurity become

---

<sup>11</sup> Preventing youth violence-CDC available at <https://www.cdc.gov>fast> check accessed 24 February 2022.

the next option for the unskilled, unemployed and unemployable youths and it accounts for most of the social crimes perpetrated by youth in the country. Obateru (1994:132) noted that poverty apparently accounts for the bulk of violence due to such problems as unemployment, inadequate housing, physical and social infrastructures. Youth violence in Nigeria could be linked to low rate of economic growth, high inflation rate, mismanagement and misappropriation of public fund, and also the low level (decline) of financial circulation. Oghenevwoke et al (2019) capture the situation thus: “The current depression in the Nigerian economy must have worsened the situation of youths and this has rendered the youths idle and almost hopeless, hence they have become instruments of manipulation by the elites for ethno-religious and political insurrections”.

### **Poor Educational System**

Education, is the bedrock of societal development. It plays an important role in enhancing human skill, improving personal endowments, ensuring capacity and the wellbeing of the youth. The knowledge and skills acquired is the instruments that curtail youth violence in the society. Wordpress (2014) states that quality education has a direct bearing on national prestige, greatness, and cohesion. The failed system of education in the country has largely contributed to the high level of youth violence. The failed system could be linked to poor and inadequate funding, bad governance, corruption and mismanagement of both institutions and the nation. Poor welfare packages for the teaching staff, infrastructural decay and lack of funding for academic research has increased youth violence. The incessant strike by the academic staff has given the youth leverage to embark on demonstrations and violence. The out-of-school youths are threat to humanity with its grave consequences to the nation.

### **Mass Media**

Mass media which include television, print media (e.g Newspaper, Magazines), internet and other devices is a quick and fastest medium to disseminate information and activities which can lead to youth restiveness when not properly controlled, supervised. Critical information such as daily brutalities, assassinations, restiveness, perceived injustices that are available on the internet makes it possible for the youth to act out what they have seen. The negative effect of mass media can lead the youths toward uncontrollable demonstration, crime and violence. The Black Live Matter Movement in the United States, Arab Uprising in the North Africa, and EndSARS protest in Nigeria were all triggered and coordinated by viral video of violence.

### **Bad Governance**

The high rate of youth violence can also be attributed to the high level of unemployment in the society caused by bad governance. Jamilu et al (2017:349) note that the failure to govern competently, effectively and proficiently has negative impact on youth development. Any leadership that is devoid of transparency, accountability, credibility, justice, selflessness, and fair play is a bad leadership and in the developmental aspect, also, governing without transformative capacity is bad governance. The above attribute of government is not far fetch in Nigeria, thus according to Osawe (2015) over 5,000 civilians were killed between 2009 and 2014 in Nigeria due to insurgency, as the militants’ activities destroyed properties and murder citizens. This is the result of insensitive government and when the youth are dissatisfied with the policy of government and are tired of staying unemployed, violence becomes inevitable. Admittedly, Raymond and Austine (2020) note that bad government policies are associated with bad governance and bad governance infringes on the masses fundamental human rights and promotes corruption. In the tenure of a bad government, there is usually increase in crime rate.

### **Political Agents and Unemployment**

The Nigerian youths can be involved in and subject to election-related violence. Most of them are often manipulated and also mobilized to stir electoral violence. They are often used as political instruments to actualize the objectives of their pay masters after which they are dumped to their doom and fate. According to Agbegbedia (2019) in political violence, youth have been the major instruments and they play prominent roles in political power agitation. They are involved in murder and assassination, unfortunately, the leaders who are supposed to be building peace in their communities are the same people providing the resources for the youth to engage in political violence. Moreover, the youths often



embark on demonstrations, which sometime turns into violence, to express their grievances and protesting against authoritarian regimes, corruption, and inequalities. They often fight for sustainable development and a better future for current and new generations; in this regard they are agents of positive change. Unemployment accounts for most of the social crimes perpetrated by youth in the Nigerian society today. The accelerating level of prostitution, armed robbery, rape and all facets of violence can largely be attributed to the incidence of unemployment (Eze 2012).

### **Religious Extremism**

In an attempt to defend one's religion, some religious fundamentalists often resort to violence to express their mind. Most of the youth violence recorded in Nigeria are religiously motivated. Thus, Wilton (2006) observes that the relationship between religion and violence is complex and defies any neat account of direct causation. In some cases of violent extremism, religion is not a primary driver, whereas in others it may be more prominent. It is the drive for fundamentalism that made some militant groups to call themselves "Islamic States", "Boko Haram" and so on. These radical Christianity and Islamism destabilize the nation and cause violence in some part of the country. They are violent extremists because of their unique position of authority and ties with communities.

### **Peer Influence**

The pressure emanating from peer groups is a strong driving force of youth violence in the country. They believe that if their friends can make it in life then they can make it also at all cost. Thus, they are more easily manipulated and influenced by their peers, who encourage them to commit delinquent acts on the grounds that it enhances their status and commitment to society. The peer pressure that can easily influence the youth is so powerful to take them away from societal order and values thereby pushing them to societal vices like internet fraud, kidnapping, money rituals and so on. Thus, La Fontaine (2011) opines that the peer pressure has a great influence on youths' disposition to engage in criminal behaviours like ritual killing and internet fraud popularly known as "Yahoo/Yahoo". Thus, youths are pressurized by the use of money and material things to be conscripted into bad gangs or secret cults and cybercrimes like Yahoo Plus is where they are exposed to some dangerous techniques to accumulate wealth.

### **Proliferation of small arms and Drug trafficking**

The proliferation of small arms and ammunitions coupled with failed economic system, high rate of corruption and mass unemployment is driving the increasing rate of youth violence and criminality in Nigeria. Illegal weapons factories have been discovered in some parts of the country and it is difficult to estimate the volume of locally manufactured weapons produced in these regions. When small arms are in the hands of jobless youths, violence is inevitable. According to Umaru (2021) the proliferation of Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALWs) is a major national security challenge in Nigeria. The insecurity resulting from insurgency, banditry, militancy, kidnapping, armed robbery, ethno-religious and communal conflicts have become worrisome in Nigeria. More causes of violence can be traced to drug trafficking. There is rapid increase in sales and distribution of hard drugs and the spread of hard drugs has also been implicated in the increasing youth violence in Nigeria.

### **Policing Responsibilities**

The duties of the police all over the world are not just arduous but tasking. The responsibilities are enormous while the task is daunting. Back home in Nigeria, the police is constitutionally mandated to protect lives and properties, prevent, detect and investigate crime, and prosecute offenders.<sup>12</sup> The NPF has power to take finger prints, powers to conduct search, power of arrest either with or without warrant.<sup>13</sup> The NPF can also grant bail to a suspect especially in minor offences.<sup>14</sup> Police duties carry

---

<sup>12</sup> For police duties in Nigeria see section 4 of the police acts and regulation cap 359 laws of the federation, 1990.

<sup>13</sup> Section 10 of the criminal procedure Act provides instances where arrest can be made without warrant.

<sup>14</sup> Offences like common assault, affray, stealing, threat to life and so on can ordinary be bailable at the police station.

great deal of risk yet the police especially in Nigeria are poorly appreciated. The police protect lives and properties at their own expense. It is a moral calling to protect other lives and properties while your own faith is uncertain. Honestly, integrity and civility to the members of the public are the very hall mark of policing. Anything less than these is certainly unacceptable by the public. Police officers spend great deal of their time working on ways to prevent crime or to discover the author of crime when crimes are committed.

### **Nigerian Government and Human Rights Policies**

Nigeria is a country in West Africa. The country was colonized by Britain but got independence in 1960. The country has beautiful laws on human rights, great policies on youth development and empowerment and public duties. However, the problem seems to be non-implementation of such laws. Aside from local laws and policies on human rights, Nigeria has ratified and domesticated retinue of laws that are of international flavor.<sup>15</sup> The constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 as amended also guaranteed certain rights to the citizens some of which are right to life,<sup>16</sup> right to own property,<sup>17</sup> right to fair hearing,<sup>18</sup> right to freedom of expression<sup>19</sup> and a host of many other rights. Unseriousness on the part of the government of Nigeria in the area of human rights is noticeable in many areas especially in her failure to submit the 2021 report on torture to the United Nations Committee on convention against torture ahead of the committee's review in November 2021 despite being a signatory to the United Nations convention against torture.<sup>20</sup> Gender rights which are recognized as very fundamental human rights are grossly violated in all arms of government in Nigeria - executive, legislature and the judiciary. For instance, out of the 109 senators in Nigeria only nine are females. The nine female senators are Oluremi Tinubu, Akon Eyakenyi, Aishati Ahmed Dahiru, Rose Oko, Uche Ekwunife, Betty Apiafi, Stella Odugh, Binta Garba abd Alhaja Monsurat Sunmonu. In the federal executive council we have 44 ministers but only seven are females when the cabinet was formed in 2019. This is in gross violation of gender equality in governance and the 35 percent affirmative action.

State obligations to respect, ensure and to fulfill are not adhered to. Ideally, states who have ratified and domesticated certain human rights laws are expected not to violate such laws. Rather, to take all requisite steps to ensure strict compliance with the spirit and letters of such laws. This includes making additional legislation to give effect to human rights when necessary.

In a working system, any person whose right is trampled upon should seek for and obtain remedy. How true is this assertion in a clime where impunity, non-chalance and high handedness reign supreme? Human rights obligations extend to both private individuals and their private actions just as it also deals with state actors while acting in the execution of their duties. Sometimes in 2016, the homes of late justice Sylvester Ngwuta, justice John Okoro and others were invaded by security agents despite government promise to deal with the perpetrators nothing much was heard about the unlawful act anymore. This probably led to the audacious invasion of justice Odili's home which was attributed to fake officers, however, one of them said that he was consulting for the Attorney General of the Federation Mr. Malami though the Attorney General had vehemently denied that allegation. The list is endless. However, the positive thing about the Odili's case is that the suspects were arraigned in court and if convicted that would act as deterrent to would be offenders of such nature.

---

<sup>15</sup> The Africa charter on human and peoples right, international convention on civil and political rights.

<sup>16</sup> Sec. 33.

<sup>17</sup> Sec. 44.

<sup>18</sup> Sec. 39 (1).

<sup>19</sup> 2022 prospects, challenges for human rights, Chino Obiagm SAN, Vanguardngr.com 13 January 2022 available at [www.vanguardngr.com](http://www.vanguardngr.com) accessed 6 February 2022.

<sup>20</sup>Nigeria became a signatory in 2001.

### **Recommendations for Youth Violence in Nigeria**

Youth violence like other vices can only be drastically reduced and not completely eradicated. Therefore, every responsible and responsive government shall invest more in the areas that will be beneficial to the youth in terms of growth and development. Youth friendly policies and programmes shall be formulated and carried out to ensure youth inclusiveness in the affairs of the government. When this is done the youths in Nigeria shall have strength to contribute positively in the affairs of the nation. This will automatically strengthen the nation's political, economic, social, cultural and geographic landscape.

### **Quality Educational System**

It was Francis Bacon who opined that "knowledge is power". Education is also said to be the bedrock of a nation. The importance of good education to any nation cannot be over-emphasized. No wonder the saying that education is the key. Sound education can promote basic human understanding, tolerance, economic growth, and help to build a peaceful nation. Undoubtedly, a good education is a major solution to youth based violence in Nigeria. Educated youths follow the law and therefore escape violence, rancor and acrimony. Education in a safe and inspiring learning environment is one of the best ways to prevent youth violence.

### **Youth Empowerment**

Policies and programs that are youth friendly should be introduced, encouraged and sustained. Youth empowerment decimals like skill acquisition, trainings and re-training, employment opportunities and so on should be at the fore front of government interests in its youth. Free and compulsory education to the university level should be introduced as a matter of urgency. Encouraging the youths to receive formal education should give everyone hope that the dreams of the Nigeria youths are achievable. Youths should be encouraged to positively participate in politics and not to be used as political thugs who are dumped immediately after elections leaving them with dangerous weapons acquired and shared to them for elections. Youths who are interested in business should be encouraged by the government where loan is needed it should be given without interest to enable the business thrive. Another way to empower the youth is to better the conditions of services of those who are in the military, police and other security agencies. When this is done the Nigerian youths will become interested in enlisting into the police, army and other security agencies. Of course, the importance of this will be massive. The youth now fight crime as security personal and not to indulge in crime as criminals.

### **Visible Agricultural Programs**

This is another area where the government can empower the Nigeria youths. Be it farming, piggery, fishery, poultry and so on. Agriculture is not an easy venture, it is capital intensive, energy sapping and time consuming. Aside these, endurance is required. Engaging the youths in agricultural program will serve as a weapon to increase and enhance youth productivity in Nigeria because the population of the youth in Nigeria has the reasonable potentials to enhance productivity in the agricultural sector. Thus, the investment in agriculture would drive youth employment, generate revenue for Nigeria, increase food production and enhance manufacturing input which will in turn reduce youth violence to the barest minimum.

### **Social Media Control**

Most crimes committed by youths emanate from social media, as such government should strive to ensure that social media is adequately regulated. Reduction of exposure to media violence and information that could trigger conflict is hereby recommended. All perceived agents of violence on the internet should be blocked forth with.

### **Thinking Beyond Theology**

Religion is one of the fundamental causes of crises in the country especially youth violence, therefore religious worshippers are expected to think beyond theology and out of the Box" in the reasoning when assessing potential roles for religious actors and propagating their beliefs. Politics and die hard



politicians who propagate violence should steer clear of religion because most religious crises are fueled by political interest. Religious leaders should seek to support peaceful coexistence, harmony and peace.

### **Effects of Youth Violence on Policing Responsibilities in Nigeria**

Issues here are overwhelming. The resultant effects of youth violence on policing responsibilities in Nigeria are in the negative. It makes it difficult for the members of the NPF to carry out their constitutional responsibilities. So many police officers have been killed since then. The activities of the “UNKNOWN GUN MEN”, in the south east have not helped matters. They now shoot police officers at sight and steal their guns. It is now fear, fear and fear on the part of the police.

### **Conclusion**

It seems to me that youth violence has come to stay in Nigeria, youth violence has led to the untimely death of many promising officers. The morale of police officers in Nigeria is near dead if not dead completely. This is a reflection of what will become of Nigeria tomorrow if something that is reasonably positive is not done and urgently too. Despite the fact that the Nigerian government has a major role to play, it is not an issue of government alone but a responsibility of each and every average Nigerian to make the society a violence free society so that Nigerians may inherit a better legacy for their future. Youth welfare/development is one of the major important issues that shall concern any nation and its citizens for a better tomorrow.

When I say “youth empowerment” I mean total empowerment of youths for a better tomorrow from an average skilled/unskilled youth walking on the street, youths in various institutions of learning to the youths in the “world of work” because each and every youth has an in built potential that is definitely unique. These skills are supposed to be useful in one way or the other for the growth of the nation as a whole through each and every individual’s optimistic effort backed by the collective effort and support of the society including non-government, private, and corporate voluntary support which will enhance the youth for a better tomorrow.

The university system which is supposed to be a place of peace and academic excellence for turning out peaceful and useful youths for the society now yields a contrary result because the aggregate quality of the university system in a nation directly determines the quality of youth capital development.

On the other hand, the NPF and its members should be strengthened and encouraged to perform their duties without minding whose ox is gored. Government should look directly into the welfare of the police to ensure that the police is well equipped and better remunerated to face the challenges of 21<sup>st</sup> century policing. Issues of training and retraining of police officers on policing responsibilities in tandem with the ethics of modern policing should be strictly adhered to. The families and next of kins of police officers violently killed should be adequately compensated. When all these are put in place the issues of youth violence may gradually become a thing of the past while NPF policing responsibilities shall be carried out without fear of attack from the youths.

