

**Mainstreaming Internal Security In Abuja Municipal Area Council Within The Context Of  
Nigeria Police Force**

**by**

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**Abstract**

The development of societies is largely anchored on the level of peace and orderliness they enjoy. However, Nigeria is facing a plethora of security challenges that places the police at the front-burner of its constitutional role in tackling insecurity. Several studies on internal security in Nigeria focused largely on local community security outfits. Studies on the security situation of Nigeria's Federal Capital Territory (FCT) have not sufficiently addressed the role of the Nigeria Police Force. This article mainstreams internal security to identify the nature of insecurity and the contribution of Nigerian Police in the management of internal security in Abuja Municipal Council Area. A quantitative method was adopted utilizing descriptive survey. A random sampling technique was utilized to select respondents within households and neighborhoods. The findings indicate that despite the overwhelming presence of military and security formations, Nigeria's FCT is facing a myriad of security issues that appears to threaten the safety and well-being of its residents. The study concludes that the internal security challenges in FCT are not overwhelming with an enhanced Nigerian Police Force. It therefore recommends, among others, that the capacity of personnel should be enhanced through retraining and adequate provision of equipment and logistics for effective policing.

**Key words:** Nigerian Police Force, Internal Security, Insecurity, Lives and Property, Abuja

**Introduction**

The development of any society largely depends on the level of peace and security enjoyed by the citizenry. Therefore, security within the sphere of human safety and national development cannot be overemphasized. Some of the major threats to Nigeria's national security in recent time ranges from terrorism which is accentuated often by violent extremist, religious ideologies;

separatist agitation and proliferation of ethnic militias; kidnapping for ransom; armed robbery which at times, could be orchestrated by trans-border criminal networks; and agrarian/pastoralists farmers' crises (Jarikre, 2024). Other insecurity threats prevalent in Nigeria include banditry and cattle rustling; sabotage, disruption and vandalism of critical infrastructure, communal and ethnic conflicts, oil theft and piracy, cybercrime, election-related violence and political unrest, cultism and violent crimes, financial crimes such as corruption, money laundering, and electoral fraud, human trafficking, drug trafficking, and arms trafficking. These issues are not only interconnected and can exacerbate poverty, inequality, and social unrest, but also threaten Nigeria's security architecture. Therefore, maintaining peace and social order in Nigeria has become a mammoth challenge as the country continues to grapple with increasing acts of insecurity in the individual and national life. The most serious of these difficulties include institutional corruption, lack of transparency and accountability (Ojedokun, 2021), and difficulty with legitimacy (Omeni, 2022).

The security architecture of Nigeria comprises a range of security, intelligence and paramilitary institutions which include the armed forces (the Army, Navy and Air Force), Nigeria Police Force, Intelligence agencies (Department of State Security) and paramilitary agencies (Immigration, Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps). The security framework has a dual responsibility embedded in the constitution in relation to internal and external security (territorial). For the purpose of this study, it will be limited to internal security operations within the ambit of the Nigeria Police Force (NPF, after now). Internal security is a very broad concept to be accurately measured. But the General Development Control Regulations (GDCR) reveals some human security indicators for measuring internal security thus: economic security, food security, environmental security, health security, personal security, community security and political security (GDCR, n.d). However, the constitutional responsibilities of the Police, particularly in Nigeria do not cover all these areas. For instance, Olong and Agbonika (2013) pointed out the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999, as amended, provides for the constitutional role of the Nigeria Police Force in section 215(3) and (4). It is expressly stated therein that the Nigeria Police Force shall maintain and secure public safety and public order, ensure internal stability and prevent threats to national security. Hence, the thrust of this paper is on the police as entrenched in the Police Act (2010) and the 1999 Constitution. In the 1999 Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, section 14(2)(b), it is expressly stated that "the

security and welfare of the people shall be the primary purpose of government.” This constitutional responsibility of the government includes internal security and by extension the NPF in the discharge of its constitutional duties

The Nigeria Police Force is an important security framework saddled with the responsibility of protecting citizens even when that responsibility involves the use of force (Ladapo, 2013). This is why a lot is expected of the Police than other modern professional jobs. Police officials are trained to be brave and courageous, not fearful, cowardly or surprised in the face of threat (Odinkalu, 2005). The statutory function of the NPF in providing internal security in any nation is therefore non-negotiable. The responsibilities of the Police are provided in section 4 of the Police Act (2010) thus:

The Police shall be employed for the prevention and detection of crime, the apprehension of offenders, the preservation of law and order, the protection of property and the enforcement of the laws and regulations with which they are directly charged and shall perform such military duties within or without Nigeria as may be requested of them by or under the authority of this or under any Act” (p.19).

The historical origin of the Nigeria Police Force like other formations in the Western region of Africa witnessed a policing arrangement, over the years that was predominantly indigenous to the community of people involved in the Pre-Colonial era. In Nigeria, prior to the annexation of Lagos as a British Colony in 1861, there was no semblance of official organization that characterized the policing arrangement on ground. The Colonial administration introduced Warrant Chiefs through the Emirs in the Northern region and Obas in the West (Obaro, 2014). Sundry constraints faced by the British administration between 1840 and 1861 resulted in the formation of the Lagos Consular Guard. The formation comprised a total of 30-man guard saddled with the responsibility of enforcing law and order, as well as maintaining sanitary regulations (Obaro, 2014). The thirty-member-Consular-Guard was later renamed The Hausa Guard in 1863. Each unit was named after the ethnicity of its recruits which was regularized in 1879 through an ordinance that created a Constabulary for the Lagos Colony. Hence, the Hausa Guard became known as the Hausa Constabulary. Consequently, the Lagos Police Force was established on January 1, 1896. Its members were armed like the Hausa Constabulary regulations (Obaro, 2014). Obaro further noted that when the Oil River Protectorate was declared in 1891

with the Headquarters situated in Calabar, an armed Constabulary was formed. The Oil River Protectorate comprises present day South-South geo-political zone - Despite the Nigeria union in 1914 through the amalgamation of the Southern and Northern protectorate, the Southern and Northern regional Police units operated independently until 1930 when it became the Nigeria Police Force (Obaro 2014). Since then, the Police have been responsible for the enforcement of criminal law, prevention of crime, detection, apprehension, investigation, detention and prosecution of crime suspects. Some of the constitutional responsibilities of the Nigerian Police can therefore be found in its powers to arrest offenders, prevent crime occurrences, protect lives and properties, detect crime, maintain law and order, and to investigate criminal matters (Ladapo, 2013). In this way, the NPF is obligated to maintain social order, safety of lives and properties in communities so that their energies are not exhausted by the business of self-protection (Onovo, 2009).

In spite of the overwhelming presence of military and security formations, the Federal Capital Territory (FCT) of Nigeria is facing a myriad of security issues that appears to threaten the safety and well-being of its residents (Ogunleye, 2020). Perhaps, as Adeleke (2021) noted, the FCT may be experiencing increasing incidence of insecurity due to its cosmopolitan and demographic configuration as the political and administrative hub of the nation. These challenges manifest in various forms, including violent crime, terrorism, kidnappings, and ethnic conflicts, which have escalated in recent years (Ibrahim, 2019). In spite the precarious security situation, several studies such as Ibeanu and Momoh, (2008), Azam (2009), Okoli and Iortyer (2014), and Amadi and Mac-Ogonor (2015) on internal security challenges in Nigeria have focused on local community security outfits. However, scholarly works on the security situation in FCT have not sufficiently addressed the role of the NPF. Hence, this study is necessary to examine the role of the NPF in combating internal insecurity in Abuja Municipal Area Council (AMAC, after now). Therefore, the broad objective of this study is to examine the role of the NPF in the management of internal security in AMAC. The research questions include: what is the nature of internal security in AMAC? What is the contribution of the NPF to the management of internal security in AMAC? What are the challenges associated with the NPF's ineffectiveness in handing internal security in AMAC?

This article focuses on precisely the role of the Nigeria Police Force in managing insecurity in AMAC within the framework of internal security with the Federal Capital Territory of Nigeria,.

The first part of the article provides a synoptic overview of internal security and the evolution of the NPF. It is followed by a conceptual discourse of internal security in the context of NPF and closely followed by a theoretical framework. It then outlines the methodology, results of findings and discusses the nature of internal security challenges, contribution of the NPF in the management of insecurity and the challenges of NPF and the implication of ineffective policing of internal security in AMAC

### **Conceptual Discourse**

The pliable nature of security attracts the proportionate and disproportionate of meanings and views by scholars and practitioners. Perhaps, this explains the conceptual ambiguity along its multidimensional scope and scales. Security consist of activities and processes deliberately designed to mitigate threats to life and property of individual, group, community, and state. State referent security encompasses freedom from threat and ability of a states to maintain the independence and functional integrity against hostile forces of change, with survival being the ultimate goal (Bodunde, et al., 2014; Buzan, 1991). In essence, security is about feeling safe from harm, fear, oppression, and danger, and protecting the core values of the citizens. As Williams (2008) avers, security is often associated with the mitigation of threats to assets or common cherish values, particularly those that endanger the survival of a specific entity or reference object. Thus, irrespective of the security orientation, be it classical, state-centric and traditionalist or non-traditionalist, it is all about protection of assets including living and non-living resources against loss or damage. As Imobighe (2005) observed, it is centred on freedom from danger or threats on a state's ability to protect and develop its territory, promote its core values and legitimacy against the backdrop of the citizen's well-being.

In theory and practice, security involves managing threats and freedom from danger. It requires the identification and classification of both the threat and the referent object (such as a state, individual, society, or ideal) being protected. Threats refers to the possibility of harm or perceived existential threat coming to a valued referent object protected by law. The concept of security within the national space has been defined within the context of national security, a term that defines the dynamics and interrelationships between internal security (a threats emanating from within the country) and external security (foreign threats from outside the country). Within these perspectives, Paleri (2008) subjectively classified national security interest as the absence

of threats to acquired values and the fear that such values will be attacked using state power resource, therefore, using state power in protecting acquired values from threats and having no fear of attacks on those values is the objective of national interest. Similarly, Eme, Nwachukwu, Ugwu, & Obioji (2017) identified security as a collocation of the safety interest of all individuals, ethnic groups, communities, political entities and social institutions inhabiting its territory. In this way, national security strategy places premium on the safety, wellbeing and the prosperity of individuals, properties and institutions within and outside of a country. A country's national security, therefore, focuses on citizens' well-being, preserving sovereignty of the state, and protecting its territorial integrity from external threats and aggressions.

The key characteristic of a sovereign state in international system is its capacity to provide security for its citizens and territory (Mueller, 2008; Kenney & Dumm, 2010). Internal security is a concept that could be understood as the prerogative or the total absence of any tendencies, that could undermine the internal unity, and the cohesion of a country including its ability to administer and utilize its resources for the growth and wellbeing of the citizens as well as its socio-political and economic objectives that meets the legitimate endeavors of the people (Ogaba, 2010: 35-36). Ngbale (2011), on the other hand defined internal security as the quest of psychological and physical safety which is largely a responsibility attributed to the national governments, to prevent direct threats primarily from abroad endangering the survival of these regimes, their citizenry or their ways of life.

The structuring of state activities to maintain social order among members of any given society is a statutory function of the police with prerogative for providing the necessary security services for all its citizens (Locke, 1690; Capici, 2011). As Duffy, Wake, Burrow and Bremner (2008) observed, ensuring the safety of the public in a crime-free nation is major antecedent of the public's overall assessment of the government; therefore, increase in crime rate is usually blamed on local authority and all the arms of government. This presupposes that state underperformance, internal instability, civil wars and crime increase are consequences of dysfunctional security structures and ineffective policing (Crisis States Research Centre- CSRC, 2010). A dysfunctional security structure can destabilize social institutions, increased crime rates, and can deter investors and harm economic growth of the country. Consequently, the social disorder is precursor to community conflicts, failed economy, religious intolerance, widespread famine, failed polity, banditry, terrorism and violent extremism, population displacement, failed

family units, etc. These social melee places significant responsibilities on the police to maintain law and order, and ensuring a safe environment for citizens to express their basic rights in Abuja, Nigeria's Federal Capital Territory.

The acts of using any form of weapon to threaten, subjugate, inflict injury, and kill unarmed citizens in order to dispossessed them of valuables is increasingly a major security challenge in Nigeria. In fact, such heinous acts put several lives at great risk, threatening socioeconomic activities, and reducing direct foreign investments (Aliyu et al., 2016; Aigbovo & Eidenoje, 2016; Oduwale, 2015). For instance, between June of 2006 and September of 2015, armed robbery incidents led to about 50% of the 8,516 reported deaths from about 3,840 fatalities nationwide (Husaini, 2024; Etuk, 2024; Nwankwo and Okolie-Osemene, 2016). Fagbemi (2024) identified cybercrime as one misdemeanor that is increasingly threatening security situation of the FCT. According to him, in 2024 some Nigerians and 113 foreign nationals were taken into custody for alleged involvement in online fraud. Also, seven alleged captured online scammers also known as the "Yahoo Yahoo" have been reprimanded by agents of the special Economic and Financial Crimes Commission's (EFCC) squad Abuja Zonal Directorate. Similarly, Umar (2024) discussed the fatal cult conflicts and assaults in FCT and concluded that residents find it difficult to return to their workplaces or homes in harmony due to the increase in gang activity in recent years, as they risk being victims of these cult organizations, which occasionally result in fatalities. Also, there have been dire incidences of hostage taking, kidnap and murder of commuters across communities in Abuja by a criminal syndicate group popularly known as 'one chance' (Etuk, 2024). It is alleged that a female legislative assistant in the National Assembly in Abuja, was kidnapped and murdered by "one chance" kidnappers, who left her body by the side of the road (Sule, Alkassim & Ibrahim, 2024). Suffice it that the FCT is steadily turning into a hub of insecurity, ranging from robberies at gunpoint to housebreakings and cellphone snatching on the streets (Umar, 2024)

The increased rate of insecurity in FCT is not unconnected with the emergence of Islamic fundamentalist group, popularly known as Boko-Haram in Nigeria's North East region. The sect regaled as Muslim jihad pursued a revolutionist agenda to abolish the secular composition of the Nigerian State in order to establishment of Sharia Law (Alaneme, 2011). The Sect is reputedly a terrorist group engaged in violent extremism, attacks, bombing and killing of civilian population in Nigeria Northeast. Their activities include a grim account of violent extremism involving

1,510 death in Abuja, FCT (Champion Newspapers, 2011). Kidnapping and hostage taking have been reportedly linked as a bedfellow of revolutionaries such as Boko Haram and the splinter groups in North East Nigeria to fund their activities and acquisition of weapons (Jarikre, 2017; Abdulkabir, 2017; Ikuomola, 2011). Of course, this include the young Chibok girls who were taken away in 2014 by terrorists.

Since then, the situation is precarious as other criminal elements have reportedly intensified the kidnapping trend in FCT as a more lucrative venture than armed robbery. As Abdulkabir (2017) noted that in the present Nigeria, the kidnapping situation has taken a worrisome dimension. For instance, about 50 kidnapping instances involving more than 200 people have been reported in Abuja in the past three years. Looking at the data between January 2021 and June 2023, about 40 documented occurrences with an over 236 victims had been confirmed, highlighting the severity of the kidnapping menace. Thirteen kidnapping instances involving 80 victims were reported between October and December of 2023 alone (BusinessDay, 2024). These incidents, which seemed to go unnoticed by security agencies, took place in a number of places, including Ketu, Gbale, Kuje, Abaji, Gage, Pagi, and Kwali. Significant economic losses have resulted from these occurrences' profound effects on the community; between 2021 and 2022, N653.7 million in ransom payments were documented (BusinessDay, 2024). This situation calls for urgent attention and a complete overhaul of security architecture especially the NPF, whose duty it is to protect lives and critical infrastructures of the country (Zeman, et al., 2018; Teivāns-Treinovskis, et al., 2018; Kuril, 2018).

## **METHODS**

This study adopted descriptive survey design utilizing quantitative data. The design is considered appropriate for this study since the study involves the determination of issues surrounding NPF's effectiveness in their duties of handling internal security in order to arrive at meaningful and dependable conclusion on how to ameliorate the situation in AMAC. This study area is limited to Abuja Municipal Area Council (AMAC) in the Federal Capital Territory (FCT). The AMAC consists of eight satellite towns namely; Nyanya, Garki, Gui, Gwagwa, Kabusa, Gwarimpa, Orozo, and Karu. The study population of is 776,298 (National Population Commission, 2006). The sample size for this study is 400 as determined using the Taro Yamane (1973) equation. A random sampling technique was utilized to select respondents within households and neighborhoods through alternative numbering. Each selected household was pre-assigned a



quota in the cluster and respondents were selected through the use of the flip paper method. The research instrument (Questionnaire) consists of two sections (A and B). Section (A) contained questions relating to the socio-demographic variables of the respondents, while section (B) contained questions that were designed on 4-point Likert Scale. The data for this article include the quantitative data from the descriptive survey as primary source while secondary data were collected from official documents, books, journal articles, newspapers, and magazines. The study utilized both thematic analysis and content analysis. To analyze the data that were obtained for the study, the Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS) software was employed. Different levels of data analysis involving the use of percentages, mean, standard deviation, and ANOVA were deployed

## RESULT

To interrogate the strategic significance of the police within the broad and narrow conceptualization of internal security and to explain the functionality of the NPF in the enforcement of social order, the article draws from the quantitative data and literature. To address the research objective and questions of this study, the findings have been categorized into three thematic issues, namely: nature of internal security challenges; contribution of the NPF in the management of insecurity; and to tease out the challenges and implication of Police's ineffectiveness on internal security in AMAC

### *Nature of Internal Security Challenges in AMAC*

**Table 1: Data on the nature of internal security challenges in AMAC**

S/N	ITEMS	SA(%)	A(%)	SD(%)	D(%)	MEAN	STD
1	Men of the underworld habitually operate within AMAC with reckless abandon	56 (14.5)	198(51.6)	44(11.5)	86(22.4)	2.4167	.99257
2	Crime cases in AMAC occur virtually every week	176(45.8)	92(24.0)	34(8.8)	82(21.4)	2.0573	1.18381
3	Kidnapping is common crime that the people of AMAC are afraid of	51(13.3)	96(25.0)	72(18.7)	165(43.0)	2.9141	1.09850

<b>4</b>	Cases of crime like stealing, pick pockets, sexual offences have greatly reduced in AMAC	66 (17.2)	54(14.1)	72(18.7)	192 (50.0)	3.0156	1.15384
<b>5</b>	Issue of human trafficking has drastically reduced to the barest minimum in AMAC	61(15.9)	43(11.2)	192(50.0)	88(22.9)	2.7995	.96892
	Aggregate Mean					<b>2.64064</b>	<b>1.079528</b>

**Source:** Field Survey (2024)

The first construct on the table reveals that majority (51.6%) of the respondents agreed that men of the underworld habitually operate within AMAC with reckless abandon. However, only 11.5% of them strongly disagreed with that assertion, which implies that criminals may have held the capital city to ransom in many ways over the years. This has a mean value of 2.4167 and standard deviation of .99257, signifying strong support of the data's authenticity. The second construct on the table shows that a significant number (45.8%) of the respondents strongly agreed that crime cases in AMAC occurred virtually every week, but only 8.8% of them strongly disagreed that crime cases in AMAC occurred virtually every week. This implies that many residents of AMAC might have been under torments of criminals on frequent basis over the years thereby threatening internal security in the area. This has a mean value of 2.0573 and standard deviation of 1.18381, validating the data. The third construct reveals that a good number (43.0%) of the respondents disagreed that kidnapping is common crime that the people of AMAC are afraid of, while only 13.3% strongly agreed with that. This implies that there are other crimes that may be threatening the people of AMAC more than the crime of kidnapping, which might not be unconnected with the increase in security in AMAC more than other areas of the FCT. This has a mean value of 2.9141 and standard deviation of 1.09850, indicating strong reliance in the data sourced. The fourth construct reveals that majority (50.0%) of the respondents disagreed that cases of crime like stealing, pick pockets, sexual offences have greatly reduced in AMAC, while only 14.1% of them agreed with that assertion. This is in support of data indicating that crimes of stealing, pick pockets, sexual offences and many more are more rampant in AMAC. This has a mean value of 3.0156 and standard deviation of 1.15384,

revealing great validity of data. The fifth construct reveals that majority (50.0%) of the respondents strongly disagreed that the issue of human trafficking has drastically reduced to the barest minimum in AMAC, and only 11.2% of them agreed with that assertion. This implies that the crime of human trafficking might still be on the increase in AMAC despite all efforts to curtail the menace over the years. This has a mean value of 2.7995 and standard deviation of .96892, indicating a perfect data. The aggregate mean score of 2.64064 is above 2.50 decision rule indicating a positive response from the respondents to the items of the questionnaire as indicted above.

***Contribution of the Police in the management of insecurity in AMAC***

**Table 2: Data on contribution of the NPF to internal security management in AMAC**

S/N	ITEMS	SA(%)	A(%)	SD(%)	D(%)	MEAN	STD
1	The Nigerian police have the mandate to arrest criminals in AMAC	201(52.3)	98(25.5)	34(8.9)	51(13.3)	3.168	1.056
2	The Nigerian Police do not have the mandate to prevent crime in AMAC	51(13.3)	66(17.2)	186(48.4)	81(21.1)	2.227	0.929
3	It is partially the sole responsibility of the Police to protect lives and property in AMAC	65(16.9)	71(18.5)	156(40.6)	92(24.0)	2.227	1.010
4	It is constitutionally required of the Police to detect crime in AMAC	161(41.9)	90(23.4)	61(15.9)	72 (18.8)	2.884	1.147
5	It is a mandate of the NPF to maintain law and order in AMAC	243(63.3)	83(21.6)	25(6.5)	33(8.6)	3.396	0.941
6	The Police do not have any business with investigation of criminal matters in AMAC	50(13.0)	83 (21.6)	168 (43.8)	83(21.6)	2.260	0.940
	Aggregate Mean					<b>2.703</b>	<b>1.2046</b>

**Source:** Field Survey (2024)

The first construct on table 2 reveals that majority (52.3) of the respondents strongly agreed that the Nigerian police have the mandate to arrest criminals in AMAC. However, only (8.9%) of them strongly disagreed with that. This implies that it is the responsibility of the Nigerian Police through their constitutional role to arrest criminals in AMAC. This has a mean value of 3.168 and standard deviation of 1.056. The second construct on the table shows that a significant number (48.4%) of the respondents strongly disagreed that the Nigerian Police do not have the mandate to prevent crime in AMAC. But only 13.3% of them strongly agreed with such observation. This implies that it is the constitutional role of the NPF to prevent crime in AMAC. This has a mean value of 2.227 and standard deviation of 0.929. The third construct reveals that a sizable number (40.6%) of the respondents strongly disagreed that it is partially the responsibility of the Police to protect lives and property in AMAC, but 16.9% of them strongly disagreed with that. This implies that it is the function of the Nigerian Police to protect lives and property in AMAC. This has a mean value of 2.227 and standard deviation of 1.010. The fourth construct reveals that majority (41.9%) of the respondents strongly agreed that it is constitutionally required of the Police to detect crime in AMAC, but only 15.9% of them strongly disagreed with that. This implies that it is the duty of the Police in Nigeria to detect crime in AMAC. This has a mean value of 2.884 and standard deviation of 1.147. The fifth construct reveals that majority (63.3%) of the respondents strongly agreed that it is a mandate of the Police to maintain law and order in AMAC, while only 6.5% of them strongly disagreed with that. This implies that the constitution of Nigeria gives the Police the responsibility to maintain law and order in AMAC. This has a mean value of 3.396 and standard deviation of 0.941. The sixth construct reveals that a significant number (43.8%) of the respondents strongly disagreed that the Police do not have any business with investigation of criminal matters in AMAC, while only 13.0% of them strongly agreed with that assertion. This implies that it is the duty of the Police in AMAC to investigate criminal matters. This has a mean value of 2.260 and standard deviation of 0.940. The aggregate mean score of 2.703 is above 2.50 decision rule indicating a positive response from the respondents to the items of the questionnaire as indicted above.

***The challenges associated with handling internal security in AMAC***

**Table 3. Data on implication of Police's ineffectiveness on internal security in AMAC**

S/N	ITEMS	SA(%)	A(%)	SD(%)	D(%)	MEAN	STD
1	The failure of the Police to apprehend criminals	84 (21.8)	166(43.2)	81(21.1)	53(13.9)	1.9531	1.15751

	increases crime incidents in AMAC						
<b>2</b>	Crime rate would have been drastically reduced if the Police had been proactive than reactive in AMAC	151 (39.3)	57(14.8)	86(22.4)	90(23.4)	2.1120	.90283
<b>3</b>	Citizens feel more secure of their lives and properties in AMAC in recent times	66(17.2)	51(13.3)	81(21.1)	186(48.4)	3.0078	1.14369
<b>4</b>	Police's inability to identify likelihood of crime accounted for increase in insecurity in AMAC	188(48.9)	74(19.3)	56(14.6)	66(17.2)	2.0000	1.15168
<b>5.</b>	Mob action and inter ethno-religious conflicts have increased in AMAC in recent times	51(13.3)	43(11.2)	88(22.9)	202(52.6)	3.1484	1.07249
<b>6.</b>	Shoody investigation has continued to result in no case submission against known criminals in courts in AMAC	211(54.9)	52(13.5)	85(22.1)	36(9.4)	1.8594	1.06254
	Aggregate Mean					<b>2.3468</b>	<b>1.08179</b>

**Source:** Field Survey (2024)

The third table was designed to tease out the challenges of handling internal security in AMAC by NPF. The first construct reveals that a significant number (43.2%) of the respondents agreed that the failure of the Police to apprehend criminals increases crime incidents in AMAC, while only 13.9% of them disagreed with that observation. This implies that the failure of the Police to timely arrest criminals which is a major constitutional role of theirs might have contributed to the increase in insecurity in AMAC over the years. This has a mean value of 1.9531 and standard deviation of 1.15751, which shows that the data were valid. The second construct shows that a sizable number (39.3%) of the respondents strongly agreed that crime rate would have been drastically reduced if the Police had been proactive than reactive in AMAC, while only (14.8%) of them agreed with that. The implication of this is that the public is not ignorant of the fact that

failure of the Police to tackle crime early enough would increase its rate, which may affect their confidence in the agency, and also reduce their support. This has a mean value of 2.1120 and standard deviation of .90283, which shows that the data were valid. The third construct reveals that majority (48.4%) of the respondents disagreed that citizens feel more secure of their lives and properties in AMAC in recent times, while (13.3%) of them agreed with that assertion. This implies that the people of AMAC might have been living with the fear of the unknown due to increase in insecurity in AMAC, which might not be unconnected to the failure of the Police to perform its constitutional role of crime control. This has a mean value of 3.0078 and standard deviation of 1.14369, thus authenticating the data. The fourth construct reveals that a significant number (48.9%) of the respondents strongly agreed that Police's inability to identify likelihood of crime accounted for increase in insecurity in AMAC, but only 14.6% of them strongly disagreed with that. This implies that crime might have been reduced greatly if the Nigerian Police were to be able to identify crime situation in AMAC as they should. This has a mean value of 2.0000 and standard deviation of 1.15168, indicating valid responses. The fifth construct reveals that (52.6%) of the respondents disagreed that mob action and inter ethno-religious conflicts have increased in AMAC in recent times, while only 11.2% of them strongly agreed with that mob idea. This implies that if the Police had been proactive enough in quelling mob situation issues like Jungle Justice and ethno-religious tension that sometimes arose in AMAC would have been averted. This has a mean value of 3.1484 and standard deviation of 1.07249, which shows that instrument validly measured the data. The sixth construct reveals that majority (54.9%) of the respondents strongly agreed that shoddy investigation has continued to result in no case submission against known criminals in courts in AMAC, but only 9.4% of them disagreed with that assertion. This implies that Police corruption which may have been affecting concrete investigation over the years have hindered effective crime control efforts by the agency over the years in AMAC. This has a mean value of 1.8594 and standard deviation of 1.06254, hence the data were valid. The aggregate mean score of 2.3468 is less than 2.50 decision rule indicating a negative response from the respondents to the items of the questionnaire as indicted above.

## ***DISCUSSION***

### ***Nature of Internal Security Challenges in AMAC***

The nature of internal security in AMAC reveals that majority (51.6%) of the respondents agreed that men of the underworld habitually operate within AMAC with reckless abandon. Again, majority (45.8%) of them strongly agreed that crime cases in AMAC occurred virtually every week. However, a sizable number (43.0%) of the respondents disagreed that kidnapping is common crime that the people of AMAC are afraid of. Yet, majority (50.0%) of the respondents disagreed that cases of crime like stealing, pick pockets, sexual offences have greatly reduced in AMAC. Worse still, majority (50.0%) of them strongly disagreed that the issue of human trafficking has drastically reduced to the barest minimum in AMAC. This implies that the state of internal security in the municipal area council of the FCT is still dicey with the findings revealing an aggregate mean score of 2.6 which is above 2.50 decision rule indicating a positive response from the respondents view above. Buttressing the above was the assertion by Achumba, Ighomereho and Akpor-Robaro (2013), as discussed herein earlier, that the continuous fall of Nigeria in the global security index is signifying a worsened state of insecurity in the country. The results presented above have expressly affirmed this observation right here in AMAC which is the heart of the six municipal area councils of the Federal Capital Territory where security is expected to be the topmost agenda of the government.

### ***Contribution of the Police in the Management of Insecurity in AMAC***

To determine the contribution of Nigerian Police to the management of internal security in AMAC, finding reveals that majority (52.3) of the respondents strongly agreed that the Nigerian police have the mandate to arrest criminals in AMAC, but a significant number (48.4%) of them strongly disagreed that the Nigerian Police do not have the mandate to prevent crime in AMAC, indicating that it is the constitutional role of the Nigerian Police to prevent crime in AMAC. Again, a sizable number (40.6%) of the respondents strongly disagreed that it is partially the responsibility of the Police to protect lives and property in AMAC, indicating that it is the function of the Nigerian Police to protect lives and property in AMAC. However, majority (41.9%) of them strongly agreed that it is constitutionally required of the Police to detect crime in AMAC. Furthermore, majority (63.3%) of the respondents strongly agreed that it is a mandate of the Police to maintain law and order in AMAC, but a significant number (43.8%) of the respondents strongly disagreed that the Police do not have any business with investigation of

criminal matters in AMAC, indicating that it is the duty of the NPF in AMAC to verify criminal matters. This has aggregate mean score of 2.703 which is above 2.50 decision rule indicating a positive response from the respondents view above.

### ***The challenges associated with handling internal security in AMAC***

The challenges associated with the Nigerian Police's ineffectiveness in handling internal security in AMAC, it was revealed that majority (43.2%) of the respondents agreed that the failure of the Police to apprehend criminals increases crime incidents in AMAC. Also, many of the respondents, (39.3%), strongly agreed that crime rate would have been drastically reduced if the Police had been proactive than reactive in AMAC. Again, majority (48.4%) of them disagreed that citizens feel more insecure of their lives and properties in AMAC in recent times. However, majority (48.9%) of them strongly agreed that Police's inability to identify likelihood of crime accounted for increase in insecurity in AMAC. Furthermore, majority (52.6%) of them disagreed that mob action and inter-ethnic and ethno-religious conflicts have increased in AMAC in recent times. And a sizable number (54.9%) of them strongly agreed that shoddy investigation has continued to result in no case submission against known criminals in courts in AMAC. These findings have aggregate mean score of 2.3468 which is less than 2.50 decision rule indicating a negative response from the respondents.

## **CONCLUSION**

The nature of internal security in AMAC in relation to the increasing social disorder underscores the narrative that the NPF is not doing enough in discharging its constitutional responsibility in reducing incidences of social disorder and crime in AMAC. More importantly, there appears to be no rule of engagement as it flouts the rule by not securing warrant of arrest always which has led many offenders to refuse arrest of the years. In fact, it was discovered that policing in AMAC is rather reactive than proactive in the management of security. For instance, there are no early warning and early response mechanisms in combating crime and social disorder. Also, the Police have not been effective in its power to prevent crime occurrences since they have neglected sensitization campaign about criminals' new tactics, with shortage of personnel to man the community. Also, the study contemplates the effectiveness of combating insecurity by the NPF in relation to public confidence on the force ability to address the internal security challenges.

Finally, in spite of plethora of literature on insecurity in Nigeria's FCT, there are several limitations and empirical gaps. Thus, further studies could be carried out to determine the



effectiveness, police-public relationship, and challenges hindering policing of AMAC's internal security.

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