

LAGOS STATE NEIGHBORHOOD SAFETY CORPS (LNSC) AND CRIME REDUCTION IN LAGOS METROPOLIS, LAGOS STATE, NIGERIA

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Abstract

The study is aimed at examining the influence of Lagos State Neighborhood Safety Corps on crime reduction in Lagos State, Nigeria. The objectives of this research include to examine the duty of Lagos Neighborhood Safety Corps; assess if the community has felt the impact of the corps in terms of security; examine how the Lagos Neighborhood Safety Corps can eradicate or reduce crime in Lagos; ascertain the Lagos Neighborhood Safety Corps behaviour that is abysmal. Stratified random sampling technique was used to select 150 youths in Mainland Local Government Area of Lagos State as the sample size. A 20-item questionnaire was designed to elicit relevant data from the participants. Chi-Square (X^2) was used to analyse the generated hypotheses at a 0.05 level of significance. The findings show that there is a significant relationship between Lagos State Neighborhood Safety Corps duties and crime reduction in Lagos metropolis, there is a significant relationship between Lagos State Neighborhood Safety Corps performance and crime reduction in Lagos metropolis and the establishment of Lagos State Neighborhood Safety Corps will significantly influence reduction of crime in Lagos state metropolis. Based on the findings, it was recommended that: LNSC officials should be encouraged to be more diligent in the discharge of their duty; people should be sensitized about the operations of the corps, that crime perpetrators in their communities should be exposed and not covered, to always speak out whenever there is conspiracy to perpetrate crime, and to be informed on the danger that lies in not reporting crime issues in order to enhance the performance of LNSC in crime reduction; and National Orientation Agency should include crime prevention and control and also preservation of the cultural values into their programme.

Keywords: Neighborhood Safety Corps; crime reduction; communities; youth; security

Introduction

In ordinary language, a crime is an unlawful act punishable by a state or other authority. The term "crime" does not in modern criminal law have any simple and

universally accepted definition, though statutory definitions have been provided for certain purposes. The most popular view is that crime is a category created by

law; in other words, something is a crime if declared as such by the relevant and applicable law. One proposed definition is that a crime or offence (or criminal offence) is an act harmful, not only to some individuals, but also to a community, society or the state ("a public wrong"). Such acts are forbidden and punishable by law. The notion that acts such as murder, rape and theft are to be prohibited exists worldwide. What precisely is a criminal offence is defined by criminal law of each country. While many have a catalogue of crimes called the criminal code, in some common law countries no such comprehensive statute exists. The state (government) has the power to severely restrict one's liberty for committing a crime. Usually, to be classified as a crime, the "act of doing something criminal" (actus reus) must with certain exceptions be accompanied by the "intention to do something criminal" (mens rea). While every crime violates the law, not every violation of the law counts as a crime. According to the criminal law, a crime is any act or omission that violates a law which results in a punishment. Punishments can range from the payment of a fine to incarceration in jail. The level of the offense or crime will usually be set in proportion to the severity of the crime. For example, parking in a two hour parking zone for three hours is a crime. The punishment usually involves the issuance of a ticket and an individual paying a fine. On the other end, robbing someone at gun point is a much more severe crime that can result in a lengthy prison sentence. If a statute merely encourages a conduct, but does not

provide a punishment, then a violation is not generally considered a crime, even though you may be exposed to some type of civil liability. For example, many family codes have general policy statements that encourage parents to resolve custody disputes in a friendly manner. If the custody battle turns ugly, a violation of the general policy rule, by itself, is not a crime because there is not a defined punishment.

According to Karimu (2015), crime is one of the human security problems confronting humanity across the world. Nations have grappled to contain the rising incidence of homicide, armed robbery, and kidnapping, drug trafficking, sex trafficking, illegal gun running and host of others. United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime in 2011 reported that homicides globally were estimated at 468,000 and more than a third (36%) was estimated to have occurred in Africa, 31% in the Americas, 27% in Asia, 5% in Europe and 1% in the tropical Pacific region. According to the report, economic crisis food insecurity inflation and weak or limited rule of law are factors that drive crime. However, the drivers of crime are not restricted to the aforementioned causative factors. In the Americas, more than 25% of homicides are related to "organized crime and the activities of criminal gangs"; the same only true of approximately 5% of homicides in the Asian and European countries for which data are available. Africa has been on the forefront on global statistics on crime. South Africa and Nigeria have recorded high incidents of violent and non-violent crimes in recent times.

Adams, Rohe & Arcury (2018) report that the Governor of Lagos State (Akinwunmi Ambode) said the crime rate in the state had tremendously reduced with the establishment of the Lagos Neighbourhood Safety Corps Agency and injection of over N20 billion to tackle security alone in the past three years. He said: "Indeed, I strongly believe that the fight against crime and all forms of criminality would be better enhanced if efforts are geared towards embracing community-policing to complement the police and other law enforcement agencies. This is what informed the setting up of the Lagos Neighbourhood Safety Corp Agency. Similarly, Vanguard Newspaper of May 6, 2018 reported that one year after, Lagos neighbourhood corps yet to impress. According to the report, when the Lagos State government inaugurated the Lagos Neighbourhood Safety Corps (LSNSC) in March 2017, it was with fanfare. In fact, the state government was equally excited that crime and criminality, which was upswing would be drastically brought down. The inauguration was about six months after the governor signed into law on August 15, 2016, the bill that created the corps. According to Governor Akinwunmi Ambode, while speaking at the inauguration ceremony of the corps, he said the corps is designed to provide a second layer of policing to better secure all communities in the state. The governor also said though the Nigeria Police Force has been very supportive in securing the state, the outfit became imperative because of identified security challenges that the state was grappling with, due to the

burgeoning population. According to him, the Neighbourhood Safety Corps is not competing with the Nigeria Police Force, but to assist and complement the police by providing useful intelligence for crime prevention, and to facilitate the arrest of perpetrators of criminal activities in our communities.

Statement of the Problem

Lagos Neighbourhood Safety Corp, LNSC was set up in 2016 by His Excellency, the governor of Lagos State, Akinwunmi Ambode to compliment the efforts of the police in securing neighbourhoods and crime prevention. However, it seems some members of the corps do not know their duty as they have turned themselves into traffic officers, thereby competing with policemen/officers of the Lagos State Traffic Management Agency (LASTMA) in traffic management. It also appears that people have not felt the impact and activities of the corps in crime reduction as claimed by the people that they have not been seeing them in crime scene. Again, it seems that people have not noticed the existence of the corps, not to talk of knowing their duties as some people have claimed in Vanguard Newspaper that they only hear about them in Newspaper and also see them going without knowing their mission. Consequently, it appears that the corps are performing abysmally because of the activities of some of its staff members that were at variance with what the agency was set up to achieve as claimed by the Law makers in Lagos state. Therefore, it is against this background that the study attempts to examine the influence of Lagos Neighbourhood Safety Corps in

crime reduction in communities of Lagos metropolis.

Research Hypotheses

H01: There is no significant relationship between Lagos State Neighborhood Safety Corps' duties and crime reduction in Lagos metropolis.

H02: There is no significant relationship between Lagos State Neighborhood Safety Corps' performance and crime reduction in Lagos metropolis.

H03: Establishment of Lagos State Neighborhood Safety Corps will not significantly influence reduction of crime in Lagos state metropolis.

Concept of Crimes

In ordinary language, a crime is an unlawful act punishable by a state or other authority. The term "crime" does not, in modern criminal law, have any simple and universally accepted definition, though statutory definitions have been provided for certain purposes. The most popular view is that crime is a category created by law; in other words, something is a crime if declared as such by the relevant and applicable law. One proposed definition is that a crime or offence (or criminal offence) is an act harmful not only to some individual but also to a community, society or the state ("a public wrong"). Such acts are forbidden and punishable by law. The notion that acts such as murder, rape and theft are to be prohibited exists worldwide. What precisely is a criminal offence is defined by criminal law of each country. While many have a catalogue of crimes called the criminal code, in some common law countries no such comprehensive statute exists. The state

(government) has the power to severely restrict one's liberty for committing a crime. Usually, to be classified as a crime, the "act of doing something criminal" (actus reus) must with certain exceptions be accompanied by the "intention to do something criminal" (mens rea). While every crime violates the law, not every violation of the law counts as a crime.

According to the criminal law of Federal Republic of Nigeria, a crime is any act or omission that violates a law which results in a punishment. Punishments can range from the payment of a fine to incarceration in jail. The level of the offense or crime will usually be set in proportion to the severity of the crime. For example, parking in a two hour parking zone for three hours is a crime. The punishment usually involves the issuance of a ticket and an individual paying a fine. On the other end, robbing someone at gun point is a much more severe crime that can result in a lengthy prison sentence. If a statute merely encourages a conduct, but does not provide a punishment, then a violation is not generally considered a crime, even though you may be exposed to some type of civil liability. For example, many family codes have general policy statements that encourage parents to resolve custody disputes in a friendly manner. If the custody battle turns ugly, a violation of the general policy rule, by itself, is not a crime because there is not a defined punishment.

In Sociology, crime is viewed as deviant behaviour that violates prevailing norms, cultural standards prescribing how humans ought to behave normally. This approach considers the complex realities

surrounding the concept of crime and seeks to understand how changing social, political, psychological, and economic conditions may affect changing definitions of crime and the form of the legal, law-enforcement, and penal responses made by society. These structural realities remain fluid and often contentious. For example, as cultures change and the political environment shifts, societies may criminalise or decriminalise certain behaviours, which directly affect the statistical crime rates, influence the allocation of resources for the enforcement of laws, and (re-)influence the general public opinion. Similarly, changes in the collection and/or calculation of data on crime may affect the public perceptions of the extent of any given "crime problem". All such adjustments to crime statistics, allied with the experience of people in their everyday lives, shape attitudes on the extent to which the State should use law or social engineering to enforce or encourage any particular social norm. Hawdon & Ryan (2009) assert that any discussion of deviance remains incomplete without a discussion of crime, which is any act that violates written criminal law. Society sees most crimes, such as robbery, assault, battery, rape, murder, burglary, and embezzlement, as deviant. But some crimes, such as those committed in violation of laws against selling merchandise on Sundays, are not deviant at all. Moreover, not all deviant acts are criminal. For example, a person who hears voices that are not there is deviant but not criminal. A society's criminal justice system punishes crimes. Punishment becomes necessary when criminal acts are

so disruptive as to interfere with society's normal functioning.

Amadi (2014) opines that the term crime denotes an unlawful act, punishable by law in a state. Nigeria is home to a substantial network of organised crime such as robbery, highway crime, rape, assault and act of terrorism. Here are few major crimes committed by Nigerians:

1. Economic Crime is an act of sabotage that affects the economy of a state or nation. For example, pipeline vandalism, illegal oil bunkering, tax evasion, etc.
2. Financial Crime: A financial crime is an act that involves the illegal use of cash or financial instruments such as cheques, drafts, money orders, etc. For example, bank fraud, issuance of dud cheques, etc.
3. (419) Advance Fee Fraud is a kind of scam in which a fraudster through false pretense/deceitful information hoodwinks a person to make some upfront payment on a proposed business deal, romance, marriage, contract, etc.
4. Money Laundering is a process whereby ill-gotten wealth is transformed so that it appears legitimate.
5. Terrorism: Terrorism is an act of violence and/or threats to intimidate another, to attain goals that are political, ideological or religious in nature such include Fulani herdsmen attack, Boko Haram insurgence and so on.
6. Cyber Crime: YAHOO Yahoo - is the use of a computer or other electronic device to perpetrate criminal acts. Cyber cafes have to register with the EFCC so that the commission can monitor their operations and enforce operating standards that eliminate internet crimes.
7. Rape: Rape is forcefully having sex with someone against her wish or will, especially using

violence. Over 90% of predatory sex is perpetrated by males against females. To some extent, rape reflects the ambivalence, moral decadence, ethical bankruptcy, materialism, corrupt soul, widespread promiscuity and hypocrisy that have characterized Nigerians over the years. 8. Police Brutality and Hostility: The egregious brutality and hostility of the police force in Nigeria brings into question the need for survival tactics in a no man's jungle called Nigeria. The populace has no known defense against police brutality. Police kill innocent citizens and put tags of armed robbers to cover themselves. Innocent Nigerians have paid the price for crimes they never committed. 9. Bribery and Corruption: Bribery is a specific offence which concerns the practice of offering something, usually money, to gain an illicit advantage and corruption is an abuse of a position of trust in order to gain an undue advantage. 10. High way robbery and One-chance: Highway Robbery and gruesome ambush are where travelers are robbed of their belongings on the various highways in Nigeria.

Crime Rate in Lagos State

Ferguson (2013) submits that Nigeria has been assessed as a “Level 3: Reconsider travel” country due to crime, terrorism, and piracy. He has assessed Lagos as a critical-threat location for crime directed at or affecting official U.S. government interests. He submits that crime is prevalent throughout Nigeria. Most crime directed toward Americans and U.S. private-sector entities in southern Nigeria is motivated by financial gain. U.S. visitors and residents have been victims of a wide range of violent crimes, including

armed muggings, assaults, burglaries, carjacking, rapes, kidnappings, and extortion. The most commonly reported crimes are violent armed robberies, kidnap for ransom, and fraud. In addition, mainland of Lagos has experienced periodic outbreaks of violence, resulting from clashes among localized street gangs known as “Area Boys.” Burrus & Giblin (2014) submit that U.S. citizens, Nigerians, and other expatriates have been victims of armed robbery at banks and grocery stores and on airport roads during all hours. Armed robbers have targeted occupants in vehicles; smash-and-grab robberies are common with thieves canvassing stopped vehicles for valuables. Thieves will break the vehicle’s window or simply reach in and grab items while a vehicle is stopped. Home invasions remain a serious threat with armed robbers targeting even guarded compounds. Perpetrators have scaled perimeter walls, followed residents/visitors, and/or subdued guards to gain entry. Armed robbers in Lagos have invaded waterfront compounds and businesses by boat, using the Lagos waterway as a means of escape. Increasingly, cybercrime has become a concern and is becoming more sophisticated. Local drivers typically disregard traffic laws. Scooters and motorcycles generally do not follow the rules of the road and often use sidewalks to maneuver around other vehicles. Traffic lights and signs, lanes, and highway divisions are often nonexistent or frequently go unheeded where they do exist. Roads are not well-maintained and do not meet Western standards. Vehicle disablement, especially flat tires, due to

poor road conditions is common. Pedestrian traffic is present on the roadside at all hours. Most roads are not illuminated at night, making travel after dark particularly hazardous. Few major routes connect cities, so construction, accidents, and rush-hour traffic cause traffic jams (go-slows) and major delays. Enforcement of laws by local traffic officials is limited and minimally effective. Traffic police officers routinely seek bribes. Drivers of all nationalities may experience harassment and shakedowns at vehicle checkpoints and during other encounters with officials. Vehicle occupants should always remain polite, slow down, and acknowledge police or military at checkpoints. When traffic accidents occur, drivers do not pull to the side road; instead, they attempt to solve the issue where the accident has occurred, blocking traffic. Many traffic accidents go unreported, and no reliable statistics exist on traffic fatalities due to the lack of centralized reporting. This practice often draws crowds, looking for money in exchange for offering their opinions of who was at fault. Accidents are frequent and often involve fatalities, especially on the major highways. The lack of medical response and adequate trauma facilities is a major concern.

Traveling outside of major cities after dark is not recommended because of crime and road safety concerns. Motorcycle taxis (okadas) are of particular concern. Okadas present a significant nuisance and danger to other motorists with unpredictable driving and a lack of compliance to traffic rules. Okada drivers and even passengers often become confrontational and violent

when involved in accidents. Okada drivers are known to engage in crime, either as active participants or as means of escape. Taxis are usually yellow or white vans that are filled beyond their capacity with riders. Occasionally, they are lures for robberies where the occupants of the vehicle work as a team to rob an unsuspecting passenger after they enter the vehicle. The occupant may be assaulted and then dropped nearby. Reisig & Kane (2014) submit that rideshares are active in Lagos, but crime and scams do exist. Some ride share drivers utilize additional applications that mimics legitimate applications but charge users a higher than normal rate. Security at Murtala Muhammed International Airport (LOS) has improved in recent years, and airport officials comply with Transportation Security Administration (TSA) security standards. TSA conducts regular security assessments at LOS. Travelers can expect to be approached by transients asking for money, sometimes aggressively, immediately after exiting the terminals. Reports of extortion and bribery solicitation attempts by airport officials have declined but remain a concern. Delays and cancellations plague domestic travel. Road repairs along the southern portion to the airport have caused travel delays and sizable traffic jams. Robbers have exploited gridlock to target vehicle occupants, particularly after dark. Roads approaching the airport become more congested with vehicular and pedestrian traffic especially in the Oshodi Market area, which is oftentimes lined with yellow taxis.

Origin and Duties of Lagos Neighborhood Safety Corps

Karimu (2015) opines that it is a common knowledge that security of life and property is the primary responsibility of any responsible and responsive Government and virtually all organisations, either private or public, seek for an efficient and effective security outfit that will guarantee maximum security of lives, properties and value for money, knowing full well that there cannot be any meaningful development in an atmosphere of chaos. The initiative to create grass root watch was conceived by the Community Development Associations for purpose of securing the communities. It is an organized group of citizens that are devoted to prevention of crime, criminality and vandalism within the neighbourhood and to ensure coverage of all nooks and crannies of the State.

In response to the yearnings of Lagosians for the provision of adequate security of life and property, the administration of Brigadier Buba Marwa, the then Military Administrator of Lagos State, on 20th October, 1996 established Neighbourhood Watch outfits by edict Number 12 and published in the official gazette No 34 Vol. 29 of 29th October, 1996. The establishment of Neighbourhood Watch was predicated on the State Government conviction that the programme will greatly compliment the effort of the police in crime control at the grass root level. The past two Executive Governors of Lagos State between 1999-2015 Asiwaju Bola Ahmed Tinubu and Mr. Babatunde Raji Fashola (SAN) contributed immensely to the development of the Neighbourhood Watch security outfits in area like provision of infrastructure e.g.

construction of 33 Neighbourhood Watch posts with 33 repeater and base station, patrol vehicles, defensive gadgets and training both local and international.

In September 2016, the Administration of His Excellency, Governor Akinwunmi Ambode as part of its restructuring agenda, enacted and Gazetted the law to establish the Lagos State Neighbourhood Safety Agency to transform the Unit into a full-fledged agency, saddled with the responsibility of collaborating with the Federal Police and other security outfits to ensure a safe Lagos State.

Motto: Safeguarding our community.

Vision: To become a model community safety agency that is committed to ensure safe, secure and conducive environment.

Mission Statement

- To partner with the community, police and other relevant security agencies in gathering, collating, sharing of information as well as intelligence for the purpose of ensuring safety of our neighbourhood.
- To engender an efficient, effective, well trained and highly motivated workforce committed to improving the capacity and welfare of all officers and men of the corps.
- To enhance public safety through community participation.

The Lagos Neighborhood Safety Corps (LNSC) is a uniformed security agency established by a law of the Lagos State House of Assembly in 2016 to assist the Police and other security agencies to maintain law and order in the state. They operate in all the 57 LGA/LCDA in Lagos.

The Lagos Neighborhood Safety Corps (LNSC) officers are indigenous locals from the various LGA/LCDA where they operate, which is a deliberate policy in order to make use of their local knowledge to achieve maximum grass root intelligence gathering and community policing.

Functions of LNSC include: (1) Gathering information about crimes, crime in progress, suspicious activities and crime suspects among other things. (2) Making available such relevant information on crimes, crime in progress, suspicious activities and crime suspects to the police or other security agencies that require it. (3) Putting structure in place to ensure that hoodlums and cult groups do not have the opportunity to operate. (4) Undertaking routine motorized patrol day and night. (5) Reducing the crime rate and ensuring that offenders are identified and made to account for their misdeeds. (6) Following up on arrest of offenders to the court and ensuring justice. (7) Timely reporting of suspicious activities and crimes in progress to the police or other security agencies and improving relationship between the police and the community as it concerns law enforcement. (8) Contributing to maintaining community peace.

Research Methodology

This study adopted a descriptive research design. The population of the study

consisted of youths between ages 18 to 35 who have gone through any kind of formal education and know about Lagos Neighborhood Safety Corps in Lagos Mainland Local Government area of Lagos State. 150 youths were involved in the study. Stratified random sampling technique was used to select the participating respondents. A 20-item questionnaire titled “Influence of Lagos Neighborhood Safety Corps on Reduction of Crime Questionnaire” was designed to elicit relevant data from the respondents. The questionnaire was in two sections A and B. Section A contained data pertaining to useful demographic variables such as: sex, age, awareness of Lagos Neighborhood Safety Corps and highest educational qualification, while section B dealt with crime reduction influenced by the Lagos Neighborhood Safety Corps and it employed a Likert-type of 4 rating scales using Strongly Agree (SA), Agree (A), Disagree (D) and Strongly Disagree (SD). Content and face validity were established for the questionnaire. Similarly, 0.86 reliability value was determined for the instrument. Simple percentages and frequency counts were used to analyse demographic characteristics of the participants and response to questionnaire, while Chi-Square (X^2) was used to analyse the generated hypotheses at a 0.05 level of significance.

Data Analysis and Interpretation of Result

Hypothesis One

There is no significant relationship between Lagos State Neighborhood Safety Corps duties and crime reduction in Lagos metropolis

Table 1: Chi-Square Analysis showing relationship between Lagos State Neighborhood Safety Corps duties and crime reduction

Variable	N	Df	Mean	SD	X^2 -calc	Sig.
Relationship between Lagos State Neighborhood Safety Corps duties and crime reduction	150	3	2.93	0.891	48.03	0.000

P < 0.05; X^2 -critical = 7.815

Data in Table 1 showed a significant relationship between Lagos State Neighborhood Safety Corps duties and crime reduction, because the calculated value (48.03) is greater than the critical value (7.815) given 3 degree of freedom at a 0.05 level of significance. Hence, there is a significant relationship between Lagos State Neighborhood Safety Corps duties and crime reduction in Lagos metropolis, because null hypothesis was rejected.

Hypothesis Two

There is no significant relationship between Lagos State Neighborhood Safety Corps performance and crime reduction in Lagos metropolis.

Table 2: Chi-Square Analysis showing relationship between Lagos State Neighborhood Safety Corps performance and crime reduction in Lagos metropolis

Variable	N	Df	Mean	SD	X^2 -calc	Sig.
Relationship between Lagos State Neighborhood Safety Corps performance and crime reduction	150	3	3.17	0.988	59.17	0.000

P < 0.05; X^2 -critical = 7.815

Data in Table 2 showed a significant relationship between Lagos State Neighborhood Safety Corps performance and crime reduction, because the calculated value (59.17) is greater than the critical value (7.815) given 3 degree of freedom at a 0.05 level of significance. Hence, there is a significant relationship between Lagos State Neighborhood Safety Corps performance and crime reduction in Lagos metropolis, because null hypothesis was rejected.

Hypothesis Three

Establishment of Lagos State Neighborhood Safety Corps will not significantly influence reduction of crime in Lagos State Metropolis.

Table 3: Chi-Square Analysis showing influence of Lagos State Neighborhood Safety Corps establishment on crime reduction in Lagos Metropolis

Variable	N	Df	Mean	SD	X^2 -calc	Sig.
Influence of Lagos State Neighborhood Safety Corps	150	3	2.89	0.994	20.19	0.000

establishment on crime
reduction

P < 0.05; X^2 -critical = 7.815

Data in Table 3 showed a significant influence of Lagos State Neighborhood Safety Corps establishment on crime reduction in Lagos Metropolis, because the calculated value (20.19) was greater than the critical value (7.815) given 3 degree of freedom at 0.05 level of significance. Hence, there is a significant influence of Lagos State Neighborhood Safety Corps establishment on crime reduction in Lagos Metropolis, because null hypothesis was rejected.

Discussion of Findings

Hypothesis one revealed that there is a significant relationship between Lagos State Neighborhood Safety Corps duties and crime reduction in Lagos Metropolis, because the null hypothesis was rejected. The finding goes in line with the view of Karimu (2015) that it is a common knowledge that security of life and property is the primary responsibility of any responsible and responsive Government and virtually all organisations, either private or public, seek for an efficient and effective security outfit that will guarantee maximum security of lives, properties and value for money, knowing full well that there cannot be any meaningful development in an atmosphere of chaos. It goes with Hamiton-Smith, Mackenzie, Henry & Davidones (2014) who submit that community policing aimed at achieving more effective and efficient crime control, reduced fear of crime, improved quality of life, improved police services and legitimacy, through a proactive reliance on community resources that seek to change crime-causing conditions.

Hypothesis two showed that there is a significant relationship between Lagos

State Neighborhood Safety Corps performance and crime reduction in Lagos Metropolis because null hypothesis was rejected. This is also corroborates by the view of Wycoff & Skogan (1994) that with community policing, the operations and activities of the police are more visible to the public, with more public accountability. They concluded that community policing is a good strategy to address the concerns and problems of communities, because it is decentralized, proactive, and deals with crime prevention and the fear of crime. The findings are also in line with Lewis (2011) that to rid poor urban neighborhoods of their criminal element, public officials at all levels must encourage the creation of new relationships between low-income resident organisations and local police forces. He perceives community policing as an agent and partner in promoting security rather than as a passive audience. In contrast, Adams, Rohe & Arcury (2002) submit that LNSC has performed abysmally; despite the efforts put in by the House in passing the law, it has turned out to be working against our intentions. Hypothesis three showed that there is a significant influence of Lagos State Neighborhood Safety Corps

establishment on crime reduction in Lagos Metropolis, because null hypothesis was rejected. The finding corroborates the view of Bryson (2011) who opines that as a proactive crime prevention strategy, community-oriented policing tries to address and mitigate community problems (crime or otherwise) for the future and build social resilience, collective efficacy, and empowerment to strengthen the infrastructure for the co-production of safety and crime prevention. It confirms the view of Santos (2014) that officers who are involved in the community create an opportunity to make the traditional role of police more effective, especially if there is full cooperation within the police force itself.

Conclusion

Judging from the various data analysis, hypotheses testing, interpretations and findings, it was concluded that a significant relationship exist between Lagos State Neighborhood Safety Corps' performance and crime reduction in Lagos Metropolis and the establishment of Lagos State Neighbourhood Safety Corps significantly influence reduction of crime in Lagos State Metropolis.

The bottom line is that community policing, otherwise known as neighbourhood watch, is both a philosophical and practical approach to crime prevention and control, which entails full involvement and participation of community members. It is an act of policing that helps to improve the performance of the police in crime detection, prevention and control, which ordinarily, would have diminished the quality of police work and relationship

with the public, if the local residents were excluded in the art (policing). Community policing shares commonalities with problem-oriented policing in many aspects, among which is, both approaches aim at identifying and combating crime from the onset (before they occur) while maintaining balance and control in the community with the aid of the public. Community policing plays positive and significant roles in peace talks, promotion of peaceful coexistence, initiating programmes and interventions to check or combat insecurity and threats to public order at the neighbourhood level even though there are some of the officials that are corrupt; that are not doing the right thing and that are behaving irrationally.

Recommendations

In the light of the study findings, it is imperative to recommend the following:

1. LNSC officials should be encouraged to be more diligent in the discharge of their duty.
2. People should be sensitised about the operations of the corps, that crime perpetrators in their community should be exposed and not covered, to always speak out whenever there is conspiracy to perpetrate crime, and to be informed on the danger that lies in not reporting crime issues in order to enhance the performance of LNSC in crime reduction.
3. National orientation agency should wake up to their responsibility by including crime prevention and control into their programme and preservation of the cultural values.

4. All community development associations (CDA) chairmen should be encouraged to work hand in hand with the corps officials deployed to the area.

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