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# PARTNERSHIP IN THE PROVISION OF SECURITY: A CASE STUDY OF ABUJA, NIGERIA'S FEDERAL CAPITAL CITY

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## ABSTRACT

*Abuja, Nigeria's Federal Capital City, like other major cities of Nigeria does not have a coherent policy for security of life and property. In Abuja, violence and criminal activities are assuming dangerous dimensions because they have started threatening security of lives and properties of the inhabitants of the city. Based on a study conducted in 2001, Abuja was grossly under policed, with an average of one policeman to 1000 people, as compared to the United Nations' recommendation of one policeman to 400 people in developing countries. The present responses to security of life and property in Abuja by the Federal Government of Nigeria through the police and the civil society including private security organizations, vigilante groups and other community based organizations are largely uncoordinated, duplicated, conflicting and ineffective. Crimes are committed in all parts of the major land use activity areas, which include residential, commercial and administrative areas. Therefore, a well coordinated plan of partnership for all stakeholders in the provision of security for life and property in Abuja will harmonize the role of various stakeholders and ensure a safer city for all. This could be achieved through planning process of data collection, analysis and recommendation as outlined in this paper.*

## 1.0 Introduction

In Nigeria, violence and criminal activities are assuming dangerous tendencies as they threaten life, property, the national sense of well-being, peace, security and social order, eventually, reducing the citizens' quality of life (Agbola, 2004). Crime incidents pose great threat to peace and security in Nigeria, even though government and its security agencies are doing everything

possible to arrest the situation, solutions cannot be easily found without the cooperation and participation of all good citizens in policing the country (Mohammed, 2008).

Abuja is grossly under policed, with an average of one policeman to 1000 people, as compared to the United Nations' recommendation of one policeman to 400 people in developing countries. The present security service provided by the police, voluntary organizations, and private guards in Abuja is largely uncoordinated, duplicated, conflicting and ineffective.

Crimes are committed in all parts of the major land use activity areas which include: residential (Asokoro, Maitama, Nyanya, Karu etc); commercial (shopping areas, garages, banks etc); and administrative (federal secretariat and other offices). Therefore, it is only through a well coordinated crime control plan, of partnership for all stakeholders, in the provision of security for life and property in Abuja that will ensure a safer and inclusive city for all.

## **2.0 Study Area**

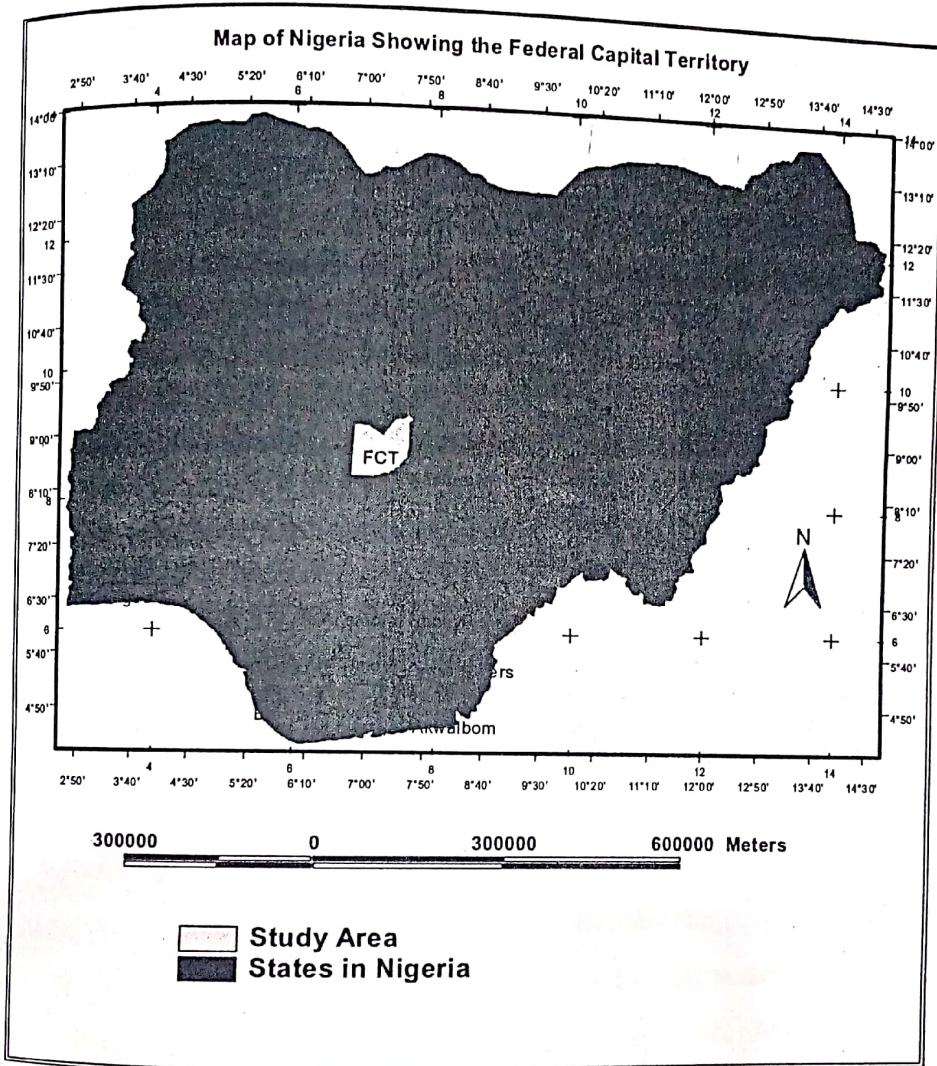
In 1975, the Akinola Aguda panel recommended Abuja as the new federal capital city of Nigeria. In 1976, the federal government of Nigeria announced the relocation of the federal capital from Lagos to Abuja. Decree 6 of 1976, the Federal Capital Territory Decree, was promulgated and it vested the ownership and control of all land within the territory to the federal government and also created the Federal Capital Development Authority (FCDA), as the agency charged with the planning, development and management of the new Federal Capital Territory (Urban Aesthetics Concepts, 2005).

Abuja, Nigeria's federal capital city is located between latitude  $8^{\circ}25'N$  and  $9^{\circ} 20'N$  and longitude  $6^{\circ}45'E$  and  $7^{\circ}39'E$ . It covers an area of approximately 8,000 square kilometers ( $km^2$ ). It is bounded on the north, by Kaduna and Niger States; to the south, by Kogi and Nassarawa states; to the east, by Nassarawa state; and to the west, by Niger state.

Abuja is centrally located and accessible from all parts of Nigeria. Some of the major objectives of making Abuja the federal capital city of Nigeria include: security, ethnic neutrality, centrality,



accessibility and possession of adequate land / natural resources to provide a promising base for urban development. Therefore, the issue of security in Abuja has to be given the desired attention it deserves especially as it is one of the 7-point agenda of President Yar'Adua's government. The Federal Capital Territory (FCT) has six area councils, namely: Abuja Municipal, Bwari, Gwagwalada, Abaji, Kwali and Kuje (Figure 1)



The design concept applied in preparing Abuja Master Plan is the Neighborhood concept of planning. The concept denotes a residential unit with between 5,000 to 10,000 threshold population, served with common facilities like primary schools, shops, postal agencies, clinics, police posts etc in a neighborhood centre which would allow neighborhood inhabitants get the

basic urban needs within the proximity of their homes. A group of neighborhoods form districts, which are served by district centers; a group of districts form sectors, which are served by sector centres and the entire city is served by the central area, known also as city centre or Central Business District (CBD). One of the important beneficial elements of the neighborhood concept is that it supports factors that would reinforce traditional ties of social, cultural, occupational and administrative association, with a view to evolving a sense of community living, which can contribute to residential satisfaction, forestall urban violence and promote a good sense of security.

### **3.0 Methodology**

The methods of data collection used for this study were primary and secondary sources of data collection. The primary source of data was collected through administration of questionnaires on the department of security services, Federal Capital Development Authority Abuja. The secondary sources of data were collected from published reports, journals, newspapers and unpublished students' projects. Descriptive statistics is used for the analysis.

### **4.0 Theoretical Framework**

The theoretical framework examines partnership, and crime prevention.

#### **4.1 Partnership**

There are different form of partnerships, amongst which that are applicable in security provision are: Contract Out, Franchising/Concession, Privatization, Build-Own-and Operate, Build-Operate and Transfer, and Co-operatives.(Gidman, 1995):

**Contract Out:** This is a form of partnership which consists of placing of contract to an external body and monitoring the contractor's performance.

**Franchising/Concession:** This partnership involves private partners to be responsible for raising finance, running the investment and collecting charges.



**Privatization:** This is a condition where public authority ceases to own services hitherto owned by it, but some statutory control may be exercised to make the private partnership more socially responsive.

**Build-Own and Operate:** Private firm builds, owns and operates a facility to be used by the public.(ibid)

**Build-Operate and Transfer:** private firm builds, operates a facility for a specific period, after which the ownership of the facility returns to the public agency.

**Co-operatives:** Voluntary cooperative groups act in partnership with public authority to own and operate a facility.

#### 4.2 Crime Prevention

Crime is not only a social problem but also the most serious of all social problems in the world (Harrics, 1974). Violence is a social problem which threatens life, property, sense of well-being, security, peace, social order and eventually reduces quality of life.

The criminal justice system in Nigeria has not been at its best in curbing criminal tendencies (Agbola, 2004). Only about 46% of cases reported are prosecuted at any given time, this makes many people become alienated and regard the justice as justice denied.

The impact of urban violence on social and economic development is increasingly staggering. Violent crime is beginning to undermine the nation's economic growth and ultimately its ability to generate formal employment. Many commercial enterprises and banks have been forced to spend large sums of money on security and surveillance equipments, substantially pushing up operating costs. Insurance premiums are driven up by the high levels of crime induced claims.

Urban violence affects infrastructural development especially telecommunications, potable water, as well as road networks. Armed robbers often cut telecommunication installations before embarking on their operations, while resources that were to be used for other social services are often diverted to beef up security.

Currently, in developed countries, crime prevention is approached right from design stage through the technique of Crime Prevention through Environmental Design (CPTED). The technique is an effective use of the built environment in order to reduce the fear of an incidence of crime in an area and to improve the quality of life (Crow, 2001). The technique is based on the premise that proper design and effective use of the physical environment can produce behavioral effect that will reduce the incidence and fear of crime, thereby improving the quality of life. These behavioral effects can be accomplished by reducing the propensity of the physical environment to support criminal behavior. People's behavior within the urban environment particularly in terms of offending and perceptions about their safety is influenced by the design of that environment.

CPTED therefore, involves the application of a range of design initiatives and principles to an area to minimize the potential for that area to facilitate and support criminal activities. CPTED performs the following functions:

- (i) Aims to improve safety and prevent crime by designing a physical environment that positively influences human behavior;
- (ii) recognizes the relationships between design, management of physical environment and human behavior;
- (iii) Applies the tools in crime prevention and community safety; and
- (iv) Considers site or structure in designing, re-developing and responding to crime incidents.

## **5.0 Analysis, Findings and Discussion**

The analysis of data from both the primary and secondary sources focuses on the availability of security agents in Abuja, partnership in the provision of security services, types of crimes and areas most affected, and the impact of Abuja design concept on security provision.

### **5.1 Availability of Security Agents in Abuja**

Findings from Abuja Police Command reveal that, there is an average of one policeman to 1000 people in Abuja. As at 2001, the total number of policemen in Abuja was 2,451 (table 1) and the total population of Abuja was 2,451,000.



**Table 1: Distribution of Policemen in Abuja, 2001**

S/No.	Area Council	Division	SPOs	Inspectors	Rank & File	Total
1.	Abuja municipal Area council	Garki	6	15	243	264
		Wuse	10	14	256	280
		Asokoro	9	12	212	233
		Life camp	5	15	204	224
		Maitama	4	13	200	217
		Lugbe	4	12	102	118
		Gwagwa	5	18	136	159
		Nyanya	4	18	81	103
		Karshi	2	6	41	49
2.	Bwari	Kubwa	6	17	119	142
		Bwari	4	8	87	99
3.	Kuje	Kuje	3	8	66	77
		Rubochi	1	3	31	35
4.	Gwagwalada	Gwagwalada	8	15	124	147
		Zuba	5	18	89	112
5.	Abaji	Abaji	3	13	92	108
6.	Kwali	Kwali	3	11	70	84
		Total	82	216	2,153	2,451

Source: Abuja Police Command, 2001

Based on the United Nations' recommendation of one policeman to 400 people, Abuja is grossly under policed. Abuja needs about 150% more policemen to be added to its present strength. Even with the 1:1000 police to people ratio in Abuja, it is the best secured city in Nigeria, when compared to the average 1:5000 police to people ratio, in other parts of the country (Agbola, 2004). The problem here is, why this gross under policing of Nigeria in general, when qualified, able bodied men are unemployed? Nigeria's leadership has to give the issue of security the due attention it deserves, for peaceful co-existence and the achievement of one of its 7-point Agenda, security, by the year 2020.

## 5.2 Partnership in Provision of Security Services

Findings from Federal Capital Development Authority (FCDA) reveal that, the federal Governmental through the Nigerian Police provides 65% of security services in Abuja. Partnership in the provision of security services between Governmental Organizations (GO) and Non Governmental Organization (NGOs) takes 35%; and partnership between Governmental Organization and Community Based Organizations (CBOs) takes the remaining 5% (table 2)



**Table 2: Types of Partnership in the Provision of Security in Abuja**

S/No	Type of Partnership	Percentage (%)
1.	Governmental Organization Only	65
2.	Governmental Organization and Non Governmental Organization	30
3.	Governmental Organization and Community Based Organization	5
	Total	100

Source: FCDA, Abuja 2008

The table above shows that, bulk of the security services in Abuja is offered by government (65%). Only about 35% of security services in Abuja are offered through partnership between NGOs, CBO and GOs. Other attempts being introduced to encourage partnership in security provision in Abuja include: Police Community Relations Committees (PCRCs), set up by the Nigerian police (Weekly Trust, 2008); FCT-Army partnership (Modibbo, 2008); and G 7-Joint Patrol Team formed by governments of FCT, Niger state, Nassarawa state, Kogi state, Kaduna state, Kano states and Benue state (Weekly Trust, 2008). This shows that partnership in the provision of security services in Abuja is in its developing stage, which needs to be given the backing it deserves.

### 3.3 Types Of Crimes and Areas Most Affected

Findings from the Nigerian police Abuja reveal that most types of crimes in Abuja include robbery, car theft and fraud (table 3)

**Table 3: Types of Crimes and Areas Most Affected**

S/No.	Types of Crime	Areas most affected	Cases Reported
1.	Robbery	Karmo, Gwagwa, Kubwa and Mpape	64 (16%)
2.	Fraud	Banks and plots of land	306 (75%)
3.	Car theft	Federal secretariat	40 (9%)
	Total		410 (100%)

Source: Abuja Police Command, 2001

From the table above, it is observed that fraud forms the highest crime in Abuja (75%), robbery and car theft take 16% and 9% respectively. Other security problem areas in Abuja include:

Asokoro, Maitama, Area 1/ Garage junction, Apo village legislative quarters, Nyanya/Karn, Idu forest, Ministers Hill, Tipper garage etc.

#### 5.4 Impact of Design Concept on Security Provision

The neighborhood design concept applied in Abuja supports factors that reinforce traditional ties of social, cultural, occupational and administrative association. The concept aims at achieving a sense of community living, which can contribute to residential satisfaction, forestall urban violence and promote a good sense of security. The issue is that, the concept on its own cannot achieve these laudable goals, but it is the inhabitants of various neighborhoods that make it functional. They have to be organized and play the different roles that they assign to themselves as the most active stakeholders in the implementation of the neighborhood plans.

#### 6.0 Conclusion

From the foregoing findings, it is concluded that, the solution to the proper provision of security in Abuja, Nigeria's Federal Capital City, is through a well coordinated partnership of the inhabitants of the city, including Government Organisations, Non-Governmental Organisations, Community Based Organizations and individuals.

#### 7.0 Recommendations

Based on the foregoing sections, the following recommendations are made:

1. Provision of more policemen in Abuja: Abuja requires 4,500 more policemen currently to cater for the security needs of the people. This therefore, calls for massive recruitment of qualified able bodied Nigerians to guarantee security and safer cities for all. The security of Abuja and Nigeria in general is of prime importance that Nigeria's leadership needs to give it the due attention it deserves.
2. Police Community Relations Committees (PCRCs) are to be established in all neighborhoods in Abuja. The committees are to assist the police in crime detection and prevention through prompt information, private guards and vigilante groups. FCDA has



to sensitize inhabitants of all neighborhoods regularly on their roles as stakeholders on the overall development of their neighborhoods and the Federal Capital City in general. The police are to co-ordinate all activities of other security agents in Abuja.

3. Security networks in all large institutions in Abuja are to be overhauled, to ensure that all stakeholders are involved and they play the roles assigned to them accordingly. The police are to co-ordinate the networks in conjunction with managers of the institutions.
4. The neighborhood design concept applied in Abuja is crime control compliant, if the inhabitants of Abuja contribute their quota to ensure its functionality. It is also in line with the provisions of Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) technique, if all development is done in accordance with the planning standards. FCDA has to embark on massive enlightenment campaign to involve the inhabitants of Abuja in its overall development as an inclusive and safer city for all.

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