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Rule of Law and Empowerment Initiative

info@partnersnigeria.org
@partnersnigeria
www.partnersnigeria.org
@partnersnigeria
Partners West Africa-Nigeria

Accountability Brief

A review of structural changes in the Nigeria Police Force Criminal Investigation and Intelligence Department FCIID, March 2021

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Rule of Law & Empowerment Initiative –Partners West Africa Nigeria
Number 46 Mike Akhigbe Way, Jabi , Abuja.
Phone: +234 809 125 7245.

A REVIEW OF STRUCTURAL CHANGES IN THE NIGERIA POLICE FORCE CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION AND INTELLIGENCE DEPARTMENT FCIID

BY DIG PEACE IBEKWE ABDALLAH (RTD)



Executive Summary

The quagmire of SWAT or a reformed SARS shows that Sequel to the #EndSARS protest, the Force Management got the approval of Mr. President for the disbandment of SARS and subsequent formation of the SWAT Team. The personnel were selected after psychological evaluation and trained, but checks reveal that they are yet to be operational, five (5) months after. There is concern that the SWAT does not adequately replace the SARS because it is only an operational unit and not empowered to investigate. At this time, the anti-robbery investigating section of the FCID is not existing. SWAT is set up **only** to respond to active incidents of violent crimes, thus making it a unit more effective in the Operations Department. The training the newly formed SWAT teams have been given is very similar to that of the Police Mobile Force (PMF).



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Background/Context

The Police Act 2020 stipulates the duties of the Nigeria Police to include prevention and detection of crime, the apprehension of offenders, the preservation of law and order, and the protection of life and property.

Police Act 2020, Part II, section (4)(a-c). At the core of these duties, are intelligence and investigation which will lead to the eventual prosecution of a suspect. These are the basic keys to effective policing. The Force Criminal Investigation and Intelligence Department (FCIID) at the federal, zonal, and state levels are to perform these duties.

Notable reforms in the structure of the FCIID

The demands of contemporary policing in every dynamic society in which the Police thrives, coupled with the yearnings of the Nigerian populace necessitated various reforms at different times in the department. This is in addition to the quest for better output, which spurred successive Police high commands to emplace various reformatory changes in the structure of the FCIID for effective and optimal service delivery.

In the quest to achieve optimal performance, many reforms have taken place in this department known as ‘D’ department. At inception, the investigation department was a separate entity from the intelligence bureau but in 2015, it was expanded to include the intelligence bureau, hence the nomenclature Criminal Investigation and Intelligence Department (CIID)

dispensation of the present Inspector General of Police (IGP), Mohammed A. Adamu, NPM, mni, the Force CIID was once again restructured but this time with a Presidential approval making the intelligence arm of the (DIG) the Force investigation department is now known as the Force Criminal Investigation Department (FCID), while the intelligence department is known as Force Intelligence Bureau (FIB).

Structures of the FCID

The FCID is headed by the Deputy Inspector General of Police (DIG), who was hitherto assisted by an Assistant Inspector General of Police (AIG). However, currently, there are four AIGs heading the newly created FCID Annexes while an AIG and CPs head the sections of the FCID at the federal level. The department comprises various sections and units. These include:

- Interpol Section (headed by an AIG)
- Administrative Section
- Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT) Unit (defunct FSARS)
- General Investigation (GI)
- Police Special Fraud Unit (PSFU)
- Homicide Section
- Legal and Prosecution Section
- Forensic/Central Criminal Registry (CCR)
- Special Enquiry Bureau (SEB)
- Anti-Human Trafficking Unit (AHTU)
- Special Investigation Unit (SIU)
- Police Dedicated Electronics Fraud/Cybercrime Unit (PDEFU)

Although various zonal and state command CIDs are under the authority of their respective command heads, they are operationally under the FCID, since all investigations are subject to the supervision of the DIG FCID who directs transfer of cases upon receiving complaints sent through the office of the IGP.

FCIID a separate department, headed by a Deputy Inspector General of Police

1. Decentralization of the FCIID to Annexes

Sequel to the need to avail Police services closest to the public, there has been devolution of powers through the creation of annexes in major geopolitical zones. In addition to Lagos and Kaduna annexes, Enugu and Gombe annexes were created in June 2020 to amongst other things, bridge the gap occasioned by distance to Abuja. Each annex is now headed by an AIG and serves the six (6) geopolitical zones respectively.

2. Creation of the Special Weapons And Tactics (SWAT) Unit

The relentless outcry associated with the Social Anti-Robbery Squad (SARS) activities, the last of which ended in the #EndSARS protests, led to its disbandment in 2020, however, need to still respond to the violent crimes such as armed robbery, led to the creation of the **SWAT Unit** in 2020. According to the establishing Policy, it is to be headed by a CP at the federal level, while CSPs are to head the state commands of the outfit. It is to be a non-investigative unit and to be deployed when the need arises; in response to distress calls of ongoing violent crimes. Prospective members of the team were selected; fifty (50) from each state command and the FCID, they were given tactical training, and have since continued their former duties, awaiting posting/deployment. The former Federal Special Anti-Robbery Squad (SARS) office is said to have been changed to SWAT. SWAT is not an investigating section but strictly operational, to respond to incidents of all violent crimes.

Structure of the FIB

Prior to its excision from the FCIID, the FIB was already a well organised section with a flow of command from the AIG Intelligence through the different federal level sections and down to the zonal and state bureaus. In May 2020, the FIB was upgraded as an independent department of the Force. By virtue of this, it is now headed by the DIG Intelligence, he is directly assisted by the AIG Intelligence, followed by the CP Intelligence. Deputy Commissioners of Police (DCPs) head the

various sections of the bureau and the Bureau's annex in Lagos state. The sections are as follows;

- Administrative Section
- Training (includes the Police Intelligence School)
- Operations
- Gender Unit
- Intelligence Response Team (IRT)
- Special Tactical Squad (STS)
- Technical Intelligence Unit (TIU)
- Crypto-Currency and Cyber Crimes Unit (CCU) and
- Lagos Annex

There are Zonal and State Intelligence Bureaus (ZIBs/ SIBs) in all Zone and State Commands, which are subject to their respective AIG Zones and CPs but operationally under the FIB.

Key Observations

Although most of the above structural changes are well thought out and commendable, some of their outcomes still need further assessment to ensure that it will enhance the effectiveness of the FCID and FIB. The following key observations suffice;

1. Preparedness for structural changes

Structural changes are expected to improve the quality of service delivery of any institution. The changes are supposed to be well planned, implementable, and feasible. The structural review of the FCID and FIB through with noble intentions, is hasty, without any corresponding planning and logistics. The creation of the new FCID annexes typifies this assertion. The uniform schedule of duties for the AIGs is still pending and their area of coverage is also yet to be gazetted. There is no provision for office space, reasonable manpower to run such offices, considering that the new annexes are headed by AIGs. Most importantly, there is no form of

budgetary allocation or provision for running costs. Similarly, newly created units in the FIB unfortunately will chart the same course noting that offices for higher ranking officers have also been created.

2. Alienation of X-squad and Monitoring Units

These two bodies investigate Police unprofessional conduct and have been removed from the FCID even before the dispensation of the present IGP. The two sections venture into the investigation of sundry crimes, thereby derailing from the founding principle of all Police investigations being under the supervision and control of the FCID both at the federal, zonal, and state levels.

3. The Quagmire of SWAT or a reformed SARS

Sequel to the #EndSARS protest, the Force Management got the approval of Mr. President for the disbandment of SARS and subsequent formation of the SWAT Team. The personnel were selected after psychological evaluation and trained, but checks reveal that they are yet to be operational, five (5) months after. There is concern that the SWAT does not adequately replace the SARS because it is only an operational unit and not empowered to investigate. At this time, the anti-robbery investigating section of the FCID is not existing. SWAT is set up **only** to respond to active incidents of violent crimes, thus making it a unit more effective in the Operations Department. The training the newly formed SWAT teams have been given is very similar to that of the Police Mobile Force (PMF).

4. The Status of Interpol as a Direct First Layer Section of the FCIID

By virtue of deployment of an AIG to head the Interpol, it has become a first layer section, ahead of others headed by CPs, one wonders if there is provision for such in the policy creating the section and what it says about the rank and placement viz-a-viz other sections.

5. Existence of Overlapping Units/Sections

There exist some sections with similar mandates which investigate analogous crimes. This is tantamount to manpower wastage and could lead to redundancy and stress on available facilities. For example, the FIB Gender Unit and the FCID Anti Human Trafficking section perform similar duties. The duties of Police Dedicated Electronics Fraud/Cybercrime Unit (PDEFU) also overlap with those of the Police Special Fraud Unit (PSFU).

6. The desirability of the creation of new annexes for the department

Although the state Zonal and state CIDs are administratively under their respective Commands, they are functionally under the FCID. The assertion that the annexes were formed to bring the department closer to the populace when weighed with the existence and capacity of the Zonal and State CIDs, portends a duplication of function. Meanwhile, there is no proper geographical coverage or regionalisation, the South-South zone is yet to be specifically covered, though it is presently under the South-East annex.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- The IGP to review the budgetary allocation to the FCID and the FIB to address the variety of inadequate funding issues plaguing the two departments.
- Formation of sections/units to take into cognisance, mandate, availability of manpower, funds, and office space.
- An Anti-Robbery and Violent Crimes investigating unit to be created in the FCID and replicated in Zonal and State CIDs.
- The FIB to eschew investigation with more focus on intelligence.
- The IGP to review sections in the FCID and FIB that perform similar roles and consider merging them under one department.

- Structural reforms are expected to outlive the dispensation of an IG, hence the need to ensure they are properly gazetted in terms of specifics of establishment, ranks for different appointments, and schedule of duties.
- Investigating units such as the X-Squad, the Monitoring Units to be returned to the FCID for more effective supervision.
- Regular capacity building for officers and men of the FCID.

CONCLUSION

Structural reforms in the Force are the prerogative of Mr President who is the prescribed authority for setting up new Police formations, closure or disbandment of such and fixing of personnel acting on the advice of the Police Council (section 23 (c)(d) of the repealed Nigeria Police regulation). The reviewed Police Act 2020 Part II section 6(1)(2)a-d,(3)(ii) give same authority to the President as Chairman of the Council thereby ensuring that the advice of the Police Council on Police reforms to the President is done only after making wide consultations with all stakeholders to ensure that time tested changes with legal backings a remade.

These reforms once adopted must be gazetted and enshrined in Police regulations and operational force orders. This will facilitate and standardise further amendments in the future noting the dynamic nature of criminal activities and the ever constant need for Police to adjust operational guidelines to combat crimes. The FCID has so far seen structural reforms in terms of creation of annexes, expansion of establishment with addition of very senior officers, expansion of sections/units among others.

However, there are some of the changes whose hasty implementations are not backed up with corresponding wherewithal for smooth running that have to be reviewed to guarantee effectiveness. The incessant clamor for improved funding of the Police has continued to re-echo, as poor funding has been identified as the bane of the reforms. All stakeholders overseeing the Police need to be on the same page in the reform agenda to be able to achieve aims and objectives that are implementable with the requisite budgetary allocations.

