

PUBLIC MEMORANDUM AND POSITION PAPER ON THE DRAFT NATIONAL POLICING BILL

TO:

The Secretariat

Presidential Working Group on the National Policing Bill

Policy Analysis and Research Team

Official Portal: nationalpolicingbill.gov.ng

SUBMITTED BY:

AWORI DEVELOPMENT UNION (ADUN)

(Incorporated Trustee under the Companies and Allied Matters Act, CAC Reg. No. RN 9296097)

NATIONAL SECRETARIAT:

No. 1, Ajiboye Juliana, Iteku, Ogun State, Nigeria

Email: AWORIADUN@GMAIL.COM

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THEMATIC OUTLINE OF SUBMISSION

This Memorandum specifically addresses the following Priority Themes of the Policy Outline:

- **Theme 1:** Operational Status, Powers, and Anti-Abuse Safeguards
- **Theme 2 & 11:** National Minimum Standards, Equipment, Body Cameras, and Local Procurement
- **Theme 3 & 8:** State Readiness, Model State Laws, and Mandatory Public Town Halls
- **Theme 9 & 15:** Recruitment Integrity, Cascading Indigenous Model, and Indigeneity Audits
- **Theme 10 & 12:** Digital Custody Systems, Cashless Station Policy, and Human Rights Oversight
- **Theme 14:** Multi-Tiered Funding, LCDA Allocations, and E-Ticketing Revenue Architecture

1. INSTITUTIONAL IDENTIFICATION AND EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1.1. About the Submitting Organization

The **Awori Development Union (ADUN)** (CAC Registration Number RN 9296097) is the apex socio-cultural and developmental organization representing the indigenous Awori people across their ancestral lands in Lagos and Ogun States. Administered by its duly appointed Trustees—Sodiq Ogabi, Joshua Adebayo, and Adenike Akindele—ADUN is dedicated to sustainable community development, ancestral heritage preservation, peacebuilding, and the rule of law.

1.2. Core Philosophy: "A Community Guardian, Not an Occupying Force"

The overarching premise of this submission is simple yet fundamental: **A State or Local Police Service must function as an indigenous community guardian, rooted in local culture, language, and trust—never as an occupying force.**

For decades, the over-centralized structure of the Nigeria Police Force operated in host communities as an alien, detached institution. Officers posted across tribal and linguistic barriers often lacked understanding of local geography, culture, and traditional authority, leading to mutual suspicion, ineffective intelligence gathering, and frequent human rights abuses.

As Nigeria transitions to a dual policing framework under the *Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (Sixth Alteration) Bill 2026* (SB. 1055), ADUN submits that the National Policing Bill must embed strict statutory mechanisms to ensure that State Police Services are hyper-local, transparent, accountable, and organically connected to host communities.

2. CONSTITUTIONAL AND LEGISLATIVE CONTEXT

The enactment of Section 214 of the 1999 Constitution (as altered by SB. 1055) establishes a concurrent policing architecture comprising the Federal Police Service (FPS) and State Police Services (SPS). While this constitutional shift resolves long-standing structural bottlenecks, its practical success depends on the legislative safeguards contained in the forthcoming National Policing Bill.

ADUN endorses the findings of the Policy and Legal Advocacy Centre (PLAC) on House Bill 617, which highlighted critical risks in decentralized policing, including:

1. Executive capture and political weaponization by State Governors;
2. Arbitrary recruitment, identity fraud, and infiltration by criminal elements;
3. Jurisdictional clashes between Federal and State security apparatuses; and
4. Unfunded mandates and unsustainable financial models.

To overcome these challenges, the National Policing Bill must balance state operational autonomy with rigid, tamper-proof federal minimum standards and community-anchored oversight.

3. DETAILED THEMATIC POSITIONS AND POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

3.1 THEME 9 & 15: RECRUITMENT INTEGRITY, CASCADING INDIGENOUS MODEL, AND INDIGENEITY AUDITS

Recommendation 1: The Cascading Indigenous Recruitment Model

To guarantee that police officers share a organic bond with the populace they protect, Section 214 of the National Policing Bill should mandate a Cascading Indigenous Recruitment Architecture:

- **Primary Tier (Hyper-Local Indigenes):** Recruitment into State Police stations, outposts, and divisions located within specific ancestral lands (e.g., Awori land) must first be strictly reserved for vetted native indigenes of that precise locality.
- **Secondary Tier (Kinship Complementation):** Where a local indigenous recruitment quota cannot be filled due to manpower shortfalls, recruitment shall cascade to the broader contiguous ethnolinguistic group (e.g., broader Yoruba indigenes complementing Awori land policing) to preserve cultural alignment.

- **Federal Career Alignment:** Citizens who are non-indigenes, or those seeking broad national mobility and cross-state deployment, shall be encouraged to enlist in the **Federal Police Service (FPS)** rather than the local State Police Service.

Recommendation 2: Overhaul and Digital Audit of Indigene Certificates

To eradicate identity fraud, fake indigene certificates, and criminal infiltration:

- The Bill must require all States establishing an SPS to conduct a comprehensive, digitized audit of State and Local Government Area (LGA) Indigenous Certificate issuance systems.
- Enlistment into an SPS must require mandatory triangulation of National Identity Number (NIN), Bank Verification Number (BVN), biometric fingerprinting, and DNA profiling integrated into the National Police Personnel Database prior to attestation.

Recommendation 3: Co-Sponsorship Liabilities for Community Leaders

- Recruits must be co-sponsored by a formal affidavit of character signed jointly by their local Traditional Ruler (*Baale*, Oba, or Ward Head) AND a local Chief Magistrate or Clergy.
- Co-sponsors who knowingly attest to the character of a known violent cultist, gang member, or felon shall face administrative inquiry and legal proceedings for negligent attestation.

3.2 THEME 8 & 12: COMMUNITY ANCHORAGE AND LEGISLATIVE TOWN HALLS

Recommendation 4: Institutional Role for Traditional Leaders (*Baales* & Obas)

Traditional institutions are the primary custodians of local intelligence and societal trust. The Model State Law in Schedule 7 of the Bill must mandate the establishment of LGA/LCDA Community Security Advisory Committees chaired jointly by local Traditional Rulers (*Baales*) and community representatives. These committees shall meet monthly with local Police Divisional Commanders to review security trends and community complaints.

Recommendation 5: Mandatory Public Town Halls for State Police Legislation

Before any State House of Assembly passes a State Police Service Bill into law, the National Policing Bill must mandate a minimum 30-day public consultation period featuring mandatory grassroots community town halls across all senatorial districts. This ensures citizens actively participate in crafting the law that governs their local security.

3.3 THEME 11 & 12: BODY CAMERAS, IMMUTABLE DATA, AND ANTI-ABUSE SAFEGUARDS

Recommendation 6: Mandatory Body Cameras and Immutable Cloud Storage

To prevent police brutality, extrajudicial actions, and evidence tampering:

- All active-duty State and Federal Police personnel on patrol or operational assignment must wear operational body-worn cameras.
- Video and audio footage must be automatically uploaded and encrypted to an independent, immutable external server/cloud architecture managed by an independent civilian oversight body (such as the State Police Service Commission or National Data Repository).

- It shall be a strict criminal offence for any police officer, commander, or executive official to access, alter, delete, or obscure body camera footage.

Recommendation 7: QR-Coded Uniform Badges

Every officer's uniform must feature a high-visibility, tamper-evident chest badge containing a unique QR code and ID number. Citizens must have the legal right to scan the badge using a smartphone to instantly verify the officer's identity, rank, and station, and directly access an electronic portal to log commendations or misconduct reports.

Recommendation 8: Automated E-Custody Registers and Unannounced Cell Visits

- Every arrested suspect must be logged into a digital E-Custody Register within two (2) hours of detention.
- If a suspect is detained beyond 24/48 hours without a valid court remand order, the digital system must automatically generate real-time compliance alerts to the State Attorney-General, the SPSC, and the Chief Judge of the State.
- Designated civilian panels (including representatives of the Nigerian Bar Association, National Human Rights Commission, and local civil society) accompanied by a Magistrate shall have statutory power to conduct unannounced, 24/7 inspections of all detention cells.

3.4 THEME 1 & 13: ANTI-EXECUTIVE CAPTURE AND OPERATIONAL LOGGING

Recommendation 9: Public Register of Executive Directives

To prevent State Governors or Executive Officials from weaponizing the police against political opponents or peaceful citizens:

- All operational directions issued by a Governor or State Commissioner to a Police CP under Section 215 of the Constitution must be made in writing and published in an official digital public log within 24 hours.
- Any officer who refuses to obey an unwritten, unlawful, or politically partisan order shall be protected under statutory Whistleblower Protections enforced by the National Police Council.

Recommendation 10: The 5km "Hot Pursuit" Boundary Rule

To prevent inter-state conflicts between neighboring State Police Services, an officer pursuing a fleeing suspect across state lines may only operate within a designated **5-kilometer buffer zone** into the neighboring state and must immediately log the operation and hand over primary command to the host state's police or the Federal Police Service.

3.5 THEME 14 & 10: TIERED FUNDING, CASHLESS POLICING, AND E-TICKETING REVENUE

Recommendation 11: Multi-Tiered Funding Structure

State policing must not become an unfunded mandate. Funding must be legally structured across three tiers:

1. Federal Allocation: Statutory matching grants from the *National Policing Standards and Certification Fund*;

2. State Security Votes: Direct budgetary appropriations from State Consolidated Revenue Funds; and
3. Local/LCDA Allocations: Mandatory percentage deductions from Local Government Area and Local Council Development Area (LCDA) security votes dedicated directly to local station maintenance and operational welfare.

Recommendation 12: Strict "Cashless Station" Policy & E-Ticketing

- Complete prohibition of cash collection at police stations, checkpoints, or operational outposts. Bail processing (where applicable) and administrative fees must be strictly cashless.
- Officers on active patrol are prohibited from carrying personal cash above a statutory limit of ₦10,000. Possession of unverified cash above this limit during surprise internal audits shall trigger a presumption of extortion.
- States shall enact Automated Digital Ticketing Systems for traffic and minor regulatory offences (processed via Unstructured Supplementary Service Data (USSD), POS, or state payment portals). Revenue generated shall be remitted directly to the state treasury to fund police operational equipment and training.

Recommendation 13: Local Procurement with Federal Quality Standards

To stimulate local economies, the procurement of police uniforms, boots, vehicles, and basic tactical gear must be awarded to local state businesses and manufacturers, provided the items strictly conform to federally mandated minimum quality and identification standards prescribed by the National Police Council.

4. PROPOSED DRAFT LEGISLATIVE CLAUSES FOR THE NATIONAL POLICING BILL

For immediate incorporation into the drafting process, ADUN proposes the following specific statutory draft clauses:

Clause A: Principle of Local Community Alignment

"Section [...]:

- (1) Every State Police Service established pursuant to Section 214 of the Constitution shall be recruited, structured, and deployed as a local community security service and shall not operate as an occupying force.*
- (2) Recruitment into a State Police Service shall prioritize native indigenes of the specific Local Government Area, LCDA, or traditional community where the police formation is situated.*
- (3) Where recruitment quotas for native indigenes within a specific locality cannot be met, recruitment shall extend to indigenes of contiguous communities within the same ethnolinguistic group before general state recruitment is considered."*

Clause B: Integrity of Evidence and Body Camera Footage

"Section [...]:

- (1) All personnel of the Federal Police Service and State Police Services engaged in active duty, patrol, or arrest operations shall wear body-worn cameras.*
- (2) All video and audio recordings captured by body-worn cameras shall be transmitted in real time or automatically uploaded to an encrypted, unalterable central server managed independently of police operational command.*
- (3) Any officer or person who intentionally tampers with, disables, alters, or deletes body camera footage commits an offence and is liable on conviction to imprisonment for a term of not less than five (5) years without option of fine."*

Clause C: Cashless Operational Rule

"Section [...]:

- (1) No police station, outpost, or officer of a Federal or State Police Service shall demand, accept, or process any cash payment for bail, administrative fees, or traffic penalties.*
- (2) Any administrative penalty or fine levied pursuant to any state law shall be processed exclusively through an approved digital ticketing portal.*
- (3) Any officer found in possession of unaccounted cash exceeding the sum prescribed by regulation while on active duty shall be subject to immediate suspension and financial audit."*

5. CONCLUSION AND PRAYERS

The creation of State Police Services presents a historic opportunity to restore public safety and federal balance in Nigeria. However, decentralization without community anchorage and anti-abuse safeguards will only multiply existing security failures.

The Awori Development Union (ADUN) respectfully prays that the Presidential Working Group:

1. **ADOPT** the Cascading Indigenous Recruitment Model and mandate indigeneity certificate audits to guarantee authentic community policing;
2. **INSTITUTIONALIZE** traditional rulers (*Baales* and *Obas*) and mandatory legislative town halls within the Model State Law framework;
3. **MANDATE** unalterable cloud-stored body camera data, QR-coded badges, cashless police operations, and automated digital custody logs to checkmate extortion and human rights abuse; and
4. **ESTABLISH** a multi-tiered funding mechanism combining federal grants, state appropriations, LCDA votes, and digital ticketing revenue.

ADUN stands ready to participate in the structured validation sessions and present further technical oral testimony to the Working Group.

DATED THIS 13TH DAY OF AUGUST 2026.

SIGNED FOR AND ON BEHALF OF AWORI DEVELOPMENT UNION (ADUN):

SODIQ OGABI

Trustee, Awori Development Union

JOSHUA ADEBAYO

Trustee, Awori Development Union

ADENIKE AKINDELE

Trustee, Awori Development Union

OLUWASEUN OLAMILEKAN BANKOLE

President, Awori Development Union

GBENGA AJIBOYE

Grand Patron, Awori Development Union

Official Correspondence Address:

National Secretariat, No. 1, Ajiboye Juliana, Iteku, Ogun State, Nigeria

Email: AWORIADUN@GMAIL.COM

REFERENCES AND CITATIONS

Legislation & Constitutional Bills

1. *Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999* (as amended).
2. *Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (Sixth Alteration) Bill, 2026* (SB. 1055).
3. *Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria (Alteration) Bill, 2023 (Establishment of State Police)* (HB. 617).
4. *Police Act 2020*.
5. *Administration of Criminal Justice Act 2015* (ACJA).

Secondary Sources & Official Reports

1. Policy and Legal Advocacy Centre (PLAC), 'Bill Analysis: Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria (Alteration) Bill, 2023 (HB. 617)' (April 2024).
2. Presidential Working Group on the National Policing Bill, 'Public Call for Memoranda and Position Papers' (July 2026).
3. United Nations Security Council, 'Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace, and Security' (S/RES/1325, 31 October 2000).
4. Michael Wasco, 'Policing in a Democratic Constitution' (2020) 7 *Indiana Journal of Constitutional Design* 1.
5. H Ajah and G Oghenechuko, 'The Long Road Ahead for State Police in Nigeria' (Policy Vault, 28 February 2024) <<https://www.policyvault.africa/the-long-road-ahead-for-state-police-in-nigeria/>>.