

## CHAPTER ONE

### 1.1.Introduction

Crime is any act or behaviour which violates the norms (normative behaving) of a society. This would mean that a criminal should be seen as any person who breaks any of the rules or norms of behaviour by which society is governed and has the possibility of affecting the wellbeing of other members of the society. (Roth 2006) Therefore, the importance of crime prevention and control, maintenance of law and order to the development and growth of a society, both in the physical and economic sense, cannot be overemphasized.

Roth (2006) is of the opinion that 'it is only a mind that is secured and at peace that can rationally address the issues of procreation, economic development and societal growth. A disturbed mind is a restless and distraught personality. It is therefore imperative to have peace and order in the society to assure its growth and development. The role of law enforcement in the maintenance of peace and order as well as crime prevention in the society is a foregone conclusion.

Every man by nature is selfish and self-centered, in most cases; he needs the presence of the state institution of law enforcement to be able to act right. By its establishment philosophy, the Nigerian Prisons Service is an institution meant to administer penal treatment to adult offenders. It is an important and indispensable institution in the bid to reduce crime in the society. On the basis of imprisonment policy, the Nigerian Prisons Service was established to manage criminals in prison yards. These constitutional functions empower the prison operatives to:

- i. Keep convicted offenders (prisoners) in safe custody
- ii. Keep awaiting trial inmates in custody, until law courts demand their production
- iii. Punish offenders as prescribed by the law courts
- iv. Reform the convicted prisoners
- v. Rehabilitate and re-integrate prisoners who have completed the sentences in the prison. (Hannah, 2012)

Inferring from the above, the main aim of establishing the prison institution in all parts of the world including Nigeria is to provide a rehabilitation and correctional facility for those who have violated the rules and regulations of their society. However, the extent to which this maxim is true in practice has been a subject of controversy. Instances abound where the prisons have become a training ground

for criminals instead of rehabilitation home in Nigeria (Obioha 2011).

Prison Administration is a complex dynamics of various divisions or units that provide a range of services in the management of prisons. Such services may include policy formulation and implementation, finance and budgeting, personnel management and operations and such others. (Aina, 2010). Prison Administration is further executed by other institutions of government who are co-players in ensuring a holistic management of the prison system. Such institutions include the police which are saddled with the responsibility of arresting, investigating, interrogating and prosecuting an offender

However, the worry about the manifestation that Nigerian Prisons Service has not lived up to expectation in terms of impacting positively on the lives and vocations of inmates has raised several questions that have not yet been completely addressed on the system's functions and existence.

Invariably, all of these issues cannot be isolated from the dynamics involved in prison administration in Nigeria which is characterized by the system failure identified with the key players such as the police and the judiciary, which are saddled with collaborative roles in achieving effective prison administration.

With these key players generally being indicted of corruption and the Nigeria police specifically being alleged of ineptitude especially as regards investigations of cases, the judiciary also being accused of perennial delay in criminal trials as well as the Nigeria Prisons Service itself being undermined by shortcomings such as undue political interference, inadequate facilities, irregular and inadequate training for staff and inmates, in fact, the effectiveness of the Nigerian prison system might have been eroded (Emeka, 2011).

The drive to re-position the Nigerian Prisons Service for an improved service delivery in concert with other key players involved in prison administration in Nigeria has therefore necessitated this study. It is against this background that this study is considered pertinent in order to inquire into prison administration and crime prevention in Nigeria with a particular reference to Nigerian Prison Service, Agodi Gate Ibadan

## **1.2 Statement of the Problem**

The prison system is an integral component of the whole process of criminal justice system and crime prevention. The main aim of establishing the prison institution in all parts of the world including Nigeria is to provide a rehabilitation and correctional facility for those who have violated the rules and

regulations of their society. However, the extent to which this maxim is true in practice has been a subject of controversy. Instances abound where the prisons have become a training ground for criminals instead of rehabilitation home in Nigeria (Obioha 2011)

Issues have been raised on security of lives and property of the citizens, safe custody of inmates, prison congestion, unavailability of detainees in court resulting in adjournment of cases, unhygienic and dilapidated prison environment sometimes resulting in epidemics ill treatment of inmates resulting in recidivism, low level of training on meaningful undertakings resulting in failure in rehabilitation of prisoners and proper integration into the society after prison terms (Ogunwumiju, 2013).

### **1.3 Objectives of the Study**

Generally, this study examines prison administration and crime prevention in Nigeria.

The specific objectives of the study are to

- i. examine the objectives of establishing the Nigerian Prisons Service
- ii. identify the relationship between effective prison administration and reduction in the occurrence of criminal activities in Nigeria
- iii. investigate the challenges confronting the administration of Nigerian Prisons and its role in crime prevention in Nigeria; and
- iv. suggest recommendations towards improving the effectiveness of prison administration in Nigeria.

### **1.4 Significance of the Study**

This study is highly significant in its intense concern with respect to the current rate of crime within the Nigerian societies. The study intends to reveal the nexus between effective prison administration and crime prevention in Nigeria. Hence, the study will endeavour to probe into the challenges facing the Nigerian prison service and possible solutions would be suggested.

Also, the study will advance the frontiers of knowledge in the area of profound impact which the prison system exerts on the security of lives and properties of the citizens and reformation of the prisoners as orchestrated not only by the Nigerian Prisons Service but also other collaborative institutions.

The study will be beneficial to security agencies especially the officers of Nigerian prison service, the general readers and future researchers who may be interested in this kind of research study

### **1.5 Scope of the Study**

This study covers the prison administration and crime prevention in Nigeria with its scope limited to Nigerian Prison Service, Agodi Gate Ibadan. Therefore, the investigation of this study will be restricted to the members of staff of the Nigerian Prison Service, Agodi Gate Ibadan

## **1.6. Statement of Hypotheses**

### **Hypothesis One**

Ho: Effective prison administration is not one of the viable instruments of crime control and prevention in Nigeria

Hi: Effective prison administration is one of the viable instruments of crime control and prevention in Nigeria

### **Hypothesis Two**

Ho: There is no meaningful relationship between effective prison administration and reduction in the rate of criminal act in Nigerian societies

Hi: There is a meaningful relationship between effective prison administration and reduction in the rate of criminal act in Nigerian societies

### **Hypothesis Three**

Ho: Inadequate facilities and poor training are not factors seriously affecting effective prison administration and rehabilitation of prisoners in Nigeria.

Hi: Inadequate facilities and poor training are factors seriously affecting effective prison administration and rehabilitation of prisoners in Nigeria.

## **1.7. Limitations to the Study**

The Researcher is likely to encounter certain problems in the course of conducting the research work, some of which may be

### **Financial Constraint**

Every good and successful research work requires sufficient funds as it will involve several activities and process. However, this research work may face the problems of finance as a result of the little financial resources available to the Researcher.

### **Time Constraint**

The institution has specified the time for the conduct of the research work, this specified period of time may not be enough for the conduct of the research work and this may limit the scope of the research work.

## **Problem of Data Collection**

This may also pose a threat to the research work because most people always feel reluctant to give out required information due to ethics of secrecy in public organization. Public officers are not always willing to give out information based on the principles guiding them.

## **1.8. Definitions of Operational Terms**

### **Prison**

Prison refers to any officially designated place usually fortified for the purpose of confinement of persons considered guilty of offence in order to punish, correct and rehabilitate such persons.

### **Administration**

Administration implies the process of coming together of two or more people to achieve a predetermined objective. It is a process of getting things done through people.

### **Crime**

Crime is any act or behaviour which violates the norms (normative behaviour) of a society.

### **Crime Prevention**

Crime prevention is a process or measure put in place by the government in order to reduce the occurrence of criminal behaviour in the society.

### **Criminal**

A criminal is a person who has been convicted to have violated the rules, laws or norms of the society.

### **Reformation**

Reformation is the process involved in re-orientating the offender who is in prison custody with the view to making him abandon his criminal inclination and adjust to an acceptable mode of behaviour in the society.

### **Rehabilitation**

Rehabilitation entails the process involved in supporting the prisoner who has just completed his term of imprisonment to re-settle and be re-integrated into the society in order for him to live a normal life. The process often includes skill acquisition and financial assistance.

## **1.9 Historical Background of The Nigerian Prison Service**

The Nigerian prison system dates as far back as 1872 when the British Colonialists established the first prison in the country and was situated at Broad Street Lagos otherwise known as Broad Street

Prison. The Prison started with a capacity of 300 inmates. Then the inmates were made to engage in manual labour in service of the Colonial administration and there were naturally no specially trained prison staff. However, from 1872 to 1910, more other prisons were established in Calabar, Sapele, Degema, Jebba, Onitsha, Lokoja, Benin and Ibadan.

In a bid to review the Prison system and make it worthwhile, a document titled Prison Regulation was made for a review of issues such as admission, custody, treatment and classification procedures, dieting, staffing and clothing was published in 1917 and, from 1937 onwards, attempts were made to modernize the prison system, with varying degrees of success.

However, prior to the abolition of the Native Authority prisons in 1968 and the unification of the prison service, prisons in Northern Nigeria were administered by the Director of Prisons in the Northern regional government. By 1972, a decree (Decree No 9 of 1972) established the mandate of the Nigerian Prison Service.

According to the Nigerian Prison Act 1972, which spells out the goals and orientation of the Nigerian Prisons Service, prisons are charged with taking custody of those legally detained, identifying causes of their behaviour and retraining them to become useful citizens in the society.

The Nigerian Prisons Service derives its operational powers from CAP 366 Laws of the Federation of Nigeria 1990 to among other things take into lawful custody all those certified to be so kept by courts of competent jurisdiction; produce suspects in courts as and when due; identify the causes of their anti-social dispositions; set in motion mechanisms for their treatment and training for eventual reintegration into society as normal law abiding citizens on discharge; and administer prisons farms and industries for this purpose and in the process generate revenue for the government.

## **EXAMINATION OF PRISON ADMINISTRATION AND CRIME PREVENTION IN NIGERIA.**

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