

AN ADDRESS DELIVERED BY CP HAKEEM OLUSEGUN ODUMOSU, psc, FCIA, THE COMMISSIONER OF POLICE, LAGOS STATE POLICE COMMAND, DURING THE LAGOS CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY'S "2021 SECURITY MEETS BUSINESS DIALOGUE SERIES", HELD AT THE COMMERCE HOUSE, VICTORIA ISLAND, LAGOS ON TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 7, 2021.

PROTOCOLS!!!

I am extremely delighted and honoured to be a *Special Guest* at this laudable and security-oriented meeting organized by the foremost Nigeria economic pillar, Lagos Chambers of Commerce and Industry (LCCI), to dissect and dialogue on the moves that are prerequisites to creating secured business environment for our economic growth in Nigeria, particularly in Lagos State, the heartbeat of African Economy.

In history, the LCCI, which was established on December 5, 1888, with 14 members, is the pioneer chamber of commerce in Lagos State and has recorded a large number of achievements over the years, in the development of economy of Lagos State and by extension, Nigeria. The body has grown in size to more than 2,500 members as at today. The overwhelming commitments of the LCCI towards sustainable growth of commerce and industry in Lagos State and more importantly the ongoing dialogue series of the day cannot be quantified.

Without mincing words, the 2021 dialogue series, of "Security Meets Business", is as timely and pertinent as ever. I am optimistic and certain that the series will assist the Government and Stakeholders in trade and industry to have a clearer understanding of security situation in Lagos State and fine-tune a way forward. It is hopeful that, the robust outcome of this dialogue will definitely catalyze better and more secured business platforms and environment for both local and foreign investors towards actualizing their business plans successfully in Lagos State and Nigeria at large.

Specifically, I seek your indulgence to limit my address to the security situation in Lagos State which is my area of responsibilities. My paper will dwell on security challenges and strategies employed by the Command that have been making the State secured and a fertile ground for growth in business investment for local and foreign investors.

OVERVIEW OF SECURITY SITUATION IN LAGOS STATE

Generally, the security situation in Lagos State calls for no worry or fear. The Lagos State Police Command, under my watch, in collaboration with other security agencies in Lagos State, have built and sustained solid security architecture which has positively influenced public safety and economic growth in the State.

Distinguished ladies and gentlemen, you are not unaware of the general security challenges that are noticeable in Lagos which include armed robbery, cultism, robbery-in-traffic, gangsterism, land grabbing, cyber-crimes, and lately traffic gridlock. These security challenges are however not insurmountable as the Command has thrived hard in arresting perpetrators and curbing the challenges as required of us. In this regard, the Command, with its anti-crime strategies and the help of the general public, has recorded an appreciable number of achievements from January, 2021 till date. The achievements recorded across the state in the period under review are as follows:

**SUMMARY OF ACHIEVEMENTS
FROM 1ST JANUARY, 2021 TILL DATE
LAGOS STATE POLICE COMMAND, IKEJA.**

NO. OF ARMED ROBBERY INCIDENTS	NO. OF FOILED ARMED ROBBERY INCIDENTS	TOTAL NO OF ARMED ROBBERY SUSPECTS ARRESTED	NO. OF ARMED ROBBERS ARRESTED	NO. OF SUSPECTS CHARGED TO COURT	NO. OF CULTISM CASES RECORDED	NO. OF CULTISTS PROACTIVELY ARRESTED	NO. OF STOLEN VEHICLES	NO. OF VEHICLE RECOVERED	NO. OF MURDER CASES	NO. OF MURDER SUSPECTS ARRESTED	NO. OF ARMS RECOVERED	NO. OF AMMUNITIONS RECOVERED
6	160	1,042	493	283	14	397	8	40	157	186	98	243

In summary, between January 2021 till date; the Command arrested four hundred and ninety-three (493) armed robbers (including traffic robbers), three hundred and ninety-seven (397)

cultists and one hundred and eighty six (186) suspects for murder cases. In the same vein, one hundred and sixty robbery (160) incidents perpetrated by the hoodlums were foiled, while six (6) residential robberies were successful but no life lost in any of these. In addition, the Command was able to recover forty (40) stolen vehicles: ninety-eight (98) arms and two hundred and forty-three (243) various calibers of ammunitions: eleven (11) dangerous weapons and some illicit drugs.

Other notable achievements recorded by the Command are as indicated below:-

i. CASE OF CONSPIRACY AND STEALING

On 12/03/2021, the Managing Director of LANCE Trend Ltd, an information technology, sales and services company, located at Ketu, discovered that, the Marketing Manager of the company, named Omotosho Olanrewaju stole computers and accessories valued at Forty-six(46) million naira and later absconded. The suspect was later tracked and arrested by the Police detectives in a house at Lekki where he was taking refuge. Parts of the stolen computers worth ten (10) million naira were recovered. Suspect has been arraigned in court.

ii. CASE OF CONSPIRACY AND ARMED ROBBERY

On 20/04/2021 at about 2120hrs the company driver of SIMS Nig. Ltd, while on transit to deliver some refrigerators and other company's products was attacked by hoodlums at Toyota Bus Stop, along Oshodi/Mile 2 Expressway. Seven of the refrigerators were robbed. However,

concerted efforts of the Police detectives led to the arrest of five of the suspects and recovery of some of the refrigerators. The suspects have been charged to court.

iii CASE OF CONSPIRACY AND STEALING

On the 5/11/2021, two suspects namely Gabriel Arugba 'm' age 44yrs and Albert Agbor 'm' age 39yrs bought 285,000 litres of AGO product valued at Forty-Seven Million, Eight Hundred Thousand Naira (N47,800,000:00) from Eterna Oil and Gas Plc, located at No. 5A, Oba Ade Oyekan Avenue Ikoyi with a Bank Guarantee (BG) instrument as a collateral for the purchase and delivery. The BG was later discovered to be forged by the company. As soon as they were loaded with the products, the suspects disappeared and switched off their phones leaving no trace. The suspect with other cohorts were later tracked and arrested at Abuja, Jos, and Lagos. The suspects were later arraigned in court.

iv. ARREST OF BANK HACKERS TO THE TUNE OF N1.87 BILLION

On 02/08/2021, operatives of the SCID Pantl Yaba, arrested one Salau Abdulmalik Femi 'm' age 38yrs. Christian, an IT expert and the kingpin of a syndicate that specializes in hacking into the server of banks and corporate agencies. The hacker, who displayed exemplary mastery of the cyber environment, was arrested after he hacked the Flex-Cube Universan Banking System (FCUBS) of a First - Generation Bank. Using application software, he created fictitious credits totaling one billion, eight hundred sixty-eight million, nine hundred thousand naira (N1,868,900,000:00) on the accounts of three (3) of the banks customers to other banks. Items recovered from the suspect includes; two (2) laptops (MSIGS75 & Allen Ware 17), one (1) Nigeria passport, ZTE Modem, and iPhone. The case has since been transferred to special fraud unit of the Police.

These are just a few of the business related crimes that were recorded and successfully handed by the Command.

It is pertinent to inform the gathering that, the ugly incident of the violent 2020 #ENDSARS protest actually exposed the crop of miscreants who have found their ways into Lagos and threaten the security of the State. This is why the Command has been raiding them in hundreds and charging them to court. With the accelerated moves of the Command and partnering with the judiciary in Lagos State, we are flushing them out of the circulation and keeping them where the law prescribes. This is a continuous process that would be sustained to keep Lagos safe.

In similar vein, the menaces being perpetrated by Okada operators to aid crimes and criminality in the State are worrisome. The Command has briefed the State Government on this trend with a view to arresting the situation and making the State safe. I am not unaware of the efforts of the State Government to curb this. As a result, the recalcitrant criminally minded riders are daily being dealt with according to the law by the Command. Their operations within central business districts, banks and other business environments are daily being curtailed. So far, three thousand, seven hundred (3,700) motorcycles have been impounded and crushed in line with the order of the court within this period.

It is no longer news that the State is also experiencing heavy traffic in major areas due to series of ongoing road rehabilitation/construction across the State. The situation has on several occasions slow down the economic progress with so many man-hours being lost on the roads across the State. Also, the hoodlums at times capitalize on the gridlock occasioned by the road reconstructions to attack motorists.

The Command is not overwhelmed by this recurring decimal as both the Federal and State Ministry of Works and Transport and the contractors handling some of the projects have been engaged to shift the road work to less traffic peak periods, particularly, at night time while the Police provide adequate security coverage for them. The Local Governments Chairmen, Landlords and the Community Development Association Leaders have been implored to always keep their street gates open so as to serve as alternative routes for diversion of traffic. These measures have gone a long way to alleviating the traffic challenges and enhance the movement of people while carrying out their daily business and commercial activities across the State.

The Command is also aware of the ripple effect of drug abuse and misuse on the general security trend of Nigeria and specifically in Lagos State. Recently, the Command was able to

recover illicit and dangerous drugs of various kinds, in multiples, during its operations in some areas of the State. This is detrimental to the security setting of the State. Based on constant interviews and investigations, the command often discovered that, some of the arrested miscreants become hyperactive and engage in criminal activities which are triggered by drug abuse and misuse. These are being thoroughly tackled in all ramifications. The suspects and the exhibits so far recovered have been handed over to the National Drug Law Enforcement Agency for necessary action. This is the practicability of synergy between our agencies. To curb this trend, the Command has commenced sensitization of the public, particularly, the youths on the dangers inherent in drug abuse.

Of important to state is that, the spate of bank robbery which were hitherto been past time in Lagos State has with the coming of my administration in the command, become a thing of the past, as no single bank robbery has taken place. This as gone a long way in stabilizing the banking environment and investment/ lodgment of the business community has been growing in leaps and bonds. Very importantly too, no life of staff or customer of business community has been lost to bank robbery in the state. Strategist that the command put in place to stop this and which has stopped this trend shall continue to be strengthened.

Distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen, permit me to state that, in line with the adopted anti-crime strategies being emplaced by the Command and spirited efforts of the Government and good people of Lagos State, Lagos State is very easy to be effectively policed to suit our targeted aims and objectives on its socio-economic turn-around and development.

POSSIBLE WAY FORWARD

The Command has critically examined the security challenges in Lagos State and proffered possible solutions that are crucial to sustainable security, public safety and economic growth in Lagos State. They include but not limited to:

1. The formal and informal security structures of the State are being strengthened. That is, the State Government (Police and Other Statutory Security Agencies) and other neighbourhood security units in the State always collaborate to fight our common enemies with a view to promoting peaceful and conducive business environment in the State.
2. The Lagos State Government continuous supports to all its security apparatus is being solicited by the Command. This will continue to encourage them to discharge their duties even beyond expectations.
3. Stakeholders in business cycle are advised to key into the DAWN (Development Agenda for Western Nigeria) which has

designed robust action plans for the States in the south-west to promote security and development including night economy so as to promote the general economy of the region. This agenda could be considered by other regions in Nigeria too.

4. Use of private guards and registered security operatives to complement the police and other formal security agencies are being encouraged by the Command. You are implored to take the free service rendered by the Police, to take your employees to any Police Division or Area Command where your business entity is domiciled to enable them profile such staff for record purposes. This will serve as deterrent to commit crimes and/or make it possible to track them down when crime is committed.
5. Involvement of private firms and individuals/experts in promoting security via donations and provision of logistics to assist the Government and its agencies is necessary at this time.
6. LCCI and other commercial agencies/institutions to collaborate with relevant established security and anti-graft bodies to project policies and enforce the laws to protect business in Nigeria, and Lagos State in particular.
7. LCCI and others concerned with businesses are to partner service providers and delegated agencies to curb cyber-crimes and frauds at all cost.
8. LCCI should constantly organize dialogue series of this kind and embark on regular enlightenment programmes for their

members and concerned partners in the area of security. This should be done at least twice in a year, if not quarterly, as against current time of once in a year. This, if periodically carried out, will always bring in current/fresh ideas in tandem with occurrences as crime pattern changes.

9. Another strategy being implemented by the Command is security summit that is organized from Area Command to Area Command. This always have in attendance business moguls stakeholder, traditional rulers, Governments officials etc. in the divisions in the Area Commanders area of responsibilities. Security and business related issues were discussed, dissected and solutions proffered. This has gone a long way in satisfying business/company promoters and stabilized and saved their business. The Command shall extend its invitation to the LCCI whenever it is the turn of Lagos Island/Victoria Island/Ikoyi security summit.
10. LCCI to share security tips and distress call lines with their staffers and business partners in order to fortify synergy among them and security operatives/systems. (Find attached copy of regular security tips for your action).

CONCLUSION

Following the aforementioned issues and security matters, I want to believe that the participants at this dialogue have been greatly blessed and acquired the wherewithal to step ahead in their respective business enclaves and security consciousness.

The efforts of the Command and other security agencies as well as stakeholders towards better and more secured business environment are fundamental for having expected paradigm shift.

Finally, I wish to appeal to all and sundry in Lagos State to collaborate with the police and other security operatives in their continuous efforts in curbing crimes and criminality in the State.

In conclusion, I wish to appreciate the organizers of this dialogue, LCCI, for counting me worthy to address this meeting and share my thoughts with them with a view to solidifying the required synergy to improve economic situation of Lagos State. My special appreciation also goes to the Inspector-General of Police, **IGP Usman Alkali Baba, NPM, fdc**, for his leadership quality and unflinching supports to the Lagos State Police Command. Also, my special appreciation goes to **Mr. Babajide Olusola Sonwo-Olu**, the Government and good people of Lagos State for their constant supports and commitment to having a safe Lagos. We cannot take their support for granted as we promise to add more pep in promoting and escalating peace which is being enjoyed by all and sundry in Lagos State.

Thank you for your attention.