

**EFFECT OF JOS CUSTODIAL CENTRE CONGESTION AND SECURITY ARCHITECTURE IN JOS NORTH LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA, PLATEAU STATE, NIGERIA**

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**Abstract**

Correctional Institution congestion is often identified as the cause of inmate ill health and misconduct and of post release recidivism. Congestion can be measured objectively in several ways, in terms of floor space per Inmate, Inmates per living unit, and institutional population relative to stated capacity. The major objective of this study is to address why Inmates are housed in large, open bay dormitories in Jos Custodial Centre. The Significance of the Study will therefore, explain the dynamics of the Effect of Jos Custodial Centre congestion and Security Architecture of Jos North Local Government Area, Plateau State Nigeria. The findings on this study is that, Inmates housed in large, open bay dormitories are more likely to visit clinics and also have high blood pressure than Inmates in other housing arrangements (single-bunked cells, double-bunked cells, small dormitories, large partitioned dormitories). Inmates in dormitories have higher assault rates than other Inmates. The study adopted Re- Integrated Theory and the Administrative Control Theory. The study therefore recommends that government should embark on a programme of Correctional Institution expansion to avoid congestion. Considering the encompassing merits of Restorative Justice, there is an urgent need to officially integrate this alternative to incarceration intervention programme into the Nigerian legal system, as this will go a long way in decongesting the seemingly overpopulated Jos Custodial Centre.

**Keywords:** Congestion, Jos Custodial Centre, and Security

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**Introduction**

In the past, research on Correctional Institution congestion has not, however, convincingly demonstrated many adverse effect of congestion. The relationship of congestion to the distribution and availability of Correctional Institution resources has not been investigated. Congestion of Correctional Institutions has their consequences on the inmates, the Correctional Institutions system and the society. Overpopulation puts a lot of strain on maintenance cost, stretches the work

force and various other facilities provided in the Research on Humanities and Social Sciences. The few facilities available become grossly inadequate for inmate's population. Life in Correctional Institutions has become degrading, brutal and dehumanizing. In reality, it is harsh and life-threatening. Correctional Institution leaves the inmates with the poorest preparation for re-entry into the society. The Criminal Justice System was so backlogged that a good number of the country's Correctional Institutions population consisted of Pre-

Trial detainees rather than Convicts. Reforms and rehabilitation program were nominal and the Correctional Institutions were aptly dubbed “Colleges for Criminals” or “breeding grounds for crime”. In Correctional Institutions, the individual is exposed to a criminal subculture that provides rationales for illegal activities; the Inmate is also educated into ‘new’ techniques for committing crimes when eventually released, thus increasing the number of recidivists (Adebisi, KS.2008).

Correctional Institution is primarily for the treatment of convicted Inmates and not for the management of remand Inmates, because the law sees them as innocent until proven guilty. Keeping these people in custody without trial for that length of time negates democratic credentials. More importantly, locking people up for that length of time in congested and squalid condition have so many consequences which may be legal, physiological, economical, sociological, psychological and above all criminological.

Foucault (1995). Opines that Correctional Institution is not at first a deprivation of liberty to which a technical function of correction was later added; it was from the outset a form of legal detention entrusted with an additional corrective task or an enterprise for reforming individuals that the deprivation of liberty allowed to function in the legal system. From the foregoing, it is evident that inhuman treatment and deprivation of basic facilities are not a sine qua non for effective Criminal Justice Administration.

Weschler (1991). Inmates have some rights, although they are incarcerated and some of their rights such as the right to freedom are suspended during the period of incarceration, other rights such as right to dignity must be respected especially in free and democratic societies. Offenders are sentenced to Correctional Institutions as punishment and not for punishment. The Correctional Institutions culture has always

been dominated by aggression, running counter to the values of humaneness, softness, openness, and anti-oppression.

Craig (1995) called for an immediate solution to Correctional Institutions congestion in the country. He declared that a physical examination of Correctional Institutions in the country showed that they were erected during the colonial era and were intended for only a handful of prisoners. He added that most of the buildings had become totally inadequate for present-day requirements that in consequence, prisoners now sleep on the bare floor and others share single bed. He had cause to regret when he stated that the Shagamu Correctional Institution, for example, which was designed for 49 prisoners, contain 117 inmates as at the end of January 1983, whereas the Ilaro prison had 259 prisoners instead of the 126 it was supposed to accommodate, thus accommodating more than 100% of its original capacity. The Forty-Eight (48) prisons, which formed the major Federal prison system before 1966, today incarcerate an intake of well-over 75,000 Inmates a year. About half of these inmates are received under sentence of imprisonment following criminal conviction: slightly less than half of these are on remand, usually awaiting trial, with a small percentage as debtors. Until recent years, the intake included a number of persons committed for safe custody on the ground of insanity.

The Facilities in Jos Custodial Centre is pathetic, a very dreadful and incompetent of assuring expected rehabilitation of inmates. Nigeria Correctional Institutions has generally been regarded as animal cage. This is due to the nature of structural design of the cells and detention facilities. The structural design of the cells constitutes both physical and psychological burden on the inmate to the extent that they either get physical deformity or psychological problems upon release. This thesis therefore calls for structural changes in the Nigeria

Correctional Institution facilities so as to ensure that inmate is treated in a way that they can still contribute to national development after they are released rather than becoming more criminal than before. The Correctional Institution authority should consider a larger place where at least conglomeration of security agencies could be accommodated. This will reduce the possibility of jailbreak and also improve the overall Criminal Justice System.

This study will be of immense value to Nigerian Correctional Service, Policy makers, Academics and other relevant stake holders. It will suggest ways on how to address the effect of Jos Custodial Centre Congestion and National Security in Nigeria. The aim is to have knowledge of what other scholars have written about some Correctional Institutions and whether that reflects an ideal Correctional Institution.

### **Conceptual Clarification**

#### **Congestion**

When Correctional Institution is taking above capacity in terms of population, it is referred to as Correctional Institution congestion. According to Olawale (2005) congestion in our Correctional institution is an obstacle to the effective realization of the aims and objectives of reformation and rehabilitation. Correctional Institution congestion refers to a situation whereby a particular Correctional Institution formation keeps more inmates under custody above its normal capacity. It is a situation of over-crowded inmates' population in a Correctional Institution. (Olawale, 2005). Congestion of Correctional Institution has their consequences on the inmates, the Correctional Institution system and the society. Congestion puts a lot of strain on maintenance cost, stretches the work force and various other facilities provided in the Research on Humanities and Social Sciences. The few facilities available become grossly inadequate for inmate population. Life in prison has become

degrading, brutal and dehumanizing. In reality, it is harsh and life-threatening. The Correctional Institutions leave the inmates with the poorest preparation for re-entry into the society.

The Criminal Justice System was so backlogged that a good number of the country's Correctional Institution population consisted of pre-trial detainees rather than convicts. Reforms and rehabilitation program were nominal and the Correctional Institutions were aptly dubbed "colleges for criminals" or "breeding grounds for crime". In Correctional Institution, the individual is exposed to a criminal subculture that provides rationales for illegal activities; the prisoner is also educated into 'new' techniques for committing crimes when eventually released thus increasing the number of recidivists (Adebisi KS, 2008). Majority of the Correctional Institutions in Nigeria are congested and overcrowded and this create enormous problem in Correctional Institution management process in terms of Reformation, Rehabilitation and Reintegration. The capacity of Nigeria Correctional Institutions has remained virtually the same for the past two decades notwithstanding the alarming increase in population.

Eze (2009) in his study institution reforms and the development of Nigerian Correctional Service, 1999-2007 published in a journal of African studies and development, conducted a descriptive research on the general Correctional Institution administration. He recalled that Nigeria as a country has experienced over Twenty-Nine years of military rule. Consequently, the Nigeria Correctional Institution where nothing less than a concentration camp were democrats, civil right activists and some social deviants suffered. The emergence of civilian rule in 1999 with promises both to restore human right and rule of law and to reform the justice system of which the prisons are part of, led to the appropriation of billions of naira into the sector. He conducted an

overview of the Nigerian Correctional Service and its reform using documentary and primary source of information with a view to assessing the extent of its consistency with international standard and its impact on both prison inmates and the institution itself. Eze, (2009) concluded his study that Nigerian Correctional Service Reform are practically anti-best practices. His findings were premised on the fact on the outcome of the study which revealed as follows:

- i. That the Nigerian Correctional Service has more number of Correctional Institution Inmates Awaiting Trial.
- ii. That the Nigerian Correctional Service has high level of human principles for the treatment of offenders. He maintained that those yet to be convicted are treated inhumanly like criminals while in detention.

However, few Correctional Institutions have been constructed with most substandard materials, which are a far cry from modern prisons across the globe. Considering the act of imprisonment as the most effective form of sanctions of offenders, nevertheless, in the last few decades, inmate's population in Nigeria have grown substantially, to the extent leading to overcrowding. The overcrowding tends to alter the psychological, physiological and behavioural wellbeing of the inmates (Crystal, 2004). The massive influx of inmates that begun in recent times as a result of delay in judiciary process has produced a rate of growth in the nation inmate's population that scholars and legal commentators have repeatedly described and characterized as unprecedented.

Aduba (2005) reported that the total prison capacity during the period of 1978 to 1981 was 27,257, but it was revealed that in 1978, the average monthly population was 32,332; in 1979 it was 34,770; in 1980, it was 35,332; and in 1981 it was 38,477 (Nigeria prison services, 1978-1981). The percentage of 'overcrowding' thus was 18.61 in 1978, 27.56 in 1979, 29.43 in 1980,

and 41.16 in 1981. Currently, Nigeria prisons are housing 49,000 in two hundred and thirty four prisons out of which 20% are convicts while the rest are awaiting trial inmates (Amnesty International Report, 2012). This imaginable condition of overcrowding is relatively easy to recognise when one sees it situations where there is no enough room for prisoners to sleep; no facilities to provide enough food, health care or any form of constructive activities; insufficient staff to ensure that prisoners are safe; lack of accommodation to hold separately types of prisoners who should be kept apart- juveniles from adult; awaiting trails from convicted, or lack of capacity to admit any more numbers so that emergency measures have to be taken in the form of amnesty, emergency accommodation or the holding of prisoners in police custody.

#### **Jos Custodial Centre in perspective**

Jos Custodial Centre as other Correctional Institutions in Nigeria was established by the law of the federation, PRISON DECREE 1972 (DECREE No.9) now covers the establishment of prison in Nigeria and section 2 (i) and (ii) state that:- (i) The Minister of internal affairs may by order in the Federal Gazette declare any building or place in Nigeria to be a prison and by the same or a subsequent order specify the area for which the prisons is established. (ii) "Every prison shall include (a) the grounds and buildings within the prison enclosure, and (b) any lock-up house for the temporary detention or custody of prisoners newly apprehended or under remand which is declared by the Minister by order in the Federal Gazette to be part of the prison."

Jos Custodial Centre is situated in Jos North Local Government Area of Plateau State, Jos Custodial Centre as any other Correctional Institution is a place delineated and declared as such by law of the state and created "to ensure restraint and custody of individual accused or convicted of violating" the criminal laws of the state. Civil Inmates as debtors,

Prisoners of War (POW) and state detainees are also received and kept in the Correctional Institution. Jos Custodial Centre was established by the then Colonial administration as a Convict Correctional Institution with the current capacity of 1967 inmates. A Convict Prison is the correctional facility that receives all class of prisoners and lunatics up to the stated accommodation where this has been allotted by law. Other Convict Prisons in Nigeria are Enugu Prison, Kaduna Prison, Kerkira Prison, and Port-Harcourt Prison. Jos Custodial Centre is headed by a Deputy Controller of Correction. He is assisted by Sectional Heads, who head various sections of Jos Custodial Centre, sections like Gate, Records, medical, welfare, Administration and Kitchen.

#### **Command Structure of Jos Correctional Service**

Yongo (2000) says that “it is natural that an organization charged with the responsibilities as stated in this study should have a command structure that enhances functional efficiency, goal attainment and discipline disposition”. At the apex of the command structure sits that Controller of Corrections Plateau State. He is the Chief Executive officer and is answerable to the Controller-General of the Nigerian Prisons Service through the Zonal Coordinator in – charge Zone “H”. But in matters of prison policy, he takes direct responsibility for implementation. He is assisted by various in – charge of prison formations in Plateau State.

There are seven (7) Custodial Centres in Plateau State, they are:

- i. Jos Medium Security Custodial Centre
- ii. Lakushi Medium Security Custodial Centre
- iii. Lantang Medium Security Custodial Centre
- iv. Pankshin Medium Security Custodial Centre
- v. Shendam Medium Security Custodial Centre
- vi. Wase Medium Security Custodial Centre

The various in – charge of the Correctional Institution in Plateau State report to the Controller of Corrections Plateau State Command and constitutes together with the Controller of Corrections Plateau State Command the highest decision- making body in the administration of the Nigerian Correctional Service within the State.

#### **An overview of Population in Jos Custodial Centre**

Ayade (2010) observed Correctional Institution overcrowding in Jos Custodial Centre, and noted the trend of overcrowding on selected Correctional Institutions, the same Correctional Institutions were audited by the National Human Rights Commission in collaboration with the United Nations Development Project and Norwegian Agency for Development Corporation as presented in the tables below:

**Table (1) Capacity, Lockup, Number of Convicts and Awaiting Trials in Plateau State**

| Plateau State           |            |            |            |                 |
|-------------------------|------------|------------|------------|-----------------|
|                         | Capacity   | Lock up    | Convicts   | Awaiting Trials |
| 1. Jos Custodial Centre | 150        | 771        | 216        | 555             |
| 2. Lantang              | 150        | 34         | 24         | 10              |
| 3. Lakushi Farm         | 150        | 52         | 52         | -               |
| 4. Shendam              | 130        | 51         | 30         | 21              |
| 5. Wase                 | 100        | 21         | 20         | 1               |
| 6. Pankshin             | 162        | 55         | 22         | 32              |
| <b>TOTAL</b>            | <b>842</b> | <b>984</b> | <b>364</b> | <b>619</b>      |

Source: Department of Planning and Statistics, Prison headquarters, Abuja & Ayade 2010.

The table above shows that Jos Custodial Centre have higher number of Awaiting Trial Persons (ATPs) than Convicted persons.

Capacity: 842

Lock up: 984

Convicts: 364

Awaiting Trial: 619

**TOTAL INMATES: 1,967**

The above table shows that Jos have higher number of Awaiting Trial Persons (ATPs) than Convicted inmates. The Centre is operating above capacity; it has the capacity of 842 but housed 1,967 inmates. The number of ATPs as of 30th June, 2010 was 619 far above the convicts of 364.

#### **Causes of congestion in Jos Custodial Centre include the following:**

- i. Non-expansion of Correctional Institutions
- ii. Protracted Police Investigations
- iii. Courts Long and Sine Die Adjournments
- iv. Insufficient Means of Transportation of Inmates to Court
- v. The Dilatory Process of transfer of Cases from the Police to Director of Public Prosecution (DPP)
- vi. Increase in Population and Crime Rate
- vii. Poverty

- viii. Non-Execution of Condemned Criminals

#### **Effect of Correctional Institution Congestion**

The following are its main side effect:

- i. Congestion makes it easy for inmates to beat or circumvent the Correctional Institution's security networks.
- ii. It provides an atmosphere where good inmates are polluted or contaminated by the bad ones.
- iii. Promotes conspiracy against the constituted authority by the inmates.
- iv. It gives room for homosexuality and lesbianism.
- v. Overstretches the facilities for reformation and rehabilitation due to numbers.
- vi. It affects the health of inmates. Congestions may lead to infectious skin diseases or even an outbreak of epidemic.
- vii. It leads to overstretching of the available facilities in the prison such as toilet and water supply.
- viii. It hinders classification of inmates or at best makes the task of classification difficult in the Centre.
- ix. Congestion promotes escape.
- x. Congestion facilitates trafficking.
- xi. It facilitates riots and breakdown of discipline.

- xii. Congestion leads to frequent jail delivery in the Correctional Institutions.

### **Security**

No society can have any significant development without effective security in place. The main purpose for the legitimacy and existence of a state is to ensure a safe and secured environment for life and property of its citizen and the absence of fear, oppression, poverty, anxiety and possible danger. There are divergent definitions of the term security based on the concern of the stakeholders.

Achumba et al (2013) defined the concept of security as the establishment of precautionary measures for the protection of persons, property and information against criminal elements, persons and actions. These measures are designed to ensure people can move around for their daily business activities without any fear of any violent occurrence.

Security has been a subject that has attracted a rapidly growing interest and concern among the scholar in social science in which a wide spectrum of issues on the subject, security has remained persistent in which new breakthroughs and findings are still being made, showing the strategic importance of security in the development of nations and actualization of peace and order in all levels of human relations. It is not surprising that the increasing research attention given to the concept and practice of security has brought about invocation of different types, dimension of analytical explanations and theoretical approaches.

A layman definition of security is the protection of life and property of a person and the society.

And thus, to some, security can be defined as: An all-encompassing condition in which individual citizens live in freedom, peace and safety; participate fully in the process of governance; Enjoy the protection of

fundamental rights; have access to resources and the basic necessities of life; And inhabit an environment which is not detrimental to their health and wellbeing (see South Africa White Paper on Defense, 1996).

This study totally agreed with Achumba et al (2013) that defined the concept of security as the establishment of precautionary measures for the protection of persons, property and information against criminal elements, persons and actions.

### **Types of Security**

They include the following:

- i. Food security
- ii. Health Security
- iii. Physical security
- iv. Economic Security
- v. Environment Security
- vi. Personal Security
- vii. Community Security
- viii. Territorial Security
- ix. Human Security

### **Theoretical Framework**

Re-Integrative Theory and the Administrative Control Theory was used for this study.

### **Re-Integrative Shaming Theory (John Braithwaite, 1989)**

The concept of shaming is here referred to as a successful attempt to make or compel law violators to show remorse, imbibe attitudinal change and make up for their criminal life-course as a way of restoring justice, law and order in the community. The process of shaming criminals does not entail exclusion, humiliation and stigmatization as the name implies. Rather, the community, through its justice facilitators, not only punctiliously 'shamed' (corrected) the antisocial behavior of people but also follow them up to guarantee their proper re-integration and even aftercare. From the theory of re-integrative shaming, the accent is on 'shame' or 'shaming' for

clarity and avoidance of misconception and misrepresentation of fact by the uninitiated observers. The use of shaming in restoring justice posits that offenders are reconciled with their victims/community outside the traditional Criminal Justice System and by implication reduces the population that goes into the Correctional Institution.

**Administrative Control Theory (Useem & Reisig, 1999)** was also used for this study. This is a situation whereby the authorities neglect their administrative responsibilities rather than their lack of awareness of it. The Administrative Control Theory argues that Correctional Institution disorder or riot result from unstable, divided or otherwise weak management (see Useem & Reisig, 1999). It argues that conflict or riot results from poor management of Correctional Institution facilities; which has three central components-inadequate conditions, weak security and the emergence of group formations among inmates such as gangs. In poorly managed Correctional Institutions, the more dissatisfied inmates are with the management, the more likely they are to engage in violence and collective action.

### **Literature Review**

Ojukwu & Briggs (2005) posit that the Correctional Institution system in Nigeria is one of the most under developed institutions in the criminal justice sector. No new prison has been constructed in more than forty years and the Correctional Institution population continue to grow, changed the state of infrastructure and logistics, have introduced Nigerian Correctional Service best practices and have positively altered the conditions of Correctional Institution Inmates and workers.

Ogundipe (2006) cited by Eze (2009) stated that the Nigerian Correctional Service was exacerbated by the dominant military leadership which Nigeria has experienced since independence. The military in its Twenty-Nine (29) years of political leadership sees the prison as a punitive

institution and thus not give it any attention as to develop its infrastructure and conditions. He noted further that the military did periodically visit the Correctional Institutions but only to make sure that those they had detained were not allowed any measure of comfort. The population of inmates under them (that is, the military era) became elastic that the capacity of each Correctional Institution became tortuous; it served the purpose of the military regime very well.

Ogundipe (2006) maintained that the detainees were held in squalid and congested cells without adequate medical care, food supplies or water and often with some outbreak of diseases, environmental degradation, and an increased mortality rate among inmates. The condition of Correctional Institution staff was worse than any other government agency as at that time. The prison staff was looked as Inmates also. Most of the Correctional Institution branches or sections around the country did not have a single official moving vehicle while the very few that had vehicles, found it difficult to maintain them due to poor funding. The institution had no befitting corporate headquarters before 1999.

### **Methodology**

This study adapted the Survey research design primarily because it aims at seeking new insight or clarify understanding of problems or draw facts from the Staff and Inmates of Jos Custodial Centre.

### **Sources of data**

#### **Primary sources of data collection**

The researcher adopted the qualitative approach for Primary data collection by administering questionnaires, in-depth interview and focus group discussions.

#### **Secondary sources of data collection**

The Secondary data was collected from sources such as locally available reports, articles, journals, editorials, dissertations and Base line data. Evaluation of project





finding therefore indicates that the inmates believe that prison congestion affect inmates.

|    |   |   |
|----|---|---|
| SA | - | 5 |
| A  | - | 4 |
| U  | - | 3 |
| D  | - | 2 |
| SD | - | 1 |

**Interpretations and Discussions**

For the methodology to be used, the Likert scale of gathering data was put to use. The Likert scale holds that for a judgment to be accepted, the sum of total of respondents should be calculated by the ratio each represents and then divided by the number of respondents.; when this is done and the above is recorded, the judgment is accepted, whereas the result realized is below 3, it becomes rejected.

The sum of these is 5+4+3+2+1 = 15 which is further divided as thus; 15/5=3 is the certain mean. Note that the five (5) used above to divide the explanation is indicating the number of frequency the scale represents. Each variable contains the number of responses which is further multiplied by its coded figure.

This is further explained as thus:

Scale                      Ratio

For example - details derived from above:

48 x 5 = 240

72 x 4 = 288

58 x 3 = 174

80 x 2 = 160

17 x 1 = 17

879 (no. of respondents)

879

275 = 3.2 Accepted.

**Discussion and Findings**

The result of the data analysis shows that Jos Custodial Centre is congested. The analysis indicated that 72 out of total respondents agree with 48 strongly agreeing with the percentage of 26% and 17% respectively, as against 80 and 17 respondents disagreeing and strongly disagreeing 29% and 7% respectively.

dispensation of justice cannot be disregarded in criminal justice. Crime prevention and criminal justice strategies must take a human approach and be based on the rule of law.

This judgment is accepted because the critical mean is above 3-4 stands at 3.2 with the first two variables having the ratio of 5 and 4 respectively. This concurs with the findings and theory which states that delays are persistent cases for concern in the administration of justice worldwide. The timely disposition of cases is seen as an elementary part of justice; conversely, unduly prolonged investigation and trials, deny justice. Justice delay can mean prolonged detention for the suspect and drain out criminal trials. Justice delayed is actually justice denied, thus the timely

**Findings**

- i. Inmates housed in large, open bay dormitories are more likely to visit clinics and also have high blood pressure than Inmates in other housing arrangements (single-bunked cells, double-bunked cells, small dormitories, large partitioned dormitories).
- ii. Inmates in dormitories have higher assault rates than other Inmates.
- iii. There is untimely disposition of cases in the Centre.
- iv. Both inmates and Staff played vital roles in terms of answering the questionnaires.

- v. Jos Custodial Centre has higher number of Awaiting Trial Persons (ATPs) than Convicted Inmates.
- vi. Jos Custodial Centre congestion makes it easier for Inmates to beat the Centre's security network.

### **Conclusion**

The task of addressing and finding a permanent solution to this menace of congestion should be a joint responsibility of all the stakeholders in the Criminal Justice Administration. This includes the Police, the Court, the government, the society and the Officers and men of the Nigeria Correctional Service. Most especially the increasing number of the Awaiting Trial Persons (ATPs) is the major cause of the congestion in Correctional Institution. The critical investigations conducted on effect of Jos Custodial Centre Congestion and National Security in Nigeria has revealed that much need to be done as regards to the problems of congestion.

One central and critical observation the article teased out of the review is intriguing but regrettable; the inability of both traditional criminal justice system and the emerging restorative justice to restore life in the case of murder.

Admittedly, life is not restored in a case of murder and no amount of compensation will commensurate with the actual harm done to murder victims, their families and the larger society. Notwithstanding, such a loss can be greatly assuaged and atoned for when the matter is settled within the domain of Restorative Justice initiative using the theory of Administrative Control Theory and Re-Integrative Shaming Theory.

The stance of this present article therefore is that Re-Integrative Shaming theory of Restorative Justice is an indispensable philosophy of punishment/treatment which can favorably address the problem of Correctional Institution overcrowding in Nigeria. Unlike in the Police or Court where most cases end up in remanding offenders

or the accused in Correctional Institution custody and thus leading to congestion in the system, Restorative Justice System restores social justice, pacifies social harm and rights wrongdoing in the community. Under Restorative Justice System, punishment or treatment of offenders, conflict resolution and crime adjudication, are humanely handled outside the formal agencies detailed by the government to enforce law (the Police), process crime and criminals (Courts), and correct or rehabilitate outlaws (Correctional Institutions).

### **Recommendations**

The following recommendations are deemed necessary:

- i. Government should embark on a programme of Correctional Institution expansion to avoid congestion.
- ii. Considering the encompassing merits of Restorative Justice, there is an urgent need to officially integrate this alternative to incarceration intervention programme into the Nigerian legal system, as this will go a long way in decongesting the seemingly overpopulated Jos Custodial Centre.
- iii. It has also proven that Jos Custodial Centre need to be reformed in a way that it can carry out its primary role of rehabilitation exactness and precision so that the inmates will come out to be united in a better light as better citizens after serving their jail terms.
- iv. Corrupt officials either in the Police force, Court or any group of people involved in the management of the Centre should be flushed out or dealt with to serve as deterrent to others and also to help sanitized the system.
- v. Regular jail delivery should be encouraged.
- vi. Death sentences should be proscribed if government is not ready to carry out the order, instead

of overpopulating the Centre with  
Condemned Criminals.

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