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Community leaders advise on crime

The police and other security agencies should be well funded and equipped to halt the raging crime rate in the state, community leaders in Oshodi, Lagos, have suggested.

Rising from a security summit in the area, the leaders and residents noted that a well-motivated police force was capable of drastically reducing the crime rate in the country

According to a statement on Saturday signed by the Chairman and General Secretary of the Oshodi Community **Christian Leaders Forum, Pastor Chris Egogo and Pastor Barnabas Otoibhi**, the police in the area were rising up to the challenge of combating crime.

They said strategic prayer sessions had been held in Oshodi in response to the onslaught of robbers in recent times.

They noted that concerted efforts to assist the police had helped in strengthening crime-fighting efforts in the area.

They maintained that the forum had assumed corporate, social and spiritual responsibility to chart a new course for the residential and commercial area.

Egogo and Otoibhi deplored the negative perception of Oshodi by non-residents and said the forum and the entire community were determined to erase this image.

The group stated that since the April 2007 general elections, violent crimes had assumed alarming proportions, adding that the situation appears to have overwhelmed the police. They said a series of measures and divine interventions had, however, led to a sharp reduction in violent crimes.

The forum explained that some public-spirited individuals and corporate bodies provided logistic assistance to the police, adding that these gestures enabled the police to contain the crime wave in the area.

The forum, which has planned another strategic prayer summit for Monday, said community leaders in Oshodi would continue to do everything possible to enhance the image of the area, reduce crime and break all evil spells afflicting the area.