



Lawyers Alert
...Promoting Human Rights

NIGERIA: HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS ASSOCIATED WITH PETTY OFFENCES



2022 - 2023



08099937318



INFO@LAWYERSALERTNG.ORG



6, AHMADU BELLO WAY, OLD GRA,
MAKURDI, BENUE STATE, NIGERIA



21B, DEMOCRACY CRESCENT GADUWA
ESTATE, GUDU, ABUJA



WWW.LAWYERSALERTNG.ORG

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PREFACE

Lawyers Alert is a human rights organization that promotes and protects the rights of the poor and vulnerable in the society through monitoring and documentation of rights violations of these marginalized populations, provision of free legal services for them, literacy campaigns, and advocacy on policy and legal issues associated with discrimination of vulnerable groups. We envision a world where women and vulnerable groups are free from injustice.

Petty Offences are offences other than felonies or misdemeanors, primarily targeting the poor and underserved in any society. Petty Offences are said to “wear the face of Poverty”, given their predominant impact on the economically disadvantaged in any given community. They include hawking, loitering, alms-seeking, etc.

Over the past 3 years, Lawyers Alert has been monitoring and documenting human rights violations associated with petty offences in Nigeria. This present report is a compendium of documented incidents of petty offences violations reported between October 2022 and September 2023. The data utilized in this report is drawn from inputs made into Lawyers Alert Documentation Tool (LadocT).

In this current report, Disobedience to Constituted Authorities takes the lead among other petty offences at 25%. While there has been a decrease compared to the previous report, this statistic underscores the constriction and shrinking of the civic space. Wandering/Loitering maintains its position as the second most reported violation, followed by Rogue/Vagabond and cases involving Sexual Minorities. Alms Seekers and Commercial Sex Work are the fourth and fifth respectively. Notably, the previously introduced petty offences types occasioned by COVID, such as the Compulsory wearing of nose masks, and Restrictions on gatherings, Restriction of number of passengers on commercial means of transportation, and Compulsory procurement & use of PPEs were not largely reported in this reporting period. This could be attributed to the significant easing of lockdown measures in comparison to the year 2020. This report demonstrates that interventions addressing petty offences can benefit from a more informed approach grounded in scientific data.

In terms of States with the highest violations, similar to the previous report, Lagos State maintains the highest rank at 21%, followed by the Federal Capital Territory at 16%. Benue State was third at 10%, with Niger State at 9% and Kano State at 8%. Borno and Bauchi States stand at 6% and 5% respectively. At the LGA level, Abuja Municipal ranked highest at 15%, with Lagos Island in Lagos State following closely at 12%, Bwari LGA in the FCT

comes in third at 8%. Lagos Mainland & Ibeju Lekki in Lagos State and Makurdi in Benue State, are with a recording each at 5%.

In the compilation of findings, the consequences of the aforementioned petty offences violations were measured using the following indicators: Unlawful Arrest, Rape/Sexual Assault, Battery, Verbal Abuse, Molestation, Torture, Corporal Punishment, Blackmail, False Imprisonment, Exploitation of Personal Belongings, Denial of Legal Representation, Starvation/Food Deprivation, Damage of Vehicle (Deface of Vehicle), Seizure of Vehicle Plate Number, Sealing of Premises, Exorbitant Fine, Stigmatization, Incarceration, Emotional Abuse, Harassment, Extortion, Confiscation of Property, Detention, Forced Eviction, Invasion of Privacy and Seizure of Goods.

Data on petty offences violations is collated through our partners working within communities across the country. The information received is inputted into our Online Tool, which analyzes according to types, age, location, sex, and trends. The data is therefore tested and the integrity/reliability is hereby assured. As evidenced in this report, interventions for petty offences can be better informed when situated against scientific data.

Lawyers Alert acknowledges Open Society Initiative for West Africa (OSIWA) for believing in and supporting this project. We are indebted to several individuals and organizations who referred cases to us, as their contributions significantly enriched our efforts in populating the Tool.

Rommy Mom
President, Lawyers Alert

VIOLATION ANALYSIS BASED ON TYPES OF PETTY OFFENCES

This report on petty offences violations was based on the mutually endorsed violations by Civil Society Groups and Activists dedicated to addressing petty offences in Nigeria. They include;

- ☐ Wandering/Loitering
- ☐ Disobedience to Parents/Constituted Authorities
- ☐ Alms seeking
- ☐ Hawking
- ☐ Public Display of Affection
- ☐ Violation of Traffic/Wrong parking
- ☐ Breach of promise
- ☐ Commercial sex work
- ☐ Indiscriminate disposal of waste
- ☐ Sexual minorities
- ☐ Rogue/Vagabond
- ☐ Compulsory wearing of nose masks.
- ☐ Restrictions on gatherings
- ☐ Restrictions of the number of passengers on commercial means of transportation.
- ☐ Compulsory procurement and usage of PPEs.

During this reporting period, the highest recorded violation was **Disobedience to Parents/Constituted Authority**, accounting for 25% of incidents. Constituted authority here refers to government and elected officials. The constriction of the civic space and intolerance to varying opinions within this period led to arrests and molestations of based on social media posting and even in the traditional media. **Wandering/Loitering** is at 16% occasioned by homelessness in the major cities of Abuja and Lagos, a reflection of the economic situation of the poor. **Rogue/Vagabond** and **Sexual Minorities** tied for third with 11% each. **Alms Seeking** ranked fourth at 10%, while **Commercial Sex Work** in fifth at 7%. **Hawking** and **Compulsory wearing of nose masks** were reported at 5% and 4% respectively. The lifting of the lockdown post COVID has understandably reduced COVID related petty offences. **Restrictions on gatherings** was noted at 3%, and **Violation of Traffic/Wrong Parking**, and **Restriction of number of passengers on commercial means of transportation** all stood at 2%. **Breach of Promise** and **Public Display of Affection** each had a 1% incidence, while **Indiscriminate Disposal of Waste** had negligible reportage, accounting for less than 1%.

The below charts reflect the above;

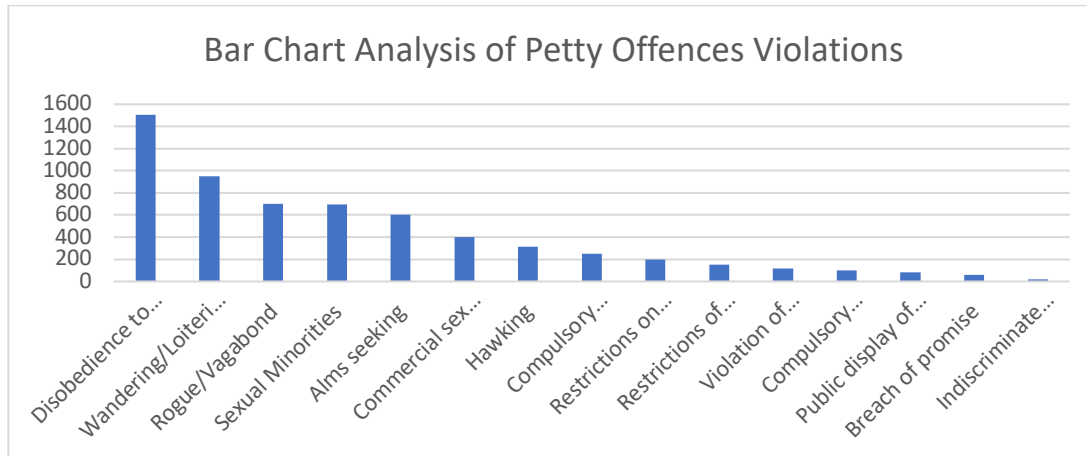


Fig 1: Bar Chart analysis of Petty Offences violation.

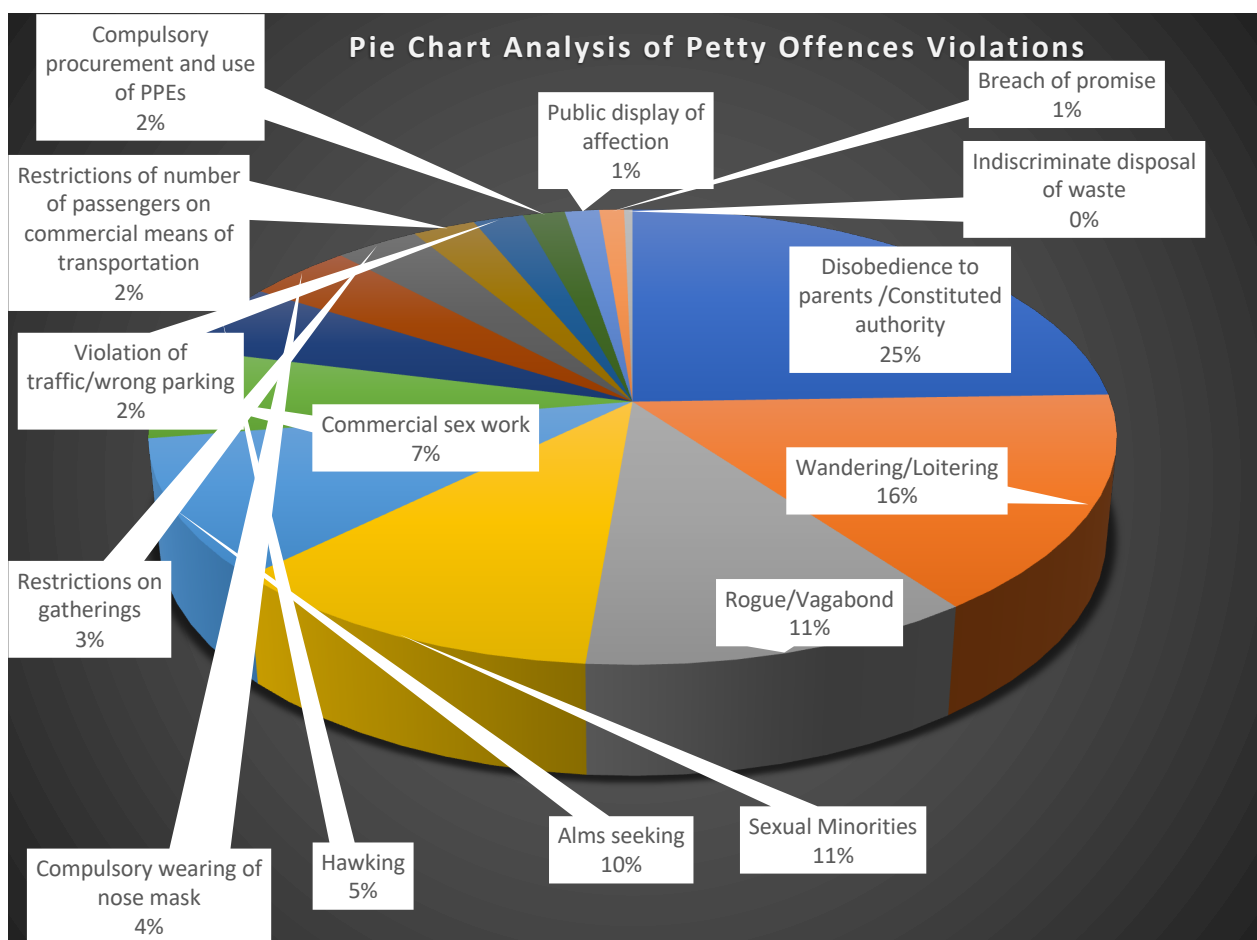


Fig 2: Violations based on types of Petty Offences.

Types of Petty Offences	Mar. 2020	Sept. 2020	Mar. 2021	Sept. 2021	Sept. 2022	Sept. 2023	Increase	Decrease
Wandering/Loitering	26%	25%	22%	18%	15%	16%	1%	-
Breach of Promise	1%	2%	1%	2%	1%	1%	-	-
Disobedience to Parents/Constituted Authority	28%	31%	43%	37%	27%	25%	-	2%

Violation of Traffic Rules/Wrong Parking	1%	1%	1%	2%	2%	2%	-	-
Indiscriminate Disposal of Waste	0%	0%	0%	2%	0%	0%	-	-
Alms Seeking	0%	0%	0%	2%	9%	10%	1%	-
Commercial Sex Work	10%	10%	7%	7%	5%	7%	2%	-
Sexual Minorities	4%	3%	4%	6%	11%	11%	-	-
Hawking	4%	3%	3%	5%	4%	5%	1%	-
Public Display of Affection	0%	0%	1%	2%	1%	1%	-	-
Rogue/Vagabond	26%	25%	18%	17%	12%	11%	-	1%
Compulsory wearing of nose mask	-	-	-	-	4%	4%	-	-
Restrictions on gatherings	-	-	-	-	4%	3%	-	1%
Restrictions of number of passengers on commercial means of transportation	-	-	-	-	3%	2%	-	1%
Compulsory procurement & use of PPEs	-	-	-	-	2%	2%	-	-

Table 1: Table showing percentage increase & decrease in the types of Petty Offences

Over the course of multiple reporting periods, a clear narrative emerges from the data regarding petty offences. In March 2020, **Wandering/Loitering** accounted for a substantial 26%. This figure slightly dropped to 25% in September 2020, indicating a 1% decline. This trend continued downward, hitting 22% in March 2021 and further dropping to 18% in September 2021, signifying a 4% decrease. The percentage further decreased to 15% in September 2022, reflecting a 3% decline. However, in this current reporting period, a modest increase was observed at 1%, bringing it to 16%.

In contrast, **Disobedience to Parents/Constituted Authority** saw an initial figure of 28% in the inaugural report of March 2020. This number surged to 31% in September 2020, and the trend continued upward with a substantial jump of 12% in March 2021, reaching 43%. However, in September 2021, there was a notable reversal as the percentage dropped by 6%, resulting in a recording of 37%. This declining pattern persisted into September 2022, with a further decrease of 10%. In the current report, there was yet another drop, this time by 2%, registering at 25%. This trend was obvious as campaigns for political offices intensified towards the elections. Elected officials became more intolerant of unflattering social media postings leading to arrests and prosecution. Elections and the conscripting of the civic space therefore have a relationship.

In March 2020, **Breach of Promise** was documented at 1%. This figure saw a slight increase, reaching 2% in September 2020. The trend then reversed, resulting in a decrease of 1% in March 2021. In September 2021, there was a subsequent increase of 1%. However, in September 2022, the percentage dropped back to 1%, and it remained consistent in the current reporting period.

In March 2020, September 2020, and March 2021, **Violation of Traffic Rules/Wrong Parking** was consistently documented at 1%. However, in September 2021, there was an uptick, resulting in a recorded rate at 2%. This figure remained unchanged in both September 2022 and September 2023, maintaining at 2%. This violation is normally associated with intentions by state governments to raise Internally Generated Revenue, IGR, from fines accrued, but normally abused by the foot soldiers, who pocket these funds while only a fraction goes to the states, leading to loss of interest by states on this modus of raising IGR.

In both March and September 2020, **Commercial Sex Work** was captured at 10%, which then saw a decline to 7% in both March and September 2021. This trend continued into September 2022, where a further decline to 5% was recorded. This reduction owes directly to the cases of Lawyers Alert and other CSOs challenging government action on these arrests in the courts. The courts have consistently ruled against these arrests in over 13 cases now, leading to a decrease in these arrests especially in Abuja the FCT. However, in this current reporting period, there was a 2% increase, which was recorded at 7%, marking a notable change in trend.

Violations associated with **Sexual Minorities** began at 4% in March 2020, dipped to 3% in September 2020, saw a small rise to 4% in March 2021, then a more substantial increase to 6% in September 2021. By September 2022, this figure increased to 11%, where it remains in the current reporting period. It appears sadly that the gains of reduction in these violations are being eroded as sexual minorities are once again in the frame of arrests and other violations.

In March 2020, **Hawking** was documented at 4%. This figure then saw a slight decrease to 3% in both September 2020 and March 2021. However, in September 2021, there was an increase, resulting in a recorded rate of 5%. Following this, there was a slight decline to 4% in September 2022, but this reporting period saw a 1% increase, bringing it back to 5%.

Rogue/Vagabond began at a significant 26% in March 2020. This figure experienced a slight decline, reaching 25% in September 2020. However, a considerable drop ensued, marking 7% in March 2021 (18%) and 1% in September 2021 (17%). By September 2022, it had further decreased by 5%, and in the current period, a 1% decrease was observed.

Public Display of Affection began at less than 1% in March 2020 and September 2020, but by March 2021, it had increased to 1%. This number continued to rise, reaching 2% in September 2021. However, in September 2022, there was a 1% decrease, and this remained consistent at 1% in this reporting period. Note: this is not associated with the LGBTIQ community.

Indiscriminate Disposal of Waste consistently held an insignificant reportage of less than 1% in the first three reports. In September 2021, there was a 2% increase, but by September 2022, it reverted to an insignificant reportage of less than 1% in September 2022. This trend continued into September 2023.

Alms Seeking mirrored the pattern of Indiscriminate Disposal of Waste in the first three reports, maintaining an insignificant reportage of less than 1%. In September 2021, there was a 2% increase, followed by a significant 7% rise in September 2022. The current reporting period saw a further 1% increase.

New entries in September 2022 included **Compulsory wearing of nose masks**, and **Restrictions on gatherings**, both of which were recorded at 4%. In this reporting period, Compulsory wearing of nose masks remained at 4%, while Restrictions on gatherings decreased to 3%.

Restrictions on the number of passengers on commercial means of transportation was introduced in September 2022 with a record of 3%, and a decline to 2% was captured in September 2023.

Compulsory procurement & use of PPEs was recorded at 2% in September 2022 and maintained this figured in September 2023.

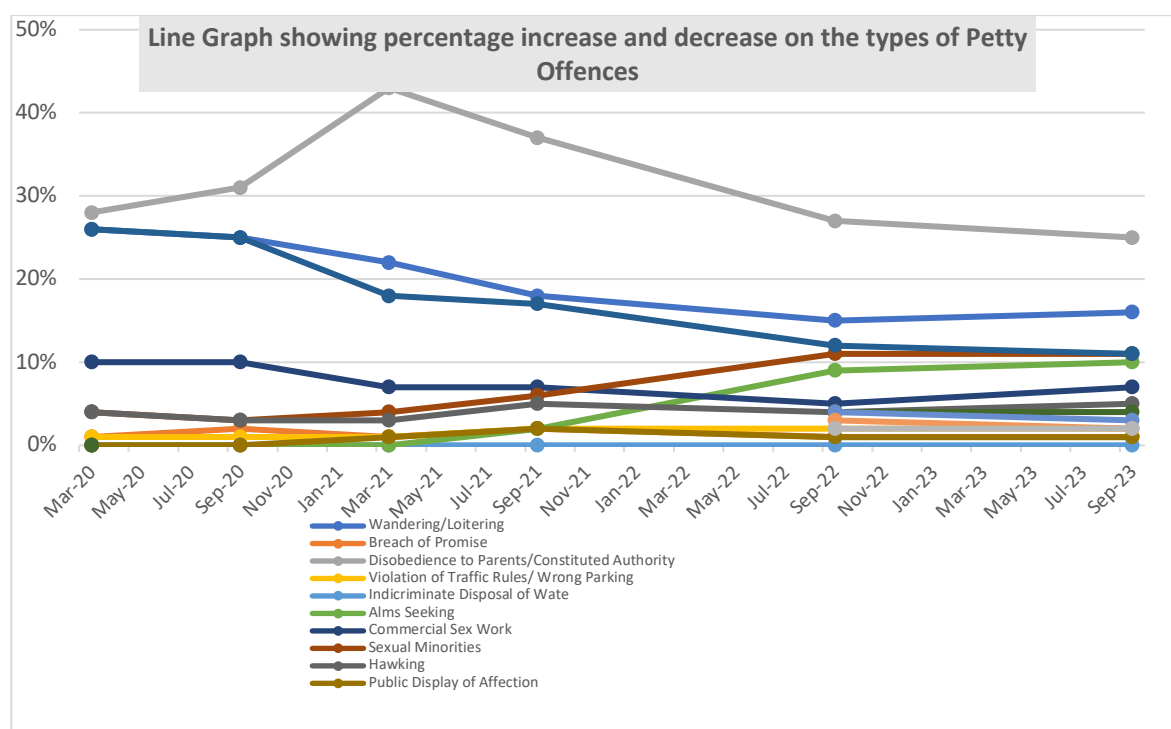


Fig 3: Graph showing percentage increase & decrease in the types of Petty Offences

STATES WITH THE HIGHEST PETTY OFFENCES VIOLATION RATES.

This report encompasses the entirety of Nigeria, as the online documentation tool efficiently captures all States spanning the 6 geo-political zones of the country. While this project is situated in about 6 states within Nigeria, the data gathered paints a broader national picture, as our partners across the entire country have over the years, keyed into the project and it has organically assumed a national spread. During this reporting period, Lagos State emerged the highest in human rights violations associated with petty offences accounting for 21% of incidents. Following closely is the Federal Capital Territory at 16%. Benue ranked third with a 10% representation, while Niger and Kano occupied fourth and fifth at 9% and 8% respectively. Borno was documented at 6%, Bauchi at 5%, and Delta at 4%. Plateau and Anambra had 3% each, with Rivers, Kaduna, Abia, and Imo each representing 2%. Akwa Ibom, Nasarawa, Osun, Kogi, Ondo, Oyo, and Ogun all had a 1% reportage, while Ekiti had an insignificant reportage of less than 1%.

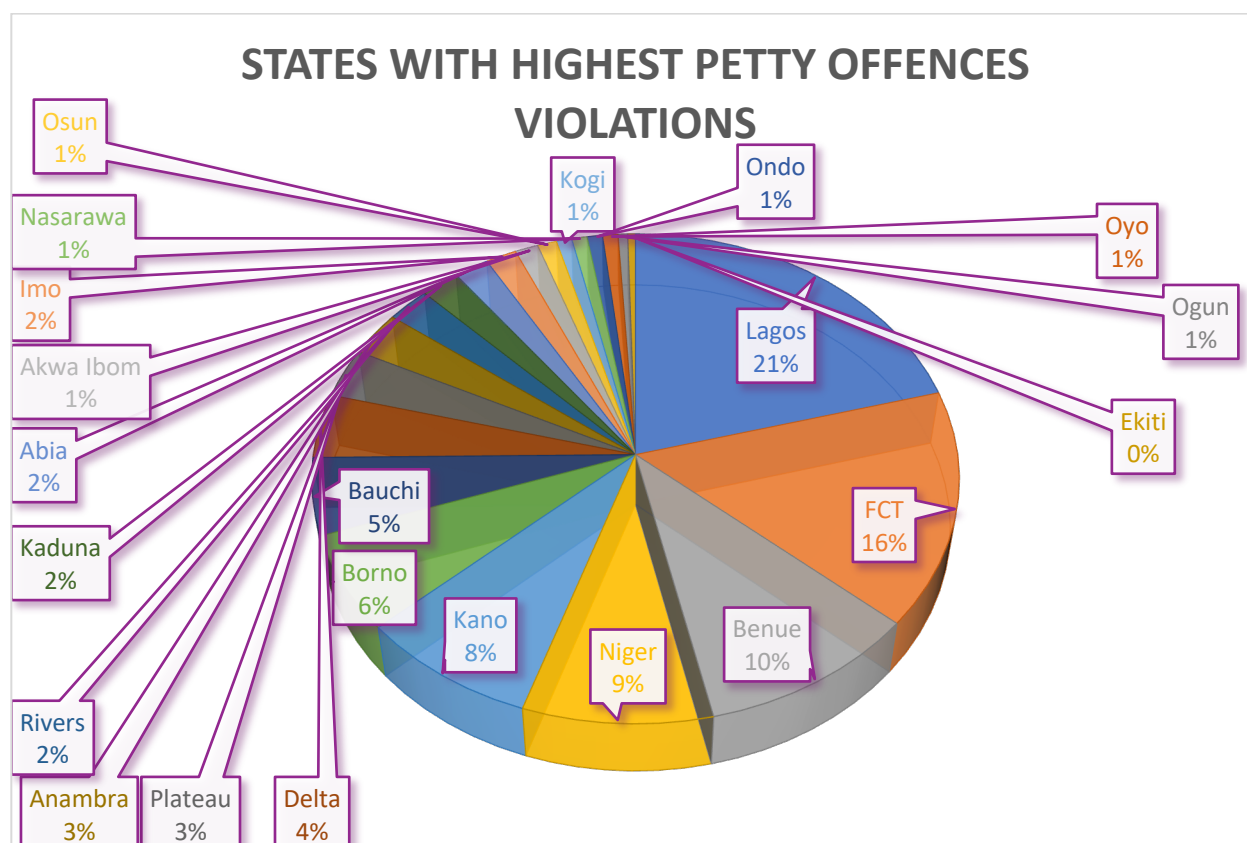


Fig 4: States with highest Petty Offences Violations

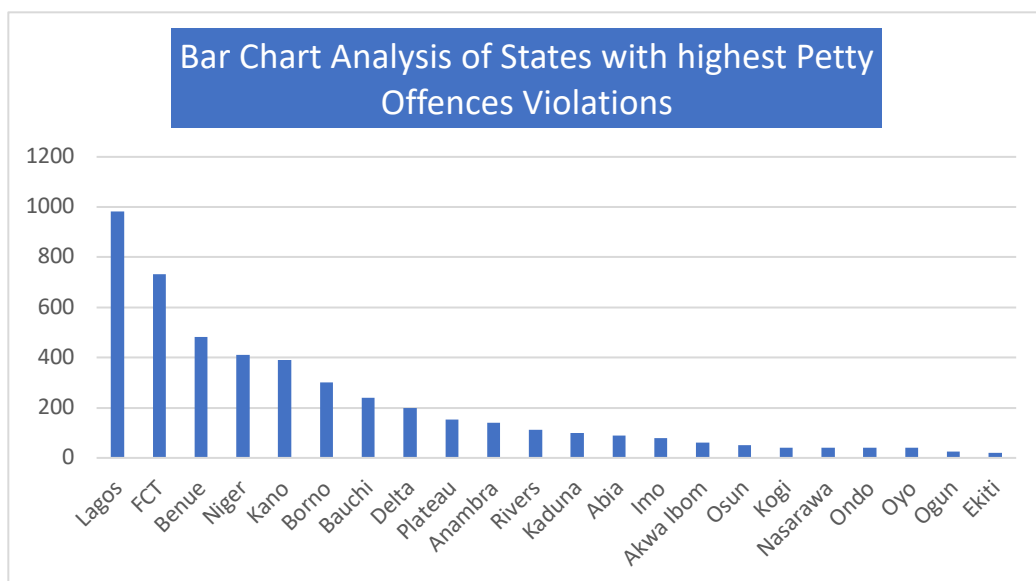


Fig 5: Bar Chart analysis of States with the highest Petty Offences Violations

States	March 2020	Sept 2020	March 2021	Sept 2021	Sept 2022	Sept 2023	Increase	Decrease
Lagos	32% ^s	31%	40%	29%	17%	21%	4%	-
Plateau	31%	26%	14%	9%	6%	3%	-	3%
FCT	5%	13%	16%	20%	15%	16%	1%	-
Benue	11%	10%	12%	10%	6%	10%	4%	-
Anambra	6%	5%	6%	5%	3%	3%	-	-
Bauchi	6%	6%	5%	7%	7%	5%	-	2%
Kano	1%	1%	2%	5%	8%	8%	-	-
Delta	1%	1%	2%	2%	4%	4%	-	-
Niger	2%	1%	1%	1%	7%	9%	2%	-
Akwa Ibom	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%	-	-
Borno	0%	0%	1%	2%	7%	6%	-	1%
Ogun	0%	1%	0%	1%	1%	1%	-	-
Ondo	0%	1%	0%	0%	1%	1%	-	-
Abia	0%	0%	0%	2%	2%	2%	-	-
Rivers	0%	0%	0%	2%	3%	2%	-	1%
Edo	0%	0%	1%	1%	4%	0%	-	4%
Kaduna	0%	0%	1%	1%	2%	2%	-	-

Table 2: Table showing percentage increase & decrease among some States

Throughout the course of various reporting periods, a distinct pattern emerges in the trends of Petty Offences across different states. The above table reflects Petty Offences violations data at the state level.

Lagos in March 2020, had the highest incidence of petty offences, accounting for 32% of reported cases. This slightly decreased to 31% in September 2020. However, there was a notable spike in March 2021, with violations rising to

40%, reflecting a 9% increase. By September 2021, a reversal occurred, with a decrease of 11%, bringing the rate down to 29%. This declining trend continued into September 2022, with a further decrease captured at 17%. In this reporting period, there was an increase of 4%, signaling a potential shift in the pattern.

Plateau in March 2020, was initially captured at 31%. However, by September 2020, there was a 5% decline, bringing the figure down to 26%. This decreasing trend continued into March 2021, with a further drop to 14%. In September 2021, Plateau recorded violations at 9%, reflecting a 5% decrease. The trend continued downward, with a decrease of 3% in September 2022, and an additional 3% decline in September 2023.

The **Federal Capital Territory (FCT)** started at 5% in March 2020, which saw an 8% increase to 13% by September 2020. This upward trend continued into March 2021, with a further 3% increase, bringing the rate to 16%. In September 2021, another increase of 4% was recorded, reaching a total of 20%. However, in September 2022, there was a reversal, with the rate dropping to 15%, indicating a 5% decrease. By September 2023, FCT was recorded at 16%, reflecting a slight increase of 1%.

Benue, in March 2020, was documented at 11%, and a 1% decline to 10% in September 2020. In March 2021, there was an increase to 12%, signifying a 2% rise. By September 2021, violations were captured at 10%, indicating a 2% decrease. Another decrease of 4% was observed in September 2022. However, in the current reporting period, there was an increase of 4%, potentially signaling a shift in the trend.

Anambra started at 6% in March 2020, but this slightly decreased to 5% in September 2020. A 1% increase was recorded in March 2021, bringing the rate back up to 6%. However, in September 2021, there was another decline to 5%. This trend continued, with a further 2% decrease in September 2022. Anambra remained at 3% in September 2023.

Bauchi in both March 2020 and September 2020, was captured at 6%. In March 2021, there was a decline to 5%, but by September 2021, an increase to 7% was recorded. This remained stable at 7% in September 2022. However, a slight drop to 5% was documented in September 2023.

Kano started at 1% in both March 2020 and September 2020. In March 2021 and September 2021, there were successive increases, with rates recorded at 2% and 5% respectively. By September 2022, Kano saw a further increase, reaching 8%. This remained constant at 8% in the current reporting period.

Delta, in March 2020 and September 2020 was documented at 1%. There was a 1% increase in both March 2021 and September 2021, bringing the rate to 2%. A further increase of 2% was recorded in September 2022, reaching a total of 4%. This remained at 4% in September 2023.

Niger, in March 2020, started at 2%, with a decrease of 1% recorded in September 2020, March 2021, and September 2021 respectively. In September 2022, Niger recorded a significant increase to 7%. This trend continued, with an additional increase captured at 9% in September 2023.

Akwa Ibom consistently reported 1% throughout all reporting periods, spanning from March 2020 to September 2023.

Borno's reportage was negligible, falling below 1% in both March 2020 and September 2020. However, there was an increase of 1% and 2% in March 2021 and September 2021. In September 2022, Borno saw a significant surge, reaching 7%. A slight decline to 6% was recorded in September 2023.

Ogun in March 2020 had an insignificant reportage, falling below 1%. In September 2020, there was a 1% increase, which was followed by a 1% decrease in March 2021. In September 2021, there was an increase of 1%. This remained consistent at 1% in both September 2022 and September 2023.

Ondo, in March 2020, reported at less than 1%, with a 1% increase recorded in September 2020. In March 2021 and September 2021, there was another insignificant reportage of less than 1%. However, in September 2022, there was a 1% increase of 1% was documented, which remained at 1% in September 2023.

Abia for the first three reports in March 2020, September 2020, and March 2021, had an insignificant reportage of less than 1%. In September 2021, there was a 2% increase, which remained stable at 2% in both September 2022 and September 2023.

Rivers had an insignificant reportage, falling below 1% in the first three reports i.e., March 2020, September 2020, and March 2021. However, in September 2021, there was a 2% increase, followed by a 1% increase in September 2022. In September 2023, there was a decline to 2%.

Edo for the first two reports in March 2020 and September 2020, had an insignificant reportage of less than 1%. In March 2021 and September 2021, there was a 1% increase. In September 2022, there was a further increase to 4%. However, this figure fell back to an insignificant report below 1% in September 2023.

Kaduna, similar to Edo, had an insignificant reportage of less than 2% in the first two reports from March 2020 and September 2020. In March 2021 and September 2021, an increase of 1% was captured. An increase to 2% was captured in September 2022, which remained stable at 2% in September 2023.

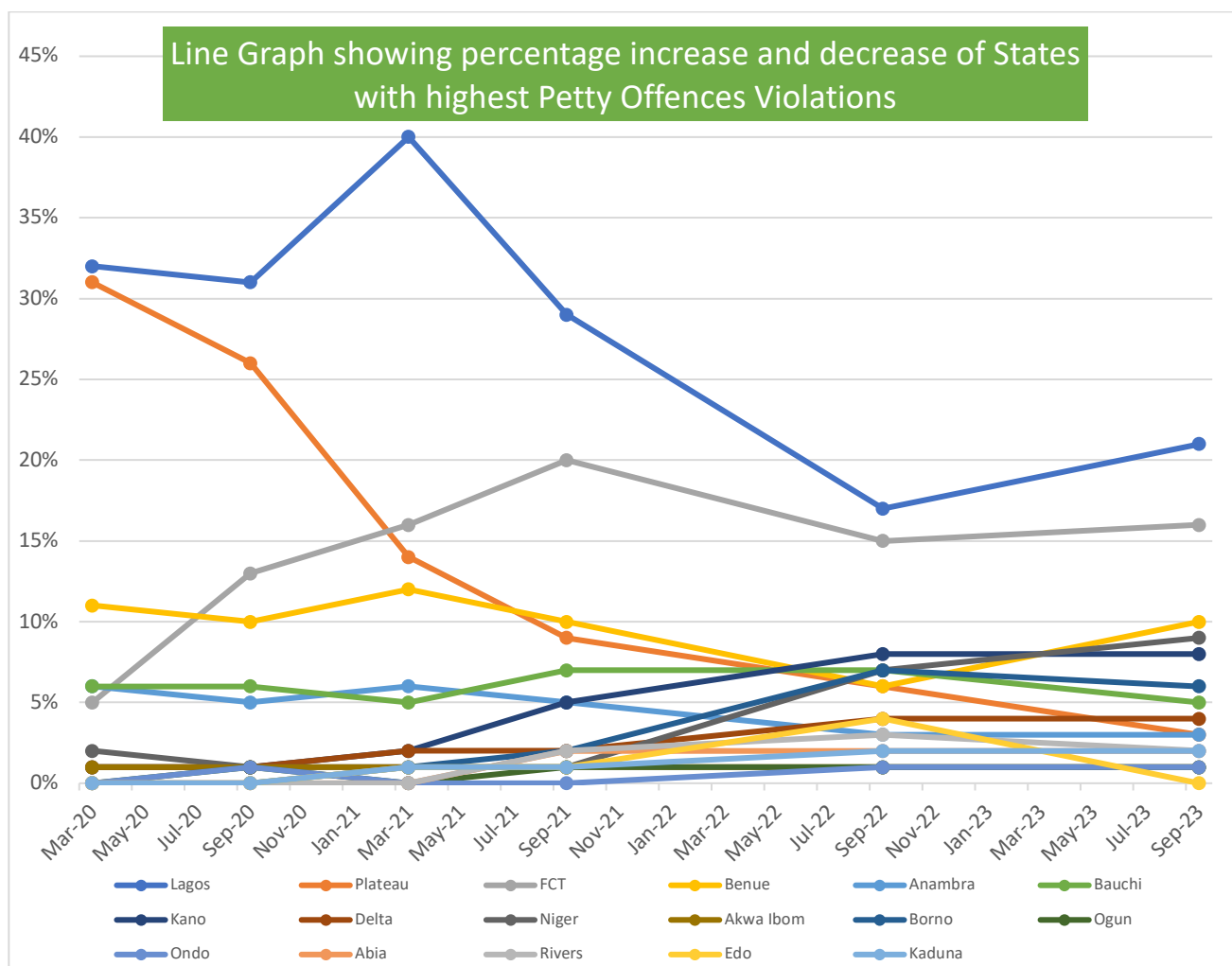


Fig 6: Graph showing percentage increase & decrease among some States

PETTY OFFENCES VIOLATIONS BASED ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREAS (LGAs).

Violations across LGAs were not restricted to LGAs of project states but covers the entire 774 LGAs of Nigeria. In this reporting period, Abuja Municipal in the Federal Capital Territory (FCT) ranked highest with 15%. Lagos Island in Lagos State ranked second with 12%. Bwari LGA in the FCT came third at 8%. Lagos Mainland & Ibjeu-Lekki in Lagos State, and Makurdi in Benue State ranked fourth. At 5% respectively. Suleja LGA in Niger State, Bauchi LGA in Bauchi State, and Warri North in Delta State came fifth at 4%. Kwande, Katsina-Ala, & Gboko LGAs in Benue State, and Ikeja and Eti-Osa LGAs in Lagos State, was at 3%. Konshisha in Benue State, Kosofe in Lagos State, Abaji in the FCT, Awka North & Dunukofia in Anambra State, and Riyom in Plateau State were captured at 2%. Kuje in the FCT, Oshodi-Isolo, Mushin, Ifako-Ijaye, Alimosho & Surulere LGAs in Lagos State, Jos North, Barkin Ladi, Mangu, Pankshin, Kanke & Langtang North LGAs in Plateau State, all show same violation rate at 1%. Aba North, Maiduguri, Bichi,

Gwagwalada, Danbatta, Biu, Ethiope-East, Toro, Bagwai, and Nasarawa LGAs were documented at less than 1%.

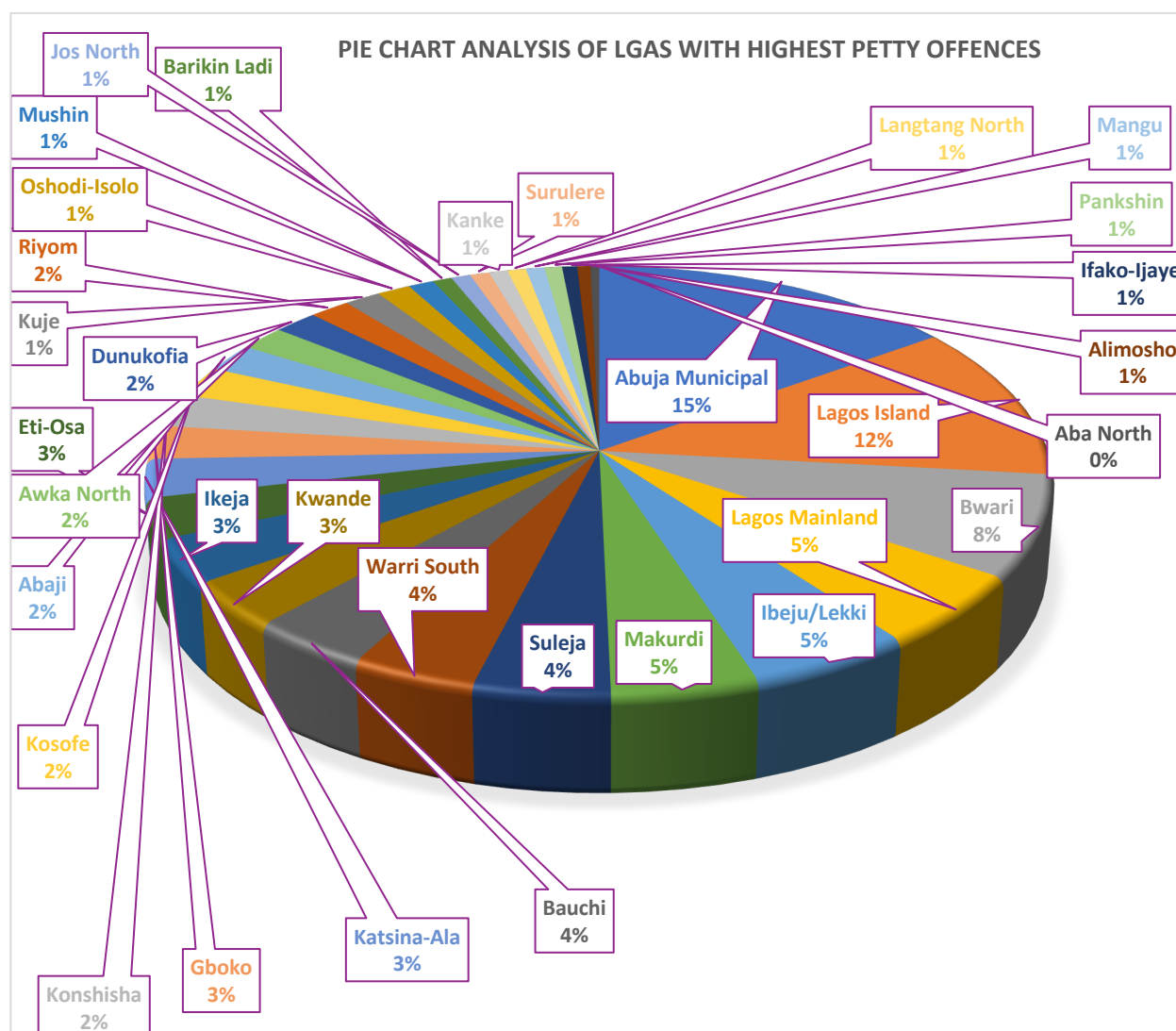


Fig 7: Pie-Chart analysis of Petty Offences violations based on LGAs

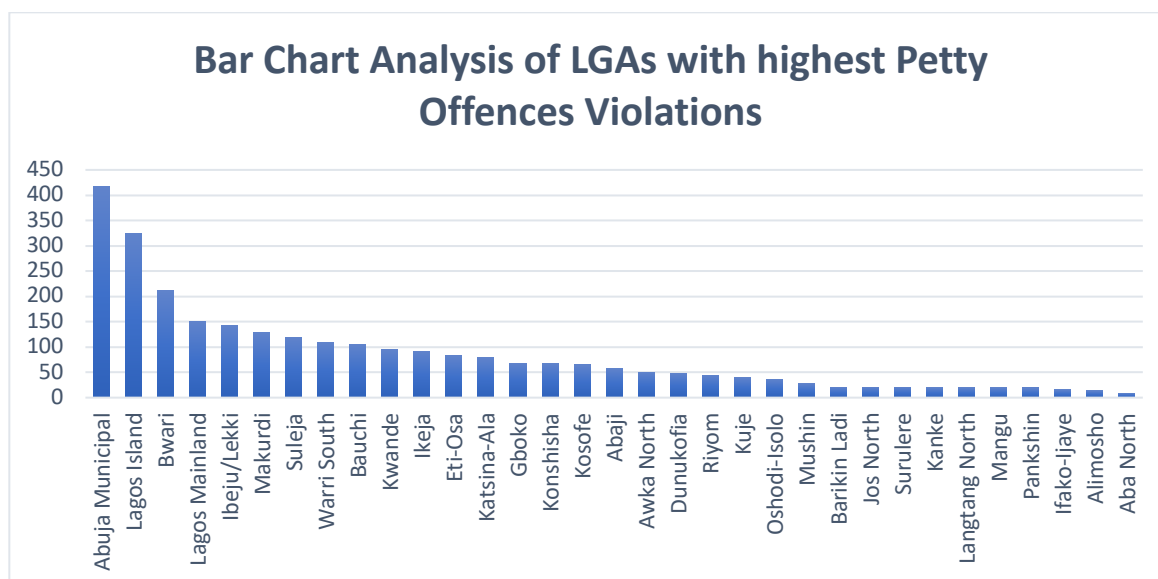


Fig 8: Petty Offences violations based on LGAs

LGAs	Mar 2020	Sept 2020	Mar 2021	Sept 2021	Sept 2022	Sept 2023	Increase	Decrease
Abuja Municipal	2%	11%	15%	13%	8%	15%	7%	-
Kosofe	11%	9%	5%	3%	1%	2%	1%	-
Riyom	7%	6%	3%	2%	1%	2%	1%	-
Makurdi	5%	6%	3%	4%	3%	5%	2%	1%
Bauchi	7%	6%	3%	3%	4%	4%	-	-
Mushin	5%	4%	2%	1%	0%	1%	1%	-
Eti-Osa	4%	0%	2%	1%	2%	3%	1%	-
Ifako-Ijaye	3%	2%	1%	0%	0%		-	-
Gboko	3%	2%	1%	2%	2%	3%	1%	-
Suleja	2%	1%	1%	1%	6%	4%	-	2%
Lagos Island	0%	0%	20%	12%	6%	12%	6%	-
Ibeju/Lekki	0%	0%	7%	6%	3%	5%	2%	-
Konshisha	0%	0%	5%	3%	1%	2%	1%	-
Dunukofia	0%	0%	4%	3%	2%	2%	-	-
Bwari	0%	0%	1%	5%	6%	8%	2%	-
Kuje	0%	0%	0%	2%	4%	1%	-	3%
Awka North	4%	4%	3%	2%	1%	2%	1%	-
Aba North	0%	0%	0%	2%	1%	0%	-	1%
Danbatta	1%	1%	0%	2%	3%	0%	-	3%
Bichi	0%	0%	2%	2%	4%	0%	-	4%
Kwande	3%	3%	2%	2%	0%	3%	3%	-
Oshodi-Isolo	6%	5%	3%	2%	2%	1%	-	1%
Maiduguri	-	-	-	-	6%	0%	-	6%
Gwagwalada	-	-	-	-	4%	0%	-	4%
Ikeja	-	-	-	-	4%	3%	-	1%

Ethiope-East	-	-	-	-	3%	0%	-	3%
Biu	-	-	-	-	3%	0%	-	3%
Toro	-	-	-	-	2%	0%	-	2%
Bagwai	-	-	-	-	2%	0%	-	2%
Nasarawa	-	-	-	-	2%	0%	-	2%
Warri-North	-	-	-	-	2%	0%	-	2%
Lagos Mainland	-	-	-	-	-	5%	5%	-
Warri South	-	-	-	-	-	4%	4%	-

Table 3: Table showing percentage increase & decrease among some LGAs

The table above shows trends in Local Government Areas (LGAs) with the highest recorded instances of petty offences, both in previous periods and in the current reporting period. **Abuja Municipal**, in March 2020 accounted for 2% of the recorded violations. This percentage surged to 11% in September 2020, signifying a notable increase of 9%. By March 2021, this further increased to 15%, reflecting a 4% increase. In September 2021 however, a decrease was observed, bringing the percentage down to 13%. This trend of decline continued, with the percentage dropping to 8% in September 2022. An increase of 15% was captured in September 2023.

Kosofe commenced with 11% in March 2020, but by September 2020, it had experienced a decline, settling at 9%. This downtrend persisted, with figures dropping to 5% in March 2021 and further decreasing to 3% in September 2021. By September 2022, it was captured at 1% and at 2% in September 2023.

Riyom started at 7% in March 2020, followed by a marginal dip to 6% in September 2020. Over the subsequent periods, there was a consistent decrease – 5% in March 2021, 2% in September 2021, and 1% in September 2022. However, in the current reporting period, the percentage edged slightly higher to 2%.

Makurdi began at 5% in March 2020, with a slight uptick to 6% in September 2020. In March 2021 however, a decline ensued, reducing figures to 3%. A slight increase of 1% was noted in September 2021. September 2022 reported a marginal dip, recording 2%, and a 5% increase recorded in September 2023.

Bauchi exhibited a consistent trend, starting at 7% in March 2020, dropping to 6% in September 2020, and further dropping to & remaining at 3% in March 2021 and September 2021 respectively. An increase to 4% was recorded in September 2022 and remained steady at 4% in this reporting period.

Mushin began at 5% in March 2020, declining to 4% in September 2020, and further reduced to 2% in March 2021. In September 2021, it was recorded at 1% and subsequently had an insignificant record of less than 1% in September 2022. It inched up slightly to 1% in this reporting period.

Eti-Osa witnessed fluctuations. Initially, in March 2020, it accounted for 4%. By September 2020, the figure had dipped to less than 1%. There was a surge to 2% in March 2021, but it reverted to less than 1% in September 2021. In September 2022, a slight increase to 2% was recorded. September 2023 reflected a further rise to 3%.

Ifako-Ijaye showed a decline from 3% in March 2020 to 2% in September 2020, and then further decreased to 1% in March 2021. In September 2021, it dropped to an insignificant reportage of less than 1%. This trend continued into September 2022, with an increase of 1% captured in this reporting period.

Gboko displayed a similar trend, with figures decreasing from 3% in March 2020 to 2% in September 2020, and then to 1% in March 2021. An increase of 2% was recorded in September 2021. This percentage remained consistent at 2% into September 2022 and was captured at 3% in September 2023.

Suleja maintained a relatively steady rate, starting at 2% in March 2020, and declining to 1% in September 2020, March 2021, and September 2021. In September 2022, a notable increase of 5% was recorded, and September 2023 reported a figure of 4%.

Lagos Island started with an insignificant reportage of less than 1% in March 2020 and September 2020. However, in March 2021, a significant increase of 20% was recorded, which subsequently decreased to 12% in September 2021. This decline continued into September 2022, with the percentage dropping to 6%. In the current reporting period, it returned to 12%.

Ibeju/Lekki reported less than 1% in March 2020 and September 2020. There was an increase to 7% in March 2021, which then decreased to 6% in September 2021. A further decline of 3% was captured in September 2022, followed by a slight increase to 5% in September 2023.

Konshisha had minimal reportage, with less than 1% recorded both in March 2020 and September 2020. In March 2021, this surged to 5%, but decreased to 3% in September 2021. A further decrease to 1% was captured in September 2022, with a recorded rate of 2% in September 2023.

Dunukofia had an insignificant reportage of less than 1% in March 2020 and September 2020. An increase to 4% was recorded in March 2021, followed by a decrease to 3% in September 2021. This decline continued into September 2022, where the figure dropped to 2%, maintaining this rate of 2% in September 2023. **Bwari** reported less than 1% in both March 2020 and September 2020, before experiencing an increase of 1% in March 2021. In September 2021, a notable increase to 5% was recorded. September 2022 saw a further increase to 6%, which further increased to 8% in September 2023.

Kuje had an insignificant reportage of less than 1% in March 2020, September 2020, and March 2021 respectively. In September 2021, there was

an increase of 2%, with a further increase to 4% in September 2022, before a decline to 1% in September 2023.

Awka-North reported 4% in both March 2020 and September 2020. This dropped to 3% recorded in March 2021, followed by further decreases to 2% in September 2021, and 1% in September 2022. A slight increase to 2% was recorded in September 2023.

Aba North had an insignificant reportage of less than 1% in March 2020, September 2020 and March 2021. An increase of 2% was recorded in September 2021, followed by a decrease of 1% in September 2022. An insignificant reportage of less than 1% was captured in this reporting period.

Danbatta recorded 1% in both March 2020 and September 2020. In March 2021, an insignificant report of less than 1% was captured, while an increase to 2% was noted in September 2021. In September 2022, it further increased to 3%. In the current reporting period, it was less than 1%.

Bichi began with less than 1% in March 2020 and September 2020. In both March 2021 and September 2021, it was recorded at 2%. A further increase to 4% was captured in September 2022. An insignificant reportage of less than 1% was captured in this reporting period.

Kwande recorded 3% in both March 2020 and September 2020. In both March 2021 and September 2021, it was documented at 2%. An insignificant record of less than 1% was captured in September 2022. It surged to 3% in this reporting period.

Oshodi-Isolo reported 6% in March 2020. In September 2020, a decline to 5% was captured. In March 2021 a further decrease to 3% was documented. In September 2021, it decreased to 2%, and remained at 2% in September 2022, before dropping to 1% in September 2023.

Ikeja had an insignificant reportage of less than 1% or not more than 1% in March 2020, September 2020, March 2021, and September 2021. In September 2022, there was an increase to 4%, which declined to 3% in September 2023.

Maiduguri, Gwagwalada, Ethiope-East, Biu, Toro, Bagwai, Nasarawa, Lagos Mainland, Warri South, and Warri-North all experienced minimal reportage of less than 1% or not more than 1% recorded in March 2020, September 2020, March 2021, and September 2021. In September 2022, Maiduguri experienced an increase to 6%, while Gwagwalada reported 4%, Ethiope-East, Biu, Toro, and Bagwai were all at 3%, and Nasarawa and Warri-North were at 2%. In the current reporting period, Maiduguri, Gwagwalada, Ethiope-East, Biu, Toro, Bagwai, and Warri North experienced less significant reportage of less than 1%, while Warri South was captured at 4%.

PETTY OFFENCES VIOLATIONS BASED ON AGE

The pie chart below provides a breakdown by age, illustrating that the highest incidents of petty offences violations occur in the 25-40 years group, accounting for 44%. The 20-24 years age bracket follows closely behind at 34%, while the 10-19-year group ranks third at 12%. The age bracket of 40 years+ comes in fourth at 9%, with 6-9-years group at 1% and the 0-5 years group at 0%.

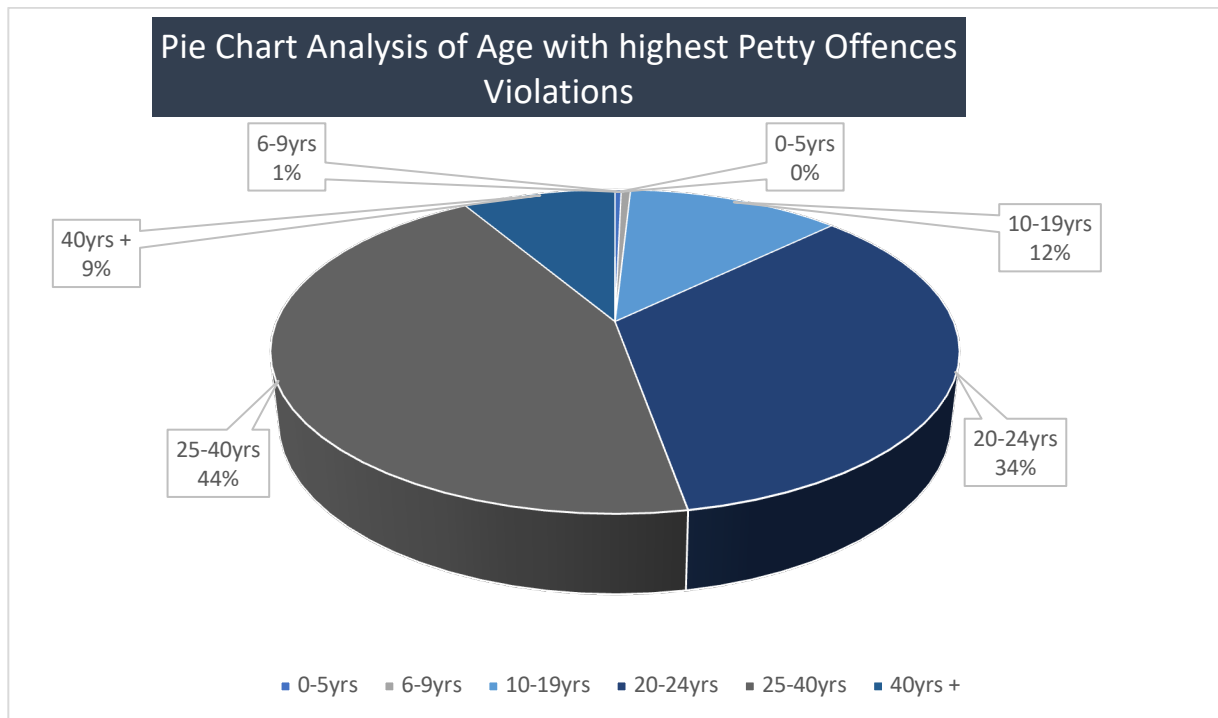


Fig 9: Age with the highest Petty Offences violation

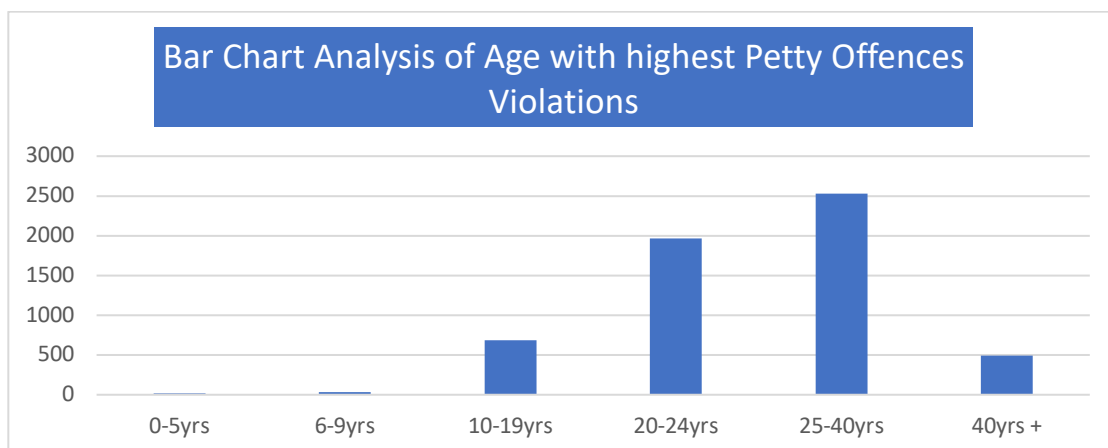


Fig 10: Bar Chart Analysis of Ages with the highest Petty Offences violation

Age	Mar 2020	Sept 2020	Mar 2021	Sept 2021	Sept 2022	Sept 2023	Increase	Decrease
0 – 5 years	2%	1%	0%	1%	1%	0%	-	1%
6 – 9 years	2%	2%	0%	2%	2%	1%	-	1%
10 – 19 years	29%	24%	14%	14%	12%	12%	-	-
20 – 24 years	37%	32%	30%	32%	41%	34%	-	7%
25 – 40 years	30%	41%	56%	45%	36%	44%	8%	-
40 years +	0%	0%	0%	6%	8%	9%	1%	-

Table 4: Table showing percentage increase & decrease across age brackets

The table above provides insights into the trends regarding age groups with the highest violations of petty offences, as captured in both past and this current reporting period.

In March 2020, the age group **0-5 years** accounted for 2% of the violations. However, there was a decrease to 1% in September 2020, indicating a decline of 1%. By March 2021, it dropped even further to an insignificant fraction of less than 1%. In September 2021, there was an increase of 1%, which remained steady in September 2022. The current reporting period saw another decline, returning to an insignificant number of less than 1%.

For the **6-9 years** age group, a 2% violation rate was captured in both March 2020 and September 2020. By March 2021, this dropped to an insignificant number of less than 1%. An increase to 2% was captured in September 2021. This remained consistent in September 2022, and a decrease to 1% in September 2023.

The **10-19 years** age bracket was captured at 29% in March 2020. This dropped to 24% in September 2020, followed by further decreases to 14% in March 2021 and September 2021. A decrease to 12% was recorded in September 2022 and remained the same in the current reporting period.

In March 2020, the **20-24 years** age group was documented at 37%. This decreased to 32% in September 2020, and further to 30% in March 2021. September 2021 saw a 2% increase, bringing the percentage back up to 32%. A substantial increase of 9% was captured in September 2022, peaking at 41%. However, in September 2023, there was a decline of 7%, returning to 34%.

The **25-40 years** age group started at 30% in March 2020, then saw a significant increase to 41% in September 2020, and a further surge to 56% in March 2021. However, this percentage dropped to 45% in September 2021. A substantial decrease was recorded in September 2022, with a significant increase to 44% in the current reporting period.

The age group of **40 years+** was captured at an insignificant number of less than 1% in March 2020, September 2020, and March 2021. An increase to 6% was however recorded in September 2021. A further increase of 2% was recorded in September 2022, amounting to 8%. The current reporting period documented an increase to 9%.

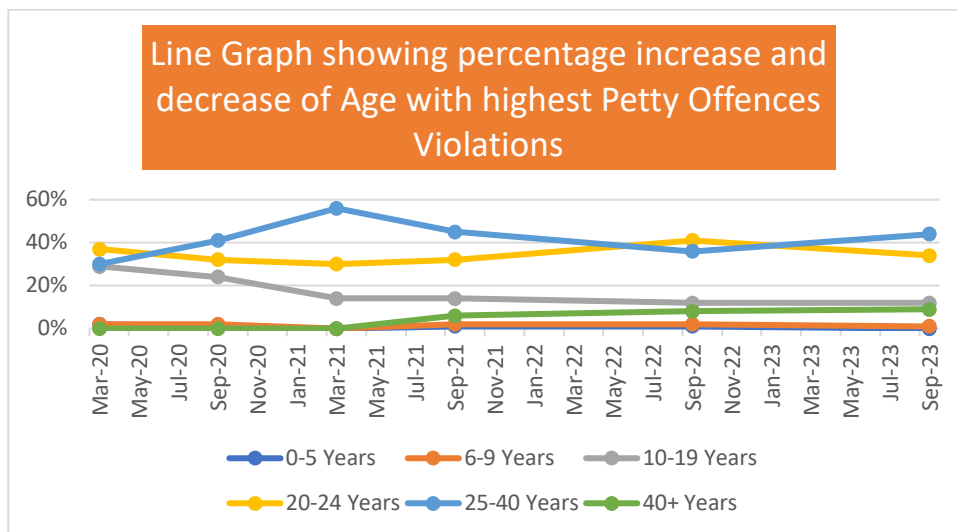


Fig 11: Graph showing percentage increase & decrease among Age Groups

CONSEQUENCES OF PETTY OFFENCES VIOLATIONS

The chart below provides an overview of the consequences/effects faced by persons who have suffered petty offences violations. The frequency of these consequences of petty offences violations is measured using the petty offences indicators listed below. The indicators for petty offences in this reporting period encompass - Emotional Abuse ranked highest at 10%, closely followed by Harassment and Verbal Abuse at 9%. Unlawful Arrest and Assault rank third at 8%, while Blackmail follows at 6%. Detention, Exploitation of personal belongings, and Battery are all reported at 5% respectively. Corporal Punishment, Torture, Rape/Sexual Assault, Molestation, and Stigmatization were all at 4% each. Extortion, Denial of Legal Representation, and Starvation/Food Deprivation each stand at 3% respectively. Invasion of Privacy and Seizure of Goods are both recorded at 2%. Incarceration, False Imprisonment, and Confiscation of Property were recorded at 1% respectively. Exorbitant Fines, Damage of Vehicle, Forced Eviction, Seizure of Vehicle Plate

Number, and Sealing of Premises all had an insignificant amount of less than 1%.

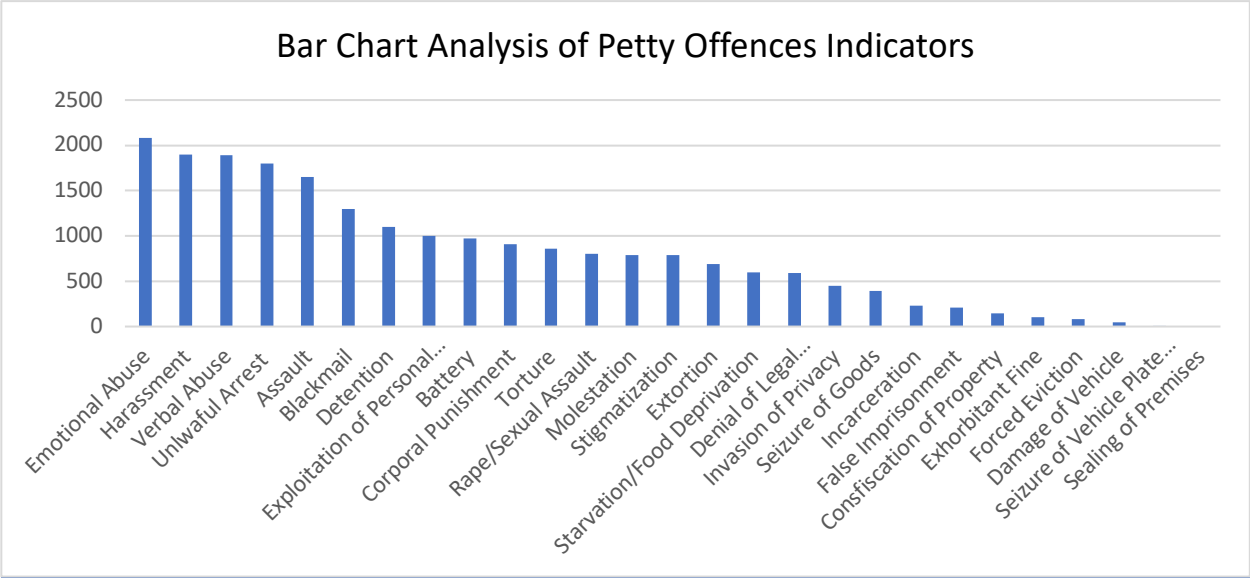


Fig 12: Bar Chart analysis of Petty Offences Indicators

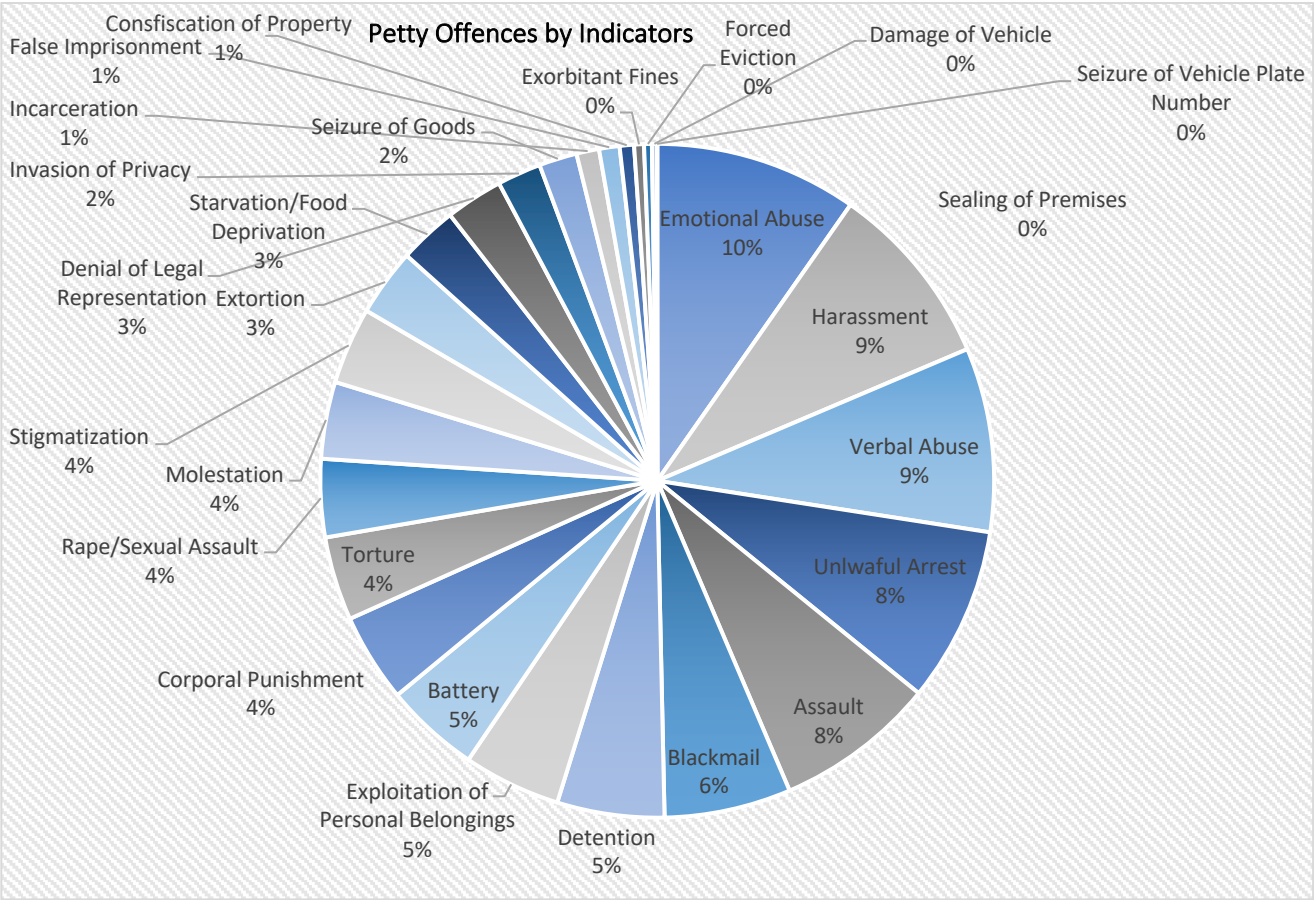


Fig 13: Petty Offences by Indicators

Indicators	Mar 2020	Sept 2020	Mar 2021	Sept 2021	Sept 2022	Sept 2023	Increase	Decrease
Verbal Abuse	16%	15%	11%	10%	8%	9%	1%	-
Emotional Abuse	16%	15%	12%	11%	8%	10%	2%	-
Unlawful Arrest	15%	13%	13%	12%	8%	8%	-	-
Detention	13%	11%	9%	9%	7%	5%	-	2%
Assault	11%	10%	9%	9%	7%	8%	1%	-
Harassment	7%	8%	10%	10%	9%	9%	-	-
Corporal Punishment	5%	6%	5%	5%	4%	4%	-	-
Torture	2%	4%	4%	5%	4%	4%	-	-
Battery	3%	4%	5%	5%	4%	5%	1%	-
Incarceration	1%	2%	2%	2%	2%	1%	-	1%
Stigmatization	2%	1%	1%	2%	3%	4%	1%	-
Exorbitant Fine	1%	0%	1%	2%	4%	0%	-	4%
Rape/Sexual Assault	1%	1%	1%	2%	3%	4%	1%	-
Invasion of Privacy	0%	0%	2%	2%	2%	2%	-	-
Molestation	1%	1%	2%	2%	4%	4%	-	-
Blackmail	1%	2%	3%	3%	4%	6%	2%	-
Extortion	2%	2%	3%	4%	5%	3%	-	2%
Seizure of goods	1%	1%	2%	2%	2%	2%	-	-
Exploitation of personal belongings	0%	0%	1%	1%	3%	5%	2%	-
Starvation/Food deprivation	0%	0%	1%	1%	2%	3%	1%	-
Denial of legal representation	0%	0%	1%	1%	2%	3%	1%	-
Confiscation of Property	-	-	-	-	2%	1%	-	1%
False Imprisonment	-	-	-	-	1%	1%	-	-
Forced Eviction	-	-	-	-	1%	0%	-	-
Damage of Vehicle	-	-	-	-	1%	0%	-	1%

Table 5: Table showing percentage increase & decrease in Petty Offences Indicators

The table above shows trends pertaining to various Petty Offences indicators as documented in both previous reports and the current reporting period. **Verbal Abuse** in March 2020 constituted 16% of reported cases. This slightly decreased to 15% in September 2020, reflecting a 1% decline. In both March 2021 and September 2021, there were further reductions to 11% and 10% respectively. Another decrease of 2% was also recorded in September 2022, resulting in a reportage of 8%. It was captured at 9% in this reporting period.

Emotional Abuse in the report released in March 2020 was captured at 16%. A decrease to 15% was recorded in September 2020 and a further decrease to 12% and 11% in March 2021 and September 2021. A further decrease of 3%

was captured in September 2022. An increase to 10% was documented in this reporting period.

Unlawful Arrest was captured at 15% in March 2020, and a decrease to 13% was recorded in September 2020 and March 2021. A further decrease to 12% and 8% was recorded in September 2021 and September 2022 respectively. This remained at 8% in September 2023.

In March 2020, **Detention** accounted for 13% of petty offences violations, which decreased to 11% in September 2020. The trend continued downwards, with a record of 9% in March 2021, indicating a 2% decrease. This percentage remained at 9% in September 2021. In September 2022, another 2% decrease was noted, bringing the percentage down to 7%. In this current reporting period, Detention is 5%.

Assault was captured at 11% in March 2020 and declined to 10% in September 2020. A decrease of 9% was recorded in March 2021 and September 2021. A further decrease to 7% was recorded in September 2022, and an increase to 8% in September 2023.

Harassment was recorded at 7% in March 2020 and 8% in September 2020, with a further increase to 10% in March 2021 and September 2021. In September 2022 and September 2023, it was reported at 9%.

Corporal Punishment in March 2020 was recorded at 5%, in September 2020 at 6%, and 5% in both March 2021 & September 2021 respectively. A decline was observed in September 2022, with a recorded percentage of 4%. This remained constant at 4% in September 2023.

Torture was documented at 2% in March 2020. There was an increase to 4% in both September 2020 and March 2021. In September 2021 and September 2022, it was recorded at 5% and 4% respectively. It remained constant at 4% in September 2023.

Battery in March 2020 was captured at 3% and increased to 4% in September 2020. A further increase to 5% was recorded in March 2021 and September 2021 respectively. A decrease of 1% was reported in September 2022. It was captured at 5% in this reporting period.

Incarceration was recorded at 1% in March 2020 and an increase to 2% was recorded in September 2020, March 2021, September 2021, and September 2022 respectively. A decline of 1% was recorded in September 2023.

Stigmatization was captured at 2% in March 2020 and a decrease to 1% was recorded in September 2020 and March 2021 respectively. An increase of 2% was recorded in September 2021. A further increase of 1% was captured in September 2022. It was documented at 4% in this reporting period. Key and vulnerable persons who are largely underserved have constantly reported stigmatization as an effect of violations associated with petty offences.

Exorbitant Fine was captured at 1% in March 2020 and declined to less than 1% in September 2020. An increase of 1% was recorded in March 2021 and a further increase of 2% in September 2021. In September 2022, it was recorded at 4%, which evidences a further increase of 2%. An insignificant reportage of less than 1% was documented in this reporting period. Though with an insignificant reportage, issues surrounding exorbitant fines for petty traders and marginalized groups need to be curtailed.

Rape/Sexual Assault had a constant reportage of 1% in March 2020, September 2020, and March 2021 respectively. An increase to 2% was however recorded in September 2021. A further increase of 1% was captured in September 2022. It was captured at 4% in September 2023. Female Sex Workers who have been arrested have alleged rape by security officials.

Invasion of Privacy was captured at 0% in March 2020 and September 2020 respectively. An increase of 2% was recorded in March 2021, September 2021, and September 2022 respectively. It remained at 2% in this reporting period.

Molestation was captured at 1% in March 2020 and September 2020 respectively, with an increase to 2% in March 2021 and September 2021. A further increase of 2% was documented in September 2022. In September 2023, it was recorded at 4%.

Blackmail was recorded at 1% in March 2020, 2% in September 2020, and 3% in March 2021 & September 2021 respectively. In September it was recorded at 4%, i.e., an increase of 1%. It was documented at 6% in this reporting period. Sex Workers and Sexual Minorities have repeatedly reported blackmail by state actors and security officials. This in turn has led to extortion and emotional abuse.

Extortion was recorded at 2% in March 2020 and in September 2020 respectively. An increase of 3% was captured in March 2021 and a further increase to 4% and 5% in September 2021 and September 2022 respectively. It was reported at 3% in this reporting period.

Seizure of goods was recorded at 1% in March 2020 and September 2020 respectively. In March 2021, September 2021, September 2022, and September 2023, it was recorded at 2%.

Exploitation of personal belongings had an insignificant reportage of less than 1% in March 2020 and September 2020 respectively. An increase of 1% each was recorded in March 2021 and September 2021. A further increase of 2% was recorded in September 2022. It was captured at 5% in this reporting period.

Starvation/food deprivation had an insignificant reportage of less than 1% in March 2020 and September 2020 respectively. An increase of 1% each was recorded in March 2021 and September 2021. A further increase of 1% was recorded in September 2022. In September 2023, it was at 3%.

Denial of legal representation had an insignificant reportage of less than 1% in March 2020 and September 2020 respectively. An increase of 1% each was recorded in March 2021 and September 2021. An increase of 1% i.e. 3% was recorded in September 2022. It remained at 3% in September 2023.

Confiscation of Property, False Imprisonment, Forced Eviction, and Damage of Vehicle had an insignificant reportage of less than 1% or not more than 1% in previous reports. In September 2022, Confiscation of Property had an increase of 2%; with False Imprisonment, Forced Eviction, and Damage of Vehicle at 2% respectively. In this reporting period, Confiscation of Property was at and False Imprisonment were reported at 1%, while Forced Eviction and Damage of Vehicle were at less than 1%.

CONCLUSION

The updated petty offences violations report provides a comprehensive overview of documented incidents from October 2022 to September 2023. It is important to note that the data presented in this report is exclusively based on that obtained from the online portal (Lawyers Alert Documentation Tool “LadockT”). Lawyers Alert firmly believes that these scientific findings will serve as a huge resource for evidence-based advocacy efforts which will hasten legislators’ resolve at both the federal and state level aimed at the decriminalization and declassification of petty offences in Nigeria. This is in line with the African Court Advisory Judgement which further validates the need for the decriminalization of petty offences in Nigeria.