

Consequences of the Conflict between the Nigerian Police and Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps in Awka Metropolis

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ABSTRACT: The abysmal failure of successive administrations in Nigeria to address the conflict between the Nigerian Police and Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps has lingered security challenges and the inability of the security apparatus of the government to guarantee safety and security in the country. This is because the conflict between these security agencies has created gap which criminal culprits are taking advantage of in perfecting their acts against citizens and Nigerian government. Previous studies on the Nigerian Police and Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps have not focus their attention on assessing the consequences of the conflict between the Nigerian Police and Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps . This study therefore assesses the consequences of the conflict between the Nigerian Police and Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps in Awka Metropolis. The sample was drawn from 604 adult participants that reside in Awka Metropolis and systematic random sampling method was adopted. Data were generated through questionnaire administration on demographic characteristics of participants. The culture and agency theory of Archer (1996) formed the theoretical framework. The study therefore recommends that officers of the NSCDC and the police who aids or abets conflict should be decisively punished to serve as deterrent to others. Also, the government should ensure that salaries of security agencies are promptly paid when due to prevent officers of these security agencies from indulging in illegal activities.

Keywords: Conflicting, Consequences, NSCDC, Systematic failure, The Nigeria Police

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I. INTRODUCTION

Security which is provided through institutional agencies is not just government's fundamental obligations to Nigerian citizens but it is indispensable for the survival of the country. When the Nigerian citizens do not feel reasonably safe, the fragility of the country is being tested. Indeed, the government finds it difficult to perform other critical functions which make it detrimental to the very survival of Nigeria precisely because they threaten the consensual basis of the association.

However, the provision of security is a herculean task, as it requires the synergy of members of the society with the security operatives for these social virtues to be enjoyed. More critical to the provision and enjoyment of security in society is the cooperation of security agencies who are saddled with security provision in different domains, since security is ubiquitous (Omoigui, 2006; Odoma, 2011). Thus, it is imperative to note that if security agencies are involved in violent clashes due to their conflicting roles in the full glare of the civil populace as commonly noticed in many parts of the country in recent years, it raises security concerns for many. In other words, failure of inter-agency synergy can cause the public to lose confidence in the security apparatus of the country. In fact, according to Ajayi and Aderinto (2008), it has been stressed by many that most inhabitants in some parts of the country lack confidence in the Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps (NSCDC) and the police as well as other law enforcement agencies and thus prefer private security outfits or vigilante groups to public security operatives.

Furthermore, constant wrangling among security operatives has been perceived to be dampening the regards of the citizens for security agents. In fact, most of these security operatives are always said to be involved in selfish clashes that could destroy their lives and property with weapons bought with tax payer's money, or maim innocent citizens, thereby denting their reputations and dwindling their civil cooperation (Omoigui, 2006). This implies that, if the police cannot protect the citizens, they are left with the option of protecting themselves. The danger inherent in this will be the possibility of several ethnic militias evolving.

These militias could take laws into their hands in all the parts they exist and may further worsen the security situation in their localities and the country as a whole. Moreover, the freedom of creating ethnic militias in sub-cultural groups could enhance the evolving of more criminals (Reid, 1997). This is because repeated and uncontrolled violent conflicts by the public security agencies put the security operatives in danger of the loss of their own lives and equipment. This situation is the same with the conflicts between the NSCDC and the police. Hence, from the forgoing issues, and with the concern of building a security synergy between the Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps and the police, this present research is necessitated to investigate the consequences of the conflicting roles of the Nigerian Police and Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps in Awka Metropolis.

II. STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

There are prolonged cases of, robbery, kidnapping and other social vices due to lack of synergy between the Nigerian police Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps in Awka Metropolis. In other words, because of lack of synergy, the security operatives have not been able to form a formidable resistance to the eradication of kidnapping and other social vices within the metropolis (Nwaolise, 2005). Relatedly, frequent frictions between security agencies have made the inhabitants of the metropolis to hardly enjoy the confidence of the security mercenary in the area. Sadly, many have expressed that the security operatives, rather than exploring avenues of collaboration in security provision, capacity building and sharing intelligence reports, have over the years been engulfed in unhealthy rivalries. Such rivalries according to many have been frequently noticed between the Nigerian police force and the Nigerian Security and Civil Defence Corps (NSCDC) over security duties especially in Awka metropolis (Elaigwu, 2015).

III. THE CONCEPT OF SECURITY

The term security is about the condition of safety, or feeling safe from danger. It has to do with the defense, protection and preservation of core values and the absence of threats to acquired values. According to Elaigwu (2015) security has to do with the process connected with alleviation, assuaging any kind of threat to man and his cherished assets. The authors stated that it is such an important concept that every human or person, organization, state and country desires. In the same vein, the authors further asserted that “security is about freedom from threat and ability of state and society to maintain independent identity and their functional integrity against forces of change, which they see as hostile, while the bottom line is survival. Nonetheless, security was defined as the defence, policing and intelligence functions of states, and the management of threats to and breaches of the peace through multilateral and bilateral processes (Alemika & Chukwuma, 2003).

For Walter (2012), security refers to an absence of objective danger, i.e. of security threats, challenges, vulnerabilities and risk, and of subjective fear or concerns and to the perception thereof. From a realistic perspective, security is achieved when the dangers posed by manifold threats, challenges, vulnerabilities and risks are avoided, prevented, managed, coped with, mitigated and adapted to by individuals, societal groups, the state or regional or global international organizations. From a social constructivist approach, security is achieved once the perception and fear of security threats, challenges, vulnerabilities and risks are minimized. While objective factors in the security perception are necessary, they are not sufficient. Subjective factors influence security perceptions.

Thus, Elaigwu (2015) opined that the sources of national insecurity can be seen from two angles. The first angle is the internal sources which include: political domination or inequality, socio-economic injustices, human right abuses, resource mismanagement, poor leadership, military coups, extreme deprivation and marginalization, civil wars, revolution, terrorism, secession, ethnic and religious riots, food riots and others, all hinging on bad government, manipulation of ethnic and religious differences, et cetera. The second angle is the external sources which include: military invasion, cross-national raids, subversive infiltration, sabotage, smuggling, espionage, terrorism, and cross-border criminality among a host of others. Elaigwu suggested that to avert insecurity issues, security agencies: coercive and non-coercive should act collaboratively. According to Elaigwu (2015) in Nigeria, coercive security instruments include the Armed Forces – the Army, the Navy and the Air force, the Police and the State Security Services. While the non-coercive security agencies include the Custom Services, Immigration, Port Authority Officers and the Nigerian security and civil defence corps (NSCDC).

IV. THE NIGERIAN SECURITY AND CIVIL DEFENCE CORPS AND ITS ROLES

The amended Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps Act of 2007 empowered the corps to ‘maintain twenty four hours surveillance over infrastructures, sites and projects for the federal, the state and local government (Olabanji, 2014). This is stipulated in section three (3) of the Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps amended Act 2007. This Act was amended in the year 2007, to further strengthen and empower the corps for better service delivery. According to Olabanji, the NSCDC is to recommend; the registration of private

guard companies, the inspection of the premises of private guard companies, training facilities and approved standards for operation to the minister of interior.

Further more, according to Olabanji, the NSCDC is saddled with the responsibility to enter and search any premise and seize any material suspected to have been used in vandalization or suspected process of vandalization. And also enter and search premises of any suspected illegal dealers in petroleum products or material used by power holding company of Nigeria, postal services, Nigerian Telecommunications or for any other public utility or infrastructure. Olabanji further asserted that the NSCDC has the power to arrest with or without a warrant, as well as detain, investigate and institute legal proceedings by or in the name of the Attorney-general of the federal republic of Nigeria against any person who is reasonably suspected to have committed an offence under the 2007 amended Act of Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps. According to the authors, this Act stipulates that anybody who is involved in any criminal activity; chemical poisoning or oil spillage, nuclear waste poisoning, industrial espionage or fraud, activity aimed at frustrating any government program or policy, riot, civil disorder, revolt, strike, or religious unrest, cutting of power transmission lines, or oil pipelines, NIPOST cables, equipment, water board pipes or equipment vandalization. Monitor, investigate and take necessary steps to forestall any planned act of terrorism particularly; cult and ethnic militia activities, criminal activities aimed at depriving citizens of their properties or lives syndicate activity aimed at defrauding the federal, state or local government: monitor the activities of religious bodies and trade associations (Abolurin 2008).

Additional functions as stated by Abolurin, (2008) were that, the NSCDC is to monitor, investigate and take every necessary steps to forestall any act of terrorism and report same to appropriate federal security agencies; provide necessary warning to the civilian population in danger areas; provide and manage shelters for the civilians during period of emergency; carryout rescue operations and control volatile situations; assist in the provision of emergency medical services, including first aid, during any period of emergency; detect and demarcate any danger area; assist the federal fire service in fire-fighting operations; assist in the distribution of emergency supplies, provide assistance to resolve and maintain order in distressed areas in any period of emergency; assist in repairing any indispensable public utilities during any period of emergency; provide intelligence information to the military on any matter relating to crime control generally, riot, disorder, revolt, strike or religious unrest; subversive activity by the members of the public aimed at frustrating the government program or policy; industrial action and strike aimed at paralyzing government activities, any other matter as may be directed by the minister and have power to arrange and mediate in the settlement of disputes among willing members of the public among others.

Similarly, Bodunde, Oluwafemi, Ola, and Afolabi (2013) noted that the Act saddled the corps with the responsibility to protect life and property; regulate and license private guard company operations; provide security cover for government infrastructures at all levels, among other roles and responsibilities. According to the authors, the corps also have power to arrest with or without a warrant, detain, investigate and institute legal proceedings by or in the name of the Attorney – General of the Federation in accordance with the provisions of the constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria against any person who is reasonably suspected to have committed an offence under this Act or is involved in any: criminal activity; chemical poisoning or oil spillage, nuclear waste poisoning; industrial espionage or fraud and activity aimed at frustrating any government program or policy. And in addition, to monitor, investigate and take every necessary step to forestall any act of terrorism, rescue and providing emergency medical services and shelter during period of emergency. These among others are the mandate of the corps as assigned by law (Bodunde, Oluwafemi, Ola, & Afolabi 2013).

Furthermore, the NSCDC also perform other functions such as examination monitoring at different levels like JAMB, NECO, WAEC, professional bodies and government promotional examinations as well as election monitoring (before, during and after). According to Elaigwu (2015), the role of the corps in effective discharge of her mandate has justified its existence as against the initial insinuation that it was created to usurp or duplicate the functions of other existing agencies. The corps is one of the stakeholders that can be said to respond timely and quickly to emergency situations whenever they occur and this can be attested to by various occurrences ranging from flood disasters, collapsed buildings, fire incidence, auto crashes, air crashes among others that have been witnessed all over the federation in recent times (Program, 2014).

Furthermore, Samuel and Aderinto (2013) asserted that the incorporation of the corps into the joint task force (JTF), special task force for states and national assignment especially to counter terrorism and insurgencies has promoted security greatly. However, instead of collaborating effort and sharing of intelligence strategy alongside with institutional discipline to achieve the purpose for which the agency was established, inter-agencies rivalry and incessant clashes between the Nigeria security and civil defence corps (NSCDC) and Nigeria police have been commonly reported (Aver, 2013)

V. THE FUNCTIONS OF THE NIGERIAN POLICE FORCE

The Nigerian police force is a paramilitary force that is concerned with the safety, health, peace and order of the state (Okereke, 2013). Like any other structure or institution, the Nigerian Police Force has a history. Its history in Nigeria particularly dates back to 1861 during colonial era, when the consul of Lagos colony established a consular guard of thirty members to watch over the colonial properties (Akuul, 2010). However, it is the 1999 constitution that provided for a Police service commission that is today responsible for Policy, organization, administration and finance of the Nigerian police force.

Hence, the Nigeria Police is statutorily required to fight crime through detection, investigation, apprehension and prosecution of offenders in law court and the protection of lives and property through proactive policing (Yecheo, 2004). Tinubu in Odeh and Umoh (2015) stated that the place of the police in Nigeria cannot be compromised. Their constitutional and statutory functions according to him are well defined so that the force can manage crisis situations, maintain peace and security. By this therefore police was scheduled to perform the following responsibilities or duties:

- i. Prevention of crime
- ii. Protection of lives and properties
- iii. Enforcing law
- iv. Maintenance of peace and public order.
- v. Providing a wide range of services to the citizens. By doing this it has the potential for violence and right to use coercive means in order to establish social control (Tinubu in Odeh & Umoh, 2015).

In contemporary times therefore, it appears that there are growing efforts in ensuring the efficiency and effectiveness of the Police Force towards the maintenance of peace and security in Nigeria (Akuul, 2010). For example, according to the author, from the late 1990's to date, the Nigerian Police Force has embarked on several measures for fighting crime, which includes: operation sweep, operation flush, operation fire for fire, anti-crime patrol and so on, which are efforts to ensure public safety. However, it can be argued that these measures have not been able to attain the desired aims and objectives due to incessant clashes between security agencies especially the police and NSCDC.

VI. CONFLICTS AMONG SECURITY AGENCIES: CAUSES AND CONSEQUENCES

The conflicts between policemen and members of the Nigerian Security and Civil Defence Corps (NSCDC) are becoming common in different parts of the country. However, most clashes between security agencies have become so frequent that they should be expected wherever more than one security agency are detailed to a particular duty. Some of these clashes usually involve the army/navy, police/FRSC, VIO/police, air force/police, police/NSCDC, which are entirely uncalled-for and condemnable (Nwamadi, 2013). Notwithstanding, intra-agency discipline and inter-agency esprit de corps appear to be on the decline, which could be detrimental to the security of the country.

Moreover, conflicts between securities institutions have over the years become a recurrent decimal in inter forces relations in Nigeria. For over three decades, hardly did we end a year without recording violent clashes between security operatives, particularly between personnel of the Nigerian Army and the Nigeria Police Force (Odoma, 2011). Other security operatives and Para-military organizations in Nigeria have also been caught in the web of violent clashes over the years (MILPPOPROF, 2007; Oluwole, 2012). Although, clashes involving the police and paramilitary agencies are not as endemic as the type between army and police personnel, there is no doubt that there has been a cold war existing among them over the years (Adekanye, 1999; Omoigui, 2006). This problem which has since assumed a dangerous dimension in recent past has become a source of reproach to the various security operatives as they have began to lose relevance in the mind of average Nigerians. The nation has not fared well in recent past as Nigeria has since started to drift toward anomic state. According to Akosile (2008), Nigeria is one of the most violent prone and unsecured nations of the world.

This perception is hinged on the frequency of unrest and heinous crimes such as armed robbery, Kidnappings, assassinations, hostage taking, terrorism etc and the fact that, none of the geopolitical zones of the country is isolated from violence of one form or the other (Bolatunde, 2012). Yet, security operatives were always caught napping without any possible remedy to the onslaught of criminals (Ajayi and Aderinto, 2008). Furthermore, it has been argued that the failure of the security operatives to address some of the daunting security challenges of Nigerian state is linked to lack of synergy between these security agencies.

More so, at the peak of their crises, security provision to the citizenry suffers a great setback as none of the security agencies will have the courage of performing their constitutional roles openly due to the fear of reprisal attacks (Odoma, 2011). This has given criminals 'free days' to unleash threat and terror on defenseless Nigerians whose properties were looted in broad daylight with impunity. Although, factors such as poverty, neglect, corruption and lawlessness among the forces have been held responsible for inter forces clashes, the consciousness among the personnel of these forces occasioned by the power and or authority that their jobs

confer on them have of late been considered the chief of all the factors responsible for the consistent inter forces wrangling in Nigeria.

In another theoretical prism, eruption of violent conflicts is linked to group pluralism and interactions to achieve their diverse objectives (Deeka, 2002). In seeking relevance or retention of political power, the elites manipulate and massage religious and ethnic sentiments. Many of the ethnic clashes and sectarian conflagrations are rooted in the context of the group conflict theoretical assumption (Jega. 2002). Violence has also been perceived as structural and institutional (Coady, 1999). Structural violence is the form of violence rationalized on the basis of a great range of social injustice and inequalities prevailing in a state. In this perspective, reformers, leftists and even terrorists rationalize their violence and opposition against the state on the basis of seeking to correct the prevailing social injustice and inequalities in the state. The form of violence in this context often involves a direct physical attack in response to and defence against acts perceived as unjust and inequitable in the society. On the other hand, institutional violence which is a quite violence that arises due to systematic deprivation in the way of transactions within a state (Abah, 2009). Several other factors such as over population, impotence, loss of power, displacement, the quest for social values, as well as natural phenomena such as natural disasters, earthquake, environmental scarcities, disease outbreak, drought, and famine can be identified as contributory to violence.

VII. THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

The theoretical framework for this study is the culture and agency theory. The culture and Agency theory is woven around the concept of structural changes, actions and interactions. The proponent, Archer (1996) posits that the socio-cultural system could be exposed to the vicissitudes of conflict and order as the various parts of the cultural system may either contradict or complement the cultural conditioning. This action will determine whether cultures are stable or changing. The stability or otherwise of the socio-cultural system will to a great extent depend on agents who have the innate ability to either reinforce or resist the influence of the cultural system. Archer's Culture and Agency theory is premised on four propositions namely: that culture system is made up of components that are logically related to one another; that the cultural system has causal impact on the socio-cultural system; that there is causal relationship among individuals and groups (agencies) that exists at the socio-cultural level; and that changes at the socio-cultural level lead to elaboration of the cultural system. The Culture and Agency theory provides insight into the social relation between the two dominant public security forces whose interaction is based on securing the Nigerian social system. As social actors (agency), both possess the ability to respond to the provision of security to the nation in different ways. The action-culture which according to Ritzer (1996), leads to contradiction of reinforcement of cultural elaboration is the end product of cultural conditioning (the need to provide security), depicting a causal relationship of culture and agency as well as locating their conflict within the social system that created them.

VIII. DESIGN AND AREA OF THE STUDY

A cross-sectional survey design was adopted for this study. According to Nworgu (2015) in this design, a cross-section of the people is sampled and interviewed or given questionnaire to complete, and results obtained from this sample are generalized to the entire population. Hence, this design is appropriate for this study. The study was carried out in Awka metropolis, which is also the capital of Anambra state. Awka metropolis is the headquarters of Anambra state and it is in the centre of the densely populated Igbo heartland in South Eastern Nigeria.

IX. POPULATION OF THE STUDY

The population of this study consists of all adult residents in Awka metropolis of Anambra state. Awka metropolis has a total population of sixty eight thousand, one hundred and ninety six (68, 196) adult residents comprising 30,689 males and 37,507 females (Source; National Population Commission, Anambra State office, January, 2016).

X. SAMPLE SIZE

A sample size of six hundred and nineteen (619) respondents (adult residents) was drawn from the population using Yaro Yamane's formula as recorded in Ajah and Nweke (2017): $n = \frac{N}{1+N(e)^2}$. This formula is applicable when the population is known (finite).

$$\begin{aligned} n &= \text{sample size} \\ N &= \text{population size} \\ e &= \text{acceptable sampling error} \\ n &= \frac{68,196}{1+68,196(0.04)^2} \end{aligned}$$

$$n = \frac{68,196}{110,1136}$$

$$n = 619$$

XI. SAMPLING TECHNIQUE

Systematic sampling procedure was employed for this study. According to Nworgu (2015), systematic sampling has both probability and non-probability characteristics. It is easier and quicker to apply. Hence, this sampling procedure became appropriate for this study due to the largeness of the population. According to Anambra State Ministry of Urban and Regional Planning (2016), Awka metropolis is estimated to be made up of about 172 streets, which 32 street has larger number of households while 140 streets has small number of households and a minimum of 12 households in each. Based on the above information, the study adopted systematic random sampling technique (balloting) in selecting 75 streets from which the respondents to the study is drawn. The 75 streets were selected through balloting (i.e. after writing the names of the streets on a piece of paper), and 66 streets with small number of households were selected from which 4 household were drawn from each. Then, the remaining 9 streets were selected from those with larger number of households from which 5 households were drawn from each. In total, 309 households were chosen (45 households from the 9 larger streets and 264 from other streets). In each of the streets selected (after selecting the first household) every third household were included in the sample until the number of households needed in the streets was completed. In each of the household selected in the sample, the modified random sampling was adopted to select one male and female for the administration of the questionnaires. In total, 619 respondents were selected from the 309 households in the 75 streets in Awka metropolis.

XII. INSTRUMENTS FOR DATA COLLECTION

Data for this study were collected through primary and secondary sources. The primary sources include questionnaire administration to respondents and in-depth interviews. On the other hand, data were secondarily sourced through the library and other documents dealing with the consequences of the conflicting roles of the Nigerian Police and Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps. Responses that were generated through interviews, were subjected to content analysis while the quantitative components of data generated were analyzed at two levels: univariate and bivariate levels. At univariate level, data were presented using frequency and percentage, mean and standard deviations. Also, at bivariate level, cross-tabulation was used to show associations between selected variables. These associations were tested with t-test statistics.

XIII. RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

Table 1: Distribution of Respondents based on Gender

Gender	Frequency	Percent
Male	298	49.3
Female	306	50.7
Total	604	100.0

Source: Field Survey, 2017

Result in Table 1 shows the distribution of male and female respondents in this study. The table indicates that 298 (49.3%) of the respondents were males while 306 (50.7%) of the respondents were females. This number as well as the percentages imply that female respondents were slightly higher in number than their male counterparts in this study. However, the percentages were further illustrated in a pie chart in Figure 1, which clearly showed that females respondents were slightly more in number than their male counterparts in this study.

Figure 1: A pie chart showing the percentage distribution of respondents based on gender.

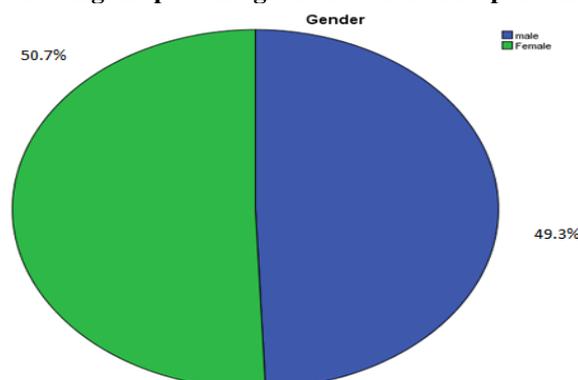


Table 2: Mean and Standard deviation on perceived causes of the clashes between NSCDC and the police in the discharge of their duties

S/N	Item Statement	\bar{x}	SD	Dec.
24.	Struggle for superiority causes clashes between NSCDC and the police	2.75	0.70	HE
25.	Struggle for jurisdictional control results to clashes between NSCDC and the police	3.01	0.96	HE
26.	Poverty can lead to clashes between NSCDC and the police	2.58	1.14	HE
27.	Corruption can lead to clashes between NSCDC and the police	2.63	0.62	HE
28.	Abuse of power results to clashes between NSCDC and the police	2.73	0.70	HE
29.	Protection of group interest can lead to clashes between NSCDC and the police	3.20	0.66	HE
30.	Lack orientation/ignorance can result to clashes between NSCDC and the police	3.13	1.15	HE
	Grand Mean	2.86	0.31	HE

(Source: Survey, 2017).

Result in Table 2 shows the means and standard deviations on the respondents' responses on perceived causes of the clashes between NSCDC and the police in the discharge of their duties. The distribution of respondents' responses showed that the mean response obtained for items 24 to 30 were 2.75, 3.01, 2.58, 2.63, 2.73, 3.20 and 3.13 respectively, with corresponding standard deviations of 0.70, 0.96, 1.14, 0.62, 0.70, 0.66 and 1.15. All the means for items 24 to 30 were between 2.50 and 3.49 range which indicates high extent. More so, a grand mean of 2.86 with a standard deviation of 0.31 was also obtained. Since the grand mean was also between 2.50 and 3.49 range, this means the respondents perceived that struggle for superiority, struggle for jurisdictional control, poverty, corruption, abuse of power, protection of group interest and lack orientation/ignorance are the causes of the clashes between NSCDC and the police to a high extent. Complementing this finding, one of the respondents interviewed opined that:

He feels struggling for who controls the other, protection of members, ignorance among both the police and NSCDC is often responsible for the clashes between them. According to the interviewee, corruption is another issue; both the police and NSCDC are struggling for who is suppose to stay at the checkpoint so that they can collect the twenty-twenty naira or fifty-fifty naira they always collect from road users, forgetting the primary thing they are employed to do (**a male resident of Obby-Okoli Street, Awka Metropolis**).

Likewise, another interviewee mentioned that;

The struggle for who is superior to the other and lack of adequate education on their respective security roles always causes clashes between the police and NSCDC. According to the interviewee; I witness a situation where four police officers and three officers of the NSCDC were arguing and making trouble about who is to arrest a particular taxi driver that broke a traffic role at Unizik junction, and eventually it resulted to a fight between the two security agencies, of which some members of both groups were seriously injured (**a female resident of Amaku Street, Awka Metropolis**).

Table 3: Mean and Standard deviation on perceived extent to which frequent clashes between NSCDC and the police threaten the peace and order of law abiding citizens

S/N	Item Statement	(l)	\bar{x}	SD	Dec.
20.	How often does the NSCDC and the police clashes threaten the peace of law abiding citizens?		2.99	0.97	HE
21.	To what extent does the NSCDC and the police clashes generate fear/anxiety among the people?		3.49	0.73	HE
22.	The public now lack confidence in the NSCDC and the police due to frequent clashes between them.		3.09	1.16	HE
23.	Many people are discouraged in reporting security matters to the NSCDC and the police due to frequent clashes between them.		3.34	0.57	HE
	Grand Mean		3.23	0.53	HE

(Source: Survey, 2017).

Result in Table 3 presents the means and standard deviations on the respondents' responses on perceived extent to which frequent clashes between NSCDC and the police threaten the peace and order of law abiding citizens. The distribution of respondents' responses showed that the mean response obtained for items

20 to 23 were 2.99, 3.49, 3.09 and 3.34 respectively, with corresponding standard deviations of 0.97, 0.73, 1.16 and 0.57. All the means for items 20 to 23 were between 2.50 and 3.49 range which shows high extent. Also, a grand mean of 3.23 with a standard deviation of 0.53 was also obtained. Since the grand mean was also between 2.50 and 3.49 range, this means that the respondents perceived that frequent clashes between NSCDC and the police threaten the peace and order of law abiding citizens to a high extent. Corroborating this result, a respondent who was interviewed mentioned that:

Actually, the frequent clashes between the police and NSCDC usually threatened the peace and order of the town. For instance, in some situations where the two of them are fighting, the sporadic gun shots by the police use to cause pandemonium and fear among the people, some people have even loss confidence in reporting some issues to police or NSCDC as they may prefer to handle the issues their own way, which could be harmful to others. You can then agree with me that the peace and order both security agencies are suppose to ensure is rather not realized due to their conflicts (a female resident of Odogwu-Awka Street, Awka Metropolis).

Table 4: Mean and Standard deviation on perceived extent to which frequent clashes between NSCDC and the police affect the security of lives and property

S/N	Item Statement	\bar{x}	SD	Dec.
16.	How frequent clashes between the NSCDC and the police affect lives?	3.02	0.96	HE
17.	I have been a victim during the clashes between the NSCDC and the police	2.62	1.20	HE
18.	To what extent do you think that the NSCDC and police clashes promote criminal actions?	3.48	0.73	HE
19.	Clashes between the NSCDC and the police affect business activities	3.20	1.05	HE
Grand Mean		3.09	0.47	HE

(Source: Survey, 2017).

Result in Table 4 shows the means and standard deviations on the respondents' responses on perceived extent to which frequent clashes between NSCDC and the police affect the security of lives and property. The distribution of respondents' responses indicated that the mean response obtained for items 16 to 19 were 3.02, 2.62, 3.48 and 3.20 respectively, with corresponding standard deviations of 0.96, 1.20, 0.73 and 1.05. The means for all the items were between 2.50 and 3.49 range which shows high extent. Also, a grand mean of 3.09 with a standard deviation of 0.47 was also obtained. Since the grand mean was also between 2.50 and 3.49 range, this implies that the respondents perceived that frequent clashes between NSCDC and the police affect the security of lives and property to a high extent. Supporting this result, a respondent who was interviewed asserted that:

The frequent clashes between the police and NSCDC affect the security of lives and property no doubt. Like the incident I witness around Unizik junction by mobile fueling station, there was a physical combat between two officers of the NSCDC and three policemen, after which the policemen started shooting sporadically and a passerby was seriously injured by a stray bullet, even those trading around the area started running for their dear lives, goods worth thousands of naira were reportedly damaged and others stolen. You can see that their conflict resulted to loss of property and even threatened the lives of residents of the area (a female resident of Nnoyelum Street, Awka Metropolis).

In the same vein, another interviewee noted that:

The confusion caused by the clashes between the NSCDC and police most times results to the loss of both private and public property, sometimes even the lives of innocent citizens are affected. Like when there was a serious conflict between the police and NSCDC along Ifite road, both of them were no longer going on patrol for fear of the other. This gave room for hoodlums in the area to start operating as they like, leading to loss of money and other valuables, and sometimes loss of lives of helpless citizens (a male resident of Abakiliki Street, Awka Metropolis).

XIV. TESTS OF HYPOTHESIS

H₁: There would likely be a statistically significant difference between the perceptions of male and female respondents on the extent to which the frequent clashes between the NSCDC and the police affect lives and property in Awka metropolis.

H₀: There would likely be no statistically significant difference between the perceptions of male and female respondents on the extent to which the frequent clashes between the NSCDC and the police affect lives and property in Awka metropolis.

Table 5: Independent t-test analysis of the significant difference between the perceptions of male and female respondents on the extent to which the frequent clashes between the NSCDC and the police affect lives and property in Awka metropolis

S/N	Item Statement	Gender	N	\bar{x}	SD	t-val	Df	P	Dec																																																								
16.	How frequent clashes between the NSCDC and the police affect lives?	Male	298	3.19	0.97	-0.19	602	0.85	NS																																																								
		Female	306	3.21	0.96					17.	I have been a victim during the clashes between the NSCDC and the police	Male	298	2.95	1.21	-0.31	602	0.75	NS	Female	306	2.98	1.20	18.	To what extent do you think that the NSCDC and police clashes promote criminal actions?	Male	298	3.00	0.74	-0.17	602	0.87	NS	Female	306	3.09	0.72	19.	Clashes between the NSCDC and the police affect business activities	Male	298	3.18	0.78	-0.44	602	0.66	NS	Female	306	3.20	1.05	Cluster t		Male	298	3.11	0.48	-0.48	602	0.64	NS			Female	306
17.	I have been a victim during the clashes between the NSCDC and the police	Male	298	2.95	1.21	-0.31	602	0.75	NS																																																								
		Female	306	2.98	1.20					18.	To what extent do you think that the NSCDC and police clashes promote criminal actions?	Male	298	3.00	0.74	-0.17	602	0.87	NS	Female	306	3.09	0.72	19.	Clashes between the NSCDC and the police affect business activities	Male	298	3.18	0.78	-0.44	602	0.66	NS	Female	306	3.20	1.05	Cluster t		Male	298	3.11	0.48	-0.48	602	0.64	NS			Female	306	3.15	0.46												
18.	To what extent do you think that the NSCDC and police clashes promote criminal actions?	Male	298	3.00	0.74	-0.17	602	0.87	NS																																																								
		Female	306	3.09	0.72					19.	Clashes between the NSCDC and the police affect business activities	Male	298	3.18	0.78	-0.44	602	0.66	NS	Female	306	3.20	1.05	Cluster t		Male	298	3.11	0.48	-0.48	602	0.64	NS			Female	306	3.15	0.46																										
19.	Clashes between the NSCDC and the police affect business activities	Male	298	3.18	0.78	-0.44	602	0.66	NS																																																								
		Female	306	3.20	1.05					Cluster t		Male	298	3.11	0.48	-0.48	602	0.64	NS			Female	306	3.15	0.46																																								
Cluster t		Male	298	3.11	0.48	-0.48	602	0.64	NS																																																								
		Female	306	3.15	0.46																																																												

Key: N = Number of respondents, \bar{X} = mean, SD = Standard Deviation, t-val= t-test value calculated, Df= degree of freedom, P =Associated probabilities, Dec = Decision, NS = Not Significant (level of Significance (α) =0.05)

In order to test the hypothesis two which states that there would likely be a statistically significant difference between the perceptions of male and female respondents on the extent to which the frequent clashes between the NSCDC and the police affect lives and property in Awka metropolis, data on respondents' gender in the study were collapsed into two distinctive category (coded as 1= male; 2= female) and tested against the scores gathered from the respondents' perceptions on the extent to which the frequent clashes between the NSCDC and the police affect lives and property. An independent-samples t-test was conducted to compare the mean responses of male and female respondents. A close observation of the mean scores across all the items in Table 9 shows that they were between the range of 2.50 and 3.49 for both male and female respondents which show high extent. In addition, the result of the independent samples t-test analysis (see, Table 9) revealed that there was no statistically significant difference between the mean scores of male and female respondents on all the 4 items. Since the associated probabilities for these items were greater than 0.05 level of significance set as criterion for taking a decision, the results were considered not significant. Also, a cluster t-value of -0.48 with associated probability of 0.64 at 602 degree of freedom was also obtained. Since the associated probability (0.64) for the cluster was also greater than 0.05 set as the level of significance, the result was also found not significant. Therefore, hypothesis 2 which stated that there would likely be a statistically significant difference between the perceptions of male and female respondents on the extent to which the frequent clashes between the NSCDC and the police affect lives and property in Awka metropolis is rejected. Hence, inference drawn is that there would likely be no statistically significant difference between the perceptions of male and female respondents on the extent to which the frequent clashes between the NSCDC and the police affect lives and property in Awka metropolis. This implies that both males and females in Awka metropolis appear to have similar perceptions on the extent to which the frequent clashes between the NSCDC and the police affect lives and property.

XV. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The conflicting roles of the Nigerian Police and Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps in Awka Metropolis affects the security of lives and property and also threaten the peace and order of law abiding citizens. This among other issues suggests that studies of this nature should be expanded in scope to cover perhaps the conflicting roles of other security agencies in Nigeria. Hence, it is expected that, the findings of this study could be made known to the Ministry of Interior for due actions and making of policies that may clearly differentiate the roles of the NSCDC from those of the police to enhance security provision. Furthermore, officers of the NSCDC and the police who aids or abets conflict should be decisively punished to serve as deterrent to others. Finally, The government should ensure that salaries of security agencies are promptly paid when due to prevent officers of these security agencies from indulging in illegal activities.

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