



**Institutional Effectiveness of the Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps (NSCDC) in  
Crime Control and Critical Infrastructure Protection in Katsina State, Nigeria (2012-  
2024)**

**By**

**IBRAHIM, Musa**

**Department of Political Science, Federal University Dutsin-Ma, Katsina State, Nigeria.**

**&**

**ABDULNASIR Umar, PhD**

**Department of Political Science, Federal University Gusau, Zamfara State, Nigeria**

**&**

**ADEDOYIN, Betiku**

**Neem Foundation, Abuja, Nigeria**

**Abstract**

This study examines the institutional effectiveness of the Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps in crime control and critical infrastructure protection in Katsina State (2012-2024). The larger framework of vandalisation of public assets necessitates the wide range of approaches to confront the problems, leading to the integration of NSCDC as a critical component in internal security operations in Nigeria and Katsina State in particular. The study explores the efficacy of the NSCDC in combating crime and challenges of vandalism in Katsina State. The study was underpinned by social contract theory. Methodologically, the study employed mixed methods via an explanatory sequential design that supports the collection of quantitative data followed by qualitative data. Essentially, quantitative data was gathered through the administration of questionnaire, while qualitative data was elicited by means of key informant interview (KII). Scientifically, the Taro Yamane formula for determining sample size was used to arrive at the appropriate sample size (400) out of 1,339,668 sampling frame of the study. To verify and corroborate the quantitative data, 24 participants were interviewed, with the sample size determined by data saturation. Quantitative data was presented and analysed using descriptive statistics, while qualitative data was presented and analysed qualitatively. The findings of the study reveal, among other things, that the NSCDC is effective in curbing the menace of vandalization of critical national assets and infrastructure in Katsina State. This study recommends acquiring contemporary equipment to support the NSCDC in combating the vandalism of essential national assets and infrastructure and to enhance its overall internal security operations.

**Keywords: Vandalization, National Assets, Crime Control, Infrastructure Protection, Operations.**



## 1. Introduction

Ensuring internal security and addressing associated difficulties is a vital responsibility of any government, influencing national stability and citizen welfare. Countries worldwide utilize diverse structures to mitigate internal security concerns. These encompass national police forces, paramilitary entities, and intelligence services (Omeje, 2019). Countries, such as the United States and the United Kingdom, possess established internal security agencies that function within rigorous legislative frameworks and utilize advanced technical systems to maintain comprehensive security measures. The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) in the USA and the Home Office in the UK illustrate these structures by coordinating efforts among several departments to combat threats such as terrorism and cybercrime (UK Home Office, 2021). In the United States, the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) and local law enforcement agencies are pivotal in mitigating internal threats, whereas in the UK, the Metropolitan Police Service, in conjunction with regional forces, collaborates with intelligence agencies such as MI5 to address security concerns (FBI, 2011; MI5\_Security\_Service, 2021). Asian nations such as China and India encounter distinct internal security issues, encompassing ethnic strife, terrorism, and regional insurgencies. The Ministry of Public Security (MPS) and the People's Armed Police (PAP) of China are responsible for various internal security functions, encompassing counterterrorism and the preservation of public order (Zheng, S., and Zhao, 2017). India's Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) supervises multiple security forces, including the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) and the National Security Guard (NSG), which address internal disturbances and terrorist initiatives (MHA(Ministry\_of\_Home\_Affairs), 2020).

The effectiveness of these institutions often provokes discussion, given the complexities of internal security issues and the socio-political dynamics in these countries. In Africa, the security landscape is particularly complex, with many nations grappling with issues like terrorism, insurgencies, and organized crime (Adebanwi, 2021). Kenya confronts continual threats from the Al-Shabaab militant organization, and Mali endures a sustained jihadist insurgency in the northern region (International Crisis Group, 2023; Adebanwi, 2021). African nations have formed special security forces to address these concerns. In countries like South Africa, the South African Police Service (SAPS) and the South African National Defence Force (SANDF) are integral to maintaining internal security despite challenges related to crime and political instability (Burger, 2020). In Kenya, the National Police Service (NPS)



collaborates with the Kenya Defence Forces (KDF) to address threats, notably terrorism, from organizations such as Al-Shabaab (Karanja, 2019).

Katsina State, in Northwest Nigeria, exemplifies the nation's internal security issues. Katsina State, in northeastern Nigeria, illustrates the problems and potential inherent in the NSCDC's function in internal security operations. Banditry has significantly impacted the state, with armed criminal organizations assaulting people, security personnel, and infrastructure (International Crisis Group, 2023). The NSCDC, in conjunction with other security organizations, such as the Nigerian Police Force and the Nigerian Army, has been pivotal in addressing these threats in Katsina State. The collaboration between these agencies is crucial in implementing effective security operations, intelligence gathering, and community policing efforts through collaborations with local communities.

The NSCDC's role in Nigeria, particularly in Katsina State, exemplifies the challenges and successes of internal security operations within a complex framework. The NSCDC has achieved notable progress in safeguarding critical infrastructure and ensuring security in conflict-affected regions. The NSCDC safeguards pipelines, power plants, railways, communication facilities, and public educational institutions from vandalism and sabotage (NSCDC, 2024). Available data from the Intelligence and Investigation Department indicate that a total of 172 cases in connection with illegal mining, vandalization of critical national assets were reported and investigated, and 6 cases were successfully prosecuted, 48 cases were duly charged to court, while peace and conflict unit successfully resolved 3, 895 cases in connection to conflict through alternative dispute resolution mechanisms (NSCDC, PRS Department, 2024)

This achievement therefore underscores the need to evaluate the effectiveness of NSCDC in combating the challenges of critical national assets and infrastructure in Katsina State from 2012 to 2024.

## **1.1 Literature Review**

### **Vandalism in Nigeria**

Vandalism in Nigeria is a persistent socio-economic and environmental problem, particularly evident in the destruction of public infrastructure such as oil pipelines, electricity facilities, and urban utilities. Studies show that vandalism occurs across both rural and urban areas, with significant implications for national development.



One of the most researched forms is oil pipeline vandalism in the Niger Delta, driven by economic hardship, political grievances, and organized criminal activity. According to Hajj-Othman and Umar, (2017), pipeline vandalism leads to environmental degradation, loss of lives, and major economic losses for the Nigerian state. Similarly, (Olu-Adeyemi, 2020) argues that pipeline vandalism constitutes an environmental crime with wide-ranging impacts, including reduced national revenue and damage to local livelihoods.

Urban infrastructural vandalism is also widespread. Adewale and Ola (2014) found that facilities such as water pipelines, transformers, and telecommunication equipment are frequently targeted, particularly by unemployed youths. This places additional financial burdens on government resources and worsens infrastructure deficits. Another dimension involves illegal oil bunkering and sabotage, which are closely related to vandalism. Chika., and Ndidi, (2022) noted that vandalism is a major cause of oil spills in Nigeria, with severe consequences for health, agriculture, and the environment. Scholars also link vandalism to broader socio-economic conditions such as poverty, unemployment, weak governance, and corruption. In some cases, activities like scrap scavenging blur the line between informal economic survival and criminal vandalism (Ayoola, Olaniyi, & Ulo, 2024).

### **NSCDC and Internal Security in Katsina State**

The effect of the Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps (NSCDC) on internal security operations in Katsina State is an important area of study because the state still has security problems. Katsina State, like many other places in Nigeria, has a lot of security problems, such as banditry, kidnapping, communal clashes, and other types of violent crime. This review analyses the function and influence of the NSCDC in mitigating these security concerns, utilizing recent empirical research and scholarly literature. The analysis examines the NSCDC's strategies, operations, and collaborations, evaluating their efficacy in improving internal security in Katsina State. The Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps (NSCDC) has specific duties that are different from those of the police, paramilitary groups, and the military to avoid doing the same thing twice.

The Corps has made a lot of progress in stopping crime since it started. In Katsina LGA of Katsina metropolis, from 2015 to 2024, the State Command in collaboration with other stakeholders had arrested, investigated and arraigned before the court of law about 200 persons



in connection with illegal mining and vandalization of critical national assets and infrastructure. Let me not forget to also mention about 2,784 (NSCDC, PRS Dept, Katsina state Command, 2024). Similarly, Chidozie, (2009) opines that the NSCDC has done a good job without using weapons. The Corps has done a great job of keeping the peace, stopping vandalism, arresting and prosecuting vandals, and restoring order in places where there is fighting. For instance, Masterweb., (2012) says that NSCDC officers from the Abia Command arrested seven people for adding things to products, such as making equipment at different stages of the process. Oche, (2006) says that the NSCDC has done a good job of keeping people safe during elections, especially during the April 10, 2010, elections in the Federal Capital Territory. This is more proof of its success. Nkanga, (2009) puts that the Corps is in charge of overseeing private guard companies in Nigeria. The Corps makes sure that rules are followed, such as renewing licenses, and shuts down any organization that doesn't. For example, NSCDC employees in Ondo State sealed five businesses in Akure because they didn't register with the command (Oche, 2006).

Nigeria is seen as a country with a lot of potential around the world because it has a lot of people and a lot of money. These qualities should help Nigeria keep the peace, calm, and safety within its borders (Joy, 1989). The NSCDC Act (Amendment Act 2007), Section 3(1)(f)(i) gives the NSCDC the power to look into oil pipeline vandalism crimes and start legal action on behalf of the Attorney General of the Federation. The Nigeria Police Force can arrest people who vandalize pipelines, but the NSCDC is in charge of prosecuting these people. The growing participation of women and children in pipeline vandalism presents a distinct challenge, requiring accommodations for juvenile offenders as the Corps fulfills its prosecutorial responsibilities Uzundu, (2012). The NSCDC has been very important in fighting different kinds of insecurity in Katsina State. Banditry is common in the state's security landscape, especially in rural areas where armed groups often attack communities, steal livestock, and kidnap people for ransom. The NSCDC's response to these threats includes gathering information, working with the community, and taking direct action.

Recent research shows that the Corps has been successful in lowering the number of banditry incidents by using proactive patrols and operations based on intelligence (Akinsanya, 2022). One important thing that the NSCDC has done in Katsina State is work with other security groups, such as the Nigeria Police Force, the Nigerian Army, and local vigilante groups. This collaborative approach is necessary because the security problems in the area are so big and complicated. The NSCDC and its partners have been able to better deal with security threats



by sharing information and working together. For instance, joint operations have led to the arrest of several well-known bandits and the breaking up of criminal networks (Ekwutosi, J., Effiong, I., & Inyang, 2021). Another way the Corps has made a big difference is by protecting important infrastructure in Katsina State. Criminals often attack things like power plants, communication networks, and public buildings to stop businesses from running and cause chaos. The NSCDC's anti-vandalism unit has been very helpful in keeping these things safe.

The Corps has cut down on vandalism and made sure that important services keep running by patrolling regularly, running programs to raise awareness in the community, and using surveillance technology (Alao, A., Adewunmi, F., and Babatunde, 2018). The NSCDC puts a lot of effort into community involvement and public education in addition to its regular work. This way of thinking understands that local communities need to be involved in security management for it to work. The Corps runs regular outreach programs to teach people about security threats and get them to work with security agencies. This strategy has been especially good at building trust between the NSCDC and the people it serves. This has made it easier to get information and do better things (Kabiru, M., Idris, A., & Umar, 2022).

Another important part of the NSCDC's impact is that it helps with disaster management and humanitarian aid in Katsina State. The state is vulnerable to numerous natural and anthropogenic disasters, such as floods, fires, and social discord. The NSCDC's disaster management unit is in charge of organizing responses to these events, helping people who have been affected, and helping with recovery efforts. For instance, the NSCDC was very important in getting people out of the way of the recent floods in the state, giving out relief supplies, and making sure that affected communities were safe (Johnson, 2019).

The NSCDC's training and capacity-building programs are very important for making it work better in Katsina State. Ongoing training programs make sure that staff has the most up-to-date skills and knowledge to deal with new security problems. The Corps has spent money on special training for its officers, such as classes on how to fight terrorism, handle disasters, and analyze intelligence. These training programs enhance the skills of NSCDC personnel and ensure their preparedness for diverse security scenarios (Alao, 2017).

### **NSCDC and Critical National Assets and Infrastructure in Katsina State**

The protection of critical national assets and infrastructure remains one of the strategic and



unique function of NSCDC. There is evidence from the real world that the NSCDC's work in Katsina State has made security better, especially with regards to cases of vandalism following the arrests and prosecutions of the suspected vandals in recent years. This link shows how well the NSCDC's strategies and actions work. In Katsina metropolis of Katsina State, where the presence of the NSCDC personnel is relatively adequate, also, qualitative studies that include interviews with community leaders, security experts, and residents give us more information about how the Corps has changed the area. These studies show that residents feel safer and more confident, and they credit the NSCDC's work and presence for these changes (Akinsanya, 2022). The NSCDC's role in bringing people together and helping them work out their differences in Katsina State is also important. There have been a lot of fights between groups in the state, and these fights are often caused by ethnic and religious tensions. The NSCDC's way of resolving conflicts is to mediate disagreements, encourage conversation between people who disagree, and encourage peaceful coexistence. The Corps has been able to stop conflicts from getting worse and encourage long-term peace and stability by working closely with traditional leaders, religious leaders, and community groups (Agbefe, Atare, & Ikenga, 2023).

The NSCDC's work to keep elections safe in Katsina State is also very important for making sure that the democratic process is fair. Nigerian elections are often marked by violence and cheating, which makes people less trusting of the system. The NSCDC is very important for keeping polling places safe, protecting election materials, and making sure that the election goes smoothly. The Corps' deployment of personnel during elections has been crucial in averting violence and guaranteeing that voters can exercise their rights in a safe and secure environment (Daily Trust, 2015). The NSCDC's job of regulating private security companies makes it even more important for internal security operations in Katsina State. There are a lot of private security companies, so there needs to be good oversight to make sure they follow the law and do their jobs well. The NSCDC is in charge of giving these companies licenses, keeping an eye on them, and making sure they follow the rules. This makes them more useful to national security. This regulatory role not only makes private security services better, but it also makes sure that they work with state security agencies (Akinsanya, 2022).

The Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps (NSCDC) has done a lot to help with internal security in Katsina State. The Corps deals with a wide range of security issues, from banditry and kidnapping to disaster management and election security, thanks to its many responsibilities. The NSCDC works better and builds trust and cooperation by working with



other security agencies and community members. Even though it has problems like not having enough resources, the Corps is still making Katsina State safer. Future efforts should focus on overcoming these problems, improving coordination between agencies, and funding training and capacity-building programs to make sure that the NSCDC stays a key player in keeping Katsina State safe.

## 1.2 Theoretical Framework

Social contract theory is a well-known and long-lasting idea in political philosophy that tries to explain where political power and authority come from and why they are legitimate (Riley, 2008). It means that people in a society get together to negotiate a social compact, either openly or secretly, in which they give up some of their natural rights and freedoms to create a government or political authority. According to Boucher and Kelly (2003), the establishment of this authority aimed to maintain peace, safeguard individuals and their property, and resolve conflicts. The concept is often associated with the thoughts of several important philosophers, such as Thomas Hobbes, John Locke, and Jean-Jacques Rousseau.

The Social Contract Theory is a philosophical idea that looks at the relationship between the government and the people it governs (Jos, 2006). In this case, it can help us think about the NSCDC's role and legitimacy in keeping Katsina State and all of Nigeria safe. The social contract theory says that the government's power comes from the people who live under it. You can use it to look at the NSCDC in Katsina State by seeing how much the people there agree with and support the agency's work. Do the people of Katsina State think that the NSCDC is a real authority that is in charge of their safety?

The notion posits that governments are duty-bound to safeguard the rights and security of their populations. The theory can evaluate the NSCDC's performance of its duties in ensuring internal security in Katsina State inside the case study. Are they doing a good job of preserving the rights and safety of the people who live there? Are they living up to their social compact obligations? Moreover, social contract theory illustrates the importance of trust and responsibility in governance. The theory will be used to determine if the NSCDC in Katsina State is responsible for what it does and if the people in the area trust the agency. The agency's legitimacy and effectiveness greatly depend on this trust. The theory of the social contract says that government entities should talk to people. It looks into whether the NSCDC in Katsina State works with local communities and whether these efforts lead to a stronger social contract



and better security outcomes. The idea frequently addresses the necessity for a balance of power and the constraints of governmental authority. It's crucial to know how NSCDC works within its powers and if there are ways to stop people from abusing their power. The main goal of the social contract theory is to keep a society safe and stable. The case study can determine if the NSCDC's actions help keep Katsina State and Nigeria safe and stable.

In short, the social contract theory gives us a way to think about the connection between the NSCDC and the people of Katsina State. It can help determine the agency's legitimacy, responsibilities, trustworthiness, and accountability in providing internal security, which is vital for the health of the local people and the social contract between the government and its inhabitants.

### 1.3 Methodology

Research design includes a general plan that brings together several parts and a clear plan for collecting, showing, measuring, and analysing data. Study designs are styles of inquiry that use qualitative, quantitative, or mixed methods to give clear instructions for how to do things in a study design (Creswell, 2014). This study used a mixed-method design that used qualitative and quantitative methods to give a full picture of the problems with synergy that the NSCDC experienced in internal security operations in Katsina State from 2012 to 2024. The study's population comprised the total local populace of the chosen local government areas, specifically Katsina LGA (524,000), Jibia LGA (448,241), and Safana LGA (367,427). The primary quantitative data were collected from local communities via the administration of a questionnaire.

The primary qualitative data were gathered from diverse populations via key informant interviews (KII), encompassing NSCDC personnel engaged in internal security operations within selected LGAs of Katsina State (Jibia, Safana, and Katsina), NSCDC management staff, officials from the Katsina State Government, security experts, academics, and traditional rulers. The total number of people interviewed was twenty-four (24), which was based on data saturation. This study utilised both probabilistic and nonprobability sampling methods. The probability sampling technique ensures that all aspects of the study have an equal opportunity to be selected. In this regard, a straightforward percentage calculation was employed to determine the suitable sample size for each LGA. The study's elements, deemed to possess



pertinent information, were intentionally selected and provided through the questionnaire and key informant interview (KII). This study employed the Taro Yamane method to determine the appropriate sample size, attaining a 95% confidence level and a 0.05 margin of error, utilising a sampling frame of 1,339,668 as the study population. The Taro Yamane Formula is given as:

$$n = \frac{N}{1+N(e)^2}$$

Where:

N = population

e = 0.05 (margin error)

1 = Constant

$$n = \frac{1,339,668}{1+1,339,668 (0.05)^2}$$

$$n = \frac{1,339,668}{1+1,339,668 (0.0025)}$$

$$n = \frac{1,339,668}{1+3,349.17}$$

$$n = \frac{1,339,668}{3350.17}$$

$$n = 399.88$$

$$n = 400 \text{ (approximately)}$$

There are two main types of data sources: primary and secondary. In this study, we employed questionnaires and key informant interviews as primary sources. A hybrid (mixed) method of data was used, which is the combining of both quantitative and qualitative methodologies. The quantitative data gathered was examined and shown using descriptive statistics, and the qualitative data was analyzed thematically.

### Data Presentation

This section presents data collected and analyzed on Institutional Effectiveness of the Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps in Crime Control and Critical Infrastructure Protection in Katsina State, 2012–2024

		Frequency	Percent
Valid	Strongly Agree	189	51.1
	Agree	144	38.9



Undecided	16	4.3
Disagree	19	5.1
Strongly Disagree	2	.6
Total	370	100.0

**Source: Field Work, 2025**

The frequency table 1.1 assessing the NSCDC's role in curbing vandalization reveals a strong affirmation of the Corps' effectiveness. Out of 370 respondents, among these, 188 respondents (50.9%) strongly agreed and 144 (39.0%) agreed that the NSCDC has successfully reduced incidences of vandalism targeting vital infrastructure such as pipelines, electricity cables rail lines, communication installations, public water infrastructure, public schools, and other public institutions. Only a small number were undecided (4.3%), disagreed (5.1%), or strongly disagreed (0.6%). Nonetheless, the overwhelming agreement (nearly 90%) highlights the NSCDC's significant impact in safeguarding critical infrastructure within local communities. The table reveals that nearly 90% of respondents felt the NSCDC has been effective in curbing vandalism of vital infrastructure. This includes pipelines, electrical installations, and public facilities. Community members clearly recognize the tangible impact of the Corps in protecting assets essential for local and national development and welfare. The minimal level of dissent suggests a broad perception of operational success in this area. This finding further supports the broader conclusion that the Corps plays an essential role in maintaining internal security and protecting national development assets in Katsina State. This is evident owing to the remarkable reductions in the daily reported incidences of frequent attacks and vandalization of critical national assets and infrastructure in the state.

To also supplement the quantitative data regarding the NSCDC' efforts at curbing the incidences of attacks and vandalization of critical national assets and infrastructure, the key informant interview (KII) responses corroborate the quantitative data in the Table by affirming that NSCDC has been able to reduce to a larger extent the incidences of attacks on national assets and infrastructure. This view was confirmed by D1, D3, D10, D11, D12, FCJ, FCK and FCS1. D1 stated that "We have critical national assets in Katsina State like railway lines, airports, telecommunication installations, silos, and farms. Civil Defense is actively involved in protecting farmers and these installations, including electric and water lines under federal, state, and local governments" (Interview, 2025). This finding corroborates the NSCDC report



(2024) that a total of 172 cases in connection with illegal mining, vandalization of critical national assets were reported and investigated, and 6 cases were successfully prosecuted.

This response shows that Katsina state remains a cobweb of national assets where the NSCDC personnel deployment remains paramount to safeguarding them from vandalization. This view was further reinforced by the lamentation made by where he D2 also affirmed that “We are protecting railway lines, telecommunication installations, food silos, electric cables, schools, and airports. Our personnel are fully involved in securing all of these” (Interview, 2025).

Similarly, D3 explained that “Vandalism does happen occasionally, but thanks to our strong presence and effort, it is minimized. Of course, no system is perfect but with God's help and our dedication, we’ve largely been able to prevent it” (Interview, 2025).

This response indicates that the NSCDC efforts have succeeded in reducing the incidence of vandalization of these assets within the State.

D10 also put that:

Yes, there exist quite a number of some national assets within our communities such as schools, power installations, dams among others and NSCDC personnel are deployed to these areas and maintaining static surveillance. Through their presence, vandalization of these national assets became a very rare phenomenon. But unlike before, power transformers are often vandalized without any check and hardly the perpetrators arrested and brought to book (Interview, 2025).

D11 responded that “The presence of NSCDC across the point of these national assets had drastically reduced attacks on these national assets, but before their deployment the phenomenon of vandalization has been a recurrent decimal” (Interview, 2025).

FCK maintained that “We actively protect assets like dams, electricity infrastructure, and telecommunications equipment, all of which are often targeted for vandalism” (Interview, 2025). FCJ also corroborated the view of FCK where he stated that “We protect mining sites, power infrastructure, pipelines, and communication installations from vandalism” (Interview, 2025).

Furthermore, FPS1 posited that:

Our officers repelled an attack on government farmlands; some bandits were killed and



others fled. We also monitor fertilizer plants and chemical storage facilities to prevent them from falling into the wrong hands, especially since these substances could be used for destructive purposes if accessed by terrorists (Interview, 2025).

This response further ascertains that the NSCDC remains resolute in curbing vandalization of national assets as the personnel often foiled some attacks on these national assets, and vandalization of these assets constitutes another dimension of security threats to the State.

Similarly, these responses gathered through key informant interview (KII) above corroborate the quantitative data which underscore the role of NSCDC in protecting critical national assets and infrastructure such as power installations, water projects, schools, rail lines, and communication installations among others. The responses also cement the quantitative data in Table 1.21 that the Corps has been able to play its statutory mandate of safeguarding national assets from the potential and intended vandals. One of the strategies uses is the deployment of personnel to the strategic point of these assets and maintaining 24 hours surveillance around this infrastructure.

		Frequency	Percent
Valid	Strongly Agree	137	37.0
	Agree	189	51.1
	Undecided	29	7.8
	Disagree	14	3.8
	Strongly Disagree	1	.3
	Total		370

**Source: Field Work, 2025**

The frequency table 1.2 reveals strong public affirmation of the Corps' protective role. Out of 370 respondents, 365 provided valid responses. Among these, 137 (37.5%) strongly agreed and 189 (51.1%) agreed that the NSCDC effectively safeguards critical national assets such as oil pipelines, electricity installations, schools, and public infrastructure. Only a small number of respondents were undecided 29 (7.8%), while just 14 (3.8%) disagreed and 1 (0.3%) strongly disagreed. Community respondents widely affirmed the NSCDC's role in safeguarding critical assets. Approximately 88% either agreed or strongly agreed. This reflects strong public



confidence in the Corps ‘protective capacity, especially in securing installations vital to economic and social stability and overall development. These perceptions point to the NSCDC’s strategic relevance in the daily lives of community members. These results demonstrate that a substantial majority nearly 88% recognize the NSCDC’s active and effective role in the protection of essential assets, which is a core component of its statutory mandate. This perception underscores the Corps’ strategic importance in securing the physical infrastructure that supports national stability and economic development within Katsina State.

		Frequency	Percent
Valid	Strongly Agree	159	43.0
	Agree	141	38.1
	Undecided	33	8.9
	Disagree	29	7.8
	Strongly Disagree	8	2.2
	Total	370	100.0

**Source: Field Work, 2025**

The frequency table 1.3 on the NSCDC’s role in arresting suspected vandals provides strong supportive evidence. Out of 370 respondents, among these, 159 (43.0%) strongly agreed and 141 (38.5%) agreed that the NSCDC mostly arrests individuals suspected of vandalizing critical national infrastructure such as pipelines, electrical installations, and public facilities. A smaller proportion 33 respondents (9.0%) were undecided, while 29 (7.9%) disagreed and 8 (2.2%) strongly disagreed. 80.8% of the respondents agreed that the NSCDC actively arrests suspected vandals. This level of agreement from local communities indicates that the Corps is visible by maintaining routine surveillance and assertive in tackling criminal damages on the critical national assets and infrastructure. Arrests are perceived not only as law enforcement but also as deterrence mechanisms for safeguarding these national assets. This overall response indicates that approximately 81% of the participants affirm the NSCDC’s active involvement in the apprehension of vandals. These findings reinforce the Corps perceived operational effectiveness and its frontline role in protecting national assets from criminal activities, thereby contributing significantly to internal security in Katsina State. The community noting of frequency of the arrests and prosecutions of the suspected vandals of public assets further



highlights the efficacy of the Corps in protecting these assets from the potential vandals.

Furthermore, data responses gathered from participants in key informant interview (KII) show that it is consistent with the quantitative data where majority of the respondents agree that NSCDC mostly arrests suspected vandals of critical national assets where D2, D3, D4, D5, D6, D10, D11 FCJ and FCK responses corroborated that Civil Defense mostly arrests suspected vandals of critical national assets.

As affirmed by D2 where he that “We have recently arrested some suspected vandals that attempted to attack a food sailor but our officers successfully repelled the attack” (Interview, 2025). This implies that suspected vandals had made an attempt to attack one major national asset but was successfully foiled by the operatives of the NSCDC.

D3 when probed about what type of national asset they once arrested its vandal he further asserted that “We have made many arrests, especially for stealing electricity cables and transformers. I remember a case where a transformer was stolen and taken to Kano, but our personnel intercepted it and arrested those involved” (Interview, 2025).

This indicated that some of the vandalized national assets are sometimes transferred from one state to another in order to sell or use them to avoid the possibility of arrest.

In a similar vein, D4 maintained that “Two to three years ago, there were arrests and successful prosecutions, handled by our former legal officer who left the Corps” (Interview, 2025). D5 equally supported the above response when he viewed that:

Several arrests have been made. We have an Anti-Vandalization Department headed by CSC Musa Adamu. They work day and night. For example, last year while I was in Mani LGA, we intercepted a truck loaded with iron bars from the Police College, Mani. We confirmed their origin and handed them to the anti-theft unit. Just last week, I saw a new case involving cable vandalism. So yes, our Anti-Vandal Unit is active (Interview, 2025).

This response affirmed that NSCDC does operates 24 hours and maintaining routine surveillance in order to safeguard the national assets from the prospective vandals.

D6 also put that “We have made multiple arrests and prevented some planned attacks” (Interview, 2025). D10 and D11 responded by affirming that “Yes, we are aware of many



instances where NSCDC perfected the arrest of suspected vandals of national assets from our communities and State command even held a press conference to showcase their efforts at curbing vandalism” (Interview, 2025).

The views attest the Corps’ resolute at curbing the menace of vandalization of national assets in the state.

Additionally, FCJ and FCK posited that “Our command has prosecuted several cases, and many offenders have been sentenced by the courts. Joint Task Forces have apprehended numerous criminals involved in banditry, vandalism, and cattle rustling. They see crime as a source of income” (Interview, 2025).

The above responses are in consonance with the quantitative data in the Table 1.23 where majority of the respondents upheld that NSCDC has been effective in protecting critical national assets as arrests are usually perfected for investigation and further legal actions.

		Frequency	Percent
Valid	Strongly Agree	146	39.5
	Agree	163	44.1
	Undecided	30	8.1
	Disagree	26	7.0
	Strongly Disagree	5	1.4
	Total		370

**Source: Field Work, 2025**

The frequency table 1.4 assessing the adequacy of NSCDC’s manpower and equipment reveals strong public confidence in the Corps’ operational capacity. Out of 370 respondents, of these, 146 (39.6%) strongly agreed and 163 (44.1%) agreed that the NSCDC’s manpower and equipment have proven effective in safeguarding critical infrastructure such as pipelines, power installations, and public facilities. Meanwhile, 30 respondents (8.1%) were undecided, 26 (7.0%) disagreed, and 5 (1.4%) strongly disagreed. Overall, approximately 84% of respondents expressed agreement with the effectiveness of the Corps’ resources. About 83.5% of community members believed that the Corps' manpower and equipment have been effective in securing national assets. This shows a high level of confidence in the Corps’ operational readiness, though there is a minority indicating room for improvement. The general sentiment,



however, is one of appreciation for the Corps' existing capacities. Deployment of the Corps' personnel to give security cover to these assets and maintain 24/7 surveillance speaks in volume of the effectiveness in safeguarding these national assets. This high level of confidence suggests that the NSCDC is viewed as adequately equipped and staffed to fulfill its mandate, reinforcing its credibility and operational relevance in the protection of national assets and the broader internal security framework in Katsina State.

		Frequency	Percent
Valid	Strongly Agree	149	40.3
	Agree	145	39.2
	Undecided	39	10.5
	Disagree	32	8.6
	Strongly Disagree	5	1.4

**Source: Field Work, 2025**

The frequency table 5.19 assessing the Corps' success in prosecuting vandals indicates a strong perception of institutional effectiveness. Out of 370 respondents, among these, 149 (40.3%) strongly agreed and 145 (39.2%) agreed that the NSCDC has successfully prosecuted individuals involved in vandalizing critical infrastructure such as pipelines, power installations, and public properties. Meanwhile, 39 respondents (10.5%) were undecided, 32 (8.6%) disagreed, and only 5 (1.4%) strongly disagreed. With nearly 80% expressing agreement, the data suggests that the public perceives the NSCDC not only as an enforcement agency but also as one capable of following through with legal action against vandals of national assets. As seen in Table 1.25, nearly 80% of respondents acknowledged successful prosecutions by the NSCDC. This perception reinforces the view that the Corps is not only reactive but also legally proactive in its duties. It highlights public awareness of accountability efforts and the role of law in reinforcing internal security. This also highlights the Corps' role in deterrence through prosecution and reinforces its contribution to safeguarding national assets and promoting the rule of law in Katsina State.

More so, from the quantitative data, majority of the respondents' views supported the responses gathered from the key informant interview (KII) that, NSCDC had successfully secured the prosecution of some suspected vandals of critical national assets as affirmed by the view of D3, D4, D5, D10 and D11.



D3 stated that “We prosecute them most often at the Federal High Court, since that is the jurisdiction for such offenses” (Interview, 2025). This response illuminates that NSCDC usually prosecutes suspected vandals of national assets in coordinate court of jurisdiction which further testifies that the Corps has a competent legal team to institute legal action against vandals of national assets. Prosecution of these vandals goes a long way in deterring the criminal elements and others with similar intent in the state.

D4 also upheld that: “two to three years ago, there were arrests and successful prosecutions, handled by our former legal officer who left the Corps” (Interview, 2025). In a similar vein, D5 corroborated D3 and D4 views where he stated that “Several prosecutions have been made. While I was in Mani LGA, one of the cases involving vandalism of government property was prosecuted at the High Court. I attended the session and participated in the prosecution” (Interview, 2025).

D10 also expressed that:

Yes, about two years back in my community, two residents were apprehended by the NSCDC in connection with vandalization and sell of electricity cables and all efforts made to secure their release proved abortive and, in the end, we learnt that they were paraded to court and since then we have heard from them. It is most likely they have sentenced to prison term (Interview, 2025).

D11 added weight to the response of D10 where he pointed that:

There is no doubt that NSCDC has been ups and doing in protection of national assets in Katsina metropolis. In fact, about five cases in connection with vandalization of public assets have reported within my jurisdiction and were duly investigated and the suspected were paraded to the court of law which by now they might have prosecuted by the Corps.

The above responses suggest that NSCDC had successfully paraded suspected of vandalization of public assets to court and prosecution could be possible.

Apparently, participants’ views obtained through key informant interview (KII) summed that the NSCDC efficacy at stemming vandalization of national assets cannot be doubted as arrests have been made and prosecutions had been secured in the court of law.



#### **1.4 Discussion of Findings**

The research revealed that the NSCDC has successfully mitigated crime and safeguarded essential national assets and infrastructure in Katsina State, as evidenced by the quantity of thwarted attacks, completed arrests, and successful prosecutions of offenders in the judicial system. According to the NSCDC PRS Department (2024), a total of 172 cases related to illegal mining and the vandalism of critical national assets were reported and investigated; 48 cases were formally charged in court, resulting in 6 successful prosecutions. These measures significantly contributed to the reduction of attacks on important national assets and infrastructure in the state. This result further substantiates the findings of Afolabi et al. (2024), which demonstrate that the NSCDC is proficient in addressing the issues of vandalism of essential national assets and infrastructure, as well as tackling other internal security concerns. This finding corroborates the assumptions of the social contract theory, indicating that when all institutions and structures within a system fulfill their roles, society can achieve stability.

Consequently, the NSCDC has effectively mitigated the vandalism of national assets, thereby fulfilling its mandates as outlined in the social contract theory. The NSCDC's work in Katsina State, such as public statements, intelligence reports, and operational updates, plays a big role in shaping how people understand the security problems in the area. The activities instill a sense of urgency and validate security measures to tackle internal security concerns. The characterization of security threats influences the governance and experience of security in Katsina State, thereby validating the tenets of social contract theory.

#### **1.5 Conclusion and Recommendations**

This study examined the institutional effectiveness of the Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps in crime control and critical infrastructure protection in Katsina State, Nigeria (2012-2024). The study concluded that the NSCDC has adopted effective strategies, capitalizing on community engagement and collaboration with other security agencies to combat internal security problems. Thus, the Corps has successfully curbed crimes, protected critical national assets, and safeguarded infrastructure. The Corps' efforts to collaborate with local population, understand their security needs, and respond to emerging threats have contributed to improved security outcomes. Moreover, its engagement with other security agencies and stakeholders has aided intelligence gathering and sharing, joint operations, and a more coordinated and prompt response to security challenges and other emergencies.



The paper advocates for the acquisition of contemporary equipment to support the NSCDC in combating the vandalism of essential national assets and infrastructure, as well as enhancing its overall internal security operations. This will facilitate intelligence collection and dissemination, as well as self-defence in protecting national assets. Supplementary personnel are necessary to support the NSCDC's internal operations, which will significantly enhance rapid reaction to security emergencies and foster trust in the NSCDC within the local population about internal security.

## Reference

- Adebanwi, W. (2021). The politics of security in Africa. *African Affairs*, 120(478), 1–23.
- Adewale, Y. Y., & Ola, A. B. (2014). Infrastructural vandalism in Nigerian cities: The case of Osogbo. *Research on Humanities and Social Sciences*.
- Agbefe, I., Atare, G., & Ikenga, O. (2023). The role of the NSCDC in humanitarian crises management in Nigeria. *International Journal of Disaster Management*, 9(2), 95–108.
- Akinsanya, S. O. (2022). Evolving role of the Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps in Nigeria's security architecture. *International Journal of Security Studies*, 18(3), 45–67.
- Alao, A., Adewunmi, F., and Babatunde, O. (2018). Infrastructural protection in Nigeria: The role of NSCDC. *Journal of Public Administration and Governance*, 6(40), 70–83.
- Alao, A. (2017). The Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps: Achievements and challenges. *Journal of Nigerian Security*, 14(1), 22–39.
- Ayoola, O. F., Olaniyi, A., & Ulo, E. (2024). We don't steal nor vandalize, we only value waste: Scavengers phenomenon in Nigeria. *International Journal of Research and Innovation in Social Science*.
- Burger, J. (2020). South African Police Service: Annual Performance Plan 2020-2021. <https://www.saps.gov.za/> Retrieved on 23 January, 2024 from
- Chidozie, C. (2009). Evaluating the performance of the Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps. *Journal of Public Security*, 7(2), 12–25.
- Chika, C., & Ndidi, A. F. (2022). Illegal oil bunkering, sabotage and vandalism in the Niger



- Delta area of Nigeria. Academic Journal of Current Research.
- Creswell, J. W. (2014). Research design: Qualitative, quantitative, and mixed methods approaches (4th ed.). SAGE Publications.
- Ekwutosi, J., Effiong, I., & Inyang, P. (2021). Collaborative security efforts in Nigeria: Case studies from Katsina State. *Journal of African Security*, 16(2), 91–106.
- Hajj-Othman, M. S., & Umar, A. T. (2017). Causes and Consequences of Crude Oil Pipeline Vandalism in the Niger Delta Region of Nigeria. *Cogent Economics and Finance*.
- Johnson, I. (2019). The Nigerian security and civil defence corps and internal security management in Nigeria. In *Internal security management in Nigeria: Perspectives, challenges and lessons*. Singapore: Springer Nature Singapore., 485–499.
- Jos, P. H. (2006). Social contract theory: implication for professional ethics. *The American Review of Public Administration*, 36(2), 139–155.
- Kabiru, M., Idris, A., & Umar, S. (2022). Counter-terrorism efforts and disaster management training: The role of NSCDC in Katsina State. *International Journal of Security Studies*, 10(2), 134–150.
- Karanja, J. (2019). Kenya's security challenges and the role of the National Police Service. *Journal of African Studies*, 14(3), 56–78.
- Masterweb. (2012). NSCDC's success in anti-adulteration operations. Masterweb News. <https://masterweb.com>
- MHA(Ministry\_of\_Home\_Affairs). (2020). India Annual Report 2020-21. [www.mha.gov.in/](http://www.mha.gov.in/)
- MI5\_Security\_Service. (2021). Annual Review 2021. Retrieved on 24 January, 2024.
- Nkanga, G. (2009). NSCDC's role in regulating private guard companies. *Nigerian Security Journal*, 5(3), 33–46.
- Oche, O. (2006). The role of civil defence in election security: A case study of the 2003 general elections. Unpublished Manuscript.
- Olu-Adeyemi, L. (2020). The political ecology of oil pipeline vandalism in Nigeria. *International Journal of Research and Innovation in Social Science*.



Omeje, K. (2019). *The crises of postcoloniality in Africa*. Durham University.

UK\_Home\_Office. (2021). *Home Office Annual Report and Accounts 2020-21*. Retrieved on 16 January, 2024 from <https://www.gov.uk/>.

Uzundu, O. (2012). Addressing juvenile involvement in pipeline vandalism. *Journal of Nigerian Law and Society*, 10(4), 55–68.

Zheng, S., and Zhao, L. (2017). Internal security in China: Challenges and policies. *Journal of Asian Security*, 12(2), 123–145.