Research Article

Nigeria Security and Civil Defense Corp and the Protection of Infrastructure in the Federal Capital Territory (Challenges and Prospects)

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Abstract: This paper is an assessment of the Nigeria security and civil defence corps and the general security and protection of infrastructure is the Federal Capital Territory .The paper also tried to investigate the efficiency of the organization to ascertain the operational effectiveness towards the realization of her statutory mandate of internal security of the local communities of the F.C.T. It also tried to identify the causes of her inefficiency and the challenges confronting he corps with the view to proffer some recipe. Finding show that the agency needs to be strengthened through regular evaluation and monitoring to improve her capacity for efficiency. It is recommended among other things that training and retaining of personnel should be taken seriously; the government should increase the budgetary funding of the agency for proper equipment and also sensitize the public on the functions of the corps through programs engagement that would engender synergy in the communities.
Keywords: Assessment, security, protection, efficiency, synergy, inefficiency, engagement.

Introduction

Every society all over the world strife to expand and develop continuously, as such human relationship and activities also expands. The results of dynamism of the growing population give room for crime. These societies therefore strive to establish and develop institutions that can ensure peace as well as security of lives and property of the government and the citizenry.

The security of lives and property of the citizens has continued to attract mixed reactions among individuals, groups and states in the contemporary world. The responsibility of achieving adequate security in a given social formation rests squarely on government which is undoubtedly regarded as the agent of the society. As a complex concept, security means different thing to different people. Its complexity notwithstanding, security connotes the elimination of anxiety, fear and anything capable of threatening the core values and survival of the state as well as her people.

According to Booth (1991), security is conceived as freedom from threat, acts of violence and loss of property. It means protection from threats to life and means of livelihood, safety from bodily harm, freedom from fear of diseases, unemployment, violent conflicts and human right violation (booth, 1991). However, the above definition reflects the variant of security generally referred to as human security. This is succinct because, human security deals substantially with factors capable of improving or undermining the very existence of man in every human society. Indeed, the inability of any state to address issues capable of threatening the lives and property of citizens of the state as well as guaranteeing rapid socio-economic development for the wellbeing of man, most often lead to insecurity. This as

human society continued to evolve from a simple primitive composition to a more developed and complex stage individual accumulation of wealth increased and the crave for ownership of private property also increased. This crave resulted to criminal behaviour which spread and increased in the same proportion with the development of the society.

Problem Statement

Nigeria is currently confronted with serious security challenges that constitute immediate, short-term and long-term threats to security and development. Resolving these challenges is the constitutional and statutory responsibility of the Nigeria Police Force, Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps (NSCDC), and other public security agencies. However, Nigeria is poised with the problem of providing policing services to all the citizens. This is due to a combination of structural, political, economic, and socio-cultural factors, as well as, institutional inadequacies, policy, resource, and image constraints. The desire to reduce the burden on state agencies of protecting their citizens has been a major decision driver that makes development of the NSCDC very imperative.

The primary responsibility of any security agency is to provide internal security arrangement in the country as well as protect the country from external aggressor. In Nigeria for instance, such security problems range from Niger Delta Crises, Vandalization of government asset, Ethno-religious Crises, Kidnapping, Boko Haram Crises, armed robbery, rape, murder, ritual killing, cyber-crime, drug trafficking, human trafficking to non-violent security challenges like HIV/AIDS, Cholera, Ebola disease, Bird flu, among others.

The above security challenges in Nigeria are regarded as internal security problems. Specifically, the Nigeria's internal security problems affect both the country's economy and the statehood. The inability of the government to address the above internal security problems in Nigeria appear to be responsible for perennial crises confronting the Nigeria's socio-political and economic development.

Research Questions

The research questions flowing from and guiding the research issue are as follows:
1) How do the FCT residents feel the impact of the NSCDC to assess their efficiency?
2) In what ways could Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps (NSCDC) be strengthen to play expected statutory role of security service to the FCT residents?

Objectives of the Study

1) Access the efficiency of the Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps (NSCDC) services in the security sector in the FCT.
2) Suggest ways the Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corp (NSCDC) can be strengthen to play her statutory role of security service to the FCT residents.

Hypothesis

The efficiency of NSCDC does not have significant relationship with the security challenges in the FCT.

Review of Literature

The concept of security, just like insecurity is fluid and hence, defies unanimity in terms of its exact meaning. Scholars, especially those with social science bias looks at the concept using different perspectives. Nwagboso (2012) for instance looks at security as an essential concept that has direct bearing with the alleviation of threats to cherished values, especially the

survival of individuals or group aspirations. For the purpose of this research however, the above concept is rather restrictive and does not inculcate the aspirations of a system in relation to its external environment.

In another dimension, Williams (2008) tend to share the same view with Nwagboso, when he claimed that as an essential condition of survival, security finds expression on the factors of which Abraham Maslow referred to as hierarchy of needs. They include such variables as human needs, safety, self-esteem and confidence, freedom from danger and fear, doubt and imitation of all kinds.

According to Rothschild (1995) and McSweeney (1999) security makes less sense without a critical analysis of something pertinent to secure. That means that security could best be understand when situated within the context of referent subject. This goes further to underscore the importance of Rothschild's analysis who posited that in the long sweep of human history, the centrality of has been human-based.

On the other hand most critics such as McSweeney (1999) have challenged this assertion when they argued that any intellectual discourse on security should accord priority to human beings since reference to individual humans, security makes little sense.

In spite of the controversies surrounding these debates however, the general interest of this study is on internal security in relation to protection of infrastructure and the multiplier effect it has on the economy of the country. Internal security of a nation is critical in its socio-economic and development processes. Therefore, the strategic importance of security at whatever level of definition becomes the sine qua non upon which the overall existence and survival of the system rests.

The critical importance of national security in a state like Nigeria which has found enmeshed in the quagmire of insecurity over time has been carefully articulated by a security expert and public commentator, Max Gbanite. According to Gbanite (2001) argued that:
When our citizen's right to safety from all kinds of man-made Threats are reduced considerably, the government will inherit an Increase in foreign investments….most countries would like to be a trading partner to secure the lives and property of their citizens first before they themselves allow theirs to move into such territories (Gbanite, 2001,p.32).

The above quotations points to the points made earlier that internal security could be a function of internal and external relations.

Drawing from the above, it can be said that Nigeria has experienced and have continued to face severe security challenges prior to 2003. Thus the security problems inception of democracy as earlier pointed out as received mixed reactions within and outside the Nigerian environment. Nonetheless, the increasing spate of insecurity and ethnic ranglings in the and their continuous attacks on both government institutions and structure as well as the people clearly underscores the tittle of the research.

The inability of the Nigerian political class, who are known to control the resources of the state to manage some of these challenges raises critical questions and skepticism about the drive of the Nigerian state to attain the status of becoming one of the largest economies of the world by the target year 2020. This tendency therefore poses serious threats to our national development as a sovereign entity.

However, addressing the security challenges in Nigerian ultimately requires not only the causes of threats, but also the essentials variables of the evaluation of security agencies in handling the situation in the country. These security agencies, to Nwagboso includes the National Intelligence Agency (NIA), National Security Agency (NSA, State Security Services (DSS), Nigeria Police Force (NPF), the Nigerian Immigration Service (NIS), Nigerian Customs Service (NCS), National Drug Law Enforcement Agency (NDLEA), the Nigeria Army (NA) and of course, the Nigerian Security and Civil Defence Corps.

The concept of national security is elusive and hence, has been widely misunderstood by scholars in the social sciences. It lends itself to what nations do in order to attain certain goals and national aspirations. To Carey (2000) and Wolf (1962) the concept is relational rather than objective.

Organizational Efficiency

Organizational efficiency (OE) is the concept of how effective an organization is in achieving the outcomes the organization intends to produce. Organizational efficiency groups in organization directly concern themselves with several key areas. They are talent management, leadership development, organization design and structure, design of measurements and scorecards, implementation of change and transformation, deploying smart processes and smart practices to manage the organization human capital and the formulation of the broader Human Resource agenda.

If an organization has practices and program in the areas above, the OE group does the following roles.
- ✓ Examine alignment between areas and improve them.
- ✓ Improve trade-offs between reliability, speed and quality in the above areas.
- ✓ Strategize for higher adoption rates in these areas.
- ✓ Facilitates/initiates/catalyses capability building: structure, process and people.

Etzioni, (1964) rapid advances in social sciences and technology aided by clever experimentation and observation in bringing several truths to the light of the society. There are several disciplines of social sciences that help the OE Practitioner be successful.
They include:

Decision Making: Ways in which real people make decisions, enabling them real time to make decisions, improving quality of decisions by leveraging adjacent discipline (for example-behavioral economics) and replicating relevant experiments, creating new ones and implementing their results to make organizations efficiency.

Change and Learning: Ways, in which people learn, change, adopt and align, get "affected" by dynamics in the environment and leveraging this knowledge to create effective organizations that are pioneers of changes and learning.

Group Efficiency: Ways in which real people work well together, especially in bringing new ideas and innovations, working of people to people protocols, impact of digitations and virtualization in organization of these protocols.

Self-organizing and Adaptive System: Ways in which self-organizing systems and highly network systems work, learning from them and the tangible ways in which they can be put in play to make organizations more effective.

According to Richard *et al.,* (2009) organizational efficiency captures organizational performance plus the myriad internal performances outcomes normally associates with more efficient or effective operations and other external measures that relate to considerations that are broader than those simply associated with economics valuation (either by shareholders, officials or public) such as corporate social responsibility.

However, scholars of non-profit organizational effectiveness acknowledge that the concept has multiple dimensions and multiple definitions. For example while most non-profit leaders define organizational effectiveness as "outcomes accountability" or the extent to which an organization achieves specific levels of progress towards its own goals, a minority of non-profit leaders define effectiveness as 'overhead' minimization", or the minimization of fund raising and administrative costs. Hence, organizational effectiveness is typically evaluated with non- profit organization using logic models.

Logic models are management tools widely used in the non- profit sector in the non- profit evaluation. Logic models are created for specific programs to link specific, measurable inputs to specific, measurable impacts. Typically, logic models specify how programs inputs, such as money and staff time, productive activities and outputs, such as service delivered, which in turn leads to impacts, such as improved operational efficiency.

The Concept of Efficiency
The simple, often used, definition of efficiency is (*"doing the right thing"*). The word *'efficient'* (adjective) is performing or functioning in the best possible manner with the least waste of time and effort. We need this measure for marketing activities and business processes since it helps us see when we are minimizing resource or time needed to complete a process, i.e. we are keeping our cost low. In digital marketing, for example, efficiency involves increasing conversion rates and reducing costs of acquisition.

Efficiency is defined as the ability to produce something with a minimum amount of effort. An example of efficiency is a reduction in the number of worker needed to make a car. Efficiency is an important attribute because all inputs are scarce. Time, money and raw materials are limited, so it makes sense to try to conserve them while maintaining an acceptable level of input or a general production level. Being efficient simply means reducing the amount of wasted inputs.

Employees and managers are often inefficient because they either don't know how to be efficient or do not have the necessary tools to perform tasks efficiently. Ways to improve efficiency include meeting with managers and employees to outline ways to implement efficiency in the workplace and asking for opinions on what the workplace is missing.

For example, a small business that lacks an employee email system prevents managers from communicating with employees efficiently. For an organization to succeed at accomplishing its aims, it must be able to create the right plans needed to accomplish those aims, pull together the resources needed to implement those plans, and then use resources such as cash and labour in the actual implementation of those plans.

Organizations efficiency is the organization's ability to implement its plan using the smallest possible expenditure resources. It is an important factor in the firm's organizational effectiveness, this being the case and degree of success with which the organizations is able to accomplish its aims.

The Relationship between Efficiency and Effectiveness

Efficiency is important for profitability while *Effectiveness* is important for growth. By increasing efficiency we both save time and money, thus making our businesses more profitable while effectiveness is important for growth.

Organizational efficiency as a factor is important in gauging a business entity's effectiveness, but it is by no means the only factor of importance,

Organizational efficiency is a viral factor to the effectiveness of the organization's acquisition of resources and the use of those resources to implement its plans, but it is less important to the creation of those plans. Increased organizational efficiency make implementation of both cheaper and smoother, but it is less useful if the plan being implemented was a bad plan.

For example, is a business is able to produce and bring market winter coats that costs less than competitors in a tropical nation, that business is efficient but the decision to sell winter coats In that climate was almost certainly foolish and misguided. Despite this, organizational efficiency is still important to planning because it enables plans that are otherwise impossible.

For example, if a business competitor has an entrenched position in a market but is less efficient in producing products, that business can enter the market through selling its products at lower prices than it can afford because of its lower production costs.

Factors that influence the efficiency of the organization's use of its resources (resources include concrete items such as cash and more abstract concepts such as human capital) can be both internal and external to the organization.

For example, the quality of an organization's labour is often dependent in part of the general education of the region in which that organization is based. Quality of management is perhaps the most influential factor of organizational efficiency since t is management that chooses how to implement strategic plans- including selecting what method and resources to use, and leading employees in order to make the most of the labour.

The Efficiency and Effectiveness Improvement Techniques

There are many ways in which organizations can improve their efficiency and effectiveness, and in this review, we will look at methods/ techniques that have been proven to work, learn about what you need to do to improve productivity, make better and faster decisions and boost employee motivation.

This approach provides the missing links that often inhibits organization from achieving effectiveness. While you may understand your mission (or some part of it), it is often challenging to rally the team of techniques around the fulfillment of it. The translation of the mission into a set of required organizational capabilities makes it much easier for the entire organization to relate with the specific areas of improvement and become engaged and impassioned about improving them. Once you have identified the potential organizational capability gaps, you can establish a framework to build those capabilities and drive organizational effectiveness and efficiency.

Charles Araujo, author, professional speaker, industry analyst (founder of the institute for Digital Transformation), offers the following steps to improve efficiency and effectiveness in an organization.

While previous and the present administration of the F.C.T had left a mountain of administrative rot their propelled infrastructure collapse an socio-economic stagnation, there is need to redesign the roadmap to F.C.T development. Expectedly the administration has not pin the rebuilding, remodeling and rejuvenation of urban and rural infrastructure agenda to pragmatic, phase-by-phase approach that will take cognizance of available resources, geographical-cum-ethnic balancing and effective resources allocation in a manner that do not suffer other government development responsibilities that would engender rural growth.

Massive investment in an commitment to the provision if adequate security has to go to the root of the urban and rural renewal drive in the F.C.T. Today, the problem that characterized property acquisition and development in most parts of the F.C.T, especially in the satellite or border towns, has been on increase and nobody is addressing the challenges'.

Conclusion and recommendations

The residents of the Federal Capital Territory (FCT) are not seeing the much impact of the organization due to the not too clear mandate, the Nigerian police have seriously overshadowed NSCDC Service thereby making her unnoticed in the communities.

The exercise did again show that the people in the rural areas like Dobi Village in Gwagalada and Dabi bako village in Kwali area councils do not know NSCDC but see them as a unit of the Nigerian Police.

The personnel are not well motivated and this has brought a very low morale to the service. This point is a sensitive exposure that was made in the cause of the research, it is principally as a failure of a leadership that is unpatriotic and selfish. Promotions are delayed whereby an officer will be on one rank between seven to nine years and when they are promoted, due to allowance are not paid.

The worst of all is that many officers wearing grade level nine rank are receiving salary of grade level seven officer, according to an officer that pleaded anonymity, said that they beg motorist on the highway for assistance to be able to go work and come back.

The regulatory agency should therefore address the issue which is sensitive and unacceptable by all standards.
a) The performance of any organization is based on a trained workforce, and the NSCDC is not an exception in this approach. There should be a policy framework of basic operational training and re-training of the personnel in other to keep them in form for unforeseen challenges that could arise in course of their duties. And it should be not allocated as welfare to the leadership cronies as morale support to remain loyal, but training for professional enhancement which must be base on merit.

b) Politically interference have been the bane of ineffectiveness and inefficiency in the institutions, there should be complete freedom from politically influence in NSCDC whereby the powers that be would desist from the personal as private tools for personal interest.

c) Finally, there should be a sensitization and awareness campaign on the role NSCDC that would align with populace thereby building confidence and trust between the corps and the communities. These will engender cordial relationship and disabuse the minds of the locals that sees every uniform as agent of coercion and intimidation in the society.

Conflicts of interest
The authors declare no conflicts of interest.

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