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**INVESTIGATING THE ROLE AND CHALLENGES
OF NIGERIA SECURITY AND CIVIL DEFENSE CORPS
(NSCDC) IN COMBATING OIL PIPELINE VANDALISM
IN WARRI, DELTA STATE, NIGERIA**

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Abstract

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Key words: NSCDC, Pipeline vandalism, Youth, oil, Economic development

Introduction

Nigeria in recent times has witnessed an unprecedented level of insecurity and this has made national security threat to be a major issue for the government and has prompted huge allocation of the national budget to security (Achumba, Ighomereho and Akpor-Robaro, 2013). Successive Governments had set up security mechanism to tackle security challenges facing the citizens as well as

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social infrastructure put in place by the government (Adishi and Hunga, 2017). As a matter of fact, insecurity to a large extent is one of the factors affecting the country's developments. To this end, Godly and Wilfred (2012) observed that, in Nigeria of today new forms of violent crimes have become common: These includes kidnapping (usually adult or privileged people's napping) for ransom, Boko Haram bombings, rape, political violence, arson, burglary and pipeline vandalism.

Oil pipeline vandalism has become a common phenomenon and has been reported in several countries of the world, this includes countries such as Indonesia, US, UK, Canada, Iran and Iraq (Davies et al., 2009; Hosmer, Stanton, & Beane, 1997; Parfomak 2004); Russia and Former Soviet Union (FSU) (ESMAP 2003); Columbia, Saudi Arabia and Nigeria (Lia & Kjek, 2004). Hosmer et al. (1997) argued that some attacks may result in substantial oil spills in sensitive locations hard to reach for facility operators to repair. Also, response efforts may be prevented by communities or vandals. Oil pipeline vandalism is particularly widespread in Nigeria (Adebayo & Dada, 2008, Jasper 2009). Obgeni (2012) opined that a total of 16,083 pipeline breaks were recorded within the last 10 years adding that while 398 pipeline breaks representing 2.4 percent were due to ruptures, the activities of vandals accounted for 15, 685 breaks which translated to about 97.5 percent of the total number of cases. The statistics above is corroborated by the 2013 annual report of the Nigerian Extractive Industry Transparency Initiative (NEITI), that Nigeria lost a total of 10.9 billion US Dollars to oil theft between 2009 and 2011 (NEITI, 2013; Onoja, 2013).

The security of these oil facilities is imperative as the perpetrators of oil pipeline vandalism are mostly the criminal syndicates who are motivated by the desire to loot oil products for material gain. Hence, the responsibility to ensure the security of these pipelines is part of the duties of the various security agencies such as the police, armed forces and Nigerian Security and Civil Defence Corps (Adishi and Hunga, 2017). The Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps is a Para-military agency of the government of the Federal Republic of Nigeria. Part of its obligations is to protect and prevent vandalism of major government infrastructure including the oil pipelines (Adishi and Hunga, 2017). As an internal paramilitary agency, the Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps (NSCDC) established by Act of 2003, NSCDC had also been assigned to play crucial roles in grassroots security system and nation building (Uthman, 2016). It has power to arrest with warrant or without warrant, detain, investigate and institute legal proceedings against any person who is

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reasonably suspected to have committed an offence, investigate and take necessary step to forestall any planned act of terrorism and report same to appropriate federal security agency among others (Abolurin 2010:3).

Uthman (2016) noted that since the formation of the corps, it has performed tremendously in the area of crime prevention. Chidozie (2009) observes that Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps have recorded a significant achievement and commitment in discharging their duties without arms. According to him, Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps has done satisfactory work in the areas like escort/public security of well-meaning Nigerians and foreigners, carrying out anti-vandalisation, arresting and prosecuting of vandals, restoration of riot and conflict areas among others. It is also noted however that, the outfit (NSCDC) has paraded several suspected illegal bunkerers and operators of illegal refineries in several parts of the country especially in the Niger Delta region leading to the destruction or recovery of several barges, canoes, speed and large wooden boats (Ogodo, 2012). Despite the contributions of NSCDC in combating oil pipeline vandalism, many factors have been identified by scholars to be responsible for the ineffectiveness on the part of NSCDC in the discharge of their duties in the protection of oil facilities across the country. The organization is observed by Godly and Wilfred (2012) to lack adequate manpower, modern technological equipment, adequate training and fund.

Thus this study investigates the role and challenges of Nigeria Security and Civil Defense Corps (NSCDC) in combating pipeline vandalism in Warri metropolis, Delta State, Nigeria. Various studies have been carried out in Sub-Saharan Africa and Nigeria on the dimensions of pipeline sabotage, actors, health and economic implications of pipeline vandalism but there appears to be a dearth of research on the role and challenges of NSCDC in combating vandalism in Warri Nigeria.

Statement of the Problem

Pipeline vandalism is a problem of urgent attention by all and sundry. Vandalism of oil pipeline can cause issues like underdevelopment, malnutrition, oil spillage, and scarcity of fuel for transportation as well as high cost of purchase of the products among others (Umar and Uthman, 2017). Countries today cannot survive without crude oil products. The issue of insecurity accruing from oil pipeline vandalism has affected the revenue the Nigerian government generates from the oil industries in Nigeria. Nigeria lost a

total of 10.9 billion US Dollars to oil theft between 2009 and 2011 (NEITI, 2013; Onoja, 2013). This loss indicates the significance of vandalism as a veritable problem in the Nigerian oil industry. The implications of oil pipeline vandalism vis-a-vis Nigeria's security has been vividly demonstrated by its nexus with economic, environmental, and humanitarian losses and consequences (Onuoha, 2009). Between 2010 and 2012, total of 2,787 lines breaks were reported on pipelines belonging to the Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC), resulting in a loss of 157.81mt of petroleum products worth about ₦12.53billion. Scholars have agreed that oil production is very essential for the development of a country. Oil pipeline vandalism has also led to high incidence of oil spillage in Nigeria over the years. This incidence has also resulted in environmental degradation which jeopardizes the land, vegetation and habitation of the affected area. This has been exemplified in desolation of farmlands, loss of aquatic and wild lives, as well as water and air pollution. These conditions have implications for public health and safety of the people. It is the hope of this study that the problem of oil pipeline vandalism in the country can be resolved having study the roles of the NSCDC in combating this menace with attention of the challenges and what can be done to improve and have a total defeat in the war against pipeline vandalism so that the economic and social development expected from the oil sector can be achieved in Nigeria.

Objectives of the Study

The main objective of the study is to investigate the role and challenges of Nigeria Security and Civil Defense Corps (NSCDC) in combating pipeline vandalism in Warri metropolis, Delta State, Nigeria. However, in attempt to achieve this, the research specific objectives are:

- i. To identify the role-played by the Nigeria Security and Civil Defense Corps in combating pipeline vandalism.
- ii. To examine the challenges militating against optimum performance of NSCDC in combating pipeline vandalism in Nigeria.
- iii. To highlight the implications of pipeline vandalism in the Nigerian society.

Methodology

The study utilized the quantitative research method to investigate the role and challenges of NSCDC in combating pipeline vandalism in Warri metropolis. It adopted a descriptive survey using structured questionnaire for systematic

empirical investigation of the phenomena under study. The population of the study was one hundred respondents comprising members of the agency (NSCDC) and members of the host communities in Warri metropolis where incidents of pipeline vandalism were experienced. Thus the purposive sampling technique was used to focus on administering copies of questionnaires to members of the group in charge of the fight against pipeline vandalism in Warri. The participants majorly are the officials of NSCDC deployed to combat pipeline vandalism in Warri. The copies of questionnaire were also administered to members of the community where the pipeline is located. This is because the inhabitants of this community are directly affected by pipeline vandalism and they also have first hand information about the issues surrounding oil pipeline vandalism. The study adopted Likert modified four point response scale. The sample size was made up fifty-five percent for officials of NSCDC while the host community (Pipeline located areas) constitutes the remaining forty-five percent of the total respondents. The copies of questionnaire were coded and analyzed using the simple descriptive statistical analysis.

Theoretical Framework

Strain Theory

The strain theory, propounded by Robert Merton, is used as theoretical framework for this study. The theory was developed by Merton (1957) using Durkheim's concept of anomie. Merton posited that when a legitimate means, for example (job employment) of acquiring a culturally defined goal (money) is limited by the structure of society, the resulting strain may lead to crime. As such, strain theory explains criminality as a result of blocked opportunities or impediments which are put on the way of people consciously or unconsciously by the society or government. This leads to social disorganization, which makes the individual (unemployed youth) to try in achieving the societal goals (employment) through deviant means (criminality). To such individual, any institutionalized means is legitimate as long as the end justifies the means.

In our attempt to situate this study within a specific theoretical framework that will be appropriate in explaining the relationship as regard the topic on the challenges of NSCDC in combating pipeline vandalism; its impact on Nigeria economy; the general strain theory is adopted. Strain theorist believes that most people share similar values and goals. They want to earn money, have a nice home, drive a great car, and wear stylish

clothes. They also want to care for their families and educate their children. Unfortunately, the ability to achieve these personal goals are stratified by social economic class, while the affluent may live a big life, the poor are shut out from achieving their goals, because they cannot always get what they want, they begin to feel frustrated and angry towards governmental policies, organization and individual who they feel as the ones that are thwarting their goal directed behaviour – a condition referred to as strain (Adishi, 2016). Generally, strain is related to criminal motivation of people who feel economically and socially humiliated, annihilated and may perceived that they have the right to humiliate the aggrieved.

In Nigeria today, after long years of injustices melted on the Vandals and bottled emotion as a result of suppression by the military, the advent of democracy which allow people to express themselves as a result of democratic windows of self-expression and urge for fundamental human rights against the working of the state and security sector generally stressed the working relationship between security sector, government and the citizens, hence high risk factors (strain) and new security challenges. The role of NSCDC is majorly to protect these oil facilities across the country and also to suppress the tendencies of vandals in the society. It has been shown that the officials of NSCDC have not been able to live up to expectation because of some challenges facing them. The theory is relevant to our work which focuses on pipeline vandalism, a crime in the Nigerian society which many would agree today has not just emanated but for reasons of unemployment, poverty, hunger and some other forms of unpleasant welfare. We can therefore argue that the significant of the theory cannot be over emphasizing as it will serve as a framework for the study.

Data Analysis and Interpretation

In this section, the data on the role and challenges of Nigeria security and civil defense corps in combating pipeline vandalism in Warri metropolis are presented in the tables below.

Results

Table 1: Socio-Demographic characteristics of the respondents

Variables	Frequencies	Percentage (%)
Gender		
Male	59	59%
Female	41	41%
Total	100	100.0%
Age		
15-25	40	40%
26-35	22	22%
36-45	17	17%
46 and above	21	21%
Total	100	100%
Academic Qualification		
School leaving certificate	6	6%
Secondary School Certificate	27	27%
Tertiary Institution	67	67%
Total	100	100.0

(Source: field survey, 2019)

Table 1 represents socio-demographic characteristics of respondents. Sex distribution of the respondents shows that, 59% are male, while 41% of the respondents are female. This suggests that there were more males in the distribution than females. Furthermore, 40% of the total populations are between the ages of 16 to 25, 22% are between the ages of 26 to 35, 17% of the respondents are between the ages of 36 to 45 while 21% are 46 years and above. This shows that the larger parts of the respondents are youth who have better understanding of the issues concerning pipeline vandalism in Delta State Nigeria. Also as observed from the table, the first category of the sampled respondents are just holders of First School Leaving Certificate, they constituted the lowest number in the respondents with just 6 which is 6% of the total respondents. Similarly, another category of respondents are 27 (27%) and these are individuals whose qualifications are Senior Secondary School Certificate. The last set of people constitutes 67 (67%) who are holders of tertiary education certificate. This indicates that most of the respondents are well learned since those with tertiary educational qualification constitutes larger part of the entire population of the study.

Table 2: Distribution of respondents on the role of NSCDC in combating pipeline vandalism in Warri Nigeria

	The role of NSCDC in combating pipeline vandalism Warri Nigeria.	A (%)	SA (%)	D (%)	SD (%)
1	NSCDC has been able to restore peace and protect pipelines in Nigeria.	43(43)	57(57)	0	0
2	The NSCDC have carried out operations on several occasions to combat pipeline vandalism in Nigeria.	57(57)	40(40)	3(3)	0
3	The police is a very important agency the NSCDC should work with to tackle pipeline vandalism in the country	43(43)	55(55)	2(2)	0
4	The NSCDC collaborate with other law enforcement agencies in the country to protect the pipelines in Nigeria	50(50)	39(39)	9(9)	2(2)
5	Many people have been caught vandalizing the pipeline on several occasions by the NSCDC	52(52)	40(40)	6(6)	2(2)

(Source Field Work, 2019)

From the above table, it has shown that the entire respondent (100%) opined that NSCDC have been able to restore peace and protect pipelines in Nigeria as at current situation of the country. It is revealed that 57% and 40% agreed and strongly agreed respectively with the statement that NSCDC have carried out operations on several occasions to combat pipeline vandalism in the country. 98% of the respondents also align with the view that the NSCDC should partner with the police in combating pipeline vandalism in the country. Only 10% of the respondents disagreed that NSCDC collaborate with other security agencies in the country to fight pipeline vandalism, the other 90% support that they collaborate in the fight against pipeline vandalism in the country. The last statement on the questionnaire formulated for research question three is "Many people have been caught vandalizing the pipeline on several occasions by the NSCDC", according to our analysis, 52% agreed, 40% strongly agreed, 6% disagreed and 2% strongly disagreed. From the above analysis, we can deduce that the role and contribution of NSCDC in the fight against pipeline vandalism cannot be overemphasized. They work hand in hand with other security agencies to ensure that Nigerian Pipelines are safe and the people living around the pipeline area are safe and well secured.

Table 3; Distribution of respondents on the challenges of NSCDC in combating pipeline vandalism in Warri, Nigeria

SN.	Challenges of NSCDC in combating pipeline vandalism in Nigeria.	A%	SA%	D%	SD%
1	The location of the pipeline in Warri is strategic and perfect.	45	38	9	8
2	The problem of pipeline vandalism is very rampant in Warri	50	20	18	12
3	Members of the community also contribute to the increase rate of pipeline vandalism by not reporting cases of pipeline vandalism to the appropriate authority.	55	23	17	5
4	The NSCDC is facing problems of lack of trained professional personnel	48	28	10	14
5	Some of those who engage in pipeline vandalism are sponsored by some political elites in the community.	51	31	17	1
6	The NSCDC is facing the problems of inefficient equipment.	18	17	55	10
7	The NSCDC is facing the problems of corruption	18	44	28	10
8	The NSCDC is facing the problems of lack of proper funding in its efforts to combat oil pipeline vandalism in Nigeria.	42	26	20	12
9	Areas of oil pipelines in the country lacks effective security arrangements	18	44	28	10

(Source: Field Work, 2019)

In the presentations above, majority of the respondents who are residents of Warri, the study area believed that the location of the pipeline within Warri metropolis is strategic and perfect. In item 1, 70% of the respondents agreed and strongly agreed that pipeline vandalism is prevalence in Warri. Also, it is agreed by 55% of the respondents that members of the community also contribute to the increase rate of pipeline vandalism by not reporting cases of pipeline vandalism to the appropriate authority, 23% strongly agreed to this opinion while 17% and 5% disagreed and strongly disagreed respectively. Item 4 shows that majority of the respondents which total 76% support the assertion that lack of professional personnel is a problem facing NSCDC. 51% and 31% agreed and strongly agreed respectively that most of the pipeline vandals are sponsored by the political elites in the community.

Table 4: Distribution of respondents on the implication of oil pipeline vandalism to Nigeria society

SN.	The implications of pipeline vandalism in the Nigeria society	A%	SA%	D%	SD%
1	Nigeria had witnessed environmental degradation and loss of economic activities of the communities due to pipeline vandalism.	30	57	8	5
2	There have been fire disasters and pipeline explosions due to pipeline vandalism in the country.	42	46	4	8
3	Pipeline vandalism has created the scarcity of oil production in the country.	47	53	0	0
4	Pipeline vandalism has created environmental pollution to the community	40	60	0	0
5	Oil pipeline vandalism has resulted in the wanton killing of government officials and public security agents in Nigeria.	40	45	7	8
6	Pipeline vandalism constitutes a veritable threat to the Nigeria society as a whole.	39	58	0	3

(Source: Field Work, 2019)

The table above shows that 87% of the total respondents support that Nigeria had witnessed environmental degradation and loss of economic activities of the communities due to pipeline vandalism. In item 2, 42% agreed, 46% strongly agreed, 4% and 8% disagreed and strongly disagreed respectively that there has been fire disasters and pipeline explosions due to pipeline vandalism in the country. It also revealed that 100% of the respondents support the view that one of the major causes of fuel scarcity in the country is pipeline vandalism. Similarly all the respondents aligned with statement that pipeline vandalism has created environmental pollution to the immediate community. In item 5 where it is stated that "Oil pipeline vandalism has resulted in the wanton killing of government officials and public security agents in Nigeria", 40% of the respondents agreed, 45% strongly agreed, 7% disagreed and 8% strongly disagreed. Lastly, it shows that only 3% of the entire population strongly disagreed that Pipeline vandalism constitutes a veritable threat to the Nigeria society as a whole, the other 97% agreed and strongly agreed with the assertion. The analysis shows large percentage of our correspondents recognized many of the implications pipeline vandalism has caused the country. This is so because in average, 93 out of 100 respondents agreed and strongly agreed with the statements formulated for the purpose of the research questions.

Discussion of Findings

From the analysis so far, it was discovered that NSCDC is a very vital security operative in Nigeria that is mandated with the responsibility of ensuring that the pipelines in the country are safe and members of the immediate community where the pipelines are located across the country should be safe from any harm that could be caused by any form of pipeline vandalism. It is also evident that the role played by NSCDC are numerous and in line with the submissions of Uthman (2016), Kingdom Sunday Mboho and Tahirih Emmanuel Udousoro (2014) among others research work, our findings show that establishing NSCDC is a welcome development by the government to tackle the menace of pipeline vandalism. It is also note worthy that this work further agree with the view that Nigerian Security and Civil Defense Corps is saddled with the responsibility of protecting and preventing vandalism of major government infrastructure including the oil pipelines.

This result of the findings also revealed that the view of Chidozie (2009) who observes that NSCDC has been helpful in restoring peace and ensuring safety of the Nigerian Pipeline. It was also discovered from the findings that there have been a collaborative efforts between the NSCDC and other security agencies in tackling oil pipeline vandalism in Nigeria and they have caught several individuals who have vandalize oil pipeline in the country. More revealed in the findings of this work that there are many problems confronting NSCDC in the discharge of their duties and functions in the fight against pipeline vandalism in the country. Having noted that the problem of pipeline vandalism is rampant in the country and needs urgent attention and corroborating the research work of scholars like Uthman (2016), Kingdom and Tahirih (2014), Chidozie, E. (2009) among others, our work shows that many of the challenges facing NSCDC which need to be tackled are lackadaisical attitude of community members who do not report cases of pipeline vandalism, lack of professionally trained personnel, sponsorship of vandalism by political elites, lack of sufficient and inefficient equipment, high level of corruption in the country and lack of effective security arrangements in the areas where pipelines are situated all over the country.

The findings also revealed that oil pipeline vandalism has had devastating effects on the Nigerian economy. Firstly, its agreed that oil pipeline vandalism have caused issues like environmental degradation, loss of lives and properties, economic disturbances, fire disasters and explosion, fuel scarcity, environmental pollution, killing of government officials and security agencies. In a whole, the vandalism of pipeline is a threat to the Nigerian society as a whole.

Conclusion

In conclusion, from the findings, and data generated from the respondents, it was observed that the Nigeria security and Civil defense corps perform the following role in Nigeria; to man all the pipelines in the country. They focus on complete rescue operations, crisis management and complimentary security roles and security outfit in the country, they also perform the role of securing the state and the people for peace, justice and orderliness in the country. Also, the NSCDC have collaborated with other law enforcement agencies in the country to protect the pipelines in Nigeria. They have been able to catch and arrest and prosecute vandals on several occasions. On the Effects and implications of pipeline vandalism to the Nigeria society; pipeline vandalism has created the scarcity of oil production in the community (Asu 2016), Nigeria had witnessed environmental degradation and loss of economic activities of the communities due to pipeline vandalism (Alohan 2013). Also, pipeline vandalism has created environmental pollution to the community (Ogbuefin 2007)

The NSCDC is facing some problems hindering it from performing its work effectively. Some of the problems faces as gathered from respondents answer are; the problems of corruption (Asu 2016), lack of proper funding in its efforts to combat oil pipelines vandalism in Nigeria. Also, the agreement made by majority of the respondents led to the conclusion that areas of oil pipelines in the country lacks effective security arrangements. The members of the community also contribute into the increase rate of pipeline vandalism by not reporting cases of pipeline vandalism to the appropriate authority.

Recommendations

Based on the findings of this study, the following recommendations are made:

1. The government should give NSCDC more political and constitutional power and make some funds available for combating vandalisation in the country.
2. Stiffer punishment should be given to any security agents who conspires or aid and abet pipeline vandalism in the country.
3. Employment should be created to fill in the gap of unemployment as a cause for people who engage in pipeline vandalism
4. Officers and men of NSCDC should be motivated with well-paid salaries and other important facilities should be made available to them.
5. The Corps and communities around the pipeline in Nigeria should always organize effective neighborhood watch otherwise known as vigilante group to protect the pipeline facilities in the Nigeria.

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