

**ASSESSING THE NIGERIA POLICE FORCE'S STRATEGIES
AGAINST ARMED BANDITRY IN KATSINA STATE (2017-2022)**

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ABSTRACT: The study examined the strategies of the Nigeria Police Force (NPF) in the fight against armed banditry in Katsina State, Nigeria, from 2017 to 2022. The following research objectives guided the study: understand the strategies adopted by the NPF in the fight against armed banditry and investigate the frequently used modus operandi by the NPF to fight armed banditry in the State. The study was anchored on the Situational Crime Prevention Theory that Ronal Clark propounded. Primary and secondary sources of data were sourced from the 10 frontline Local Government Areas (LGAs) affected by armed banditry in the State. A multi-stage cluster sampling method comprised of cluster sampling, stratified sampling and simple random sampling techniques was used because the study area was large in size while the population was scattered across the State. A sample size of 700 questionnaires was administered to the study's respondents. Additionally, 22 Key Informant Interviews (KIIs) were purposively conducted with police officers, vigilantes, male and female residents, village heads, youth leaders, arrested bandits held in police custody, and detained alleged informants of bandits held in police custody. Findings revealed that NPF in the State have carried out a sustained campaign against corruption among its personnel, deployed Operation Puff Adder Teams, personnel from the Intelligence Response Teams (IRT) and Force Intelligence Bureau (FIB) as strategies against armed banditry in the State. The study also revealed that other strategies adopted by the police against armed banditry in the State were the deployment of personnel of the Police Mobile Force (PMF) and Special Tactical Forces (STF) against armed bandits in the State. The study further revealed that the frequently used strategy by the NPF to fight armed banditry in the State was the use of personnel from the PMF and the deployment of Operation Puff Adder teams. It was recommended that the Federal Government of Nigeria (FGN) procure modern technological and logistical tools for the NPF to enable the police to commence the use of information and communication technology gadgets and armoured personnel Carriers (APCs) as part of its improved multifaceted initiatives in the fight against armed banditry in the State. Also, the FGN, which is the proprietor of both NPF and the Nigerian Military, must create a deliberate policy for regular joint police and military operations against armed banditry to foster inter-agency collaboration in the State.

Keywords: Nigeria Police, Strategies, Armed Banditry, Attacks, Crimes

INTRODUCTION

Over the last ten years (since 2012), the increasing plundering of rural communities by an organized band of criminals around the globe has continued to be a source of worry and misery to the affected communities and the international community (Abdullahi, Victor & Binta, 2018).

Similarly, many parts of the African continent such as in the Sub-African countries like Mali, Niger and Nigeria are most affected by the scourge of armed banditry. Also, the most affected states by armed banditry in Nigeria are Zamfara, Kaduna, Niger, Plateau, Kebbi, Sokoto and Katsina (Aminu & Bala, 2024).

In Katsina State, apart from the terror that victims of armed banditry attacks are left to contend with, armed banditry attacks in the affected communities have made the task of law enforcement, maintenance of social order by the police a herculean and challenging task to perform (Katsina State Command of Nigeria Police Force, (hereafter, KSCNPF), 2021). The contemporary form of armed banditry attacks in the State also take the form of maiming of victims, raping women and girls, attacking schools and massively abducting teachers and students. The bandits also indulge in the abduction of farmers on their farmlands, imposing illicit levies on farmers and village markets, among others (Maigari, Dantani, & Arafat, 2021).

In Katsina State, armed banditry activities have led to the killings of more than 1,500 people, while 71,100 people have been internally displaced by the activities of armed banditry as of January 2021. Also, tens of thousands of people in the State have crossed over into Niger Republic (United Nations Humanitarian Commission for Refugees (hereafter, UNHCR), 2021).

In realization of the destructive nature of armed banditry in Katsina State and how it disrupts social life and undermines effective socio-economic development and the rule of law, the Nigeria Police Force (NPF) initiated several security operations in the State (Maigari *et al.*, 2021). Some of the operations involved the deployment of squadrons of police mobile force detachments (Ladan, 2019). However, despite being an internal security issue, the Federal Government initiated a policy of military deployment and operations in the state. At the same time, the State Government, out of desperation, introduced an amnesty program for repentant bandits to denounce violence.

The policy of military operations initiated by the Federal Government included Operation *Harbin Kunama*, Operation *Sharan Daji*, and Operation *Dirar Miikiya* to prevent and control armed banditry in the State (Ladan, 2019). These military operations have not effectively achieved the desired results in Katsina. This is because the menace of armed banditry in the State seemed to have defied military solutions as there is a rising trend of armed banditry attacks in the State, which has further worsened the precarious security condition of the State (Maigari *et al.*, 2021). Despite these efforts taken by the authorities of Federal/ State government as well as NPF authorities in Katsina State, the menace of armed banditry attacks has not been effectively tackled (ICG, 2020). Thus, it was on this premise that this research originated. Therefore, this research was conducted to study the strategies used by the NPF in the fight against armed banditry in Katsina State.

Statement of the Research Problem

Enforcing laws and maintaining the rule of law in Katsina State has been disrupted due to the plundering routinely carried out by armed bandits. Armed banditry in Katsina State typically revealed how some sedentary Hausa farmers and Fulbe pastoralists who lost their farmlands and cattle without some compensation and social justice from the authorities in the State went into brigandage to acquire illicit wealth (Blench, 2018).

Considering the NPF statutory role as stated in Section 4 of the Police Act of [Cap. 359] Laws of the Federation of Nigeria 2020, the agency being which is a security agency that is saddled with the responsibility of maintaining internal security in the State and Nigeria, the NPF introduced “Operation Puff Adder” which was a combination of 500 Special Forces of police officers attached to Divisional Police Headquarters to dislodge armed bandits from their enclaves and provide safer highways against armed banditry activities (NPF, 2021).

While commenting on the need for authorities to support the NPF to perform its statutory role in the prevention and control of armed banditry in Katsina State, Blench (2018) noted that there are instances where local communities provide cover for armed bandits, preventing them from being eliminated by the Special Forces of the military and police. There is also the suspicion that there are influential people in authority behind the armed banditry activities in the State. Blench (2018) noted that there have been series of deployment of joint military and police operations in the State with the aim to subdue armed bandits in the State, but these operations have instead dispersed most of these armed bandits, resulting in their spread to other regions where they sometimes carry out vicious attacks. Thus, it was in line with this problem statement that the proposed study conducted an assessment of the strategies used by the NPF in the fight against armed banditry in Katsina State.

Objectives of the Research

The following research objectives guided this research:

- i. Analyze the strategies adopted by the NPF in the fight against armed banditry in Katsina State.
- ii. Investigate the Challenges militating against NPF's fight against armed banditry in Katsina State.

LITERATURE REVIEW

Strategies deployed by NPF in Prevention and Control of Crimes in the Society

Several strategies have been employed by the police in the prevention and control of violent and organized crimes around the globe. Some of these strategies are explained as follows:

One strategy deployed against outlaws around the globe is a sustained campaign against corruption and institutionalizing the free principles of hard work, determination, and timely delivery of police service. Ranolds (2019) explained that police, as the first contact in the criminal justice system, ought to refocus itself to carry out its statutory duties and responsibilities of arresting outlaws and their collaborators. He added that they are also to focus on prosecuting them within the courts of law without the abuse of their fundamental human rights.

Brenner (2021) noted that the police's strategy of deploying special tactical forces in Nigeria has contributed to maintaining law and order in communities affected by armed bandits. Similarly,

Blench (2018) opined that this strategy deployed by police authorities in Nigeria has immensely improved the agency's tactical operations against the menace of armed banditry.

The implementation of a new curriculum designed and developed for the training of police officers in handling organized and violent crimes such as armed banditry and terrorism remains a strategy for the prevention and control of crimes in society (Daniel, Onyango & Tanui, 2019). In line with international best practices, the police as an institution must embark on enhanced capacity training and development, specifically in areas of complex weapons handling and tactical manoeuvring of APCs during onslaught against armed criminals (International Association of Police Chiefs, (hereafter, IAPC, 2011).

Musa (2006) argued that strategic media communications have been a very effective tool kit employed by police executives in boosting the morale of the police personnel, winning the support of the public and dousing tension or fear among residents of the society. Musa (2006) added that the mediums for strategic media communications in the process of crime prevention and control have expanded exponentially over the years and are utilized as avenues for crime prevention.

Intelligence gathering and surveillance have remained a core strategy used by the police to prevent and control crimes in society (Daniel, 2011). Monday and Sylvester (2021) noted that the NPF have been collecting, collating, processing, evaluating and disseminating intelligence information on the crimes that have been committed or those crimes that the police are reasonably convinced are about to be committed with the intention of forestalling their occurrence.

The reinforcement of the philosophy and practice of community policing which specifically aims to bring about the participation of residents of communities in the fight against crimes, has been used by the police against crimes (Chinyere, 2018).

Factors Militating against Optimal Prevention and Control of Crime by the Police

There are several challenges facing the Nigeria Police Force (NPF) in the prevention and control of crime. Some of these challenges included:

i. External and political interferences

External and political interferences are factors militating against the optimal performance of the police in society. This statement was empirically confirmed by the work of Osei-Adufour (2017), which revealed that the Ghanaian public viewed the police in Ghana as being politically and externally influenced

ii. Poor Welfare and Working Conditions within the Police Organization

In a study by Amendola, et al. (2011) on the effects of poor working within police organization in the United States and Canada revealed that majority of the respondents 40.0% indicated that they had sleep disorder at least once in every month this sleep disorders have been previously diagnosed before. Similarly, the work of Aminu and Bala (2024) revealed that poor working and welfare of

police was a serious factor responsible for the exacerbating the activities of armed bandits in North West States Nigeria like Zamfara, Kaduna, Sokoto, Kebbi and specifically Katsina.

iii. Inadequate Skilled Manpower in the NPF

The shortage of manpower in the NPF has continued to be attributed to the less-than-optimum performance of the police in Nigeria. Arisukwu, Igbolekwu, Oye, Oyeyipo, Asamu, Rasak and Oyekola (2020) conducted a study and the findings revealed that the majority of the respondents (100% indicated that police alone could not prevent and control crimes in their community due to a shortage of manpower.

iv. Rising Unemployment, Poverty and Restiveness

Increasing unemployment and restiveness among Nigerians is another challenge faced by the police in Nigeria, and this has serious consequences on the role of the police in the prevention and control of crime in Nigeria. Aminu (2018) argued that there has been a growing trend of poverty and unemployment among Nigerians, especially the youth. He added that this has created a large pool of angry and potential criminals and criminals who engage in armed banditry in the country.

v. Divesting of some of the NPF Responsibilities

Odekunle (2004) explained that the NPF has had some of its core responsibilities taken away from it and given to some other agencies, but ironically, the country still expects the NPF to police the country without challenges. He added that these core responsibilities are the roles that actually allow the police to carry out their statutory responsibilities of crime prevention and control.

vi. Corruption

A study by Maliki (2012) indicated that a majority of the respondents indicated that 70% who were accused persons in the custody of the police revealed that they see the police as corrupt and not performing their duties because their cases were not handled properly and transparently.

vii. Inadequate Budgetary Allocation and Late Release of Budgeted Funds

Insufficient budgetary provision is another challenge faced by the NPF, and this has serious consequences for the police's role in the prevention and control of crime in Nigeria. A study by Amos and Kingsley (2014) revealed that the NPF was grossly inadequately financed and inadequately equipped.

viii. Inadequate Modern Technological Equipment and Logistics

The issue of inadequate and obsolete equipment in the NPF has remained a serious challenge that has continued to facilitate the police's less-than-optimum performance in Nigeria. According to Musa (2022), the NPF is faced by logistical deficits that have, over the years, impeded optimal response to distress calls.

Theoretical Framework: Situational Crime Prevention

This work is anchored around the Situational Crime Prevention Theory that was propounded by Ronald Clark (1992). Some of the proponents of this theory are Welsh and Farmington (2004). The central theme of the Situational Crime Prevention Theory is that for the police to prevent and control crime optimally, they must conduct their statutory role in cooperation with the government to develop crime prevention and control policies and strategies.

The specific policy or strategy should ensure potential criminals desist from criminal acts or at least delay their particular criminal behaviour. Furthermore, the theory elucidated that the operationalization of general deterrence strategies such as deployment of the latest technology of closed-circuit Televisions (CCTVs), should be deployed against crimes and criminals. The theory posited that crime prevention and control would only be achieved by minimizing the opportunities that criminals have to commit a crime and evade being prosecuted by the criminal justice system. The theory further explains that the police and authorities must take steps to assess the environmental design to produce a safer and secure arrangement of communities. The theory explains that this strategy will assist in erasing the perception that certain communities within their jurisdictions are left unfortified or ungoverned without protection, patrols and guards.

In applying this theory to explain the role of the police in the prevention of armed banditry in Katsina State, it implies that the NPF must secure the cooperation of the government to develop specific crime prevention and control policies and strategies. It also implies that the NPF should deploy specific policies and strategies against bandits in the State which have the potential to convince bandits and their collaborators to desist from plundering societies or renounce banditry activities. It also implies that the NPF must operationalize general deterrence policies and strategies such as deployment of advanced technology such CCTVs and drones, raiding of criminal hideouts, death penalty, mandatory jail terms sentences and aggressive policing.

Similarly, applying the theory means that though desperate individuals would contemplate joining banditry, only the real irrational criminals would carry out armed banditry attacks in the State. This would eventually lead to the armed bandits being either neutralized or arrested and prosecuted through the criminal justice system.

METHODOLOGY

This paper was extracted from a master's Dissertation (Abdulrahman, 2024) in the Department of Sociology, ABU Zaria, and Katsina State was the study location. Both primary and secondary data were used. The primary sources of data were sourced from the population of the study using survey and by conducting IDIs and KIIs, while the secondary data for this study were collected from KSCNPF and NPF Headquarters Abuja. This study population was in two main groupings: the NPF personnel and residents living in the 10 frontline LGAs of Katsina State that were affected by armed banditry.

The Cochran (1977) formula for sample size determination was arrived at a sample size of 700 sample. The police respondents were sampled from 10 frontline Divisional Police Headquarters as

directly identified KSCNPF (2022). The respondents were sampled from two identified communities within the frontline LGAs that were affected by armed banditry in the State.

The sampling procedure for this study was a blend of both quantitative and qualitative aspects of the research. The multi-stage cluster sampling method includes cluster sampling, stratified sampling, and simple random sampling of the ballot method. The justification for the adoption of cluster sampling was because the Annual Police Reports from 2020 to 2021 gotten from the Katsina State Police Command revealed that only 10 Divisional Police Headquarters located within the 10 most affected LGAs are the frontline Divisional Headquarters are the most involved in the prevention and control of armed banditry in Katsina State. Another justification for adopting cluster sampling was because the State is geographically larger in size and the study population are scattered across the State. Therefore, using multi-stage sampling method helped to minimize time wasting in eliciting the required data that will be needed by this study.

By using the multi-stage sampling method, the study sampled 700 questionnaires from both police and respondents. The research purposively sampled the following informants: 2 senior male police officers, 2 senior female police officers, 2 junior male police officers, 2 junior female police officers, 2 male residents of the LGAs, 2 female residents of the LGAs, 2 vigilante personnel, 2 village heads (Masu Unguwani), 2 youth leaders, 2 arrested bandits in police custody and 2 alleged informants of bandits in police custody. This brought the total sample size for the qualitative aspect of this work to 22 interviewees. The quantitative data collected were cleaned, coded and statistically analysed using a codebook and the software pack of Statistical Package for Social Science (S.P.S.S.) version 23.0.

An Error Term of 0.05 was adopted for the study. Univariate statistical tools such as tables, frequencies, and percentages were used to analyse some of the quantitative data. A multivariate statistical tool of Principal Component Analysis (PCA) was used to analyse the data collected on the strategies by the NPF against armed banditry. Also, a coefficient value of 0.05 and above in the factor loading was used to denote if there was a significant level of association even within the variables that were used as components of the strategies used by the police against armed banditry in the State. Furthermore, a coefficient value of 0.05 and above was used to denote if the sample used for each variable was sufficient enough under the Kaiser-Meyer Olkin (KMO) measure for sampling adequacy. More so, the qualitative data collected via IDIs were transcribed, edited, analysed and interpreted in a narrative form to supplement the quantitative data in the research.

PRESENTATION OF RESULTS

The Socio-demographic Characteristics of the Respondents

This section presented the analysis and interpretation of the data on the socio-demographic attributes of the respondents.

Findings from the study revealed that 62.6% of the police respondents sampled were males, while the remaining 37.4% of the police respondents were females. This implied that there were more males in the police respondents but with a substantial number of female police respondents. This

finding was somewhat the same with the percentage of males that constituted the sampled residents because Table 1 showed that the majority of the residents sampled, 67.1%, were males while 38.3% of them were females.

With regards to the age bracket of the study's respondents, the data from the study revealed that the majority of the police personnel (38.3%) were between 18 to 25 years old while the minority were between 36 and 45 years old. None of them was below the age of 18 years or above 45 years. On the age bracket of the civilian respondents, the majority of them were between 26-35 years, while those between the ages of 46 years and above were the least (5.7%). This finding implied that unlike the police respondents, the civilian respondents had individuals that were above 46 years of age.

With regards to the highest level of educational qualification, findings from the study showed that the majority of the police respondents were university graduates with 49.4% of them being holders of Bachelors of Science, Arts and Education degrees, while 16.6% of them were SSCE holders. This finding implied that all the police respondents possess a formal form of education. However, in sharp contrast to the findings from the police respondents. This is because the majority of the respondents, 48.6%, had Qur'anic education as their highest level of education, while the highest category of the respondents that have formal education was 30.3% with SSCE.

On the annual level of income of the respondents, findings revealed that an overwhelming majority of the police respondents (70.9%) earned N1, 200, 000 to N2, 499, 000 per annum, while the rest of them earned N2, 400, 000 to N3, 499, 000 annually. This finding implied that none of the police respondents earned above N3, 499, 000 annually. Nevertheless, the results indicated that there is a divergence between the annual level of income of the residents because despite the majority of the respondents (62.6%) being the highest earners of annual income, 0.6% of them earned between N4, 499, 000 and above per annum.

Objective One: The Strategies used by the NPF in the Fight against Armed Banditry in Katsina State.

This section presented the analysis and interpretation of data on the strategies adopted by the Nigeria Police in the fight against armed banditry in Katsina State.

Table 1: PCA Summary of Strategies used by the NPF to Fight Armed Banditry

Item	Description of Strategies	Police	Residents
Item 1	Sustained campaign against corruption among personnel of NPF	.862	.862
Item 2	Deployment of Operation Puff Adder teams	.987	.922
Item 3	Deployment of personnel from the Police Mobile Force PMF	.944	.863
Item 4	Capacity building and development for NPF personnel	.897	.867
Item 5	Reinvigorating the criminal investigation department/legal units	.885	.700

Item 6	Reinforcing the philosophy and practice of community policing	.891	.911
Item 7	Enforcement of the ban on the movement of motorcycles	.961	.919
Item 8	Regular media update of the public on the successes and efforts of the police	.931	.743
Item 9	Regular use of intelligence gathering channels	.954	.844
Item10	Deployment of Counter Terrorism Unit	.942	.915
Model validation statistics			
Eigen value		8.29	8.544
% of variance		92.004	85.439
Number of observations		300	300
Overall KMO Police Personnel		.875	
Overall KMO Residents		.926	
Cronbach's alpha		.945	.981
Barlett's test χ^2 (21)		6053.627	8606.359
Source: Field Data 2023			

*Note: KMO = Kaiser-Meyer-Olkin measure of sampling adequacy, ***< 0.000 for both police and the residents*

The data from Table 1 shows that the PCA used to analyse the responses of the police and residents indicated that all the 10 variables used as the components of the strategies adopted by the police against armed banditry in the State were all retained. This was because the factor loading of each variable was > 0.05, indicating a significant level of association between the strategies adopted by the police and the fight against armed banditry in the study area.

In terms of the level of association between the strategies adopted by the police to fight against armed banditry, the police respondents indicated that deployment of Operation Puff Adder teams was the most frequently strategy with 0.987 factor loading, while sustained campaign against corruption among personnel of NPF was the least strategy with 0.862 factor loading. On the other hand, the residents also indicated that deployment of Operation Puff Adder teams was the most frequently strategy, with 0.922 factor loading. However, the residents indicated reinvigoration of the criminal investigation department/legal units as the least used strategy with 0.70 factor loading. These findings support the position of Musa (2006), Chinyere (2018), Blench (2018), Daniel et al. (2019), Ranolds (2019), and Monday and Sylvester (2021) on the strategies used by the police to fight crimes.

The study also sought to analyse and interpret the qualitative data collected on the strategies deployed by the NPF to fight armed banditry in Katsina State. In a KII with a senior police officer on the strategies deployed by the NPF to fight armed banditry in Katsina State, the senior male police officer pointed out that:

There are strategies that the NPF have come up with. In this State Police Command, we have over 1500 officers who have been trained in tactical operations and tactical manoeuvring of armoured vehicles. This also cut across all the Area Commands in this State,

and they are still receiving training in Puff Adder Operations. The Puff Adder Operation is a combination of mobile men, counter-terrorism units and our regular/ conventional police officers (KII/ Senior Male Police Officer, Dandume LGA, 2023).

In another IDI with a female resident in Batsari LGA on the strategies deployed by the NPF to fight armed banditry in Katsina State, she revealed that:

There are places that are facing these problems, and even at present, hundreds of police officers have been sent there to see how they can help in controlling this armed banditry problem. Wherever the NPF personnel are located and you call them for help, they will quickly go to where they are called, particularly if the caller informed them that the movements of bandits have been noticed. They have manned check points and, in my area, these check points have really helped them because they caught many bandits. Some were caught with fainter hard drugs, weapons, bullets, and some with AK47 rifles, which they were conveying to their camps in the bush. The police arrested them and took them to where they were supposed to be, which was at the State CID (IDI/ Female Resident, Baranda Community of Batsari LGA, 2023).

Objective Two: Challenges militating against NPF fight against Armed Banditry in Katsina State

The findings from the study revealed that the majority of the police respondents, 64.9% and 34%, indicated the most serious challenges militating against the optimal performance of the NPF in carrying out its role of fighting banditry in Katsina State were inadequate modern equipment and logistics and external/ political interferences. This finding was in convergence with the response with the residents because 60.3% of them and another 29.1% also revealed that the most serious challenges militating against the optimal performance of the NPF in carrying out its role of fighting banditry in the State was inadequate modern equipment and logistics and external/ political interferences.

These findings implied that the respondents have proven that NPF in the State suffers from the challenges of inadequate modern equipment such as advanced weapons, ammunition and logistics such as drones, helicopters, APCs, fuel and patrol trucks. These findings also implied that the respondents proved that external/ political interferences of the Nigeria Police have been militating against the optimal performance of the NPF in carrying out its role of fighting banditry in the State. These findings conform with the position of Amendola *et al.*, (2011), Maliki (2012), Amos and Kingsley (2014), Osei-Adubofour (2017), Arisukwu *et al.*, (2020), Aminu (2018), Musa (2022) and Aminu and Bala (2024) whose previous works showed that several factors were militating against the NPF optimal prevention and control of crimes.

The study also analysed and interpreted the qualitative data on the factors militating against NPF optimal contribution to the fight against armed banditry in Katsina State. In a KII with a senior

police officer on the factors militating against NPF optimal contribution to the fight against armed banditry in Katsina State, the senior male police officer had this to say:

We have a lot of challenges inhibiting our performance. But for the purpose of this research, we will emphasise insufficient police logistics and operational materials. When I say logistics, we are talking about armoured personnel carriers, fuel and servicing. When we say operational materials, we are talking about tactical vehicles, drones and, to be specific, modern armoured vehicles. The ones we are using are more or less obsolete and we are just managing them, and if you see them, you will pity us. The APCs we are using were bought for NPF in the early 1980s; forty-something years ago. So, you can imagine, a vehicle of over forty years is what we are still using at this age. The NPF in this State needs the latest weapons and ammunition not AK47 rifles. While our weapons are outdated, we are expected to confront the armed bandits with their anti- aircraft launchers, AK49 rifles, GPMGs and other types of arms. We don't have these weapons yet, but we expect to confront them (KII/ Senior Police Officer from Dustin-Ma LGA, 2023).

Supporting the above views, an arrested informant to armed bandits during a KII on the factors militating against NPF optimal performance in the fight against armed banditry in the State, he explained that:

Some of the factors responsible for the challenges facing the NPF in fighting banditry is that they are facing lack of manpower. To be sincere, they need more workers and they also need more modern weapons and logistics. You know there is a Hausa proverb that says "a crowd is more powerful than a strong man". So since the police are not much while our bands are usually more than the NPF, this often result to us overrunning communities until police reinforcement is brought before we are defeated or flee from defeat and arrest. Therefore, I can see that they clearly need more hands and sophisticated weapons (KII/Arrested Informant to Bandits from Jibiya LGA, 2023).

The interviewee above seemed to stress that several factors militated against NPF's optimal contribution to the fight against armed banditry in the study area.

Conclusion

This work concluded that the NPF in Katsina State have carried out a sustained campaign against corruption among its personnel and deployment of Operation Puff Adder Teams, PMF Squadrons, IRT personnel, FIB personnel and Special Tactical Forces as strategies to its contribution in the fight against armed banditry in the State. In addition, the study concluded that the most common

and frequently used strategies by the NPF to fight armed banditry in the State were the use of personnel from the PMF and the deployment of Operation Puff Adder teams.

Recommendations

Based on the findings, the following recommendations were proffered:

1. The FGN which is proprietor of both NPF and the Nigerian Military, must create a deliberate policy for regular joint police and military operations against armed banditry in Katsina State.
2. The FGN must procure modern technological and logistical tools for the NPF to enable the police commence the use of ICT gadgets and Armored Personnel Carriers (APCs) as improved multifaceted initiatives to the fight against armed banditry in the State.
3. The FGN and NPF authorities in Katsina State Command should intensify efforts in capacity building and development for NPF personnel and reinvigorate the CID to improve the productivity of police officers in fighting armed banditry in the State.

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