

Decentralized Policing and Regional Security Architecture in Nigeria: A Comparative Study of the Amotekun Corps in Ekiti, Ondo, And Osun States, Nigeria

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ABSTRACT

The growing incidence of insecurity across Nigeria has intensified the search for decentralized security arrangements capable of complementing the efforts of conventional law enforcement agencies. In the South-West region, the establishment of the Western Nigeria Security Network, popularly known as Amotekun, represents a strategic response by state governments to address rising cases of kidnapping, armed robbery, and rural banditry. This study examines the institutional structure and operational arrangements of the Amotekun Corps in Ekiti, Ondo, and Osun States in order to understand how variations in administrative frameworks influence the functioning and effectiveness of the corps. The study adopts a comparative research design and relies on qualitative data obtained from enabling laws, government reports, policy documents, and scholarly publications. Available operational records indicate that since its establishment in 2020, the Amotekun Corps has recruited several thousand personnel across the South-West, with Ondo State alone deploying over 1,500 operatives, while Ekiti and Osun States maintain operational strengths of approximately 1,200 and 1,300 personnel, respectively. Reports from state security briefings further indicate that the corps has assisted in the arrest of several hundred suspected criminals and has supported conventional security agencies in addressing kidnapping and armed robbery incidents within rural and peri-urban communities. Despite operating within a shared regional framework, the findings reveal notable variations in manpower capacity, logistical resources, and administrative structures across the three states. The study concludes that improved institutional coordination, standardized operational frameworks, and sustained investment in personnel training and logistics are necessary to enhance the effectiveness of the Amotekun Corps as a complementary security mechanism in South-West Nigeria.

KEYWORDS: Amotekun Corps, community policing, decentralized security, security governance, South-West Nigeria.

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BACKGROUND TO THE STUDY

Security remains a fundamental requirement for social stability, economic productivity, and sustainable development in any society. In Nigeria, however, the security situation has become increasingly complex in recent years. Incidents of armed robbery, kidnapping, banditry, and communal conflicts have continued to threaten the safety of lives and property across different parts of the country. These developments have raised serious concerns about the capacity of the existing security architecture to effectively respond to emerging threats. Although the Nigeria Police Force is constitutionally responsible for maintaining internal security, its ability to adequately police the country has often been constrained by challenges such as inadequate personnel, poor logistics, insufficient intelligence networks, and strained relations with local communities (Alemika & Chukwuma, 2018; Onapajo & Uzodike, 2020). In response to these challenges, policy discussions in Nigeria have increasingly emphasized the importance of community-oriented approaches to security management. Scholars and practitioners have argued that community-based security initiatives can

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complement conventional policing by drawing on local knowledge, cultural familiarity, and grassroots intelligence networks. Such arrangements often improve the detection of criminal activities and strengthen cooperation between security personnel and community members, thereby enhancing the overall effectiveness of crime prevention strategies (Baker, 2008; Abrahamsen & Williams, 2011). Within this context, decentralized security arrangements have gradually gained attention as a practical response to the limitations of centralized policing systems.

The South-West geopolitical zone of Nigeria introduced one of the most prominent examples of such initiatives through the establishment of the Operation Amotekun Corps in 2020. The initiative emerged from a collective effort by the governments of Ekiti, Ondo, Osun, Ogun, Oyo, and Lagos States to strengthen regional security and support the operations of federal law enforcement agencies. The creation of the corps marked a significant development in the evolving security governance framework in Nigeria, particularly in terms of encouraging localized responses to security challenges within specific socio-cultural environments (Akinola, 2020; Olaniyan & Yahaya, 2021).

Amotekun was conceived as a community-based security outfit capable of addressing security concerns at the grassroots level. Unlike federal security agencies whose operations are largely centralized, the corps draws many of its personnel from the communities where they serve. This local connection provides operatives with familiarity with the language, terrain, and social dynamics of their operational areas, which can enhance intelligence gathering and facilitate faster responses to security incidents. Such proximity to local communities is widely considered an important factor in improving the effectiveness of community policing initiatives (Adedayo, 2021; Ojo, 2020).

Despite the shared regional motivation behind the establishment of Amotekun, its institutional arrangements differ across the states where it operates. Each state government enacted its own enabling law establishing the corps, thereby allowing considerable autonomy in determining administrative structures, recruitment procedures, operational mandates, and welfare provisions. Consequently, variations have emerged in areas such as command hierarchy, integration into the civil service system, legal authority, staffing levels, and logistical support across the states (Akinola, 2020; Olatunbosun, 2022).

While the Amotekun initiative has generated significant public debate and scholarly interest, much of the existing literature has focused on the political and constitutional implications of regional security outfits in Nigeria. Comparatively less attention has been given to examining the internal structures and operational arrangements of the corps across different states. Yet, such variations may have important implications for how effectively the corps performs its security functions at the community level.

Against this background, this study examines the structure and operations of the Amotekun Corps in Ekiti, Ondo, and Osun States. By comparatively exploring the institutional arrangements within these states, the study seeks to provide a clearer understanding of how differences in organizational structure, manpower capacity, and operational resources shape the functioning of the corps and its role in strengthening community security in South-West Nigeria.

2. LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1. Community-Based Security and Decentralized Policing

The increasing complexity of security challenges across many societies has led to growing debates about the limitations of highly centralized policing systems. In many developing countries, centralized law enforcement agencies often face difficulties in responding effectively to local security concerns due to inadequate manpower, logistical constraints, and limited engagement with communities. As a result, scholars and policymakers have increasingly emphasized the importance of community-based security arrangements as complementary mechanisms for enhancing crime prevention and public safety (Baker, 2008; Kenku & Umar, 2025). Community policing encourages cooperation between security institutions and citizens, thereby improving intelligence gathering, enhancing early detection of criminal activities, and strengthening trust between communities and security providers.

Scholars have argued that effective security governance increasingly involves multiple actors rather than relying solely on state institutions. Abrahamsen and Williams (2011) note that contemporary security provision has become increasingly pluralized, involving state agencies, private security organizations, and community-based actors. Within this framework, community policing is viewed as an approach that promotes shared responsibility for security by fostering collaboration between law enforcement agencies and local communities. Similarly, recent studies suggest that the integration of digital technologies and social media platforms has further strengthened community policing efforts by facilitating information sharing and improving communication between citizens and security providers (Audu, 2024). These developments highlight the evolving nature of security governance and the importance of localized security initiatives in addressing contemporary security threats.

2.2. Community Security Initiatives in Nigeria

Nigeria has experienced persistent security challenges in recent decades, including armed robbery, kidnapping, insurgency, and communal conflicts. These challenges have exposed significant limitations in the country's centralized policing system and have stimulated increasing calls for decentralized security arrangements. Community-based security initiatives, including vigilante

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groups and neighborhood watch associations, have therefore emerged across different parts of the country as complementary mechanisms for maintaining public safety (Alemika & Chukwuma, 2018).

Within this context, the South-West geopolitical zone introduced the Operation Amotekun Corps in 2020 as a regional security initiative designed to complement federal security agencies and strengthen grassroots security management. The initiative was jointly established by the governments of Ekiti, Ondo, Osun, Ogun, Oyo, and Lagos States in response to rising security concerns within the region. Studies examining the emergence of Amotekun suggest that the initiative was largely driven by the perceived inability of existing security institutions to adequately address local security challenges (Ojiezele, 2025). According to Ojiezele (2025), the formation of Amotekun reflects both a response to escalating insecurity and broader socio-political demands for greater regional autonomy in security governance.

Similarly, research has shown that community-based security initiatives such as Amotekun play an important role in improving intelligence gathering and strengthening local responses to crime. For example, a study conducted in Ondo State found that Amotekun personnel contribute significantly to crime prevention through their familiarity with local communities and their ability to respond quickly to security incidents (Olowo, 2025). The study further highlights that grassroots security initiatives can complement conventional law enforcement agencies by providing localized intelligence and improving surveillance within communities.

Recent research has also examined the potential role of technology in enhancing the operational effectiveness of community security outfits such as Amotekun. Awotayo, Adeosun, Okunola, and

Omitola (2025) argue that the integration of technological tools such as mobile communication systems, surveillance technologies, and data analytics can significantly improve crime prevention strategies within community policing frameworks. Such technological innovations, according to the authors, can strengthen operational coordination, improve intelligence gathering, and enhance accountability within decentralized security systems.

2.3. Institutional and Operational Challenges of Community Security Initiatives

Despite their potential contributions to crime prevention, community-based security initiatives often face a number of institutional and operational challenges. One major concern relates to issues of organizational structure, accountability, and coordination with formal security institutions. Hills (2014) argues that many community security arrangements operate within weak institutional frameworks that may limit their effectiveness and raise concerns about oversight and accountability.

In addition, variations in government support, funding, manpower, and logistics may significantly influence the operational capacity of regional security initiatives. Olatunbosun (2022) observes that disparities in recruitment patterns, training, equipment, and welfare conditions can affect the performance and sustainability of decentralized security institutions. Similarly, studies on community policing in Nigeria have highlighted persistent challenges such as inadequate funding, corruption, political interference, and weak institutional coordination, all of which may undermine the effectiveness of community-based security initiatives (Kenku & Umar, 2025).

2.4. Research Gap

Although the Amotekun Corps has attracted significant scholarly attention since its establishment, much of the existing literature has focused primarily on its political implications and the broader debate on state policing in Nigeria. Relatively few studies have examined the institutional structures and operational frameworks of the corps across individual states. Yet, differences in administrative arrangements, manpower capacity, legal authority, and logistical support may have important implications for the effectiveness of the corps in addressing security challenges at the grassroots level.

This study therefore, addresses this gap by conducting a comparative analysis of the structure and operations of the Amotekun Corps in Ekiti, Ondo, and Osun States, with the aim of providing empirical insights into how variations in institutional arrangements shape the functioning of decentralized security initiatives in South-West Nigeria.

3. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

3.1. The Study Area

This study focuses on three states in the South-Western region of Nigeria: Ekiti State, Ondo State, and Osun State. These states form part of the Yoruba-speaking region of the country and are among the states that adopted the regional security initiative known as the Western Nigeria Security Network (Amotekun Corps). The selection of these states provides an appropriate basis for examining how variations in institutional arrangements influence the structure and operation of the Amotekun Corps across different administrative contexts within the same geopolitical region. Ekiti State is located in the north-eastern part of the South-West geopolitical zone and was created in 1996 from the former Ondo State. The state covers an estimated land area of about 6,353 square kilometres and shares boundaries with Kwara and Kogi States to the north, Osun State to the west, and Ondo State to the south and east. According to the 2006 national population census, the state had a population of over 2.3 million people, with a projected population increase in recent years.

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The economy of Ekiti State is largely agrarian, with agriculture forming the backbone of rural livelihoods. Major crops cultivated in the state include cocoa, yam, cassava, maize, and oil palm. The predominantly rural settlement pattern of many communities, coupled with forested areas and inter-state boundary routes, has created conditions that sometimes expose communities to security challenges such as kidnapping and rural banditry.

Ondo State occupies a strategic position in the South-West region and was created in 1976. It covers an approximate land area of about 15,500 square kilometres, making it one of the larger states in the region. The state is bordered by Ekiti and Kogi States to the north, Osun and Ogun States to the west, Edo and Delta States to the east, and the Atlantic Ocean to the south. Ondo State has a population of over 3.4 million people based on the 2006 population census. The state's economy is also heavily dependent on agriculture, particularly cocoa production, which has historically contributed significantly to Nigeria's export economy. In addition, the presence of extensive forest reserves and coastal areas has made some parts of the state vulnerable to security threats such as kidnapping and illegal forest activities. These challenges partly explain the state's leading role in the establishment and operationalization of the Amotekun Corps within the region. Osun State lies in the central part of the South-West region and was created in 1991 from the old Oyo State. The state covers an estimated land area of approximately 9,251 square kilometres and shares boundaries with Oyo State to the north, Ekiti and Ondo States to the east, Ogun State to the south, and Kwara State to the north-west. Osun State recorded a population of about 3.4 million people according to the 2006 national census. The state is characterized by a mixture of urban centres and rural communities, with agriculture, trade, and public service forming the main pillars of the local economy. Like other states in the region, Osun has experienced various security concerns in recent years, including highway robbery and kidnapping along inter-state routes, which have heightened the need for complementary security arrangements such as the Amotekun Corps.

Collectively, the three states share similar cultural, linguistic, and socio-economic characteristics, yet they differ in administrative priorities, institutional structures, and levels of resource allocation for security initiatives. These similarities and differences make them suitable cases for a comparative analysis of the structure and operational dynamics of the Amotekun Corps within the South-West region of Nigeria.

3.2. Methodology

This study adopts a comparative research design to examine the structure and operations of the Amotekun Corps in Ekiti, Ondo, and Osun States in South-West Nigeria. A comparative approach is appropriate for this study because it allows for the systematic examination of similarities and differences in the institutional arrangements and operational practices of the corps across the selected states. By comparing these states, the study seeks to understand how variations in administrative structures, manpower capacity, legal authority, and logistical resources shape the functioning of the Amotekun Corps.

The study relies primarily on secondary data sources. Relevant information was obtained from official government documents, including the enabling laws establishing the Amotekun Corps in the respective states, policy reports, and publicly available records on the operations of the corps. In addition, scholarly publications such as journal articles, books, policy briefs, and reports on community policing and security governance in Nigeria were consulted. These sources provided insights into the historical background, institutional structures, and operational roles of the Amotekun Corps within the broader context of decentralized security initiatives in Nigeria. To complement these sources, the study also reviewed credible media reports and publicly available information from government and security agency websites that document activities and operational developments related to the corps in the selected states. The use of multiple data sources helped to provide a more comprehensive understanding of the institutional dynamics of the Amotekun initiative.

The data collected were analyzed using qualitative content analysis. This method involves systematically examining textual materials in order to identify patterns, themes, and relationships relevant to the research objectives. Through this approach, information relating to the organizational structure, staffing patterns, operational responsibilities, legal authority, and logistical resources of the Amotekun Corps in Ekiti, Ondo, and Osun States was carefully reviewed and compared. The comparative analysis enabled the study to highlight areas of convergence and divergence in the institutional arrangements of the corps across the selected states.

The choice of Ekiti, Ondo, and Osun States for the study was informed by their shared geographical location within the South-West region and their participation in the regional Amotekun initiative. At the same time, these states exhibit notable variations in their administrative frameworks and operational approaches to the management of the corps, making them suitable cases for comparative analysis.

By adopting a qualitative and comparative approach, the study provides a contextual understanding of how decentralized security initiatives operate within different institutional settings. This methodological approach also allows the study to generate insights that may inform policy discussions on improving the effectiveness and coordination of community-based security initiatives in Nigeria.

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4. Comparative Study of the Structure and Operation of Amotekun Corps in Ekiti, Ondo and Osun States

Further to a critical analysis of the Structure and Operations of Amotekun Corps in Ekiti, Ondo and Osun States, certain differences have been observed as indicated below:

4.1. Ranking

A cursory study of the structure of the Amotekun Corps in the above-mentioned states shows that there is clear-cut hierarchical order and ranking in Ondo States while only offices were created in Osun and Ekiti States. For the avoidance of doubt, the hierarchical structure and ranking which is usually a common feature in military/ paramilitary organizations is as follows in Ondo State:

Commander General
Commander
Deputy Commander
Assistant Commander
Chief Superintendent
Superintendent
Deputy Superintendent
Assistant Superintendent I
Assistant Superintendent II
Inspector
Assistant Inspector
Sergeant
Corporal

The above-listed ranking of officers portrays a clear chain of command which ensures that orders and information flow smoothly from the top (highest ranking officers) down to the lowest level.

This clarity prevents confusion and ambiguity, enabling quick and decisive actions during operations. The chain of command ensures that each individual knows who to report to and who to take orders from, thereby minimizing the potential for conflicting instructions.

Furthermore, the hierarchical order fosters discipline by clearly defining roles, responsibilities and expectation for each rank. The structure encourages adherence to established procedures and protocols, promoting a sense of order and predictability within the Organization. This helps in maintaining a cohesive and effective fighting force, especially in high pressure situations. (Cory Worden and Ronilla Ernest, 2020).

It is also important to state that hierarchical structure promotes accountability in view of the fact that individuals are responsible for their actions and the actions of those under their command. When Personnel are ranked, it also allows for efficient allocation of resources as those in higher ranks have a better understanding of the overall needs and priorities of the Organization (Chappell, Allison T. 2010).

4.2. Incorporation Into the Mainstream of the Civil Service

The Amotekun Corps in Ondo State has been incorporated into the mainstream of Ondo State Civil Service while Osun State Government has approved the merging of Amotekun Corps with the Osun State Civil Service but the approval is yet to be implemented. However, the Ekiti State Government is yet to consider the incorporation of the Corps with the Ekiti State Civil Service. Operatives of Amotekun would enjoy structured employment by having formal appointment with the Civil Service, which provides stability and sense of job security.

Hopefully, integrating Amotekun into the Civil Service would likely involve adopting established civil service procedures, potentially leading to more standardized training, operational protocols, and disciplinary measures, potentially improving the overall professionalism of the Corps. A Civil Service Structure could also offer the Amotekun Personnel clear career paths and opportunities for career advancement, potentially boosting morale and motivation. The Amotekun operatives would also enjoy better welfare packages such as annual leave, leave bonus, healthcare, pensions, End-of-Year bonus etc. Incorporating paramilitary organizations into civil service enhances administrative efficiency, public safety, and stability, while also addressing challenges of militarization and organizational integration (Ololade, Ayoola and Gabriel, 2021)

4.3. Authority To Prosecute Offenders

The Governments of Ondo and Osun States had approved another bill whereby the Law establishing Amotekun Corps was amended. The amended Law empowered the Agencies in these States to arrest and prosecute offenders through the respective Ministry of Justice in the States. However, the Amotekun Operatives in Ekiti State could only arrest offenders and hand over such offenders to the conventional Police in view of the fact that there has been no review of the Establishment Law in the State which only recognises the conventional Police as the body solely responsible for prosecution of offenders. The empowerment of Amotekun Corps to

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prosecute offenders would ensure faster justice delivery as the prosecution process could be expedited and perpetrators of criminal activities can be brought to justice more quickly.

Furthermore, by handling prosecutions directly, the Agency could streamline the process, reducing bureaucratic delays and ensuring cases are handled more efficiently.

It is also important to state that by demonstrating its ability to effectively prosecute offenders,

Amotekun can build trust within the community, fostering cooperation and collaboration in maintaining security. Ojieleze & Abrifor (2023) evaluates Amotekun's effectiveness in crime prevention; highlighting community support for stronger prosecutorial powers. Furthermore, Nwoko(2024) explores constitutional implications of Amotekun; argues that empowering it with prosecutorial authority strengthens regional policing and justice delivery

4.4. Staffing

In terms of Personnel, the Amotekun Corps in Ondo and Osun States are well staffed in contrast to Ekiti State. From information gathered, the total number of Amotekun operatives in Osun State is about one thousand, three hundred and fifty(1,350) while that of Ondo State is over one thousand (1,000). However, there are only two hundred and thirty-two (232) Amotekun operatives covering the sixteen Local Governments in Ekiti State. This is grossly inadequate. At the inception of Amotekun Corps in Ekiti State, three hundred operatives were recruited. However, sixty-eight (68) operatives had exited the Agency since it came into being in 2020. Some operatives died while others voluntarily retired. However, plans are in the offing to recruit new members. Oluwatobi Pelumi Akano & Austin Ayodele (2024) emphasizes that adequate personnel strength is critical for Amotekun's ability to cover wide areas and effectively reduce crime.

4.5. Operational Vehicles

From information garnered, Ondo and Ekiti States have at least an operational vehicle attached to each local government. By implication, Ondo State has eighteen vehicles while Ekiti State has sixteen vehicles. It is worrisome that Osun State that has thirty Local Governments has only nine (9) vehicles. There is information that not all the vehicles are working. However, motorbikes are in each of the local government for surveillance and operations.

The importance of operational vehicles cannot be over-emphasised. The vehicles enable rapid response to security threats and emergency situations. The vehicles also allow Amotekun Personnel to cover larger areas, ensuring broader security presence. In summary, availability of vehicles would significantly boost the effectiveness of Amotekun in combating crime and maintaining security and order.

Nwoko(2021) reiterated the fact that Amotekun's effectiveness in combating insecurity is closely tied to adequate logistics and mobility resources, including operational vehicles. Vehicles enable rapid deployment, patrol coverage across rural and urban areas, and effective response to distress calls. Without sufficient vehicles, Amotekun's ability to complement the Nigeria Police and maintain community trust is significantly weakened.

4.6. Provision of Security for Private Individuals and at Social Events

From available information, Operatives of Amotekun Corps in Ekiti and Osun State provides security for private individuals and very important personalities when such individuals make requests. However, the Amotekun Corps in Ondo claimed that the Agency does not provide security for private individuals. Findings reveal that operatives of Amotekun however, provide security for the general public during social events and parties. Olugbeko S.O., Adaja O.V., & Olajide Olumide Ephraim(2024) examine Amotekun's successes and challenges, stressing the importance of adequate personnel and logistics for securing individuals and events.

4.7. Salary

Findings from Authorities of Amotekun Corps in Ondo State reveal that Ondo State pays over seventy-three thousand (#73,000) as salary to the least paid Amotekun operatives. It is to be noted that seventy-three thousand naira (#73,000) is the minimum wage being paid to civil servants in Ondo State.

Osun State Government pays Amotekun operatives in the state a sum of forty-five thousand naira (#45,000), across board, with the exception of those who are Management Staff of the Agency. However, plans are in the offing to review the salary of the operatives in the state, taking into consideration the fact that the State Government has in principle, approved the incorporation of Amotekun Corps into the State Civil Service.

There are contradictory reports in Ekiti State. While a senior officer of the Agency disclosed that Amotekun operatives in the State are paid monthly salaries of over seventy thousand naira (#70,000), another senior officer stated that the amount being paid as salary was abysmally poor, compared to Ondo State. The exact amount was not disclosed by the Officer. According to the Faculty of Humanities, Icheke Journal(2021), it was recommended that improved salaries and welfare packages are essential for sustaining Amotekun's role in community safety.

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4.8. Recruitment

Findings from Authorities of Amotekun Corps in Ondo State reveal that the State Government had recruited new staff on two occasions, apart from the foundation staff who were recruited when the Agency was established. The last recruitment exercise was conducted in the Year 2023. The Osun State Government only conducted recruitment once, being the recruitment of new operatives that was conducted in April, 2025.

Ekiti State has not conducted any recruitment exercise since the establishment of the Corps. However, plans are in the offing to recruit new personnel. To this effect, advertisement had been made public and information received reveals that over ten thousand people applied.

5. CONCLUSION

This study examined the structure and operational arrangements of the Amotekun Corps in Ekiti, Ondo, and Osun States with the aim of understanding how institutional variations shape the functioning of the corps within the broader framework of decentralized security governance in South-West Nigeria. The emergence of the Amotekun initiative reflects growing recognition of the need for complementary security mechanisms capable of addressing localized security challenges that often fall beyond the immediate reach of centralized law enforcement institutions. As insecurity continues to pose significant challenges across Nigeria, community-oriented security arrangements have increasingly become an important component of the country's evolving security architecture. The findings of the study indicate that although the Amotekun Corps was established within a shared regional framework, notable differences exist in the way the corps is structured and managed across the selected states. Variations were observed in areas such as command hierarchy, manpower capacity, legal authority, and logistical support. These differences largely reflect the autonomy granted to state governments in designing the administrative and operational frameworks of the corps through their respective enabling laws. While this autonomy allows states to adapt the initiative to their local security realities, it also creates disparities that may influence the overall effectiveness of the corps in performing its security functions.

Despite these differences, the Amotekun Corps has emerged as an important grassroots security mechanism within the South-West region. Its reliance on locally recruited personnel and its proximity to communities provide valuable advantages in intelligence gathering and early detection of criminal activities. However, the effectiveness and long-term sustainability of the corps depend largely on the extent to which issues relating to institutional coordination, operational capacity, and personnel welfare are adequately addressed. Strengthening these aspects will be essential for ensuring that the corps continues to complement the efforts of conventional security agencies in maintaining public safety.

Overall, the study highlights the importance of strengthening institutional frameworks and improving coordination mechanisms in order to maximize the contributions of decentralized security initiatives such as Amotekun. A more coherent and well-supported operational structure will not only enhance the performance of the corps but also improve public confidence in community-based security arrangements within the region.

5.1. Recommendations

Based on the findings of this study, several measures can be considered in order to enhance the effectiveness and sustainability of the Amotekun Corps across the South-West region.

First, there is a need to strengthen institutional coordination between the Amotekun Corps and conventional security agencies such as the Nigeria Police Force, the Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps, and other relevant law enforcement institutions. Improved collaboration and information sharing will help reduce operational overlaps and ensure that security responses are better coordinated. Second, state governments should consider developing clearer and more standardized operational frameworks for the corps. Although the autonomy granted to states allows flexibility in responding to local security needs, the existence of widely differing structures may create inconsistencies in operational practices. Establishing minimum operational standards across states could help promote efficiency and professionalism within the corps.

Third, greater attention should be given to manpower development and training. Continuous capacity-building programmes are necessary to ensure that Amotekun personnel possess the skills required to effectively perform their duties. Training in areas such as intelligence gathering, community engagement, conflict management, and the responsible use of force will contribute significantly to improving operational effectiveness.

Fourth, adequate logistical support remains essential for the effective functioning of the corps. Provision of operational vehicles, communication equipment, surveillance tools, and other necessary resources will improve mobility and enable personnel to respond more quickly to security incidents across their jurisdictions.

Finally, improving the welfare conditions of Amotekun personnel is crucial for sustaining morale and commitment. Competitive remuneration, clear career progression pathways, and integration into structured administrative systems where appropriate can enhance job satisfaction and reduce the risk of misconduct.

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By addressing these issues, state governments and relevant stakeholders can strengthen the operational capacity of the Amotekun Corps and enhance its role as a complementary security institution within Nigeria's evolving security governance framework.

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