Operational Challenges and Institutional Constraints Facing Amotekun Corps in Ondo West Local Government Areas

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ABSTRACT

Crime prevention and the protection of lives and property remain major security concerns in Nigeria, particularly at the community level. This study examined the operational challenges and institutional constraints facing the Ondo State Security Network Agency (Amotekun Corps) in crime control in Ondo West Local Government Area of Ondo State. The study adopted a descriptive survey design and purposive sampling technique to select 250 respondents knowledgeable about security issues and Amotekun's activities. Data were collected using a structured questionnaire and analysed using frequencies and percentages. The findings revealed that 92 respondents (36.8%) strongly agreed and 87 (34.8%) agreed that inadequate public cooperation in providing timely information about suspected persons constituted an operational challenge. Similarly, 90 respondents (36.0%) strongly agreed and 104 (41.6%) agreed that mobility problems involving patrol vehicles affected the Corps' operations. Regarding possible solutions, 130 respondents (52.0%) strongly agreed and 100 (40.0%) agreed that the government should provide sufficient modern crime-prevention and control equipment. Furthermore, 98 respondents (39.2%) strongly agreed and 85 (34.0%) agreed that adequate training should be provided for Amotekun officers, while 80 (32.0%) strongly agreed and 110 (44.0%) agreed that the government should provide enough patrol vehicles. The study concludes that inadequate public cooperation, mobility difficulties and operational resource constraints are important challenges requiring attention. It recommends improved government funding, modern security equipment, regular professional training, adequate patrol vehicles and stronger community participation to enhance Amotekun's capacity to control crime in Ondo West Local Government Area.

Keywords: Amotekun Corps, crime control, operational challenges, institutional constraints, Ondo West Local Government Area.

INTRODUCTION

Security is an innate duty of the government as it builds social stability, economic activities and peaceful co-existence as it protects lives and property. If the people lack freedom of movement, freedom of commerce and freedom of action they may lose faith in the government and its security institutions. The conventional security forces in Nigeria have been under pressure due to various security concerns that have persisted over the years that include kidnapping, armed robbery, banditry, farmer–herder conflicts, communal violence and other criminal activities (Olubade & Ogunnoiki, 2020). These have raised concerns about the ability of the current security institutions to effectively respond to the communities' security needs, especially in rural and local government areas. Therefore, there is a growing interest in community-based and regional security system as alternative options to the prevention of crime, gathering of information and internal security management (Olubade & Ogunnoiki, 2020; Nanka, Gambo & Adeyi, 2026).

The exiting policing system has been found to be inadequate to tackle these issues, and has led to the adoption of security arrangements by governments and communities in various parts of Nigeria that seek local participation and cooperation between security agencies and the people. By focusing on building partnerships, community policing promotes the cooperation between security institutions and their communities, hoping that the local knowledge, public involvement, and timely information will enhance the prevention and management of crime. Brogden and Nijhar (2005) equate community policing with strategies designed to improve police–

community relations and promote joint efforts on neighborhood security issues. But community participation is not enough to ensure the success of such arrangements. Good funding, proper equipment, trained staff, co-ordination, trust and clear institutional roles are also relevant. In the study by Nanka et al. (2026), they cite inadequate funding, inadequate logistics, inadequate training, political interference, weak inter-agency coordination and mistrust between the community and formal security agencies as important factors that limit the effectiveness of internal security management in Plateau State.

The Western Nigeria Security Network (Amotekun Corps) was also formed in South-West Nigeria due to the fears of insecurity in the region in January 2020. The initiative came about as a result of partnership between the governors of Ekiti, Lagos, Ogun, Ondo, Osun and Oyo States with the activities of the traditional security agencies, the Nigeria Police Force (NPF) (Olubade & Ogunnoiki, 2020). Amotekun was set up due to the continued attacks on commuters, rural communities, kidnapping, armed robbery and farmer-herder clashes. Olubade and Ogunnoiki (2020) argue that the regional security initiative was a measure taken in response to the security threats of the South-West and the inadequacy of the police force to deal with the various security challenges in the region. Amotekun was thus conceived to strengthen local security responses at community level intelligence gathering, surveillance, patrolling and interaction/collaboration with other security institutions. However, the formation of Amotekun is not a panacea which ensures effective crime prevention and control. The corps functions in a larger security framework that could be constrained by the quality of its staff, resources at its disposal, clarity of its legal mandate, and its level of cooperation with other security agencies. Its capacity may also be affected by its recruitment processes, training opportunities, equipment availability, administrative processes, and security personnel/community relations.

When these institutional factors are lacking, a security organisation may find it difficult to deal with threats effectively, maintain patrols, obtain accurate information, collaborate in investigating and convicting criminals. Thus, it is important to investigate not just Amotekun's role in crime control, but also the institutional and operational conditions that either facilitate or hinder Amotekun's operations. There are some empirical evidence from existing studies that show the contribution and limitation of Amotekun. In a comparative study of Oyo and Ondo States, Ayodele, Shittu and Ekundayo (2026) found that the corps functioned effectively in gathering intelligence, surveillance, security patrols, and proactive measures taken in the presence of crime and violent attacks. The study further suggests that its life-saving and property-saving role in Ondo State was moderate, but that its overall operational performance was better in Ondo than in Oyo State. The results indicate that Amotekun has become operationally capable to help with the security of the area.

Ayodele et al (2026) in a study on operational challenges in Oyo and Ondo states, list lack of adequate funding, lack of trained personnel, poor inter-agency cooperation, lack of trained personnel, lack of access to advanced weaponry, and inadequacy of the legal system in prosecuting offenders as some of the challenges facing the corps. Nanka et al. (2026) reported that distrust among community members and the conventional security agencies may deter intelligence sharing and undermine community security efforts. They suggest that trust, accountability, constant involvement, and effective institutional arrangements are critical to community policing. Amotekun's concerns here are also pertinent: local intelligence and community co-operation are at the heart of the rationale for the establishment of Amotekun. The benefits of locally based security arrangements can be diminished if residents are not willing to provide information, if agencies don't work cooperatively, or when institutional responsibilities are unclear. Unfortunately, there is a lag between what communities provide and what resources and training are in place to effectively respond to that information. Operational problems should thus be considered as a problem rather than just an individual problem of staff or machinery but as a problem which can occur as a result of interaction between organisational capacity and institutional arrangements and community relations.

This concerns in Ondo State demands a study into the environment of security operation of Amotekun at the local government level. The comparative study by Ayodele et al. (2026) does not, as such, confirm the problems faced by personnel in all Local Government Areas (LGAs) of the State; there remain specific challenges at the LGA level which necessitate a dedicated study. Even though the study conducted by Ayodele et al. (2026) revealed that there are areas of operational effectiveness in Ondo State, it does not, in itself, determine the challenges experienced by the personnel in every LGA of the State, there remains a need for a separate study. Similarly, the operating limitations cited by Ayodele Shittu, Idowu, & Balogun (2024) in Oyo and Ondo States

also need to be subjected to local scrutiny for them to be directly linked to a specific community. This is significant because needs for security, institutional relations, resources available, and operating experiences can vary between localities. Therefore, a focused investigation is needed to determine the impact of these issues on the ability of Amotekun to prevent and control crime in Ondo West Local Government Area. The study is conducted in Ondo West Local Government Area; it focuses on the challenges faced by the corps' operations, and explores potential steps to help address the challenges identified.

Two objectives was design as the centre focus this study intends to achieve.

i. identify some challenges facing the effectiveness of the Ondo State Security Network Agency (Amotekun Corps) in Ondo West Local Government Area.

ii. Identify possible solutions to the challenges confronting Ondo State Security Network Agency (Amotekun Corps) identified problems of western security network in Ondo West Local Government Area.

2.1 CONCEPTUAL REVIEW

2.1.1 Community-Based Security and Crime Control

Community based security is a security that engages the local communities, government institutions and security agencies in crime prevention and the maintenance of public security. It appreciates the need to include the efforts of formal security agencies, but also the cooperation of the people who live there: residents that know their communities and local movements, suspicious activities, and new security threats. The method is applicable in societies where traditional security institutions are challenged by time to respond to crime due to limited manpower, poor logistics and distance between the communities. Brogden and Nijhar (2005) stated that community oriented policing emphasizes police/community partnerships, local involvement and problem-solving instead of traditional policing methods. This can be effective only if people trust the system, communicate well, support it and security forces respond appropriately to information they receive from the public. In communities where these conditions are not strong, community security could not be able to get the essential information or maintain the support of the community. The challenges of kidnapping, armed robbery, banditry, farmer–herder conflicts, and other security concerns have made community-based security arrangements a growing concern in Nigeria.

According to Olubade and Ogunnoiki (2020), the establishment of Operation Amotekun was an effort to address an increased security threat in the South-West region of Nigeria, with a perceived need for a regional security organisation that would supplement the activities of the Nigeria Police Force. This development comes as the argument that local security measures can enhance the prevention of crime by closer association of the security operations to the community they serve gains more traction. However, it is not enough to guarantee effective crime control to have a local security outfit. Its effectiveness is based on the resources it has at its disposal, staff capacity, institutional structures, the coordination with traditional security forces and the cooperation of the public. Amotekun's engagements with the community include security duties, particularly when it comes to state and federal security institutions, making these conditions significant for Amotekun. It is therefore important to look into the operational hindrances and institutional restrictions faced by the Corps to appreciate the limitation of community based security in Ondo West Local Government Area.

2.1.2 The Establishment and Security Role of Amotekun Corps in South-West Nigeria

Amotekun Corps was established in South-West Nigeria and their security has been guaranteed. The idea of Operation Amotekun comes from the six South-West governors, who set up a regional security outfit in January 2020 to tackle insecurity in the area. In view of the current security challenges with concerns of kidnapping, armed robbery, ritual killing, farmers herder conflicts etc, the initiative was aimed at complementing the existing security institutions (Olubade & Ogunnoiki, 2020). The founding of the organization was a result of regional governments' wish to create a security system that would be more flexible in addressing the specific security requirements of their regions.

One of the reasons for the creation of Amotekun is that the local security personnel might be more suited to detecting unusual activities, gathering community intelligence and responding to any security issues within their jurisdiction. Local knowledge, settlement patterns and community relations could give an advantage in operation which may not be easily available to security personnel that are not familiar with the area. Ayodele,

et, al (2024) analysed the effectiveness of Amotekun in Oyo and Ondo States. They found positive outcomes in the areas of intelligence gathering, suspicious activity monitoring, security patrols, and proactive action to crime and violent incidents. The authors also added that the Corps recorded moderate performance in Ondo State with a higher rating of its workability in Ondo compared to Oyo.

2.1.3 Operational Challenges Facing Amotekun Corps

Operational challenges are problems that hinder a security organisation from achieving its assigned functions effectively. It could be a lack of finance, manpower, logistics, equipment, training, intelligence gathering or coordination with other security agencies. These challenges can impact the capacity of a community-based security group like Amotekun to provide community security services, react to incidents, investigate suspicious behavior and maintain community security operations. In the study on Operational challenges of Amotekun and insecurity in Oyo and Ondo States, Ayodele, et., al (2024) highlighted the following challenges as being experienced: Inadequate funding, shortfalls in trained personnel, recruitment weaknesses, limited access to advanced weaponry, poor inter-agency collaboration and inadequate legal framework for prosecuting offenders.

The above mentioned constraints indicate that effectiveness of a security organisation is not only a matter of willing members to respond to crime. It also relies on the material resources, professional capability and institutional support that is available to support their activities. Security operations have a greater need for funding because they need to be ongoing, and involve spending on staff training, protective equipment, operational facilities and transportation. If funds are limited or unsteady, security guards may not be able to maintain consistent patrol schedules or respond quickly to emergencies. Likewise, if resources are insufficient, the geographical scope of security operations may be restricted, especially in circumstances where multiple communities need to be addressed simultaneously. The issues are pertinent to this study because they serve as a basis to investigate the effect of the resource constraints on Amotekun's crime-control activities in Ondo West.

Logistical and technological constraints also need to be considered because crime control now demands effective communication systems, appropriate patrol vehicles, intelligence and access to relevant intelligence, and the ability to coordinate responses from various locations. As part of the challenges that Ayodele et al. (2026) identified for Amotekun in Oyo and Ondo States, there are some restriction in equipment and operational capacity. But, specific equipment shortages in Ondo West cannot be assumed from those found in the study area in the two states. Other issues raised in the user's previous dissertation have also been highlighted, including personnel and equipment, firearms, tracking, and operational losses and the continued presence of criminal activity despite the presence of Amotekun. These issues give helpful clues for investigating the operational constraints. However, any specific incident or loss of equipment need not be assumed to represent conditions in Ondo West where such incidents or equipment loss took place. This means that the present study has to distinguish recorded regional experiences from problems, which personnel and residents of the local government area report in particular. The literature indicates that the operational problems of Amotekun could be due to the alignment or misalignment of the responsibilities it has been mandated with the resources it has to execute the responsibilities.

2.1.4 Institutional Constraints and Inter-Agency Coordination

Institutional constraints are different from operational constraints, which are more about the availability of people or equipment in the immediate situation, because they are more to do with formal and informal arrangements through which security activities are carried out. These encompass unclear responsibilities, weak recruitment processes, weak legal frameworks, lack of accountability and challenges in coordinating activities with other security agencies. According to Ayodele et al. (2024), ineffectiveness of inter-agency collaboration and the lack of legal framework to prosecute offenders is among the challenges of Amotekun in Oyo and Ondo States. The findings highlight a key challenge in community-based security – security organisations are not separate from the broader criminal justice system.

However, even if employees know who the offenders are or are able to handle crime matters appropriately, it

may still be dependent on the cooperation of the police, prosecuting authorities and other institutions concerned. Weak coordination can diminish the benefits of otherwise beneficial security interventions. Another aspect of a security organisation's operational boundaries is the legal and administrative structure surrounding it. Recruitment, training, duties, weapon handling, reporting, and working with other agencies have been covered in clear terms, which can help to eliminate ambiguity and provide greater accountability. On the other hand, when arrangements are not clear or adequate, it can lead to conflicts of responsibility and reduce the uniformity of security efforts. The recommendations on weapons handling and recruitment by Ayodele et al. (2024) for instance, reflect the fact that institutional design issues are still pertinent in evaluating the effectiveness of Amotekun. The aspect of inter-agency collaboration also features on Nanka, Gambo and Adeyi (2026)'s research on community policing and internal security in Plateau State. The authors found the following challenges to community policing: weak coordination, inadequate funding, poor logistics, lack of training, political interference, mistrust and problems with laws and institutions in Bassa, Bokkos and Wase Local Government Areas (LGA) based on interviews and focus group discussions. Their conclusions indicate that effectiveness of community-oriented security arrangements is related to the quality of the relations between the community actors and the formal security institutions, and the resources and administrative support community actors have. While Nanka et al. (2026) do not discuss Amotekun, their study is a helpful comparison for Plateau State. It shows that, even in other parts of Nigeria, community-based security programmes may face similar institutional challenges. But, the similarities between the two areas should be looked upon not as confirmation of the presence of all the challenges identified in Plateau State in Ondo West.

2.2 Theoretical Review

Institutional Theory

Amotekun Corps' operations in crime control have been made difficult by challenges and institutional constraints, which can be analysed within the framework of Institutional Theory. The theory is designed for understanding how organizations are created by formal rules, procedures, expectations and larger institutional context. It looks at organisational performance not simply as a result of the work of its people or the resources it has at its disposal, but also at the rules, structures and relationships that shape how the organisation works. From North (1990), institutions are formal and informal rules that govern human interactions. Formal institutions are rules, laws and regulations that are established, while informal institutions are conventions, norms and accepted practices. To the Amotekun, this means considering the law and administration of the Corps, what the Corps does, how the Corps recruits, and the Corps' relationship with other security organizations. It also sheds light on how informal practices and community expectations and patterns of cooperation shape day-to-day security operations.

Regulative, normative and cultural-cognitive elements are other aspects of institutional environments that are explained by Scott (1995). The regulative dimension is with regard to rules, laws and mechanisms of enforcement. In the present study, this relates to the legal framework governing Amotekun, the definition of its responsibilities and the procedures regulating its operations. These arrangements can fail to be robust, which can lead to confusion about boundaries of operations or make cooperation with other security institutions difficult. Normative relates to values, professional ideals and expectations for appropriate behavior. It is about Amotekun's recruitment requirements, professional training, discipline, accountability and expectations of personnel. Lack of recruitment and training could pose challenges for the Corps to maintain consistent operational standards and levels of public trust. The cultural-cognitive dimension involves shared meanings and unspoken assumptions that influence the meaning of institutions and what they do.

This dimension may be used to inform Amotekun of how community expectations and public confidence in the institutions of security, and existing relationship between the community and these security institutions, can affect cooperation. Residents are more likely to provide information and participate in activities of a security organisation where they perceive it to be legitimate and reliable. If there is low confidence, the organisation may have more challenges ensuring community support. Institutional Theory is suitable for this research because it relates to the problems faced in the operations with broader arrangements that affect the security performance.

Lack of equipment and personnel might be current operational problems; however, resource allocation, recruitment, administrative supervision and administrative coordination mechanisms are also institutional issues. Likewise, inter-agency cooperation is poor, which can be attributed to inter-personal problems as well as unclear roles and/or poor inter-agency operating practices. The theory then informs the study to look into the role of institutional rules, professional expectations and the relationship between the community and Amotekun in controlling crimes in Ondo West Local Government Area.

2.3 Empirical Review

There is some useful empirical evidence on Amotekun's performance and the challenges of community-based security in Nigeria, particularly from existing empirical studies. But there are differences in the geographical scope, the methods of research and the approach to analysis. A comparative analysis of them helps to determine what is known and what needs to be studied in Ondo West Local Government Area. Operational Amotekun is a regional security initiative in the face of security challenges in Nigeria, Olubade and Ogunnoiki (2020) studied. They used the qualitative analysis of secondary sources and used Hobbesian Social Contract Theory to describe the relationship between security, political authority and protection for citizens. The study placed Amotekun in the overall call for more responsive security set up in the South-West. Its value is in the context of security and politics in the formation of the Corps. But this is not a comprehensive evaluation of the challenges faced by Amotekun operatives and institutions in Ondo West in terms of operational and institutional difficulties, particularly the legal authority of the Corps, recruitment procedures, accountability mechanisms, administrative supervision, funding arrangements and inter-agency coordination.

To assess the effectiveness of Amotekun in Oyo and Ondo States, Ayodele et al. (2026) adopted descriptive mixed-methods approach. This study has been done among 770 respondents and 12 interviews, as indicated. It mentioned positive results in the field of intelligence and surveillance, as well as in the field of security patrols and proactive responses to criminal incidents. It also observed that the Corps has moderate success in the protection of lives and properties in Ondo State and gave a better rating to the Corps performance in Ondo compared to Oyo State. The study recommended to readdress provisions concerning weapons handling and recruitment. The results are significant because they point to the strengths of the operations and to some areas that need institutional focus. However, it provides no information on whether the same performance patterns or constraints are applicable to the Ondo West Local Government Area (LGA) in particular. The nature of operational problems of Amotekun and insecurity in Oyo and Ondo States was examined by Ayodele et al. (2026). Although the study identifies recruitment and weapons handling as areas requiring institutional attention, further investigation is needed to establish how recruitment procedures, administrative supervision, funding arrangements, accountability and coordination with other security agencies shape the Corps' crime-control activities at the local government level.

The study by Nanka et al. (2026) looked at the problems of community policing in Bassa, Bokkos and Wase LGA of Plateau State. The study adopted qualitative approach which involved key-informant interviews and focus group discussions. It stated the lack of public trust in communities and formal security providers, limited resources, logistics problems, low levels of capacity, lack of inter-agency coordination, political interference and weak legal and institutional frameworks. A Collaborative Policing Model was used to illustrate the need for collaboration between community actors and security agencies. The study does not focus on Amotekun, however, there is comparative evidence that demonstrates that community-based security programs can be impacted by organizational and relational issues. The results of its investigations are relevant for identifying problems for investigation in Ondo West but not in the LGA. The context of the present article is supplemented by the previous dissertation of the user amongst the Amotekun people of Ondo West. It looked at the impact the Corps had on crime control, operational strategies, obstacles and potential solutions. Challenge-oriented facts reflect issues of manpower, equipment, recruiting, loss of operations, firearms, tracking, public perception and coordination with traditional security forces. It also offers recommendations on increased clarity in the administrative processes, merit selection, community and civil-society monitoring, budget transparency and the greater coordination between security actors. Importantly, the earlier article is based on that dissertation but it's about what the Corps does and crime-prevention strategies. The present study therefore builds on this earlier work by giving specific attention to whether institutional arrangements, including recruitment procedures,

accountability, administrative supervision, funding and inter-agency coordination, constitute constraints on Amotekun's crime-control activities in Ondo West Local Government Area.

The regional security considerations of setting up the Corps are outlined by Olubade and Ogunnoiki (2020) and the effectiveness of the Corps in gathering intelligence, conducting surveillance, patrolling as well as proactive responses to crime, are demonstrated by Ayodele et al. (2026). The major operational and institutional challenges identified by Ayodele et al (2026) in Oyo and Ondo States are cited as challenges affecting Amotekun. While focused on community policing in Plateau State, Nanka et al. (2026) highlight the importance of public trust, funding, training, logistics, and inter-agency cooperation and institutional accountability in relation to community policing. The contributions made are not without their shortcomings, however, and three gaps remain relevant today with regard to the present study. The first of these is the geographical gap as the Amotekun studies provided cover Oyo and Ondo States or the South-West region generally, without enumerating the exact operational conditions in Ondo West Local Government Area. Results of state-level or regional-level studies are not necessarily representative of the experiences of security personnel and residents in any LGA. Second, there is a focus gap. Several of the studies already done focus on either the formation of Amotekun or its overall effectiveness, while others explore the challenges that Amotekun is facing in over one state.

While these studies provide us with important constraints, more research is needed to determine the impact of certain operational challenges and institutional arrangements on crime-control operations in Ondo West. The present study thus shifts from an overall effectiveness judgment to looking at the difficulties and institutional conditions related to the difficulties. In examining these issues, the study distinguishes between operational challenges, such as manpower shortages, inadequate equipment, firearms-related difficulties, tracking limitations and public perception, and institutional constraints, such as recruitment procedures, legal authority, accountability mechanisms, administrative supervision, funding arrangements and inter-agency coordination. This distinction provides a basis for examining not only the difficulties encountered by Amotekun operatives but also the organizational and administrative conditions that may contribute to those difficulties. Third, the local relevance of the identified constraints and the most appropriate interventions to tackle these constraints are not well understood. Past research has suggested better funding, training, recruitment, legal structures and inter-agency coordination. But, in Ondo West, the importance of these measures should be determined based on the evidence obtained from the study area. The present study seeks to fill this need by looking at the operational problems and institutional limitations encountered by Amotekun Corps in Ondo West Local Government Area in crime control and what possible steps can be taken to enhance the performance of Amotekun Corps in crime control.

METHODOLOGY

The study adopted a descriptive research design to examine the operational challenges and institutional constraints facing the Ondo State Security Network Agency (Amotekun Corps) in crime control in Ondo West Local Government Area of Ondo State, Nigeria. The design was considered appropriate because it enabled the collection of information from respondents concerning the challenges affecting the Corps' operations, including personnel and logistical limitations, funding, inter-agency collaboration, institutional arrangements and public cooperation. The study focused on Ondo West Local Government Area because it provides the geographical context for examining the operational and institutional conditions influencing Amotekun's crime-control activities.

The study population comprised residents and relevant stakeholders in Ondo West Local Government Area who were knowledgeable about local security issues and the activities of Amotekun Corps. These included traders, farmers, civil servants, community leaders and other community members with relevant experience or knowledge of security activities in the area. A purposive sampling technique was used to select 250 respondents based on their perceived knowledge of security issues and Amotekun's operations. The eligibility criteria included residence or relevant involvement in Ondo West Local Government Area, familiarity with local security challenges, and direct experience or reasonable knowledge of Amotekun's activities and crime-control efforts in the area. Community leaders and other stakeholders were considered eligible based on their involvement in community security matters or their knowledge of security-related interactions within the study area. The selection was therefore based on respondents' relevant knowledge and experience rather than a claim that all

participants were Amotekun personnel or that they had direct access to the Corps' internal administrative and operational records. A total of 250 questionnaires were administered and retrieved, representing a 100% response rate. The respondents' views were treated as perceptions of the operational challenges and institutional constraints affecting Amotekun in Ondo West Local Government Area.

Data were collected through a structured questionnaire designed to address the study's focus. The instrument covered operational challenges confronting Amotekun, including personnel and equipment adequacy, funding and logistics, training and operational capacity, institutional and administrative constraints, cooperation with other security agencies, public trust and possible measures for improving the Corps' performance. Responses were measured on a four-point Likert scale: Strongly Agree (4), Agree (3), Disagree (2) and Strongly Disagree (1).

To establish content validity, the questionnaire was reviewed by two experts in criminology and security studies. The data collected were analysed using descriptive statistics, including frequencies, percentages and mean scores. The results were interpreted using the following mean-score ranges: 3.25–4.00 = Strongly Agree; 2.50–3.24 = Agree; 1.75–2.49 = Disagree; and 1.00–1.74 = Strongly Disagree. Since the study relied on purposively selected residents and stakeholders, the findings were interpreted as respondents' reported perceptions and experiences rather than definitive assessments of the Corps' internal operational conditions. Accordingly, conclusions about institutional constraints were based on the issues examined through the questionnaire and were not treated as independently verified facts about the Corps' internal administrative arrangements.

RESULT

Table1: Operational Challenges Facing Amotekun Corps in Crime Control

S/N	Items	SA Freq. (%)	A Freq. (%)	SD Freq. (%)	D Freq. (%)	Mean
1	Uncooperative attitude of the public in providing adequate and timely information about suspected persons in their neighbourhood	92 (36.8%)	87 (34.8%)	29 (11.6%)	42 (16.8%)	2.97
2	Insufficient modern crime-prevention and control equipment/facilities	75 (30.0%)	95 (38.0%)	42 (16.8%)	38 (15.2%)	2.81
3	Poor and inadequate accommodation facilities for officers and men	65 (26.0%)	78 (31.2%)	53 (21.2%)	54 (21.6%)	2.62
4	Mobility problems in terms of vehicles	90 (36.0%)	104 (41.6%)	31 (12.4%)	25 (10.0%)	3.01
5	Insufficient training of officers and men in modern crime-prevention and control techniques	90 (36.0%)	65 (26.0%)	55 (22.0%)	40 (16.0%)	2.76

Source: Field Survey, 2022

Table 2: Possible Solution to the Issue of Crime in Ondo West Local Government.

S/N	Items	SA	A	SD	D	mean
1	Government should provide enough vehicles for patrol.	80 (32.0%)	110 (44.0%)	20 (8.0%)	40 (16.0%)	3
2	Government should provide adequate accommodation facilities for officers and men of the command.	65 (26.0%)	78 (31.2%)	53 (21.2%)	54 (21.6%)	2.62

3	Government should provide sufficient modern crime-prevention and control equipment/facilities, such as pen cameras and cap-mounted cameras/recorders.	130 (52.0%)	100 (40.0%)	12 (4.8%)	8 (3.2%)	3.39
4	Government should provide adequate training for officers and men in modern crime-prevention and control techniques.	98 (39.2%)	85 (34.0%)	32 (12.8%)	35 (14.0%)	3
5	Individuals should keep their neighbourhoods clean and tidy.	75 (30.0%)	107 (42.8%)	39 (15.6%)	29 (11.6%)	2.87

Source: Field Survey, 2022

DISCUSSION

The results presented in the table show that the provision of modern crime-prevention and control equipment received considerable support from the respondents. Out of the 250 respondents, 130 (52.0%) strongly agreed that the government should provide sufficient modern crime-prevention and control equipment, while 100 (40.0%) agreed. In contrast, 12 (4.8%) strongly disagreed and 8 (3.2%) disagreed. This means that 92.0% of the respondents supported the provision of modern equipment for Amotekun Corps. The result indicates that respondents considered modern equipment an important measure for improving the Corps' crime-control activities. Equipment such as surveillance devices and recording cameras may assist officers in monitoring suspicious activities, gathering information and documenting criminal incidents. This finding agrees with Ayodele, Shittu and Ekundayo (2026), who identified limitations in equipment and operational capacity among the challenges facing Amotekun in Oyo and Ondo States. It also reflects the recommendation by Ayodele, Shittu, Idowu and Balogun (2024) that aspects of Amotekun's operational and institutional arrangements require improvement. Therefore, providing suitable modern equipment may strengthen the Corps' capacity to respond to security threats in Ondo West Local Government Area.

The provision of adequate training for Amotekun officers and men also received considerable support. The table shows that 98 respondents (39.2%) strongly agreed that government should provide adequate training in modern crime-prevention and control techniques, while 85 (34.0%) agreed. However, 32 respondents (12.8%) strongly disagreed and 35 (14.0%) disagreed. Combined, 73.2% of the respondents supported adequate training for Amotekun personnel. This result suggests that training is considered an important requirement for improving operational performance. Security personnel need appropriate skills to gather intelligence, conduct patrols, manage potentially dangerous situations and cooperate with other security agencies. The finding is consistent with Ayodele et al. (2026), who identified shortages of trained personnel as one of the operational challenges affecting Amotekun. Similarly, Nanka, Gambo and Adeyi (2026) identified insufficient training as a challenge to community policing in Plateau State. Although the latter study examined a different security setting, it reinforces the importance of personnel capacity in community-based security arrangements. Adequate and continuous training could therefore help Amotekun officers perform their duties more professionally and effectively.

The provision of enough patrol vehicles was also supported by most respondents. Of the 250 respondents, 80 (32.0%) strongly agreed that government should provide sufficient vehicles for patrol, while 110 (44.0%) agreed. Meanwhile, 20 respondents (8.0%) strongly disagreed and 40 (16.0%) disagreed. In total, 76.0% supported the provision of enough patrol vehicles. This indicates that most respondents considered mobility an important requirement for effective crime control. Without adequate vehicles, security personnel may experience difficulties reaching distant communities, responding promptly to emergencies and conducting regular patrols. This concern is relevant to the operational challenges identified in the study materials, particularly the limitations associated with logistics and operational resources. Nanka et al. (2026) also identified poor logistics as a challenge to community policing in Plateau State. The finding suggests that government support for patrol vehicles and their maintenance could improve Amotekun's mobility and its ability to cover communities within Ondo West Local Government Area.

Keeping neighbourhoods clean and tidy also received support from a considerable proportion of the respondents. The table indicates that 75 respondents (30.0%) strongly agreed that individuals should keep their neighbourhoods clean and tidy, while 107 (42.8%) agreed. On the other hand, 39 respondents (15.6%) strongly disagreed and 29 (11.6%) disagreed. Altogether, 72.8% of the respondents agreed with the statement. This result indicates support for community participation in maintaining orderly neighbourhoods. However, keeping neighbourhoods clean and tidy is not directly equivalent to providing intelligence or cooperating with security personnel. Its contribution to crime control would depend on whether the action improves environmental conditions, visibility and the identification of suspicious activities. Consequently, the result should be interpreted as evidence of support for community responsibility rather than direct proof that environmental cleanliness reduces crime. The finding nevertheless highlights the importance of involving residents in maintaining safer and more orderly communities.

The provision of adequate accommodation for Amotekun officers and men also received support from more than half of the respondents. The results show that 65 respondents (26.0%) strongly agreed that government should provide adequate accommodation, while 78 (31.2%) agreed. In contrast, 53 respondents (21.2%) strongly disagreed and 54 (21.6%) disagreed. Overall, 57.2% supported the provision of adequate accommodation, while 42.8% disagreed. Although the level of support was lower than that recorded for the other measures, more than half of the respondents agreed with the statement. This suggests that accommodation was recognised as a relevant concern, although respondents expressed stronger support for modern equipment, training and patrol vehicles. Adequate accommodation may contribute to personnel welfare, readiness and the maintenance of operational facilities. This finding highlights the need for government to consider personnel welfare alongside more immediate operational requirements.

The findings presented in Table 2 show that the provision of sufficient modern crime-prevention and control equipment received considerable support from the respondents. Out of the 250 respondents, 130 (52.0%) strongly agreed that the government should provide modern equipment, while 100 (40.0%) agreed. In contrast, 12 respondents (4.8%) strongly disagreed and 8 (3.2%) disagreed. Altogether, 92.0% of the respondents supported the provision of modern equipment for Amotekun Corps. This indicates that the majority of respondents considered modern equipment necessary for improving the Corps' ability to prevent and control crime. Equipment such as surveillance devices, pen cameras and cap-mounted cameras may assist officers in monitoring suspicious activities, gathering intelligence and documenting criminal incidents. This finding is consistent with Ayodele, Shittu and Ekundayo (2026), who identified inadequate equipment and operational capacity as challenges facing Amotekun in Oyo and Ondo States. It also supports the need to strengthen the operational capacity of Amotekun through appropriate government investment in security facilities and technology.

The provision of adequate training for Amotekun officers and men also received considerable support. The results indicate that 98 respondents (39.2%) strongly agreed that government should provide adequate training in modern crime-prevention and control techniques, while 85 (34.0%) agreed. However, 32 respondents (12.8%) strongly disagreed and 35 (14.0%) disagreed. Combined, 73.2% of the respondents supported adequate training for the Corps. This suggests that respondents recognised the importance of developing the knowledge and skills of security personnel. Training can help officers improve their intelligence-gathering abilities, patrol methods, communication, emergency response and professional conduct. The finding agrees with Ayodele et al. (2026), who identified shortages of trained personnel as one of the challenges affecting Amotekun's operations. Similarly, Nanka, Gambo and Adeyi (2026) identified inadequate training as a challenge to community policing in Plateau State. Therefore, regular training and retraining may improve the competence of Amotekun personnel and strengthen their capacity to respond to security threats in Ondo West Local Government Area.

The provision of enough vehicles for patrol was also supported by most respondents. The table shows that 80 respondents (32.0%) strongly agreed that government should provide sufficient patrol vehicles, while 110 (44.0%) agreed. Conversely, 20 respondents (8.0%) strongly disagreed and 40 (16.0%) disagreed. Altogether, 76.0% of the respondents supported the provision of enough patrol vehicles. This indicates that most respondents recognised the importance of mobility in effective crime control. Without adequate vehicles, security personnel may experience difficulties reaching distant communities, responding promptly to emergencies and conducting regular patrols. This concern highlights the need for government to provide and maintain sufficient patrol

vehicles to improve the mobility and operational capacity of Amotekun personnel in Ondo West Local Government Area.

The recommendation that individuals should keep their neighbourhoods clean and tidy also received support from most respondents. The results show that 75 respondents (30.0%) strongly agreed with the statement, while 107 (42.8%) agreed. On the other hand, 39 respondents (15.6%) strongly disagreed and 29 (11.6%) disagreed. In total, 72.8% of the respondents supported the statement. This finding indicates that most respondents recognised the importance of community participation in maintaining orderly neighbourhoods. Clean and well-maintained surroundings may improve visibility and reduce environmental conditions that make some locations difficult to monitor. However, cleanliness alone cannot be regarded as a direct solution to crime. Its contribution is more meaningful when combined with residents' cooperation with security personnel, the reporting of suspicious activities and participation in community safety initiatives. The result therefore highlights the value of community responsibility while showing that environmental maintenance should complement, rather than replace, direct crime-prevention measures.

The provision of adequate accommodation facilities for Amotekun officers and men also received support from more than half of the respondents. The table indicates that 65 respondents (26.0%) strongly agreed that government should provide adequate accommodation, while 78 (31.2%) agreed. In contrast, 53 respondents (21.2%) strongly disagreed and 54 (21.6%) disagreed. Combined, 57.2% of the respondents supported the provision of adequate accommodation, while 42.8% disagreed. Although this measure received a lower level of support than the other proposals, the proportion of respondents who agreed was higher than the proportion who disagreed. This suggests that accommodation was considered relevant, although respondents expressed stronger support for modern equipment, training and patrol vehicles. Adequate accommodation can contribute to personnel welfare and provide suitable facilities for administrative and operational activities. The result suggests that government should consider the welfare of Amotekun personnel as part of a broader strategy for strengthening crime control.

CONCLUSION

This study examined the operational challenges and institutional constraints facing Amotekun Corps in crime control in Ondo West Local Government Area, Ondo State, Nigeria. The findings indicate that the Corps faces several challenges that may limit its operational effectiveness, particularly inadequate public cooperation in providing timely security information, insufficient modern crime-prevention equipment, mobility problems, inadequate training and poor accommodation facilities. Among these challenges, the uncooperative attitude of members of the public received the highest mean score, highlighting the importance of community participation in crime prevention. The findings further revealed that respondents supported several measures to address these challenges. The provision of modern crime-prevention equipment received the highest mean score, followed by adequate training for personnel and sufficient patrol vehicles. These results suggest that improving Amotekun's operational capacity requires investment in security technology, personnel development and mobility. Community participation and improved welfare facilities also remain important considerations.

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