

## Original paper

# Analysis of the Insecurity Facing Katsina Metropolitan, Katsina State

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**ABSTRACT:** One of the major challenges facing the global community at present is the contemporary insecurity facing most of the nations of the world which has risen by an alarming rate as a result of series of protracted armed conflicts including full-scale wars raging in different parts of the globe. In the continent of Africa and elsewhere, metropolitan areas are the centers of protests and unrests arising from economic hardships thereby creating insecurity. Metropolitan areas as centers of administration, social, economic and political activities are facing different forms of insecurity of varying degrees depending on the country. The objectives of the study are to analyze the insecurity facing Katsina metropolitan, highlight the response of the residents and the security forces towards tackling it. The methodology employed in data collection is focus group discussions involving ten persons in two groups each from the four administrative wards of the metropolitan located at the northern, eastern, western and southern parts. The data collected from the focus groups were complemented with secondary sourced data from desk research and analyzed using descriptive statistics. The results revealed that the contemporary forms of insecurity facing the metropolitan area include burglary and house-breaking, theft of motorcycles and motor cars, armed robbery, hooliganism by political thugs and intermittent incursions by bandits to kidnap wealthy residents. These forms of insecurity have persisted despite the concerted efforts of the security agents and the residents towards tackling it. There is therefore the urgent need to introduce viable innovative and practical security management strategies to achieve the security of lives and properties in the metropolitan area.

**Keywords:** Analysis, criminal activities, insecurity, metropolitan

## INTRODUCTION

Insecurity is the presence of fear, harm and destruction as a result of criminal activities of some individuals and groups (Abdullahi and Ismail: 2021). Insecurity is the opposite of security and it describes a condition that exist due to lack of adequate measures put in place to protect individuals, groups and properties against hostile persons such as criminals and armed groups (Siro: 2016).

One of the current challenges to development at present is the alarming rate of insecurity that is ravaging the global terrain in recent times (Adeoluwa, 2018). The new worldwide insecurity factors include terrorism,

proliferation of small and light weapons (SALW), unresolved armed conflicts, newly emerging armed conflicts, organized criminality, drug abuse and trafficking, human trafficking, violent secessionist movements, gun violence and armed robbery (Bahnareanu, 2006).

The insecurity has recently risen to at alarming rate following series of protracted armed conflicts including full-scale wars raging in different parts of the globe especially in Asia and Europe. The Russian-Ukraine war is one of such wars that has created insecurity among the

nations of Europe and economic hardships in the rest of the globe which has sparked massive protests and unrest in some countries of Asia and Africa. In the developed nations of the world where there are no wars going on, gun violence has seriously created a high level of insecurity leading to loss of innocent lives of the citizens. For example, on March 9<sup>th</sup> an unknown gunman shot dead eight persons at Jehovah's Witness Centre in Hamburg Germany (RFI, 2023). In another example, at Nashville, the capital of US State of Tennessee a gunman shot and killed three children and three adults at a private Christian elementary school on March 27<sup>th</sup> 2023 (The New York Times, 2023).

In the continent of Africa and elsewhere, urban areas attract a lot of criminals and criminality thereby making the urban areas to be facing varying forms of insecurity. This occurs because urban centers or cities are centers of administration, economic, social and political activities that lead to concentration of people and financial resources that attract the criminals. In Nigeria, for example, most of the major urban metropolitan areas are facing one form of insecurity or the other. In the megacity of Lagos, the city is facing highway armed robbery, in Ibadan, the city is facing bank robbery, Gusau and Zaria cities are facing intermittent incursion by bandits, Kano city is facing cell phone snatching along streets of the metropolitan to mention a few (Uduehele, 2023, Moronfolu, 2022).

Several metropolitan cities in the African continent are presently facing varying forms of insecurity which have devastated the citizens and even foreign visitors (Otu, 2022). For example, on October 30<sup>th</sup> 2022 twin-car bomb blast killed over 100 persons and wounded 300 others in an attack targeting the Somali Ministry of Education at the capital Mogadishu (Olademeji, 2022). In the Democratic Republic of Congo, M23 rebels captured Bunagana, a commercial cross roads on the Ugandan border since June 2021 and also took over other towns in the Rutshuru and Masisi regions of the country (TEA, 2023). In Nairobi, Kenya in March 2023 rise in price protests led to clashes with the police as protesters threw stones at them and some buildings were set ablaze and tyres burnt along some streets (Mersei, 2023).

Several metropolitan cities are bedeviled with insecurity and are making efforts to curb the insecurity facing the residents. In Abuja, the Federal Capital Territory Development Authority (FCTDA) mandates the use of close-circuit television (CCTV) in public places such as markets, parks and stadium to curb the insecurity facing the territory. In Abia state, the state government has in 2022 introduced a crime prevention and record keeping program as a measure of curbing the high rate of insecurity in metropolitan areas of the state (BDS, 2022). In the megacity of Lagos, several measures were adopted to curb insecurity which includes Lagos neighborhoods watch squad, use of CCTV, deployment of security forces and the recently created regional

security network code named *Amotekun* (Shittu *et al.*, 2022).

Some studies have been conducted on the contemporary insecurity facing metropolitan urban centers in Nigeria. Alemika (2015) studied the prevalence, pattern and consequences of insecurity in Nigeria.

The study found out that insecurity arises as a result of ethnic, religious and electoral grievances with the insecurity varying across cities. Also, the major effects of insecurity in Nigerian cities are homelessness, loss of employment, destruction of educational institutions, increased criminal activities and rising food prices. The study also found out that city dwellers are generally dissatisfied with the police which they perceive as ineffective in preventing or curbing insecurity. Adedeji *et al.* (2016) carried out an overview of social inequality and urban insecurity in Ilorin through residential fencing and house gating. The study found out that two types of social mix in housing can have significant impact on reducing urban insecurity.

Ogele (2020) studied unemployment crisis and human security threat in Port Harcourt 2010-2019. The results of the study show that the soaring rate of unemployment constitutes a major threat to human security in Port Harcourt city of Rivers State. As unemployment increases, the degree of insecurity is becoming unimaginable in the city. Ogele (2020) further found out that the insecurity is associated with jobless youths who are engaging in cultism, cybercrime, armed robbery, electoral violence, kidnapping for ransom and oil theft. Abdulkadir (2020) undertook a review of the security architecture at Kwado residential area of Katsina city, Katsina State.

The study found out that the security climate in the residential area is characterized by intermittent burglary despite the measures adopted by the police to curb it. The community formed patrol teams which arrested the burglars who were mainly youths who were handed over to the police for prosecution. Ibrahim and Halliru (2022) studied the socio-economic impacts of unemployment in urban Katsina, Katsina State.

The study found out that thuggery is one of the consequences of unemployment arising from the large number of youths in the study area. The study recommends initiation of an economic security system that will provide jobs for the unemployed youths.

From the literature review above it can be observed that only two among the five studied literatures focus on Katsina city which shows that there are few studies on the insecurity facing the city. The present study is an analysis of the insecurity facing Katsina metropolitan, Katsina State.

The objectives of the paper are to identify and explain the insecurity facing Katsina metropolitan, to highlight the response of the residents and security agents and to recommend appropriate measures towards tackling it.

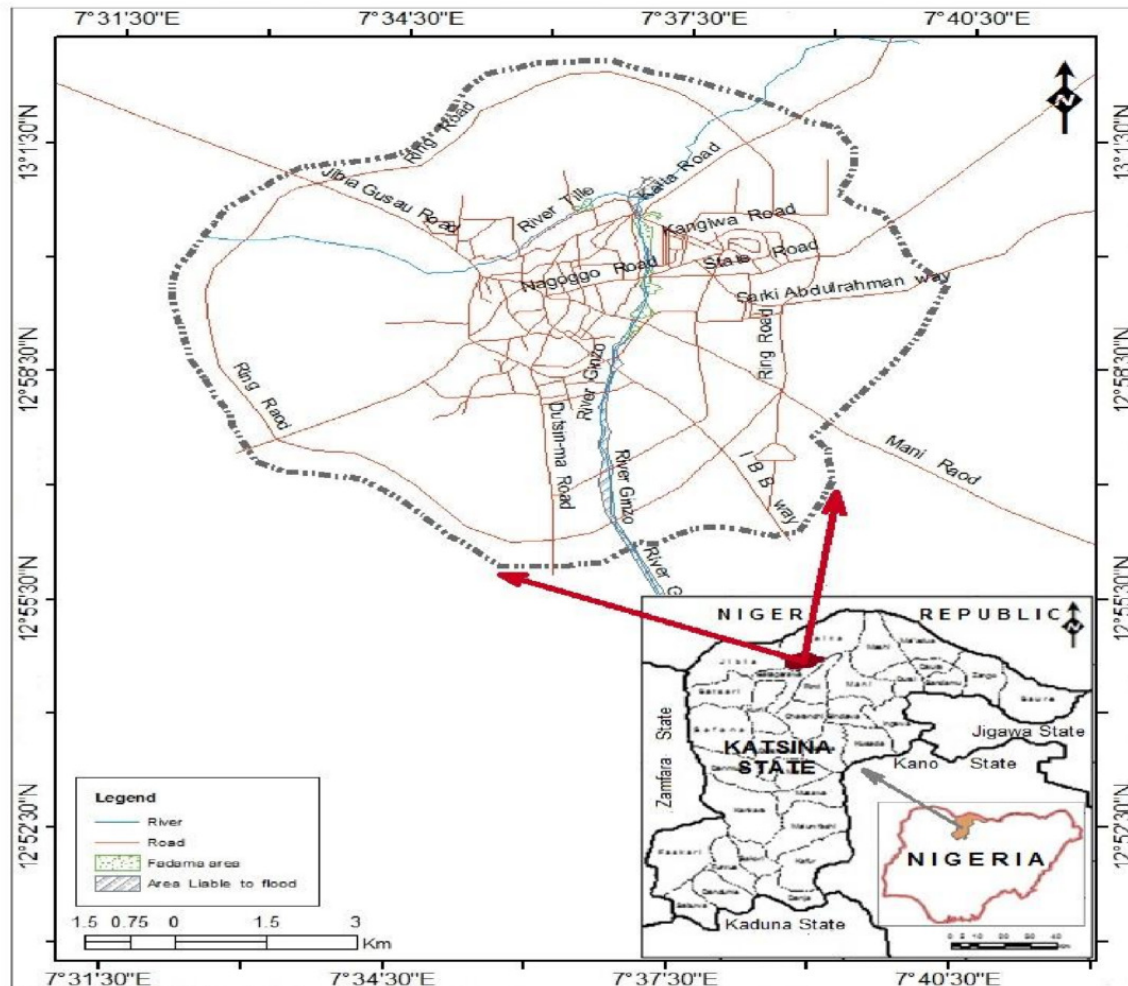


Fig.1: Map of Katsina L.G.A. as the Study Area.  
Source:- National Aeronautic and Space Administration Spot Image 2021.

Figure 1: Map of Katsina Metropolitan, the study area.

### Description of the study area

The study area is Katsina metropolitan, the capital of Katsina State created on September 27<sup>th</sup> 1987 from the defunct Kaduna state. The metropolitan is located on latitude 12° 30' north of the equator and longitude 7° 36' east of Greenwich lying 173.42km along the highway from Kano to Maradi in Niger Republic (Encyclopedia Britannica, 2023). Katsina metropolitan is also the headquarters of Katsina local government area (LGA) one of the thirty four (34) LGAs in Katsina State (Figure 1).

In terms of population, the metropolitan area has an estimated population of 524,000 with a growth rate of 3.76% in the year 2023 from 2022 (Macrotrends, 2023). The population of the metropolitan is presently observed to be increasing in view of the movement of people displaced by banditry that has bedeviled the State since 2011. Most of those displaced that have increased the

population of the metropolitan are from the neighboring LGAs affected by banditry such as Batsari, Batagarawa and Jibia.

In terms of occupation, majority of the inhabitants are engaged in farming and cattle rearing as full or part time occupation. There are also a sizeable number of civil servants being the state capital and LG headquarters. Trading and business activities are also major occupations of the metropolitan. There are however limited manufacturing industries that employ large number of people. Thus inadequate industries, rural-urban migration and rapid increase in population of the metropolitan have resulted in high rate of unemployment (Ibrahim and Halliru, 2022).

In terms of security, a number of security establishments are found in the metropolitan based on its status as the state capital. The Nigerian Police Force (NPF) State Command is located at the metropolitan. There are divisional police offices at Kangiwa square,

SabonGari, Central Market and Shagari Low Cost Housing Estate that provide security to lives and properties of the inhabitants. In addition, there is State Command of the Nigerian Security and Civil Defense Corps (NSCDC) and outposts located in different parts of the metropolitan. Occasionally, other security forces such as the army are deployed to the metropolitan to respond to any security threat. The police periodically call for press conferences to make public the successes achieved in fighting insecurity in the metropolitan and other local government areas.

## METHODOLOGY

One of the methods of data collection for the study is the use of focus groups to discuss the contemporary insecurity facing them. This method is adopted as participants in the discussion felt free to discuss security issue in group rather than on individual basis. This is because of the sensitive nature of the topic as some of the participants fear the security forces and or informants that are linked to the bandits. Ten (10) persons in two groups each from the four wards that make up the metropolitan areas namely WakilinGabas (representative of the east), WakilinYamma (representative of the west), Wakilin Kudu (representative of the south) and WakilinArewa (representative of the north). This means that twenty (20) persons participated from each of the wards to make up a total of eighty (80) persons that participated in the group discussion. The discussions were held within four (4) days with each day meant for a ward from April 1<sup>st</sup> to 4<sup>th</sup> 2023. The questions discussed by the participants are what are the contemporary forms of insecurity facing the metropolitan, in what ways have the residents responded, what are the efforts of the security agents in tackling the forms of insecurity and what measures would they suggest towards tackling it.

A map of the study area was sourced from a study by Ibrahim and Halliru (2022) which was used to describe the study area. Also secondary sources of data were collected through desk research from journal articles, book chapters, newspapers, police press releases, records of banditry incidences and internet sourced materials. The data collected from both the primary and secondary sources were collected, edited and analyzed through descriptive statistics in the form of percentages and tabulations.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The results obtained during the focus group discussion are varied on what is the form of insecurity facing the residential area they are living in the metropolitan. A sizeable percentage of 35.0% indicated that theft of properties is the most prevalent in their residential areas. Others indicated that burglary and house breaking

(25.0%), hooliganism (17.5%), armed robbery (12.5%) and incursion by bandits into the metropolitan (10.0%). These are shown on (Table 1).

From (Table 1), it can be observed that theft of properties is one of the most common forms of contemporary insecurity in the metropolitan. The properties mostly stolen are personal belongings such as cell phones, laptop computers and motorcycles. Properties stolen outdoors include motorcycles in particular that has become rampant. Others include poultry and ruminants such as chickens, goats and sheep and scrap metals, where even concretes are dismantled to remove the iron rods, cutting of copper wire of electric transformers and also removal of car parts for sale by the thieves. The search for scrap metals has been noted to increase the rate of theft in residential areas as items that are not scraps are made to be scraps by force.

Burglary and house-breaking are another form of contemporary crimes that led to insecurity in the metropolitan. Burglary takes place mostly in residential areas where there are shops containing goods and residential areas at the outskirts. It was recently observed that the burglars come out for their operations in large numbers with weapons that can only be confronted by security forces. Hence, the shop owners and those affected cannot confront them. It was further observed that the rate of burglary increased during the cold seasons around November/December to January when people stay indoors due to the cold weather condition. For example, five shops were burgled at Lambobi quarters in November 2022 during the cold Hamattan season when people were mostly indoors at night (Habib, 2022). House breaking, on the other hand is prevalent in new residential areas at the edge of the metropolitan. The house breakers normally target new houses where new brides have been lodged for their criminal activities of creating holes on the walls to gain access into the houses and steal the properties of the brides and bridegrooms.

Hooliganism is mostly carried out by unemployed youths who lack proper parental upbringing and Western/Islamic education. In Katsina metropolitan, the hooligans are known locally as *Kauraye*, who operate mostly under the influence of drugs. Some residential areas such as SabuwarUnguwa and TudunMatawalle have become notorious as a result of the criminal activities of the hooligans with most residents avoiding visiting the areas at night. The hooligans are noted to be taking advantage of places where there are large gathering of people to launch attacks on their rivals or the people. Such gatherings include *eid* festivals, bridegroom processions, *Maulud-el-Nabiy* processions and Ramadan entertainment performances. Recently, it was observed that there was an upsurge in the activities of the hooligans due to political electioneering campaigns prelude to the 2023 General Elections (Jani, 2023). For example, there were violent clashes between supporters



**Table 1:** Insecurity facing Katsina metropolitan, Katsina State.

S/N	Insecurity incidences	Residential areas mostly affected	Percentage
1	Theft of properties	Most of the residential areas in the metropolitan	35.00%
2	Burglary and house breaking	Saulawa, KofarKeke, SabonLayi and Lambobi	25.00%
3	Hooliganism	Jan Bango, SabuwarUnguwa and TudunMatawalle	17.50%
4	Armed robbery	Mani road, Government Residential Area (GRA), Arabian Quarters and Modoji quarters	12.50%
5	Incursion by bandits into the metropolitan	Sokoto Rima Housing Estate, Shola quarters and 'YanKatako quarters	10.00%

Source: Data analysis (2023)

**Table 2:** Incidences of periodic incursion by bandits into Katsina metropolitan from 2020-2023.

S/N	Date and Location	Banditry Incidence	Impact/Repercussions
1	October 20 <sup>th</sup> 2020 at SabonGida Quarters	Bandits broke charms to enter the home of a woman herbalist	The herbalist was kidnapped and spent 12 days in captivity after which ransom was paid to secure release.
2	November 5 <sup>th</sup> 2020 at a residential area behind Katsinaopen air theatre	Bandits burgled into the house of an elderly mother in-law of a customs officer	The elderly woman was kidnapped, spent 12 days in captivity and released after payment of ransom.
3	January 5 <sup>th</sup> 2021 at Chechenya behind Federal Teaching Hospital	Bandits invaded the house of a man to rustle cattle.	Some of the cattle belonging to the man were rustled while others were left behind.
4	July 20 <sup>th</sup> and 21 <sup>st</sup> 2021 at Bambami village close to Katsina metropolitan	Bandits carried out an attack on the village for the first time. The attack created fear and panic in neighbouring areas leading to movement to the city.	1.Kidnapping of 13 persons and stealing of 8 motorcycles from the village 2.The people of the village for fear of another attack moved to spend the night at near-by HUK Polytechnic premises.
5	June 14 <sup>th</sup> 2022 at Shola quarters behind Federal Teaching hospital, Katsina	Bandits invaded the residential area dividing into two groups targeting two houses for robbery and kidnapping	1.One man was shot by the bandits while his wife and new born baby were kidnapped 2. Kidnapping of a wealthy man and his wife after robbing him of the sum of N700, 000 cash after beating his son.
6	June 23 <sup>rd</sup> 2022 at Sokoto Rima River Basin Development Authority (SRRBDA) Office staff quarters	Bandits invaded the house of a newly-wedded couple by creating a hole on the wall to gain access into the house.	The newly-wedded bride was kidnapped but prompt response by security agents led to her rescue.
7	August 7 <sup>th</sup> 2022 at Shola quarters behind Federal Teaching Hospital	Bandits stormed the residential area for the second time. At that time the residents have hired the services of vigilante members.	1. Two vigilante members were killed in an encounter with the bandits while one member was kidnapped. 2.A newly-wedded couple was also kidnapped by the bandits
8	August 9 <sup>th</sup> 2022 at 'YanKatako quarters	Bandits burgled into a house using tools and implements to gain access.	1. One person was killed as the bandits shot at an advancing car. 2.One person was kidnapped but the police chased the bandits to rescue him.
9	September 4 <sup>th</sup> 2022 at YanKatako quarters	Bandits stormed the residential area again burgling into the house of the Registrar Isa Kaita College of Education, Dutsinma	1. Bandits attempted to kidnap the Registrar and his wife. 2.Two children were kidnapped from the house.
10	April 9 <sup>th</sup> 2023 at Shagari Low cost Housing Estate	Bandits secretly invaded a cattle rearing yard taking the resident by surprise.	Rustling of all the cattle in the yard but some of the cattle were recovered a day later by the police.

Source: Ladan (2023)

of All Progressive Congress (APC) and People's Democratic Party (PDP) that resulted to injuries, while one person's hand was cut by a rival at Yan Katako residential area on February 23<sup>rd</sup> 2023.

Armed robbery attacks target rich persons living in new residential areas such as Arabian quarters, Modoji

quarters, Dutsen Safe low cost housing estate etc. The robbers use threat by bringing out dangerous weapons to instill fear into the minds of their victims and in case victims resists, they are attacked and injured and their valuable properties such as motorcars, money in cash or even new motorcycles snatched. For example, a gang of

**Table 3:** Kidnapping incidences not carried out by bandits in Katsina metropolitan.

S/N	Date and Location	Kidnapping incident	Impact/repercussions
1	January 29 <sup>th</sup> 2019 at Mother Cat Construction Company site along Ring road	Armed men launched an attack at a mining company site early morning	Kidnapping of the Maintenance Engineer of the company who was held captive for four months.
2	March 6 <sup>th</sup> 2019 at KofarKaura residential layout	Unemployed youths went to the house of the mother-in-law toKatsina state Governor Aminu Bello Masari	Kidnapping of the Governor's mother in-law who was held captive at Rugu forest in Batsari LGA for 8 days and released after payment of ransom.
3	October 30 <sup>th</sup> 2019 at Government Residential Area (GRA)	Criminals invaded one of the houses of the Deputy Accountant General Katsina State	Kidnapping of the junior wife who spent 10 days in captivity after which ransom was paid to secure her release.
4	September 12 <sup>th</sup> 2020 at Arabian quarters	Unknown assassins trailed a Department of State Security (DSS) officer to his house.	Kidnapping of the DSS officer who spent two days in captivity after which his corpse was found abandoned.
5	August 20 <sup>th</sup> 2021 at Family Support Primary SchoolKatsina	A motorcyclist went to the school disguised as a commercial motorcyclist	Attempted kidnap of two pupils from the school but foiled and arrested by men of the NSCDC.

Source: Ladan (2023).

armed robbers around 11.45 pm hit a car owner and threatened to kill him thereby forcing him to hand over the keys of his new car on July 31<sup>st</sup> 2022. In another example, a gang of 15 armed robbers attacked the house of a businessman, robbed two cars, money in cash and gold rings belonging to the wife after inflicting injuries on his head along Mani road on 20<sup>th</sup> November 2022. Another form of insecurity that has recently become prominent is snatching of cell phones by criminals some of whom are the hooligans highlighted above. During the turbaning ceremony of the son of the former State Governor on April 29<sup>th</sup>2023 by the District Head of Katsina, there were reported cases of cell phone snatching in broad-day light using weapons to threaten the owners. This criminal activity has been categorized as armed robbery by the Katsina State Police Command due to the use of dangerous weapons that can lead to injuries or even death of the victims.

Incursion by bandits into the metropolitan is an addition to the growing list of criminal activities in the metropolitan. Over the years since 2011, security forces have failed to tackle banditry in rural areas of the State and the bandits have begun making incursions into metropolitan areas. Most of the residential areas affected are those that shares boundary with Jibia and Batagarawa LGAs, the two LGAs affected by banditry in Katsina State. From table 2, it can be observed that the frequency of the attacks has increased from June to September 2022 with five attacks aimed at kidnapping of residents for ransom. In fact, during the second attack on Shola quarters on

August 7<sup>th</sup> 2022, there was serious commotion in parts of the metropolitan as frightened residents scampered for safety (Daily Trust, 2022). There was an increase in security around the affected areas which led to a reduction of the incursion. But very recently in April 2023 there were two incursions at Rahamawa quarters and Shagari low cost housing estate aimed at rustling of cattle which needs to be tackled. The bandits' use of kidnapping to accumulate large amount of money has influenced other criminal groups to also engage in kidnapping as can be seen in table 3.

Among the incidences tabulated in table 1, the periodic incursion by bandits is a recent addition and a manifestation of the banditry conflict in Katsina State which has expanded to metropolitan areas. The incidences of bandit's incursions can be seen on (Table 2). The incursion of banditry into the metropolitan is an unwanted addition to the list of the forms of insecurity facing the metropolitan. Also the persistence of banditry for over a decade especially in rural areas has bred crime and criminality in the state as the other common criminals have learned and adopted the art of kidnapping further increasing the level of insecurity in the metropolitan as shown (Table 3).

### Community-based response from the residents

The participants at the group discussion showed varied responses to the question of what is the initial response

**Table 4:** Response of the residents to the forms of insecurity in Katsina Metropolitan.

S/N	Response of the residents	Percentage	Modalities of the response
1	Reporting to security agents	37.50%	Reporting the incidence of insecurity to the police at the divisional offices or personnel of the NSCDC at their outposts.
2	Improving security at homes	25.00%	Increasing the height of outer walls, stronger locks, creation of street gates, wall fencing, electric shock fencing, use of barb wire on top of walls etc.
3.	Formation of neighbourhood watch group and vigilante group	18.75%	Neighborhood watch groups formed from youths resident in an area while vigilante members are hired from somewhere.
4	Relocating to more safer and secure neighborhoods	12.25%	Relocating away from the city outskirts to the city center and or within the city wall called Ganuwa.
5	Lodging complaints to the heads of traditional institutions	06.50%	Complaining to the District Head of Katsina and or emir of Katsina.

Source: Data Analysis (2023).

to incidences creating insecurity such as theft, burglary, hooliganism, armed robbery and incursion by bandits. The participants indicated that 37.50% reported to the security forces, those that improved security of their homes are 25.00%, those that formed neighborhood watch groups and or vigilante members are 18.75%, those that relocated to safer and secured neighborhoods are 12.25% and those that lodged complain to heads of traditional institutions are the lowest with 06.50%. These responses can be seen on (Table 4).

From (Table 4), it can be observed that only 37.50% reported incidents first to the security agents. This arises as a result of the inadequate coverage of the residential area of the metropolitan with security forces. Furthermore most of the residents have lost faith in the ability of the security agents to tackle insecurity using the failure to tackle rural banditry as an example. Some of the residents (25.00%) affected by theft or armed robbery for example have responded by improving security of their homes to ensure that thieves do not gain access into their homes again. Some have gone to the extent of hiring private security guards to secure their homes and legally acquiring weapons such as guns that can be used against armed robbers in particular.

Formation of neighborhood watch group is another option adopted by 18.75% of the respondents. The neighborhoods watch groups are recruited within the locality and funded by the residents to carry out night patrols at the times thieves, armed robbers and burglars strike most. For example, following some incidences of insecurity in the area in October 2022, Shararrar Pipes/Inwala Community Progressive Forum formed a neighborhood watch group that engages in night patrols to prevent security breach in the areas. The residents are contributing a minimum of N200 per each Head of

Household to purchase working materials and give monthly allowances to the members of the watch group.

Relocating to safer and secure locations in the city center is the option adopted by 12.25% of the residents. This is the response of the residents of Shola and Yan Katako quarters following the consecutive attacks by bandits in June, August and September 2022 as can be seen on (Table 2). Some residents of Yan Katako are relocating out of the area to avoid violent clashes by political hooligans or police action against them like firing of tear gas as was the case during 2015 general elections. There are also incidences of relocation of families from residential areas where hooliganism is rampant so that the children will not join the hooligans or become targets of attacks by the hooligans.

Some residents of areas within the city wall such as residents of Saulawa and KofarSoro (06.25%) lodge complain with the Emir of Katsina or the District Head of Katsina when there is insecurity in their areas. The Emir usually calls the persons involved in the insecurity and warn them to stop and allow peace to reign.

### Response of the security agents

Security agents have been active in tackling the contemporary insecurity facing the metropolitan through:

- (i) Katsina State Police command have been active in tackling the insecurity arising from the activities of thieves, burglars, hooligans, armed robbers, kidnappers and other criminals in the metropolitan by making raids on criminal hideouts, arrests and detentions (Isah, 2022).
- (ii) The NSCDC Katsina State Command has created new out-posts in areas affected by insecurity but

with no any security formation. The NSCDC has received many requests from residents who want outpost to be established in their neighborhood in response to increasing insecurity.

(iii) The National Drugs Law Enforcement Agency (NDLEA) has been carrying out surprise mop-up operations to arrest drug dealers and drug addicts some of who are criminals that engage in creating insecurity in the metropolitan. Some of the drug dealers are involved in selling drugs to hooligans which assist them in carrying out their criminal activities.

(iv) Security agents have been involved in the interrogation and screening of persons who want to rent accommodation, buy a house or plot of land in new residential areas to prevent habitation by criminals. This is important in order to prevent criminals who ran away from other states of the Federation from hiding in residential area in the metropolitan.

(iv) Security agents including the vigilante group of Katsina LGA have been carrying out regular night patrols. The patrols include sporadic gun shots every night to ward off the incursion by bandits and criminal groups operating within the metropolitan.

(vi) Katsina State Police Command has directed members of the force to shoot any criminal found using dangerous weapons to snatch cell phones from members of the public following the rampant cases of the cell phone snatching. This directive is meant to serve as a deterrent to any criminal involved in the crime or wishing to engage in the criminal activity.

(vii) The Police Command has also issued a warning to members of the public not to bring out their cell phones and use them at night time in some residential areas where cell phone snatching is rampant. The affected residential areas are ten in number and consist of areas notorious for hooliganism and other residential areas where the criminal activity has started recently.

### **Recent Efforts to Improve Security in Katsina Metropolitan**

Katsina State Police Command and NSCDC have recently been making efforts to improve the security of residents in the metropolitan towards securing lives and properties by:-

(i) Katsina State Commissioner of Police has in October 2022 invited the heads of the major political parties to a meeting at his office. At the meeting he warned them to stop using hooligans in electioneering campaigns and stop using words that will cause breach of the peace and security of the metropolitan.

(ii) Following the clashes between rival hooligan groups on October 20<sup>th</sup> 2022 the Katsina State Police Command arrested seventy four (74) hooligans who were detained at the various divisional police offices in the metropolitan and nearby office at Kaita, Kaita LGA.

(iii) The Nigerian Police Force has created two additional police formations in an effort to improve security in the metropolitan. This includes Nigerian Police Force Zone 14 Headquarters at Dandagoro village close to Katsina metropolitan and police outposts at Darma Rice Mill site close to Umaru Musa Yar'adua University wall.

(v) Katsina State Police Command has in recent years banned the annual Ramadan entertainment performances locally known as *Tashe*. The ban is based on the observation that hooligans are taking advantage of the rowdy situation to perpetrate crimes such as armed robbery, extortion, burglary and theft (Isah, 2023).

(vi) The State Police Command has created an anti-hooliganism unit in the four divisions of police units in the metropolitan with a view to focusing and strategizing on dealing with the menace of hooliganism that is recently re-emerging and posing a serious security threat to residents

### **Conclusion**

Most metropolitan areas in both developed and developing countries are presently facing an unprecedented level of insecurity that has affected socio-economic development. One of the most recent is the outbreak of an armed conflict between security forces of Sudan in the capital Khartoum that has led to the killing of many people including civilians and noncombatants and has prompted the evacuation of many foreign nationals out of the capital. The insecurity though at different level is also affecting other metropolitan areas in developing countries like Nigeria. Katsina metropolitan located in northern Nigeria is presently facing insecurity arising from many factors. This study found out that unemployment, poverty, inadequate presence of security agents in different parts of the metropolitan are responsible for the insecurity. The periodic incursion by bandits is further worsening the situation. The public response should improve especially reporting incidences of insecurity to the police for proper response and record keeping to fight crime and criminal activities in the metropolitan. There is therefore the urgent need to introduce innovative and practical security management strategies to ensure the security of lives and properties in the metropolitan.

### **Recommendations**

The following recommendations were offered to reduce the contemporary insecurity facing Katsina metropolitan:

(i) The residential areas affected by rampant theft and burglary, the residents should form security committees and liaise with security forces near them to fashion out ways of checking the insecurity.

(ii) Thieves and burglars should be identified and arrested and when arrested they should be prosecuted to



serve as a deterrent to others who would become criminals

(iii) The Katsina State Police Command should continue to review and impose new guidelines for processions during festivities to avert infiltration and violence by hooligans.

(iv) Katsina State Police Command should continue to enlighten the public on the need to report first to the police offices any incidence of insecurity that occur in the neighborhoods. This is with a view to improving the percentage of residents that report incidences of insecurity to the police.

(iv) Security forces should reinforce and re-strategize in their counter banditry efforts to rid the metropolitan areas of the periodic incursion by the bandits. This is important in order to stop the relocate out of some residential areas at the outskirts of the city and congestion within the city wall.

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