



Veritatis Gaudium:
Multidisciplinary Journal of Postgraduate Studies

College of Postgraduate Studies,
Veritas University, Abuja, Nigeria

ISSN: 3043 - 5285

Volume 1, Number 5, September, 2026

DOI: 10.13140/RG.2.2.17243.12322

**NIGERIA SECURITY AND CIVIL DEFENCE CORPS AND
REGULATION OF PRIVATE GUARD COMPANIES IN FEDERAL
CAPITAL TERRITORY, ABUJA.**

Joseph Andrew Akporherhe, Roseline Inikpi Ayeh, PhD, & Patrick Tyodzer Pillah, PhD

Department of Public Administration, Veritas University Abuja

coyoteconstruction86@yahoo.com

ayehr@veritas.edu.ng, inikpiroseayeh@gmail.com; pillahp@gmail.com

Abstract

This study assessed the role of the Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps (NSCDC) in the regulation of private guard companies in the Federal Capital Territory (FCT), Abuja. This study therefore examines the strategies used for the regulation of private guards companies, the roles and challenges of private security companies within Federal Capital Territory Abuja, guided by some specific research objectives: (i) to examine the implementation processes of Nigeria security and civil defense corps in enhancing personnel training in private security guard companies in federal capital territory, Abuja and (ii) to investigate the challenges affecting their effectiveness in implementation on the registration and licensing of private guard companies in federal capital territory, Abuja, also to know our effective the Nigeria security and civil defense conditions and service welfare in private guard companies in federal capital territory Abuja between 2019-2024. The study Anchored on Principal-Agent Theory (PAT), the study adopted the descriptive survey design, based on primary and secondary data drawn from academic journals, government reports, and institutional publications, with a population consisting of 5,680 personnel of the NSCDC Federal Capital Territory, Abuja Command and licensed PGCs. The sample size was 373 respondents drawn from the various departments of the NSCDC and representatives of PGCs in FCT using a

multistage sampling technique and the Taro Yamane formula. Furthermore, the instrument for the collection of data for this study was interviewer and a questionnaire. The instrument was administered on the respondents through a direct delivery method by the researcher. The data obtained was analyzed using SPSS mean, standard deviation and simple percentages methods. The hypotheses were tested at the 0.05 level of significance using the Chi-square Fit of Goodness Test analysis in SPSS. Results from the study revealed that the Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps has strategies used for regulation to promote physical protection and guarding services of private guard companies in the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja, between 2019 and 2024. Findings reveal that private guard security companies perform critical crime prevention functions, including access control, surveillance, patrol operations, crowd management, and intelligence gathering, thereby acting as capable guardians that disrupt crime opportunities across residential estates, commercial hubs, and government facilities. However, their effectiveness is constrained by inadequate training, poor remuneration, proliferation of unlicensed operators, and weak collaboration with public law enforcement agencies. These challenges undermine the quality of guardianship and fragment the broader security network. The study concludes that while private guard security companies significantly complement public policing in Abuja, their full potential remains unrealized without robust regulatory oversight, investment in professional personnel training, development, and structured public-private security partnerships, improved working conditions and service welfare, and registration and licensing of her mother security agencies. Recommendations include working conditions and welfare, mandatory personnel training programs for security personnel and stricter enforcement of licensing standards by the Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps (NSCDC) to enhance accountability and operational effectiveness within the private security industry.

Keywords: Nigeria security and civil defence corps (NSCDC), Private guard Security companies (PGSCs), Regulation, Federal Capital Territory (FCT), Abuja.

Introduction

One of the fundamental functions of the government is the provision of security. It includes protecting the lives and property of its citizens or residents. The provision of security in Nigeria holds great importance because it plays an important role in international affairs. Being referred to as the 'Giant of Africa' (Igimoh, 2024), it plays an important role in the ECOWAS region. With a population of roughly 197 million (Anudu, 2018), she constitutes nearly 47 percent of West Africa's population (World Bank, 2023). Nigeria is a country comprising 36 states that consists of a heterogeneous society. It is the administrative headquarters of Nigeria and is home to other multinational companies/institutions providing services in the country. It is a city with about a million people (National Population Census Estimate, 2006). The importance of security in the FCT cannot be overemphasized as it represents the security of the entire country. FCT is treated by Section 299 of the 1999 Constitution as if it were a state in Nigeria. Therefore, the provision of security in the area is placed under the public security architecture of the police, military and the paramilitary organizations such as the Nigeria Immigration Service, the Federal Fire Service and the Man O' War.

There are many security issues that the Federal Capital Territory and indeed the entire country faces, and the implications for the safety of residents in Abuja aside, such issues affect the survival of Nigeria as an independent country. They affect efforts towards national cohesion and unity, which make federalism necessary. According to the Global Peace Index, Nigeria ranks 16th among the least peaceful nations in the world. Various security threats plague the FCT, including terrorism/banditry, armed robbery, one-chance, scammers (419), etc. (Otaru, 2019). Abuja witnessed a Christmas Eve

bombing in Nyanya, Kuje jailbreak, uncontrolled movement of herders with their animals inside the city, destruction of public infrastructure, etc between 2019 and 2024 (Aina, 2025).

The weakness of the security system constitutes some of the contributing factors to the insecurity in Nigeria and the FCT, specifically. Some of the contributing factors that lead to the weakness of the security system in Nigeria include: the police being inadequately funded and insufficiently equipped in terms of weaponry and training, an inadequate number of officers, and inadequate welfare of the security officers (Odalonu, 2022). The police-to-citizen ratio in Nigeria stands at 1:450, below the international benchmark ratio recommended by the UN (UN, 2019). This shows that there are very few policemen compared to citizens in Nigeria; hence the inefficiency of the police force in tackling crimes in Nigeria (Nwagboso, 2018). There are several security units (military and paramilitary) involved in internal security management in the FCT. In order to cope with the challenges resulting from insecurity in the nation, policymakers chose an integrated security strategy. The main security units (agencies) that are important for the implementation of internal security policies in Nigeria are: Nigeria Air Force, the Nigerian Immigration Service, the Army, the Nigerian Customs Service, the Navy, the Nigeria Police Force, the Nigerian Prison Service, the National Drug Law Enforcement Agency, the Nigeria Security and Civil Defense Corps and State Security Services. But the strategies used to implement the national security policies of Nigeria seem ineffective in dealing with the many internal security threats in the nation (Nwagboso, 2018).

The Private Guard Companies (PGCs), thus, emerged out of necessity in order to act as an addition to the activities carried out by the government agencies. The inefficiency of government agencies, which lack modern, highly sophisticated equipment and thus fail to curb the rising crime rate, also contributed to the emergence of PGCs, particularly in terms of private-sector acceptance of such companies. The proliferation of such guard companies is a reflection of the deteriorating internal security situation in Nigeria. There is also the aspect of a huge market in security services in Nigeria. NICO (Nigeria Investigation and Security Company) was the first private security firm offering uniformed private security services in Nigeria, established in 1965 (Abdulquadir, 2016). The industry grew steadily from the 1970s to the 1980s; however, the establishment of the Fourth Republic in Nigeria in 1999 further boosted its development (Abdulquadir, 2016).

According to Aluko & Oyeboade (2019), in order to facilitate the management of PGCs' activities, a Private Guard Companies Act (PGC Act) was enacted in 1986 in Nigeria. 32 years after the enactment of the Act, regulations were issued for the Private Guard Companies Regulations, 2018 (the 'Regulations') by the Minister of Interior under Section 35 of the Act. Section 36 of the Act stipulates that the Minister, and any other officer designated by him as such, shall have the power as the licensing authority. After the PGC Act, the NSCDC Act of 2003 was passed to authorize the NSCDC to carry out duties to license, supervise and monitor the activities of the PGCs. It also has the responsibility to inspect the premises of PGCs and trainings, keep a register of PGCs and seal those not operating within licensing requirements.

H Nevertheless, even with these measures in place, the activities of PGCs in FCT and other regions in the country have left much to be desired. Monitoring and regulating the activities of the various PGCs by the regulatory body has remained problematic. Low standards of performance and professionalism are common in the sector, where most PGCs lack adequate capacity and professionalism, leading to instances of unethical and unprofessional behavior, which might constitute violations of human rights (AFRILAW, 2019). It is necessary to review the role of NSCDC in the regulation of the activities of PGCs in Nigeria to evaluate its impact on PGCs in Nigeria.

Statement of the Problem

Nigeria has several key security regulatory and intelligence agencies, including the Defense Intelligence Agency (DIA) for military intelligence, the National Intelligence Agency (NIA) for

foreign intelligence, the Department of State Services (DSS) for domestic intelligence, the Nigeria Police Force (NPF) for federal law enforcement, and the Nigeria Security and Civil Defense Corps (NSCDC) for complementary internal security. Other agencies like the Nigerian Customs Service and the Nigerian Correctional Service also play significant roles in national security. There are also other regulatory bodies such as the NSCDC, charged with the primary body for licensing, supervising, and regulating private guard companies (PGCs) in Nigeria, according to the Private Guard Companies Act; the National Security Council, an advisory body to the President, dealing with national security issues; the Institute of Safety Professionals of Nigeria (ISPON), which regulates the practice of safety management and sets safety standards and the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN), which, while not a direct security agency, enforces cybersecurity protocols within the financial sector (Adesola, 2019).

Particularly, the NSCDC is the key authority for licensing and overseeing private security firms. The NSCDC regulates private guard companies (PGCs) by issuing licenses, monitoring operations, approving training, and ensuring compliance with legal and ethical standards. The NSCDC's regulatory role is established by its mandate and aims to improve national security by ensuring private firms contribute to intelligence gathering, maintain professionalism, and uphold quality standards, all while preventing illicit security operations. The key regulatory efforts of the NSCDC include licensing and registration of PGCs, newly registered private security companies, after thorough vetting and scrutiny, ensuring they meet regulatory requirements, as well as monitoring and supervision of the recruitment, training, and operational activities of PGCs, including inspection of training facilities and employee backgrounds (Akpuru-Aja, 2023). Others include ensuring compliance, promoting intelligence sharing, setting operational standards and reviewing the regulatory framework.

In the discharge of its mandates, the NSCDC has sealed and taken action against numerous private guard companies (PGCs) for illegal operations, including operating without a license, using expired licenses, and failing to comply with regulations for uniforms and staff vetting (Ebo, 2018). The Corps also issues stern warnings against undercutting staff, misuse of arms, impersonation of other agencies' uniforms, and emphasizes the importance of PGCs contributing to intelligence gathering and prioritizing staff welfare. It has also sealed and shut down private guard companies for operating without valid licenses, with expired licenses, or for violating regulations like improper uniforms and staff background checks. Examples of sealed companies in Abuja include CEWARA Security, Most Bright Security, Ebowise Security, Barumark Security, Segad Security Protection Services, and Prixair Security, all shut down in May 2025 for lacking proper licensing or for having expired licenses (Avant, 2021).

Private guard companies (PGCs) enhance Nigeria's internal security by complementing government efforts through crime prevention and monitoring critical assets, providing employment for youths and contributing to the economy, and acting as "eyes and ears" for law enforcement (Caparini, 2008), thereby reducing the burden on official security agencies and allowing for more effective security provisioning. PGCs provide security for various clients, including private organizations, banks, and even households, guarding premises, patrolling, and restricting movement to deter criminal activities. Due to their large numbers and ubiquity, PGCs serve as vital "eyes and ears" for the police and other agencies, providing crucial grassroots intelligence and helping to foil crimes in their operational areas (Duffield, 2006). Several other key positive impacts are Asset Protection, Economic Contributions and Employment, Swift Emergency Response and Enhanced Security Presence. However, key challenges for Nigerian private guard companies, ranging from inadequate funding, lack of proper regulation and enforcement, poor personnel training and welfare, reliance on poorly equipped and untrained personnel, high staff turnover due to poor salaries and working conditions, a general lack of professional capacity, and the presence of unregistered "quack" companies that compete unfairly and damage the industry's reputation, make the operation of PGCs difficult (Ball & Fayemi, 2024).

Consequently, this study undertakes to assess the impacts and challenges of NSCDC in regulating PGCs for efficient service delivery in the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja between 2019 and 2024.

Objectives of the Study

The aim of this study was to assess the role of the Nigeria Security and Civil Defense Corps in the regulation of Private Guard Companies in the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja, 2019-2024. The specific objectives of the study included;

1. To assess how the NSCDC has promoted physical protection and guarding services of private guard companies in the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja between 2019 and 2024.
2. To examine how the NSCDC has affected personnel training in Private Guard Companies in the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja, between 2019 and 2024.
3. To assess the effect of the NSCDC on the working conditions and welfare in Private Guard Companies in the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja, between 2019 and 2024.
4. To find out the effect of the NSCDC on the registration and licensing of Private Guard Companies in the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja, between 2019 and 2024.

Research Questions

The following research questions guided the study.

1. To what extent has the NSCDC promoted physical protection and guarding services of private guard companies in the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja between 2019 and 2024?
2. To what extent has the NSCDC enhanced personnel training in Private Guard Companies in the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja, between 2019 and 2024?
3. How has the NSCDC affected working conditions and welfare in Private Guard Companies in the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja between 2019 and 2024?
4. What effect has the NSCDC had on the registration and licensing of Private Guard Companies in the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja between 2019 and 2024?

Research Hypotheses

The following research hypotheses guided the study. They are presented in null and alternative forms.

H₀₁: The NSCDC has not promoted physical protection and guarding services of private guard companies in the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja, between 2019 and 2024.

H₀₂: There is no significant association between NSCDC and personnel training in Private Guard Companies in the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja, between 2019 and 2024.

H₀₃: There is no significant association between NSCDC and the working conditions and welfare in Private Guard Companies in the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja, between 2019 and 2024.

H₀₄: There is no significant relationship between NSCDC and the registration and licensing of Private Guard Companies in Federal Capital Territory, Abuja between 2019 and 2024.

Review of Related Literature

Conceptual clarification

Regulation

The domain of regulation has seen a great deal of evolution during the past decades. Following the emergence of the 'economics of regulation theory' in the 1970s, and with the advent of consumer, social, and environmental regulations, this has evolved into a global domain of practice and scholarship. Regulatory agencies have emerged all around the globe; the terminology associated with regulation has gained a global presence in academic and non-academic discourses, and there has been an examination of the efficiency of various regulatory methods and techniques, especially during the recent global economic crises and other similar events. According to Baldwin, John, and Mohen (2012), there are three major regulatory conceptions: 1. The publication of an official system of rules, a system that includes some way of checking and encouraging adherence to these rules; 2. All of the efforts made by governmental organizations to steer the economy; 3. All social control mechanisms such as unintentional and non-state mechanisms (Jordana & Levi-Faur, 2004; Baldwin, John &

Mohen, 2012). Furthermore, numerous scholars refer to the definition proposed by Selznick (1985), in which regulation is also known as enduring and targeted control by a governmental entity on practices which are appreciated by the society. It is necessary to add that scholars tend to use another definition. This is because this time round Black describes regulation as the consistent and directed effort to change the behavior of others based on assigned norms and purposes to achieve a widely described result or results, which can entail means of standard-setting, information-gathering and behavior adjustment (Parker & Braithwaite, 2005; Morgan & Yeung, 2007; Lodge & Wegrich, 2012).

Private Guard

A private guard provides contracted, non-governmental security services to protect people, property, and assets, supplementing public law enforcement by performing functions like crime prevention, asset protection, crowd control, and enforcing company rules (Akpuru-Aja, 2023). They operate under the contractual authority of their client, acting as the client's representative to ensure safety and deter criminal activity. Private security refers to protection and surveillance services provided by non-governmental, for-profit companies or individuals to protect people and property, rather than by public law enforcement. These services, offered by a wide range of companies from small businesses to multinational corporations, can include security guards, surveillance, investigative services, and the installation of security systems. Private security personnel outnumber public security forces in many countries and are hired by a variety of clients, including individuals, other businesses, and even government agencies.

The Roles and Importance of Private Security Organizations

In modern cultures, private security firms contribute to many facets of safety and security in a variety of important ways.

Complementary Role to Public Law Enforcement: Private security agencies act as a secondary means of protection, in addition to the efforts of public police organizations (Albrecht, Daves & Jenkee, 2016). In the case of public police agencies, their core function lies in ensuring the maintenance of law and order, whereas private security companies provide secondary support services.

Specialized Protective Services: There is a variety of specialized security services offered by private security companies, and these vary according to the needs of each particular client (Ortmeier, 2016). These include, among others, surveillance, access control, alarm monitoring, risk assessments, executive protection, and cybersecurity.

Protection of Critical Infrastructure: In order to protect crucial infrastructure, such as financial institutions, energy facilities, transportation networks, and communication systems, private security firms are essential (Bullock, Ardrik & Davies, 2017).

Contributions to Economic Development: By providing specialized security services that allow enterprises to operate safely and securely, private security firms promote economic development (Whitman & Mattord, 2016).

Support for Risk Management and Compliance: Private security firms help customers recognize, evaluate, and reduce operational risks.

Types of Private Guards

Private security firms in Nigeria include different organizations providing unique security solutions for persons, organizations, and corporations. Private security firms in Nigeria can be categorized into different forms based on the nature of their operations and clients.

Security Guard Companies: Guard companies provide security staff to their customers to ensure safety for various reasons such as controlling access to certain places, monitoring premises, patrolling, and managing crowds. The security guards offered by such firms are usually uniformed and placed in specified areas to discourage illegal activities from taking place. Examples of guard companies: Halogen Security Company Limited, Bemil Nigeria Limited, Kings Guards Nigeria Limited.

Executive Protection Firms: Specialized executive protection agencies offer customized protective services to prominent personalities, business executives, diplomats, and VIP clients. The protection services offered could be customized according to the specific needs and requirements of the individual. Some examples of such agencies include Shield Group, Executive Guards Limited, and Topwide Ventures.

Electronic Security Companies: Security firms specializing in electronics employ highly sophisticated technological innovations that can be used to improve physical security measures and safeguard property. The firms undertake tasks such as installation and monitoring of closed-circuit television cameras, access control systems, alarms, biometric verification systems, and perimeter security measures. Examples of such firms include Securimax Limited, Deep Blue Energy Services Limited, and Choice Technologies Limited.

Cybersecurity Firms: Cybersecurity organizations provide services that protect information assets, computer networks, and information systems against cyber attacks, data theft, and other forms of cybercrime. The services include conducting cybersecurity risk assessments, providing threat intelligence, conducting penetration testing, offering security awareness training, and implementing incident response solutions. Examples: Cyberspace Network Limited, Digital Encode Limited, and MainOne.

Event Security Companies: Event security firms offer a full range of security services for public events, meetings, shows, games, and other special events. They hire trained personnel who work together with the organizers, managers of venues, and local authorities to make sure there is proper crowd control and an emergency plan. Examples of event security firms include Securedax, Vortex Security, and Event Security Services Nigeria Limited.

Nexus between Regulation and Private Guard Companies

The nexus between regulation and private guard companies refers to the governing relationship where states create laws, policies, and oversight mechanisms (regulation) to control and legitimize the operation of private security firms (private guard companies). This relationship ensures private security services align with public interests by establishing standards for licensing, training, and accountability, thereby mitigating risks to the public from unregulated security providers.

Benefits of Regulation of Private Guard Companies

Enhanced Professionalism and Standardization: Regulations can set standards for training, equipment, and operational procedures, ensuring a higher level of professionalism across the industry.

Improved Accountability and Oversight: Clear regulatory frameworks provide mechanisms for monitoring and holding private security companies accountable for their actions, fostering greater public trust.

Better Integration with National Security: Regulation can position private security companies to better contribute to national security by defining their roles and fostering collaboration with public security agencies.

Protection of Human Rights: Effective regulation can prevent human rights abuses by establishing clear rules for the use of force and ensuring proper vetting of personnel.

Economic Growth and Competitiveness: Well-designed regulations can help standardize the industry, making it more competitive and attractive to both domestic and foreign investment.

Drawbacks of Regulation of Private Guards Companies

Overburdening and Stifling Operations: Excessive or complex regulations can place undue burdens on private security companies, potentially leading to operational inefficiencies and hindering their ability to respond to diverse security needs.

Increased Costs: Implementing and adhering to strict regulatory requirements can increase operational costs for private guard organizations, which may be passed on to clients or reduce overall service provision.

Lack of Flexibility: Rigid regulations might not adapt to the dynamic nature of security threats, potentially limiting the ability of private guards to provide tailored and effective services.

Barriers to Entry: Overly stringent licensing or certification processes can create barriers to entry for smaller or newer companies, potentially reducing competition and choice in the market.

Regulation of Private Guards Companies In Nigeria

Regulation may be described as the means by which norms are determined, the behavior of the subjects of such norms controlled or information fed back into the system, and arrangements made for ensuring that such behavior remains within the acceptable limits of the system, either through enforcement or otherwise (Scott, 2021; Gill, 2022). Regulation of Private Security Guards (PGCs) would include the establishment of mechanisms of control and accountability, which will prevent the private security guards or the firms employing them from engaging in criminal behavior (Berg & Nouveau, 2011). It will also involve the formulation of policies, which will promote professionalism among the PSCs and prevent deterioration in social cohesion due to their becoming a luxury product available only to the rich.

Regulatory Policy for PGCs in Nigeria

The Private Guards Companies Act Number 23, 1986 (revised as the PGC Act, Chapter P30, Law of the Federation of Nigeria 2004) is the major legislation that governs PSCs in Nigeria. This law sets out the framework within which a regulator for PSCs will be set up. It is supplemented by the NSCDC Act of 2003 and the amending act of 2007. The other legislation that complements the PGC Act includes the Labour laws, the Nigerian Penal Code, the Criminal Code, and the Firearms (Special Provisions) Act (Cap. C38; Cap. F28; Cap. E18; Cap. R11.).

Section 1 (I) of the Private Guarding Corporation Act considers the task of the Private Guard Corps (PGC) as one of rendering services by way of watching, guarding, patrolling, and/or carrying money in order to protect against crime. Under this section, no organization wishing to undertake such tasks can do so without being registered as a company under the Companies and Allied Matters Act (Cap. C20). More importantly, such an organization cannot undertake its tasks unless it gets licenses from the Minister of Interior in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Act. Such licenses to run a private guard business can be issued only if the regulatory body is satisfied that the directors of the company or individuals responsible for running it have good character, skills, and integrity, besides justifying the issuance of such licenses with regard to issues of national security and public interest [Private Guarding Corporation Act, 1986, 2 (2a), and 3].

In addition to this, according to the PGC Act, the license of a private security company can be withdrawn at any point in time by the Ministry if it feels that the company possessing the license is unfit to possess one [Section 4(4)]. In connection with the management and operation of PSCs, it is stated in the Act that every private security company shall maintain complete records of its operations, including a record of all the people involved in carrying out the work of the company, and make these records available to the regulatory agency upon request by the Ministry. Moreover, it does not allow any private security companies and individuals working under the PSCs to carry any firearms and ammunition while working.

Prohibited Activities, Offences, and Penalties

The PGC Act further specifies all illegal acts, offenses, and punishments for the benefit of the PSCs in Nigeria. These illegal acts involve the involvement of the PSCs in debt collection, police duties, or as “private detectives.” The term “private detective” is illegal when used for PSCs in Nigeria. In addition, it is improper for PSCs to leak any information received during their work processes to outside people. One aspect of public and state security that is receiving more focus is the protection of information privacy, such as the collection and storage of other people’s personal information (Lalonde, 2010).

Some of the offenses according to the PGC Act are giving false information in order to be approved, being employed as an employee of any company which is not licensed, failure to be in possession of an identity card when on duty, and bearing or carrying any prohibited object. Other offences include carrying or possessing firearms or ammunition, advertising without giving an address, selling or disposing of a company’s licence, unauthorized entry into any premises, misrepresentation and exercising special powers without right. Indeed, some provisions in the Act, such as the one about prohibiting carrying of arms, are debatable as regards their relevance given the type of security risks (armed robbers or terrorists) the private security guards would have to contend with. According to Suchi (2017), prohibition of arms is considered by many to be the major loophole in this Act. Some of the major punishments for failing to comply with the stipulations of the PGC Act include fines of N 400 or a jail term of 12 months, or even both, for an individual, while a company should be punished with a fine of at least N 5,000 [Section 32(1) (a) (b)]. In other words, this is one place where stakeholders believed that the Act did not do justice to them.

Regulatory Authority for Private Security Companies: Role and Function Performance

Section 9(1) of the PGC Act provides that: “there shall, for this Act, be a licensing authority for private guard companies, who shall be an officer in the Ministry for which the Minister of Interior has responsibility, or such public officer as may be designated in that behalf by the Minister”. In May 2003, the Nigerian legislature passed an Act called the Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps (NSCDC) Act according to which the NSCDC is defined as the licensing authority of PSCs in Nigeria (NSCDC Act 2003). Before 2003, the oversight of the PSCs was carried out by the Ministry of Internal Affairs, today known as the Ministry of Interior (Akinsanya, 2022). According to the NSCDC Act 2003, every PGC must have a share capital of not less than 10 million naira (N 10 million) for registration.

The 2003 Act was reviewed in May 2007 to improve the capability of the NSCDC in ensuring safety, crisis management, and security for the country’s public infrastructure. The amendment to Section 3(1) of the 2003 Act states that the Corps will recommend the registration of private guard companies to the Minister of Interior, conduct inspections of the facilities of private guard companies and their training centers, and ensure that the facilities meet required standards. According to the amendments, “the NSCDC will regulate and supervise all private security firms, keep a registry for doing so, conduct periodic seminars and training for private security firms, and wind up private security firms that do not have licenses” [NSCDC (Amendment) Act 2007].

According to Suchi (2017), it is worth noting that the NSCDC has assigned a unique department known as the Private Guard Companies (PGC) department to carry out these functions effectively. These duties include: licensing of qualified Private Guard Companies

- a. Monitoring and control over the activities of the PSCs
- b. Monitoring of recruitment, training, and training facilities of the private security companies
- c. License upgrade from class B to A
- d. Yearly renewal of the operating license of the PGCs
- e. Destruction of illegal PSCs and ensuring the well-being of their guards
- f. Breeding and training of guard dogs and
- g. Monitoring the office facilities and surroundings of the PGCs.

In carrying out these roles, the department is more or less governed by the provisions of the PGC and the NSCDC Acts. That is why, before the issuance of a license to the applicants, the department makes sure that, besides being registered with the Corporate Affairs Commission (CAC) and having a share capital of not less than N 10 million, one of the directors of the company must be a retired military or paramilitary personnel with the rank of major or commissioner, respectively. It also makes sure that no foreigner has been admitted as a director.

Relationship between Private and Public Policing

The private security companies' function includes operating in the same capacity as the public police but in a completely different form. Although these security agents provide services similar to those offered by the public police, they share significant differences with each other. For instance, unlike the police who serve the whole community and are mostly engaged in implementing laws and enforcing regulations, PSCs work in the interests of a private individual and pledge allegiance to the client and employee (Strom et al. 2010). Public policing is highly reactive; on the contrary, private policing is proactive and future-oriented.

The state-centric concept of policing as essentially contingent upon the exercise and monopoly of power by the state did not allow any scope for the existence and interaction of PSCs as well as the interplay between these and public police since the former was viewed as operating from their own vested interests which conflicted with the common good of society. However, this notion, prevalent during the 1950s and 1960s, is being challenged by the laissez-faire perspective, which maintains that private policing was an integral part of modern society.

For example, Kakalik and Wildhorn (1972) posited that the private police was an industry offering services, and its officers were not aggressive individuals engaged in preventive tasks that were essential for their own self-defense and which the public police lacked the ability and motivation to perform. This perspective was further endorsed and developed by Cunningham and Taylor (1985), who shifted the emphasis away from private police as self-defense and protection toward private policing as crime fighting. In light of the assertion that the private police performed the same duties as the public police towards similar objectives, they shifted their perception of the nature of the relationship between private police and public police from junior partners to equal partners (Shearing, 2022).

Cunningham and Taylor (1985) have pushed their assertion further by adopting the criticism presented by Shearing and Stenning (2021) on what is referred to as the vacuum theory, which assumes that private policing was an improvisational reaction to a failure of state action in ensuring the maintenance of peace and order and argues that the establishment of private policing did not emanate from the underfunding of the public police force but rather from the positive correlation between its increase and “shifts in property relationships” (Shearing & Stenning, 2021). Shifting property relations in the direction of mass private property owned over larger geographic regions led to this change to private policing policies. The redefinition of the nature of the relationship between

private and public police was utilized to justify the need for an enhanced collaboration between both parties in crime fighting to accelerate the process of privatization documented by the RAND (Kakalik and Wildhorn's employer). Besides increasing reliance on private policing services, Hallcrest (employers of Cunningham and Taylor) has suggested an exchange of experiences among private and public police.

The legal and regulatory framework of private security regulation at the international and regional level

As far as international and regional regulation is concerned, there are no particular instruments that directly regulate private security companies' activities. However, the universal principles associated with the state's responsibility to manage the use of force, protect lives and assets, fight against crimes, ensure human rights, and exercise control over detentions and arrests are also important for regulating the private security industry. There are several international multi-stakeholder initiatives that could serve as guidelines for private security companies around the world. They include Voluntary Principles on Security and Human Rights (VPs), United Nations Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights (UNGPs), International Code of Conduct for Private Security Service Providers (ICoC) and the Montreux Document on Private Military and Security Companies (Montreux Document).

This document was adopted in the year 2008. As of 2017, the document had been endorsed by 54 states as well as three International Organizations. It is a document that was developed to promote respect for international humanitarian law and human rights law when PMSCs provide their services in the event of armed conflict. The current obligations and best practices would equally apply in the post-conflict scenario as well as any other similar scenario. The Montreux Document borrows its principles from those of international humanitarian law and human rights; therefore, all states, regardless of whether they have adopted the document or not, are obliged to follow the above provisions (DCAF, 2018).

The International Code of Conduct for Private Security Service Providers (ICoC), which is an international agreement whose principles are similar to the Montreux Document, as well as an elaboration on the United Nations Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights (UNGPs), aims to regulate the behavior of private security firms and their provision of security services under challenging circumstances. The ICoC signatories "are committed to providing security services in a responsible way in order to uphold the rule of law, respect the human rights of all people, and serve the interests of their clients." The International Code of Conduct Association (ICoCA) is the regulatory body for the ICoC, and has three major components involving state actors, private security companies, and civil societies. The objective of the ICoCA is to ensure that the International Code of Conduct for Private Security Service Providers is implemented successfully through the process of certification of members' private security companies to ICoC standards, reporting and monitoring, assessment of the adherence to ICoC of member companies, and handling of complaints on violations of the ICoC by member companies.

The legal and regulatory framework of private security companies at the national level

The emergence of private security companies in Nigeria came about in 1986, after the Nigerian government came up with Private Guard Companies Decree No. 33 of 1986, which was later enacted into CAP 367 Laws of the Federation of Nigeria (LFN), 1990. In the Act, the provision states that with effect from 16th December 1986, no company shall undertake any private security operations in Nigeria unless that company has already registered itself in Nigeria as a limited liability company and would therefore qualify to acquire a license from the Ministry of Interior. Following the amendment to the Nigeria Security and Civil Defense Corps Act of 2003 through the passage of the Nigeria Security and Civil Defense Corps (Amendment) Act 2007, the NSCDC took over from the NAFDAC the responsibility of regulating PSCs in Nigeria. As per the Private Guard Companies Act, no

company shall be allowed to render any service in terms of surveillance, protection, patrol, or transportation of cash for self-protection against criminal activities except when the company: Has been registered as a company in accordance with the Companies and Allied Matters Act; Has sought and obtained a license as per the provisions of the Act from the Minister of Internal Affairs, who is the Minister of Interior (Minister); and is wholly owned by Nigerians (Section 1(1) of the Private Guard Companies Act 1986). The Private Guard Companies Act provides the necessary legal framework for running private security companies in Nigeria.

To start with any reforms within the private security sector in Nigeria, the “Private Guard Companies Regulations 2018” were officially adopted by the Nigerian Ministry of Interior in 2018, according to the stipulations provided under section 35 of the Private Guard Companies Act. The main purpose of the regulation is to establish a framework through which the security companies operating in Nigeria can be regulated effectively, and to create an environment that would enable collaboration between the companies and the NSCDC. However, the new regulation has not been implemented fully yet.

The regulatory authority and private security governance structure in Nigeria

With the enactment of the Nigeria Security and Civil Defense Corps (Amendment) Act 2007, the regulation of the activities of the private security companies has been handed over to the Nigeria Security and Civil Defense Corps. With the directives of the Assistant Commandant General (ACG-PGCs), the NSCDC established the Private Guards Companies Department. The Nigeria Security and Civil Defense Corps is an arm of the government that is paramilitary in nature and was created way back in 1967 due to the demand for ways to defend the nation from all types of threats or disasters. During that period, it was known as the Lagos Civil Defense Committee and was transformed into the present-day Nigeria Security and Civil Defense Corps in 1970. In 1984, the Corps evolved into a national security outfit and was reorganized, with commands being established across the nation, including Abuja. Some special assignments were assigned to the Corps by the Federal Government in 1988. Nigeria Security and Civil Defense Corps Act was enacted on June 28th, 2003. The board of government of NSCDC is composed of the CDFIPB (Civil Defense, Fire, Immigration and Prisons Services Board Decree No. 14 of July 11, 1986 created by the Ministry of Interior. NSCDC is a member of the International Civil Defense Organization (ICDO).

The regulatory framework of private security services in Nigeria operates through centralization, whereby the NSCDC operates along with the Minister of Interior in the regulation of the industry. Through the Ministry of Interior, internal security and citizenship is ensured by providing governance in Nigeria. The Ministry of Interior is responsible for rendering various internal security and other supporting services to the citizens as well as foreigners, which includes regulating the activities of the private security companies. According to the Act, the NSCDC is mandated to recommend to the Minister on the registration of private security companies and also inspect the premises of such companies, including their training centers, to ensure proper maintenance. Other areas of operation by the NSCDC in the industry include supervision and inspection of the activities of the private security firms as well as maintaining a list of such companies and sealing non-conformers.

Granting of operating license

- Within Nigeria, no one will render the service of surveillance, protection, and transportation of money as a way of safeguarding oneself against criminal activities; neither will such an individual or company be able to sell or install security systems, security consultation services, corporate security services, industrial or electronic security services, or carry out any other kind of security operations utilizing electronic equipment for any reason unless such a person or company receives a license to do so from the Minister or any person authorized by him. The Private Guard Companies Regulations (2018) have also gone ahead to stipulate that any individual or company that wishes to engage persons in the provision of security services as provided for under section

1(1) of the Act should seek the help of a licensed private security firm by NSCDC. Licensing of private security companies in Nigeria entails:

- Application letter for Private License to the Commandant General;
- Certified True Copy (CTC) of Memorandum and Articles of Association (2 copies);
- Copy of certificate of incorporation (2 copies);
- Five hundred thousand Naira (500,000.00) only;
- Tax clearance certificate;
- Statement of account;
- Audit report letter;
- Proposal for training programs;
- Proposal for salary structure;
- Veterinary certificate (Optional);
- Personal History Statement (PHS) forms at one hundred thousand Naira (100,000.00) only;
- Attestation of directors' credentials (2 copies) to be attached to the PHS form;
- A letter from the bank;
- Eight (8) passport photos for each of the directors;
- Eight (8) Full size photograph (Postcard measuring 5x7 inches) of the directors against a white background having the fingerprints of five fingers along with their signatures on the back of the postcard (Photo), in the presence of the Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps officials.
- A copy of the Director's Signature page from either their International passport, National Identification Card, or Driver's License shall be included behind the cover of the document jacket;
- The Directors shall fill up the required information on the PHS form and indicate 'nil' or 'not applicable' if they do not have an answer to some questions; they should not leave any column blank;
- Attestation letters for each director and one uniform sample with two pictures of the guard in uniform.

Furthermore, the Minister may grant a license to a private security company if he feels it is necessary to do so for reasons of national security and public interest. The application for the issuance of a license to operate as a private security company should be submitted along with a fee that is payable to the Minister of Interior, together with a statement which contains the conditions of service (salary, etc.) of the personnel of the company applying for a license. The license issued to the private security firm is valid for two years after issuance and determines the number of offices, branches, or other places of business the firm is authorized to operate. A license to conduct operations needs to be renewed 3 months prior to its expiration date, and non-compliance with this requirement results in automatic revocation of the license and cessation of the firm's operations and/or sanctions from NSCDC.

As per the provisions of the Private Security Company Regulations (2018), the operational licenses cannot be issued or renewed in the absence of a letter from the Association of Licensed Security Practitioners of Nigeria (ALPSPN), certifying that the private security company together with its employees belong to the association. In addition, no individual other than a Nigerian citizen shall take part in the conduct of private security business as a director or operative. Furthermore, the board of directors of a private security company must include a retired commissioned security officer. It must be mentioned here that no license or approval can be granted by the Minister as per the provisions of the Act if any director of a private security company or any individual applying for approval:

- is guilty of any offense as contained in the Penal Code, the Criminal Code, the Firearms Act, the Explosives Act, or the Robbery and Firearms Special Provisions Act, or similar offense committed in some other place;
- whoever has been convicted or sentenced to imprisonment in respect of the commission of any offence, including fraud, theft, or breach of trust, whether in Nigeria or elsewhere; or whoever

has been dismissed from the Nigerian Police Force, Armed Forces of the Federation, Nigerian Prison Service, Special Constabulary, Fire Services, Customs Preventive Service, or other similar institutions or organizations;

- is a person whom the Minister is convinced that he should not act as a director or be employed according to this Act since it will go against the public interest and security;
- is not a citizen of Nigeria.

Under the Private Guard Companies Regulation (2018), Section 3, the operational license for the private security company in Nigeria shall either be canceled or suspended if:

- The company fails to execute its security responsibilities successfully;
- The company is found using any weapons or firearms; found guilty of engaging in any criminal offense; or found engaged in any sort of illegal practice;
- The company is found wearing any clothing or uniform meant for the security forces of the government without the permission of the licensing authority; or
- Any other activity that is considered improper by the Minister in that specific case.

Moreover, the Act mandates that the registrar of the court shall inform the NSCDC if anyone authorized under the terms of the Act commits any of the offenses stated in the Act and receives imprisonment. In such cases, the NSCDC might need to cancel the person's authorization.

Training of private security companies' employees

It should be noted that the Private Guards Companies Regulation (2018) states that any employees hired by private security companies should have undergone training and certification with NSCDC, or any other institute that has an approved curriculum for security training by NSCDC, before any employee can be allowed to carry out his/her duties at work. In addition, before the above mentioned regulation was enacted, there were no set standards of training within the sector. This means that the nature of training within private security companies differs greatly with respect to how comprehensive it is and how well it equips security guards to carry out their security duties.

Various consultancy firms and organizations have provided training services to private guards on a profit-making scale for various forms of training, but in general, it was up to the organization how long and how good that training would be. In order to achieve some kind of parity in terms of quality of training in the industry, the Nigerian Security and Civil Defense Corps (NSCDC), in 2018, prohibited private training of private guards in Nigeria.

Theoretical Framework

Principal-Agent Theory

The theory adopted for the study is the Barry Mitnick principal-agent theory as propounded in 1976. Agency theory, as it is also called, was initially developed by Stephen Ross and Barry Mitnick, independently and concurrently in the mid-1970s. While Ross focused on the economic perspective of agency relationships, Mitnick approached it from an institutional perspective. Later, Michael Jensen and William Meckling significantly contributed to the development and application of agency theory within the context of corporate finance. This involves a cooperative arrangement where the power of the principal gives way to the agent acting on his behalf, with the principal's well-being depending on the decision of the agent. The theory that considers the dynamics involving two parties, with one delegating some work to the other party, can thus be applied in understanding the relationship between organizations and regulatory bodies. By applying agency theory, researchers and policymakers can better understand the challenges and opportunities in regulating organizations and develop more effective regulatory strategies (Zogning, 2022).

Agency theory, which focuses on the relationship between principals and agents, faces several criticisms. These include its overly simplistic assumptions about human behavior, its neglect of other stakeholders, and the potential for control mechanisms to be both costly and ineffective (Mamun, Yasser, & Rahman, 2013). Additionally, some argue it presents a negative view of human nature and

raises legal concerns regarding the exclusive rights of shareholders. In conclusion, while agency theory provides a valuable framework for understanding principal-agent relationships, its limitations and criticisms highlight the need for a more nuanced and comprehensive approach to corporate governance and organizational behavior. Alternative Theories and Perspectives offered by Kultys (2016) include stakeholder theory, resource dependency theory and agenda-setting. While stakeholder theory offers an alternative perspective by emphasizing the importance of considering the interests and needs of all stakeholders, not just shareholders, resource dependency focuses on the relationships between organizations and their external environments, highlighting the importance of resources and power dynamics in shaping organizational behavior.

Application of the theory to the study

Agency theory provides a framework for designing regulatory reforms that improve the efficiency and effectiveness of regulatory bodies. By understanding the potential conflicts of interest and designing appropriate monitoring and control mechanisms, policymakers can create regulatory systems that better serve the public interest. In the current study, the key tenets of the theory can be applied. In this case, the principal is the NSCDC, which oversees the agent (PGCs) to promote and protect the public interest.

Principal-agent relationship: In this context, the NSCDC (regulator) acts as the principal, setting rules and expectations for PGCs (the agent). In such a relationship, the NSCDC, representing the government and established as a regulator, is superior to the PGCs, which must abide by its rules to remain in operation legally. The PGCs, as agents of the NSCDC, are meant to abide by the regulations stipulated from time to time.

Goal Alignment: The theory helps analyze how well the NSCDC goals are aligned with the PGCs' actions. It looks at potential conflicts of interest and how to minimize them. As the NSCDC's interest is to maintain quality service delivery in private security, it may clash with the interests of the private security providers, who may be in the business for profit maximization.

Monitoring and Control: The NSCDC, as regulators use various mechanisms to monitor and control organizations, such as registration, renewal of licenses, training, inspections, and reporting requirements to monitor and control the PGCs. Without these control measures, the PGCs could run counter to the objectives of the government.

Incentives: Here, the NSCDC utilizes lowering of the license renewal requirements, personnel training, etc., as opportunities to incentivize the PGCs as partners in providing civil and private security services for the citizens.

Gap in Literature

Existing literature has revealed increased interest among scholars on the subject of private guard companies and the role of regulations for optimum performance. Volumes exist on the concepts of the topic; however, the present study identified that, irrespective of works already carried out on the concepts, not sufficient study has been done in the area of the roles of private guard companies in the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja and particularly between the period 2019-2024. This is irrespective of the central importance of the FCT as the headquarters of the Nigerian state and the challenges of security Abuja has continued to experience in the recent past.

Methodology

Research Design

Descriptive survey design was used for the study. According to Agha (2011), descriptive survey design is concerned with specific variables like employee performance, traits, attitude, job satisfaction, and views, which would result in data collection. This study focused on NSCDC and the

regulation of PGCs in FCT Command, Abuja. It considered variables like personnel training, working conditions and welfare, registration and licensing, and regulation and private guard companies.

Population of the Study

The population of the study is 5,680, made up of 5,220 personnel of the NSCDC Federal Capital Territory, Abuja Command and 460 licensed PGCs, according to its Directorate of Administration (2025). By the time we get our sample from the licensed PGCs, we will choose the respondents from the staff of the selected PGCs. These personnel are spread across the various directorates of the command.

Table 1: Population of the NSCDC FCT, Abuja Command

S/ n	Directorates	Number of Personnel
1	Administration	523
2	Operations	2,650
3	Intelligence & Investigations	615
4	Technical Services	431
5	Disaster Management	578
6	Critical Infrastructure and National Assets	423
7	PGC	460
	TOTAL	5,680

Source: Directorate of Administration, FCT Command (2025)

Sample Size

The researcher used Yamane's (1985) proportional sampling techniques to determine the study's sample size, as indicated below:

N = Population

n = sample

e^2 = Margin of error with value from 0.01-10 (0.05 is chosen for this study).

l = Constant

$$n = \frac{N}{1 + N(e)^2}$$

$$n = \frac{5680}{1 + 5680(0.05)^2}$$

$$n = \frac{5680}{1 + 14.2}$$

$$n = \frac{5680}{15.2}$$

$$n = 373$$

$$\text{Category} = \frac{\text{RPS}}{N} \times n$$

Where RPS = Respondents' Population Size

N = Total Population

n = Sample size

Table 2: Sample from Categories

S/n	Directorates	Number of Personnel	Sample
1	Administration	523	34
2	Operations	2,650	174
3	Intelligence & Investigations	615	40
4	Technical Services	431	28
5	Disaster Management	578	38
6	Critical Infrastructure and National Assets	423	28
7	PGCs	460	30
	Total	5680	373

Source: Compiled by the author, 2025.

Sources of Data Collection

As for this study, both primary and secondary sources of data collection have been used. A primary source of data is defined as any original or firsthand information collected directly from the source of investigation using different tools like surveys, experiments, observation, and interviews. In this study, survey and observation tools have been used. Secondary data is defined as a source of data that has already been collected, analyzed, and published by someone else before for a completely different purpose. This type of data can come from various sources, such as government reports, academic journals, books, online databases, and company records. For this study, secondary sources of data were journals, textbooks, projects, the internet, and government publications.

Methods of Data Collection

This is a means by which information is obtained from the respondents. The instrument that was used in collecting primary data was a questionnaire. The researcher visited the respondents personally to deliver the primary instrument. Some of the respondents filled in the survey immediately and were picked up, while some others required the researcher to pick them up at a later date because of their schedules. For the secondary sources, the study visited the NSCDC Abuja Command office and used their library, while other documents were sourced online.

Method of Data Analysis

As multiple data collection devices were employed in the process of carrying out the research, it is clear that diverse statistical analysis techniques were adopted so as to ensure that an accurate analysis of the collected data was achieved. The data collected using the questionnaire were analyzed using the mean and standard deviation methods of SPSS. The secondary data underwent a rigorous process of analysis and interpretation, which aided in verifying whether or not the data collected using the questionnaire were similar to those put forth by other scholars in the literature.

10. Data Analysis

Hypotheses Testing

All hypotheses were tested using the Chi-square goodness-of-fit test at the 0.05 level of significance. The details of the analyses are presented below.

Hypothesis 1:

H₀₁: The NSCDC has not promoted physical protection and guarding services of private guard companies in the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja, between 2019 and 2024.

H₁₁: The NSCDC has promoted physical protection and guarding services of private guard companies in the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja, between 2019 and 2024.

Table 3: Chi-square analysis of hypothesis one
Chi-Square Tests

	Value	df	Asymptotic Significance (2-sided)
Pearson Square	Chi-27.750 ^a	4	.000
Likelihood Ratio	39.154	4	.000
N of Valid Cases	370		

a. 4 cells (40.0%) have expected count less than 5. The minimum expected count is .32.

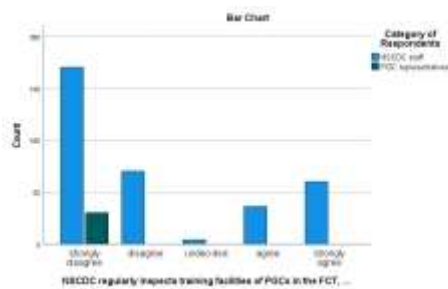


Fig.1: NSCDC regular inspection of training facilities of PGCs in the FCT, Abuja

The result suggested that the NSCDC has promoted physical protection and guarding services of private guard companies in the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja between 2019 and 2024. It further indicated that the p-value is 0.000 while the Chi-square (X^2) is 27.750^a. Since the p-value of .000 is less than the 0.05 level of significance, the null hypothesis was rejected ($X^2 = 27.750, p \leq 0.05$), which implied that there was a significant relationship between NSCDC and physical protection and guarding services of private guard companies in the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja between 2019 and 2024. The bar chart information further showed that the majority of respondents strongly disagreed that NSCDC regularly inspects training facilities of PGCs in the FCT, Abuja.

Hypothesis 2:

H₀₂: There is no significant association between NSCDC and personnel training in Private Guard Companies in the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja between 2019 and 2024.

H₁₂: There is a significant association between NSCDC and personnel training in Private Guard Companies in the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja between 2019 and 2024.

To test the second hypothesis, the researcher utilized item PT5 (The NSCDC considers the welfare of guards before renewing licenses of PGCs in FCT, Abuja).

Table 4: Chi-square analysis of hypothesis two
Chi-Square Tests

	Value	df	Asymptotic Significance (2-sided)
Pearson Chi-Square	63.221 ^a	4	.000
Likelihood Ratio	69.921	4	.000
N of Valid Cases	370		

a. 3 cells (30.0%) have expected count less than 5. The minimum expected count is 1.46.

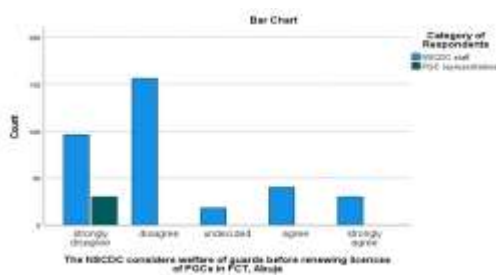


Fig.2: NSCDC consideration of welfare of guards before renewing licenses of PGCs in FCT, Abuja.

The test result suggested that there is a significant association between NSCDC and personnel training in Private Guard Companies in the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja, between 2019 and 2024. It further showed that the p-value is 0.000 while the Chi-square (X^2) is 69.921^a. Since the p-value of .000 is less than the 0.05 level of significance, the null hypothesis was rejected ($X^2 = 69.921$, $p \leq 0.05$), which implied that there was a significant relationship between NSCDC and personnel training in Private Guard Companies in Federal Capital Territory, Abuja, between 2019 and 2024. The bar chart information, however, showed that the majority of respondents disagreed that the NSCDC considers the welfare of guards before renewing licenses of PGCs in FCT, Abuja.

Hypothesis 3:

H₀₃: There is no significant association between NSCDC and the working conditions and welfare in Private Guard Companies in the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja between 2019 and 2024.

H₁₃: There is a significant association between NSCDC and the working conditions and welfare in Private Guard Companies in the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja between 2019 and 2024.

Furthermore, to test hypothesis 3, the researcher adopted item WCW2 (NSCDC sets basic minimum salaries for PGCs staff in the FCT).

Table 5: Chi-square analysis of hypothesis three

Chi-Square Tests

	Value	df	Asymptotic Significance (2-sided)
Pearson Chi-Square	24.064 ^a	4	.000
Likelihood Ratio	35.071	4	.000

N of Valid Cases	370	
------------------	-----	--

a. 3 cells (30.0%) have expected count less than 5. The minimum expected count is 1.62.

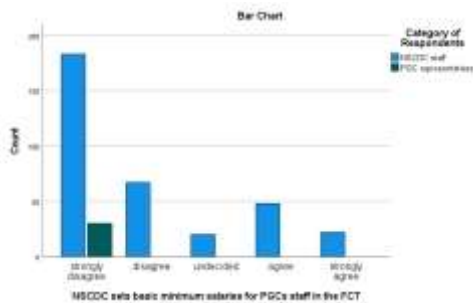


Fig.3: NSCDC sets basic minimum salaries for PGCs staff in the FCT.

Hypothesis 3 result suggested that there was a significant association between NSCDC and the working conditions and welfare in Private Guard Companies in the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja between 2019-2024. It further showed that the p-value is 0.000 while the Chi-square (X^2) is 24.064^a. Since the p-value of .000 is less than the 0.05 level of significance, the null hypothesis was rejected ($X^2 = 24.064$, $p \leq 0.05$), which implied that there was a significant association between NSCDC and the working conditions and welfare in Private Guard Companies in the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja, between 2019 and 2024. The bar chart information, however, showed that the majority of respondents disagreed that the NSCDC sets basic minimum salaries for PGC staff in the FCT.

Hypothesis 4:

H₀₄: There is no significant relationship between NSCDC and the registration and licensing of Private Guard Companies in the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja between 2019 and 2024.

H₁₄: There is a significant relationship between NSCDC and the registration and licensing of Private Guard Companies in Federal Capital Territory, Abuja between 2019 and 2024.

Finally, to test hypothesis 4, we adopted item RL2 (Through a detailed registration and licensing process, the NSCDC has exposed and limited quacks in PGCs).

Table 6: Chi-square analysis of hypothesis four

Chi-Square Tests

	Value	df	Asymptotic Significance (2-sided)
Pearson Square	Chi-323.025 ^a	4	.000
Likelihood Ratio	184.124	4	.000
N of Valid Cases	370		

a. 3 cells (30.0%) have expected count less than 5. The minimum expected count is .49.

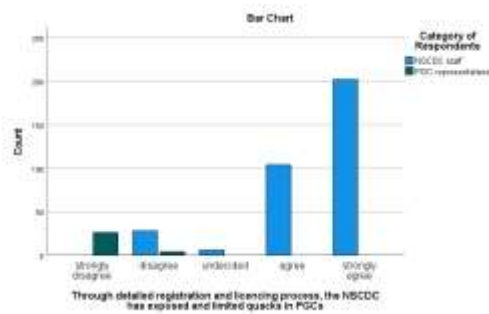


Fig.4: Through a detailed registration and licensing process, the NSCDC has exposed and limited quacks in PGCs.

Hypothesis 4 result suggested that there was a significant association between the NSCDC and the registration and licensing of Private Guard Companies in the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja, between 2019 and 2024. It further showed that the p-value is 0.000 while the Chi-square (X^2) is 323.025^a. Since the p-value of .000 is less than the 0.05 level of significance, the null hypothesis was rejected ($X^2 = 323.025$, $p \leq 0.05$), which implied that there was a significant association between the NSCDC and the registration and licensing of Private Guard Companies in the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja, between 2019 and 2024. The bar chart information, in addition, showed that the majority of respondents agreed that through a detailed registration and licensing process, the NSCDC has exposed and limited quacks in PGCs.

Discussion of Findings

NSCDC and promotion of physical protection and guarding services of private guard companies

The result of research question one indicated that the Nigeria Security and Civil Defense Corps has promoted physical protection and guarding services of private guard companies in the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja, between 2019 and 2024. The majority of the respondents strongly disagree that NSCDC regularly inspects the training facilities of PGCs in the FCT, Abuja. This was supported by the fact that, of the six (6) items used to answer this research question, the mean average score is $2.74 > 2.50$ standard for acceptance. Furthermore, three (3) of the items recorded values above the set mean of 2.50 of the 4-point Likert scale adopted for this study. Item variables PPGS1, PPGS4 and PPGS5 have mean scores of 2.63, 3.19 and 3.75, respectively. The other three item variables, however, failed to meet the minimum mean score of 2.50 for acceptance.

In line with the findings, one of the core functions of private guard companies (PGCs) is physical protection and providing guarding services to their clients. Following the shortage of police personnel posted to the Federal Capital Territory when compared to the population and socio-economic activities of the territory, it is imperative that private guard providers must complement the police to secure lives and property. Realizing this important reality, the NSCDC, as the regulatory body of private guard companies in Nigeria, usually makes policy efforts to promote physical protection and guarding services of private guard companies within the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja.

Through the regulation provided by the NSCDC, private individuals and organizations have a good supply of security guards and bodyguards to recruit to complement formal policing by government security personnel. With the involvement of the PGCs, there are effective patrol services for residential, commercial and industrial sites in the FCT. The physical protection and guarding services have led to effective prevention of theft and reduced unauthorized access to homes and organizations employing PGC services. By extension, the involvement of PGCs in physical protection and guarding services through the regulation of NSCDC leads to the protection of people within the FCT, Abuja.

As for the current finding, it seems that this one corresponds to what AFRILAW (2019) noticed in the past, noting that the current scenario has contributed to the emergence of many private security

firms within the country. This has resulted in many problems related to aspects of governance, regulations, operational and professional standards, etc. Findings obtained by Shpeizer (2021) revealed that the world of Israeli school security guards can ensure the safety of schools in cooperation with other government security departments.

NSCDC and personnel training in Private Guard Companies

From the analysis of research question 2, we deduced that there is a significant association between NSCDC and personnel training in Private Guard Companies in Federal Capital Territory, Abuja between 2019-2024. The majority of respondents disagreed that the NSCDC considers the welfare of guards before renewing the licenses of PGCs in FCT, Abuja. This was supported by the fact that, of the five (5) items used to answer this research question, the mean average score is $2.63 > 2.50$, the standard for acceptance. Furthermore, two (2) of the items recorded values above the set mean of 2.50 of the 4-point Likert scale adopted for this study, with one as high as 3.93. Item variables PT2 and PT4 have mean scores of 2.50 and 3.93, respectively. The other three item variables (PT1, PT3 and PT5), however, failed to meet the minimum mean score of 2.50 for acceptance.

The results of the research question are supported by opinions of scholars in empirical literature. Training for private security personnel in Nigeria focuses on professionalism, risk management, and operational security, often aligned with international standards. Key areas include access control, patrol techniques, emergency response, and conflict resolution, delivered by private firms and specialized institutes like NIPM and NIIS to ensure high-standard industrial security and safety (Lekshum, 2022). Others include partnering with other agencies to train PGCs on fire incident management and handling in the FCT, Abuja; measures to reduce abuses/protect rights; crowd management to avoid casualties during functions and forming unions for effective engagements with the government.

Leading training providers and organizations in Nigeria include Security Skills Development Company (SSDC), Nigerian Institute for Industrial Security (NIIS), NIPM (Nigerian Institute of Production Management), Newways Consulting, Headstone Security (HSCL) and Alpha Partners. While the SSDC offers comprehensive training for guards, supervisors, and managers based on international standards, Newways Consulting and Headstone Security provide specialized, certified training and customizable training, including security awareness for staff and security guards.

NSCDC and the working conditions and welfare in Private Guard Companies

From the analysis of research question 3, we deduced that there is a significant association between NSCDC and the working conditions and welfare in Private Guard Companies in the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja, between 2019 and 2024. The majority of respondents disagree that the NSCDC sets basic minimum salaries for PGC staff in the FCT. This was supported by the fact that out of the five (5) items used to answer this research question, the mean average score is $2.37 < 2.50$ standard for acceptance. Furthermore, three (3) of the items recorded values lower than the set mean of 2.50 of the 4-point Likert scale adopted for this study. Item variables WCW1, WCW2 and WCW4 have mean scores of 2.29, 1.92 and 2.15, respectively. The other two item variables (WCW3 and WCW5), however, meet the minimum mean score of 2.50 for acceptance, as they recorded 2.86 and 2.61, respectively.

Private guard companies in Nigeria often subject employees to poor working conditions, characterized by low wages (frequently below the N30,000 minimum wage), long shifts, and a lack of proper welfare, such as health insurance or pensions. High turnover is common due to exploitation, lack of training, and poor safety equipment. The industry suffers from high attrition rates due to these challenging conditions, with many workers viewing the job as a temporary, low-skilled, and often hazardous means of survival (Okoro, Thelma, Oko & Julian, 2024). Particularly, major Welfare and Working Conditions challenges of PGCs in Nigeria revolve around.

Low Remuneration: Salaries are generally low, often below the national minimum wage. While some may earn higher, many fall into lower pay brackets with minimal benefits.

Extremely Long Hours: Guards often work double shifts (12+ hours) to make ends meet, leading to exhaustion and low morale.

Lack of Welfare Support: Many guards lack access to medical care, life insurance, or proper pension schemes.

Poor Working Environment & Safety: Guards often provide their own personal protective equipment and face risks without proper training or insurance.

Contractual Issues: Insecure, casualized, or, in some cases, exploitative contracts are common, with limited career growth opportunities.

Regulation: While regulated by the NSCD and the Private Guard Companies Act, oversight is often weak, allowing for poor treatment of personnel.

The industry suffers from high attrition rates due to these challenging conditions, with many workers viewing the job as a temporary, low-skilled, and often hazardous means of survival.

NSCDC and the registration and licensing of Private Guard Companies

From the analysis of research question 2, it was deduced that there is a significant association between the NSCDC and the registration and licensing of Private Guard Companies in the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja, between 2019 and 2024. The majority of respondents agree that through a detailed registration and licensing process, the NSCDC has exposed and limited quacks in PGCs. This was supported by the fact that, of the six (6) items used to answer this research question, the mean average score is $3.08 > 2.50$ standard for acceptance. Furthermore, five (5) of the items recorded values higher than the set mean of 2.50 of the 4-point Likert scale adopted for this study. Item variables RL1, RL2, RL3, RL4 and RL5 all have mean scores of 4.00, 4.15, 4.04 and 4.21, respectively. Only item variable (RL6), however, failed to meet the minimum mean score of 2.50 for acceptance, as it recorded 2.07.

Consistent with the above discovery, in 2023, Ochacho Security Nigeria Ltd at Idu Industrial Layout, Justigo Security and Allied Services at Gwarinpa, and Macro Security Consult and Service at Wuse 2, Abuja were closed down due to the problem of registration and licensing (People's Gazette Nigeria, October 18, 2023). Whereas Ochacho Security was closed down because it was guilty of not registering itself as a PGC, failing to be licensed, employing guards without the required approval, and being a menace to national security and public interest; Justigo Security Company was closed down due to operating under two separate uniforms, while Macro Security Company was closed down due to non-registration and illegal operation for years (PRNigeria Centre Abuja, October 19, 2023).

Similarly, the NSCDC in 2025 sealed up seven illegal private guard companies within the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja (Vanguard, May 28, 2025). The action was to tackle the challenges of insecurity in the FCT, Abuja. Details of the affected PGCs are presented in the table below:

Table 7: Illegal PGCs in Abuja Sealed by NSCDC

Total Companies Sealed	Locations	Specific Companies Mentioned	Offenses
Seven (7) illegal Private Guard Companies	Wuse 2, Jabi, Wuye, and Prince and Prince Estate.	CEWARA Security, Most Bright Security, Security China, Ebowise	Six companies were operating without a valid license. One company was operating with an expired license.

		Security, Barumark Security, Segad Security Protection Services, and Prixair Security.	Use of unauthorized insignia/uniforms. Failure to properly vet or profile security guards.
--	--	--	--

Source: Compiled by the author, 2026, from Vanguard 28 May, 2025 and Guardian 28 May, 2025.

The NSCDC highlighted that these illegal operators, some of whom hire unverified personnel, contribute to insecurity and kidnapping in the FCT (Guardian 28 May, 2025). The regulatory body further stated that all PGCs must be registered with the Corporate Affairs Commission (CAC) and licensed by the Ministry of Interior through the NSCDC to be legitimate. Following the incidents, the NSCDC warned that they will continue to clamp down on unlicensed, illegal, or non-compliant security firms in the FCT to safeguard internal security (Vanguard 28 May, 2025).

Conclusion

The private guard companies are very useful in complementing the efforts of government security personnel in promoting the security of lives and property in Nigeria and particularly in the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja. The PGCs provide physical protection and guarding services to individuals and organizations that the formal government security personnel and facilities may not cover adequately. However, for these important functions, among others, to be effectively carried out, the NSCDC, as a key regulator of PGCs' activities in Nigeria, should prioritize personnel training, working conditions, and registration and licensing of private guards, particularly in the FCT, Abuja.

Recommendations

From the findings above, the study recommended that:

1. The government, through NSCDC, should encourage reputable private organizations and individuals interested in assisting the government in providing security to establish PGCs according to the law.
2. The NSCDC should prioritize training and retraining of PGC owners and their guards through regular meetings to promote professionalism in the sector.
3. The NSCDC should, through policy, make the working conditions and welfare of the guards a key prerequisite for assessment and licensing of PGCs.
4. The NSCDC should reassess the registration and licensing fees of PGCs to make it more affordable and to reduce undue pressure on PGC owners.

References

- Abdulqadir, U. A. (2016). The role of Nigerian Civil Defense Corps in security administration in Nigeria: Challenges for the 21st Century. *IOSR Journal of Humanities and Social Science (IOSR-JHSS)*, 21 (8), 1-5.
- Adesola, F. (2019). National security in Nigeria's relations with its neighbors, Unpublished *Ph.D. thesis submitted* to the Department of International Relations, Faculty of Administration, Obafemi Owolowo University, Ile-Ife, Nigeria.
- AFRILAW (2019). *Baseline Study on Private Security Governance in Nigeria*. African Private Security Governance Observatory.
- Agha, A. A. (2011). Research methodologies in library and information science. A paper presented at the training workshop on building research capacity for Library and Information Science Professionals. Organized by the Nigerian Library Association, Ogun State Chapter, held at Covenant University, Ota, Nigeria on 18-22nd September

- Aina, D. (2025). *FCT spends N4.7 billion yearly on vandalized infrastructure*. <https://punchng.com>. 10/3/2025
- Akpuru-Aja, A. (2023). The state and the military: Perspectives on Nigeria-US military cooperation. *Strategic Analysis: Journal of the IDSA, London*.XXVII (2), 90-110.
- Albrecht, J., Daves, C. & Jenkee, R. Y. (2016). Legal framework and criteria for effectively coordinating public participation under the Floods Directive and Water Framework Directive: European requirements and German transposition. *Environmental Science & Policy*, 55 (P2), 368-375.
- Aluko, K. & Oyedode, D. (2019). *The Private Guard Companies Regulations, 2018: Implications on foreign participation in private security services in Nigeria*. Lagos: ao@aluko-oyebode.com
- Anudu, D. (2018). *Is Nigeria producing enough food for its rapidly growing population?* <https://businessday.ng>.assessed 14th August.
- Avant, D. D. (2021). *The force market: The consequences of privatisation of security*. Cambridge University Press
- Baldwin, R., John, C. & Mohen, M. (2012). *Understanding regulation: Theory, strategy, and practice*. Harper and Row.
- Ball, N. & Fayemi, K. (2024). *Security sector governance in Africa: A handbook*. Centre for Democracy and Development (CDD).
- Berg, J., & Nouveau, J. (2011). Towards a third phase of regulation: Re-imagining private security in South Africa. *South African Quarterly*, 38, 23-32.
- Bullock, J. A., Ardrik, G. D., & Davies, G. P. (2017). *Introduction to security: Operations and management*. Butterworth-Heinemann
- Caparini, M. (2008). Regulating private military and security companies: The US approach, in Alexandra, A. et al. (eds.) *Private military and security companies: Ethics, policies and civil military relations*. Routledge
- Cunningham, W. C. & Taylor, T. H. (1985). *The Hallcrest report: Private security and police in America*. Chancellor.
- Directorate of Administration (2025). *NSCDC organogram*. NSCDC bulletin
- DCAF (2018). *The role of civil society organizations in promoting good governance of the private security sector (Practical Guide): Africa* Private Security Governance Observatory and Geneva Centre for Security Sector Governance.
- Duffield, M. (2006). *Global governance and the new wars: The merging of development and security*. Zed Books Limited
- Ebo, A. (2018). Private actors and the governance of security in West Africa, in Alenxandra, A. et al. al (ed.) *Private military and security companies: Ethics, policies and civil military relations*. Routledge
- Kultys, N. (2016). *Revisioning transpersonal theory: A participatory vision of human*. Oxford University Press.
- Igimoh, K. R. (2024). Nigeria: The giant of Africa with expanding global influence. *African Leadership Magazine*, 30th September. <https://africanleadershipmagazine.com...>
- Johnston, L. & Shearing, C. (2023). *Governing security: Explorations in policing and justice*. Routledge.
- Jordan, J. & Levi-Faur, D. (2004). *The politics of regulation in the age of governance*. McGraw-Hill.
- Kanu, I. A.; Ndubisi, E. J. O. & Kanu, C. C. (2018) (Eds.). *Africa at the Cross-roads of Violence and Gender Inequality: The Dilemma of Continuity in the Face of Change*. Bloomington, USA: Author House Publication.
- Kanu, I. A.; Kanu, C. C. & Ndubisi, J. O. E. (2020). (Eds.). *African Ideologies, Business and Peace-Building: Proceedings of the International Conference of the Association for the*

- Promotion of African Studies on African Ideologies, Human Security and Peace Building, 10th -11th June 2020*. USA: Association for the Promotion of African Studies.
- Kanu, I. A. & Ndubisi, J. O. E. (2020). (Eds.). *African Indigenous Knowledge and Peace Building: Proceedings of the International Conference of the Association for the Promotion of African Studies on African Ideologies, Human Security and Peace Building, 10th -11th June 2020*. USA: Association for the Promotion of African Studies.
- Kanu, I. A. & Ndubisi, J. O. E. (2020). (Eds.). *Religion and Peace Building in Africa: Proceedings of the International Conference of the Association for the Promotion of African Studies on African Ideologies, Human Security and Peace Building, 10th -11th June 2020*. USA: Association for the Promotion of African Studies.
- Kakalik, J. S. & Wildhorn, S. (1972). *Private security in the United States*. Vol. 5. US Department of Justice.
- Lalonde, M. (2010). Civilian private security services: Their role, oversight and contributions to crime prevention and community safety. *Background paper for the Planning Meeting* (May 10-11, 2010) of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime.
- Lodge, M., & Wegrich, K. (2012). *Managing regulation: Regulatory analysis, politics and policy*. Palgrave Macmillan.
- Maman, C., Yasser, A., & Rahamon, D. (2013). Genesis, development and importance of private security companies in the provision of public safety in Poland. *Security and Defence Quarterly*, 17 (4), 100-118.
- Morgan, B. & Yeung, K. (2007). *An introduction to law and regulation: Text and materials*. Cambridge University Press
- Nigeria Security and Civil Defense Corps (Amendment) Act (2007).
- Nwagboso, C. I. (2018). Nigeria and the Challenges of Internal Security in the 21st Century. *European Journal of Interdisciplinary Studies*, 4 (2), 45-60.
- Ortmeier, P. J. (2016). *Introduction to security: Operations and management*. Pearson.
- Otaru, A. (2019). *Abuja: In the choking grip of rising insecurity*. <https://guardian.ng>
- Parker, C. & Braithwaite, D. (2005). Regulation. *Comparative Democratization*, 45 (56), 24- 45. DOI:10.1093/oxfordhb/9780199248179.013. 0007
- Scott, J. (2021). Seeing like private security: Evolving mentalities of public space protection in South Africa. *Criminology and Criminal Justice*, 10 (3), 287-301.
- Selznick, P. (1985). Focusing organizational research on regulation. *Regulatory Policy and the Social Sciences I*, 363–367.
- Shearing, C. D. (2022). The relation between public and private policing. *Crime and Justice* 15, 399-434.
- Shpeizer, R. (2021). On the threshold: The story of school security guards in Israel. *Mediterranean Journal of Social Sciences*, 12 (1), 15-30.
- Suchi, P. M. (2017). Regulation of private security companies and equitable policing in Nigeria. *Sociology Study*, 7 (3), 146-159. doi: 10.17265/2159-5526/2017.03.003
- United Nations (2019). Security beyond state actors. United Nations.
- Whitman, M. E., & Mattord, H. J. (2016). *Principles of information security*. Cengage Learning
- World Bank (2023). *Nigeria: Development news, research, data*. World Bank. <https://www.worldbank.org>
- Yamane, T. (1985). *Statistics: An introductory analysis*. Harper and Row.
- Zogning, G. (2022). *Sociological Theory*. 4th ed. McGraw-Hill