

Partnership Between The Police And Private Security Services On Crime Prevention and Control In Nigeria: An Empirical analysis

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ABSTRACT:- This study investigated the partnership between the police and private security services on crime prevention and control in Nigeria. The study adopted a descriptive survey research design of an ex-post facto type. Three research questions were raised. Data were collected using a self-developed questionnaire tagged “crime control by police and private security services in Nigeria”. Research questionnaires were administered to three hundred (300) participants randomly selected among the police, PSC, and the public in Lagos State, in Nigeria. Data were analysed using Pearson Product Moment Correlation Coefficient and t-test statistical methods. The findings of this study revealed a satisfactory perception of the public on the police and private security services’ partnership on crime prevention and control. Also, a significant relationship was found between the police and private security services on crime prevention and control in Nigeria ($r = .657$; $p > .05$); while there is no significant difference in the perception of the Nigeria Police and private security services on crime prevention and control. It is therefore recommended that an establishment of structuring, co-ordination, operational and partnership mechanisms for an effective collaboration, in regards to civility, transparency and cordial relativity between security stakeholders and not just the template theory should be ensured.

Keywords: - Partnership, police, private security services, crime prevention, crime control

I. INTRODUCTION

Crime control and prevention all over the world has been a topic of study for academics and practitioners alike, and is defined as the process of legally gathering evidence of a crime that has been or is being committed (Brown, 2001). It seeks to identify the truths associated with how and why a crime occurred, and works toward building a case that may lead to the successful prosecution of the offender(s) (Hinduja, 2009). Research studies mentioned above and more have sought to determine the best way in which the investigative process can be conducted and managed. The overarching goal of these studies has been to enable police/ law enforcement departments to reflect upon their own practices against the backdrop of the findings, and then to implement salient positive changes which would improve the day-to-day operations of their organization.

Security of life and property is a fundamental human right guaranteed under the 1999 constitution. Efforts have been made by successive administrations, especially since 1999 to provide this. However, growing poverty, wide income disparities, high level of unemployment, social dislocation caused by massive rural – urban migration and the breakdown of societal values leading to business frauds (419, drug abuse, money laundry, among others), and community unrest account for the growing concern about the level of uncertainty and security in parts of the country (Besley, Persson, & Sturm, 2010; Hinduja, 2009). In Nigeria the institutions that were established to guarantee security to the ordinary citizen are perceived to be incapacitated by limited manpower and skills relative to society’s demand, poor funding, poor equipment and general lack of proper orientation and commitment by some operatives (Alemika, 2003; Hinduja, 2009).

It is well recognized all over the world that peace and security of life and property are the primary conditions for progress and development of any society (Besley, Persson, & Sturm, 2010). In line with this, the 1999 Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria provides that the security and welfare of the people shall be the primary purpose of government. All over the world, however, the principal agency charged with the responsibility of internal peace and security of nations is the police. As a result, a lot of powers are given to the police to enable it perform its duties. The 1999 Nigerian Constitution provides for the establishment of the Nigeria Police Force under section 214. It provides that there shall be a Police Force, and subject to the provisions of the constitution, no other police force shall be established for the country.

In effort to reduce the menace of crimes in Nigeria, the government has taken several measures among which are the establishment and collaboration with private security agencies. Thus, this study empirically

examined the partnership between the police and private security services on crime prevention and control in Nigeria.

II. PARTICIPANTS OF NATIONAL SECURITY

The privatisation of security in contemporary times has manifested itself in two broad forms which are motivated by different actors and motives (Ibeau & Momoh. 2008). One is formalized and refers to private security organisations consisting mainly of private military companies (PMCs) and PSCs. The second consists of non-state participants, who provide security, usually to the poor and marginalised who are unable to procure the services of commercial security, and their services are sometimes ill-defined, and they are commonly referred to as informal actors. They include individual security provisioning, neighborhood watch committees, Non-Government Organisations (NGO) traditional security mechanisms and vigilantes among others.

The private security industry is considered one of the fastest growing industries in many nations, second to oil and gas in Nigeria and a multi billion naira investment. The industry is not a clear defined homogenous group, but rather a ‘multitude of industries’, large and small, all somehow related to the provision of security services, investigations, crime prevention, and order maintenance and security design’ (Steden & Sarre, 2007). It typically includes the work of security guards, corporate security and loss prevention personnel, alarm and surveillance specialists, private investigators, armored vehicle personnel, manufacturers of security equipment, locksmiths, security consultants and engineers, and people involved in a variety of related roles from private forensic laboratory scientists to guard dog trainers and drug testing specialists (Forst, 2000) Gumedze (2007), states that in recent years, specialized in private companies have proliferated and expanded within the global security arena. They offer military and police services that were previously the preserve of the state.

The growing private security industry in some countries now employs more staff than the public police (Button, 2007), this is attributable to the September 11, 2001 terrorist attack on USA. Globalization, and the inability or unwillingness of some states to provide security as a public good are also other factors attributed to the increased activities of private security actors.

According to Stenning (2000), the relationship between public and private police is more often complementary than adversarial, as well as that it is increasingly difficult to identify policing tasks and responsibilities which are the exclusive preserve of public rather than private police. Early analysts of private policing suggested that the respective roles of public and private police were determined by the geographical domains in which they worked: the policing of public places was the responsibility of public police and is to be undertaken in the ‘public interest’, while the role of private police is confined to the protection of private property in the interests of its owners (Burren, 2009).

III. THE NIGERIA POLICE FORCE

The Nigeria Police Force was estimated at 317,000 officers strong in 2016, serving 170 million above Nigerians with total area of 923,768 km². This puts the police population ratio at 1:536.28; the United Nations approved police population ratio is 1:500 (Atuguba, 2006). The NPF is created by the Constitution and requires that the “police service shall be equipped and maintained to perform its traditional role of maintaining law and order” (Section, 214, Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999). As well as providing a broad framework for the police, the Constitution enshrines the protection and promotion of human rights into Nigeria’s legal fabric. The Police Act (Cap 359) Laws of the Federation of Nigeria enshrines the right to life, liberty and security of the person and protects the Nigeria people from torture and cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment and also prohibits arbitrary arrest, detention and exile.

As a federal institution, the Nigerian Police Force recruits officers from across the country. New recruits are posted to any one of the thirty-six state commands. Under a strict system of rotation officers are transferred to a new post every few years and therefore communities are policed by officers who may be from different ethnic or religious backgrounds to their own.

Serving alongside the regular police force are the Mobile Police, an especially trained anti-riot unit, numbering 30,000 officers. Known locally as MOPOL, they were originally created to contain civil disturbance or large-scale conflict but today are also deployed to carry out various other policing duties. The Mobile Police operate under a parallel authority structure with forty-six squadrons, organized into state and zonal commands and headed by a commissioner of police at the force headquarters. While crime trends are notoriously difficult to analyze or interpret in Nigeria, it is apparent that the public perception is that crime rates are extremely high, particularly armed robbery which is traceable to rising poverty, high unemployment and the breakdown of traditional social structures which the Nigerian police have been ill-equipped to address.

Several other national agencies carry out law enforcement functions and have the power to arrest and detain suspects at their own detention facilities. These include the National Drug Law Enforcement Agency (NDLEA), the Customs and Immigration Service and the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC), a body established in 2002 to investigate a range of financial crimes such as money transfer fraud and money

laundering. In addition, there are two principal intelligence agencies: the State Security Service (SSS) and the Directorate of Military Intelligence (DMI), dealing with criminal matters affecting the security of the state.

IV. PRIVATE SECURITY COMPANIES (PSCS)

Private Security Companies (PSCs) help to reduce the security deficit in the face of police incapacities, by performing roles that would either not have been performed by the police, such as guarding residential and private habitation or, if the police were to perform such tasks, for example guarding critical national infrastructure like airports, that would have further overstretched their already limited capacity. PSC thus complement the police by relieving them of the need to perform some routine so that they can concentrate on core policing duties such as intelligence gathering and investigations. PSC operations have a downside however, in that they are urban focused and profit-motivated, and since it is only the wealthy that are able to afford their services, crime is invariably displaced from wealthy neighbourhood to poorer communities, further reinforcing existing socioeconomic inequalities (Heyns & Steifisyn, 2006).

It is now obvious that private security guards are everywhere both in public and private sectors. The big challenge however, is to determine the effectiveness and efficiency of these PSCs in discharging their primary duties to their clients. According to Singer (2003) private security companies have played important roles in detecting crime at different levels. He argued that the effectiveness of the PSCs could be seen in the roles they play as undercover agents outside the formal authorities especially among industrialized countries. The PSCs have assisted in reporting and suppressing cult activities in some of the tertiary institutions across the country's universities. The involvements of these PSCs have in no small measures helped in curbing the menace of cultism in Nigerian campuses. Dambazau (2006) argues that the presence of a security man is effective to the extent that it is capable of retarding criminal activities. Therefore, a secure or guarded target may not always be a victim of crime (Igbo, 2007).

Furthermore, PSCs have also contributed their quota in repelling student unrest by reporting to appropriate authorities before such riots get out of hand. Macucci (1998) argues that hints about suspects and illegal gatherings of people and wanderers are reported before nefarious activities are hatched. He stressed that PSCs services are available in urban cities and major town for the protection of lives and properties. They also serve as witness when criminals are arrested and arraigned before the court of law for prosecution

Research Questions

1. What is the perception of the public on the police and private security services' partnership on crime prevention and control in Nigeria?
2. Would there be any significant relationship between the police and private security services on crime prevention and control in Nigeria?
3. Would there be any significant difference in the perception of the Nigeria Police and private security services on crime prevention and control in Nigeria?

V. METHODOLOGY

Research Design: This study adopted a descriptive survey design of ex-post-facto type. This survey design was preferred since the researcher cannot control the conditions experienced by the subjects. This is so, because the researcher is only interested in determining the partnership between the police and private security services on crime prevention and control in Nigeria. The survey was thus an appropriate design for this study as it provided a quantitative description of the sample, by asking appropriate questions that revealed essential characteristics of the population.

Population: This study comprised of the Nigeria Police, ten private security services and the general public within the Federal operational command in Lagos State, Nigeria. The Private Security Services that participated in this study include Gideon Guards Limited, Adlat Dominion Guards Ltd, Kingstech Network Ltd, The Expert Security Ltd, Vanni International Security System Ltd, Damog Nigeria Limited, Kelbel Security Guards Ltd, Providence Security Ltd, First Nation Security Nigeria Limited, and Crimetech Limited.

Sample and Sampling Technique: Two hundred and fifty participants were selected through purposive and stratified random sampling techniques. First, the Police, private security services and the general public in Federal operational command in Lagos State, Nigeria was selected purposively because the three groups. Secondly, each of the groups was stratified into two, namely (i) those that involve directly in crime control and (ii) those that are not. Furthermore, participants were selected randomly within the groups (Police, private security services and the general public). A sample size of 100 respondents was selected respectively from each of the group, making a total of 300 in all.

Research Instrument: Researcher-developed instrument was used for this study. This was used for obtaining information concerning the partnership between the public and private security services on crime prevention and

control in Nigeria. It was a 25 item questionnaire. Items were constructed in five-point likert format measured along 1(strongly disagree) to 5 (strongly agree). All items were positively worded. The higher the score obtained the better the perception of the police and private security services' partnership on crime prevention and control. This section of the questionnaire has demonstrated high internal consistency of Cronbach alpha of .79 in this study.

Procedure: The researcher and two research assistants were involved in the administration of the instruments to each of the sample respondents chosen. The research assistants were given an orientation on the research and how to carry out the administration of the questionnaires. At the end of the process of data collection, 279 questionnaires were adequately completed and returned.

Table 1: Questionnaire distributed, Returned, and Analysed

N	Participants	Questionnaire Distributed	Questionnaire not Returned	Number used for Analysis
1	Police	100	7	93
2	Private Security Unit	100	5	95
3	The Public	100	9	91
Total		300	21	279

Method of Data Analysis: The data collected in this study were analyzed using both descriptive and inferential statistics. The research questions generated to guide the study were answered using the Multiple Regression Analysis test at the 0.5 level of significance.

VI. RESULTS

Table 2: The perception of the public on the police and private security services' partnership on crime prevention and control in Nigeria

Variable	N	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	Std. Dev
Public Perception	91	25.00	125.00	79.918	11.557

Table 2 reveals that the perception of the public on the police and private security services' partnership on crime prevention and control in Nigeria had a mean score of 79.918 (61.554%), which is really satisfactory, and sign of positive perception. This is because it is higher than 50%, and higher than the minimum score of 25 which is 20%. It could then be deduced generally that the perception of the public on the police and private security services' partnership on crime prevention and control in Nigeria is encouraging, which may be as a result of success recorded so far on crime control and prevention in the recent time. This result is in tandem with the previous findings of Singer (2003) and Dambazau (2006) that the police and the private security companies have played important roles in detecting crime at different levels. They argued that the presence of a security services are effective to the extent that it is capable of retarding criminal activities.

Table 3: Pearson Product Moment Correlation Coefficients of the relationship between the police and private security services on crime prevention and control

Variables		Police	Private
Police	Pearson correlation	1	.657
	Sig. (2-tailed)		.003
	N	93	
Private	Pearson correlation	.657	1
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.003	
	N		95

Correlation is significant at the 0.05 level (2-tailed).

The results in Table 3 on the research question which stated that "Would there be any significant relationship between the police and private security services on crime prevention and control in Nigeria?" revealed a significant relationship between the police and private security services on crime prevention and control in Nigeria ($r = .657$; $p < .05$). This implies that a positive relationship exists in the collaborative effort of the police and private security services on crime prevention and control in Nigeria.

The role of the Nigeria Police is that of providing effective internal security that is strategically crucial to the survival of democracy and the economy, this in turn has been complimented with the help of registered private securities in Nigeria. The task of providing a safer and more secured environment conducive for socio-

economic development through crime prevention and control is therefore crucial to any society, there has to be domestic peace, law and order for economic development, and stability of a nation (Ajayi & Adefolaju, 2013).

The outcome of the findings of the second research question in line with the findings of Hassan (2011) that the private security services (PSC) have smooth and cordial relationship with the police; their services is considered not in conflict with that of the police force except for cases of arrest which they (PSC) turn to the police for further investigation.

Table 4: T-test analysis showing difference in the perception of the Nigeria Police and private security services on crime prevention and control in Nigeria

Gender	N	X	SD	Df	t-cal.	t-crit.	P
Police	93	63.800	13.261	186	1.765	1.960	Not Significant
Private SS	95	63.111	13.636				

The results presented in Table 4 revealed that the obtained value of t is 1.765 for the difference in the perception of the Nigeria Police and private security services on crime prevention and control in Nigériawhich is less than the t- critical value of 1.960 at 1.96 degree of freedom and 0.05 level of significance. This implies that there is no significant difference in the perception of the Nigeria Police and private security services on crime prevention and control in Nigeria. Further analysis of the result based on the respondents' mean scores reveal that the police had a mean score of 63.800which is just a bit higher than the private security services with a mean score of 63.111.

This study corroborate the findings of Karimu (2014) which indicated that the socio political order prevalent in Nigeria inhibits effective police performance in addition to the fact that high level unemployment has made the crime situation overwhelming for the police to control effectively. This in turn has brought about a better relationship between the PSC and the police in crime control and prevention.Singer (2003) argued that the effectiveness of the PSCs could be seen in the roles they play as undercover agents outside the formal authorities especially among industrialized countries. The involvements of thepolice and PSCs have in no small measures helped in curbing the menace of crimes in Nigeria.

VII. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

This study has empirically examined the partnership between the police and private security services on crime prevention and control in Nigeria. It also assessed the perception of the public on the police and private security services' partnership on crime prevention and control. The overall picture of the perception of the public on the police and private security services' partnership on crime prevention and control is quite satisfactory. In the collaborative efforts to combat crime through prevention and control, it was found that there is a synergy between the police and private security services, while no significant difference was observed in the perception of the Nigeria Police and private security services on crime prevention and control.

In order to improve the relationship between the Nigeria Police and private security services on crime prevention and control, it is recommended that establishment of structuring, co-ordination, operational and partnership mechanisms for an effective collaboration, in compliance with the Public Safety policing concepts of the Operation Co-operation in regards to civility, transparency and cordial relativity between security stakeholders and not just the template theory.

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