

PERCEIVED EFFECTIVENESS OF PRIVATE SECURITY OUTFITS IN CRIME CONTROL IN AWKA, ANAMBRA STATE, NIGERIA

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ABSTRACT: *The study investigated the perceived effectiveness of security outfits in crime control in Awka, Anambra State. 200 participants were selected for the study using convenience sampling technique. A researcher self-made instrument of 20 items was used to elicit information from the respondents. The descriptive statistics was used in analyzing data collected. The research focus on the challenges militating against the effectiveness of private security outfit in Anambra State. The rising incidence of crime such as kidnapping, armed robbery, murder, terrorism, human trafficking among others has demonstrated that police have failed in providing the required protection for the citizens. The work argues that the apparent inability of the police to adequately provide protection for all the citizens provided the nucleus for individual to search for alternative security which birth the emergency of private security companies in Nigeria. The results revealed that private security outfits played critical roles in ensuring security, thereby complementing the efforts of the police. The result also showed that some of the challenges include but not limited to lack of firearms, lack of supervision and inadequate training of the personnel. The study recommends among others establishment of a security institute, improved synergy with the state security actors and government recognition/regulation of the private security sector.*

KEYWORDS: Private Security Outfits, Effectiveness, Crime Control, Awka, Anambra State, Nigeria

INTRODUCTION

Crime is a universal phenomenon that is threatening the security of various countries in varying degrees (Aremu & Ahmed, 2011). The world at large has always put in place strict security measures to minimize criminal activities and promote protection of life and property.

Security is the state or feeling of being safe and protected. The violence perpetrated in some parts of the country in recent time constitutes public disorder which makes security very important for all human beings regardless of one's status in the country (Aremu and Ahmed, 2011). Security differs from place to place and usually related by the level of crimes but with the main objective of protecting life and property.

Criminal activities are on the increase in Nigeria. Therefore, the ineffectiveness of Nigeria police and the concern of Nigerians for security led to the emergence of guards and private security companies in the country to augment the activities of the security agencies and work in line

with the laid down rules and regulation. Just like the vigilant, private security companies are also an informal arrangement to keep with the peace of rising crime rate in Nigeria.

However, as is the case in all countries, the citizens of Nigeria are highly concerned about their security and this concern has been expressed through the growth of private security companies (PSCs). The last decade has seen a proliferation of PSCs in a country of about 140 million people (Census, 2006).

The presence of these companies is conspicuous in the premises of both private and public sector organization. This is in spite of the fact that in both urban and rural areas, security matters are largely in the hands of private actors than in those of the state. Thus, the function of private security companies was handled by the Nigeria immigration service in Federal Ministry of Interior until 1st September, 2005 when their Minister of Internal Affairs handed over all documents of private guard companies to the

Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps (NSCDC, 2009).

There are two principal landmarks in the regulation of PSCs in Nigeria. The first is the enactment and approval for creation of PSCs on 15th December 1986. This law was cited as act No 43 and consolidated under the laws of the federation of Nigeria 1990 in chapter 367. The second is the handover from the Nigeria Immigration Service to Nigeria Civil Defence cited currently as chapter 30 in private Guard Companies (PGC) Act (Law of Federation of Nigeria 2004). This law is specifically enacted for the regulation and licensing of private guard companies which must be wholly owned by Nigerians and other matters – ancillary there to (PGCs Act Corp 367, 1990)

Finally, the perception of ineffective policing and rising crime gave impetus to the emergence of a plethora of non-state policing groups (Olaniyi, 2005).

Objectives of the Study:

- i. To determine the factors that necessitated the establishment of private security companies (PSCs)
- ii. To assess the effectiveness of these private security companies in their security functions.
- iii. To examine the major constraints of the private security in carrying out their functions.
- iv. To identify the strategies for overcoming constraints against efficient service delivery of private security outfits.

Statement of the problem

Nigeria is currently confronted with serious security challenges that constitute immediate short term and long-term threats to security and development. Resolving these challenges is the constitutional and statutory responsibility of Nigeria police force, Nigeria Security and Civil Defense Corps (NSCDC) and other public security agencies.

However, Nigeria is poised with the problem of providing policing services to all the citizens. This is due to a combination structural, political economic and social cultural factor, as well as, institutional Inadequate, desire to reduce the burden on state agencies of protecting their

citizens has been a major decision driver in the growth of the private security sector in Nigeria.

Based on the above premise, the work is to find out if the services and resources they offer have not been adequately harnessed by the Government. Therefore, the work will examine the public perception on their effectiveness in ensuring security and combating crime and also identify the external and internal factors that inhibits performance of private Security outfits in combating crime in Awka, Anambra State. Finally, this work will suggest ways of overcoming these external limitations and internal inadequacies of private security outfits in Awka, Anambra State.

Significance of the Study:

Crime is as old man and has increased over the years in magnitude and intelligence due to the technological progress and development of the world today. Criminal activities are on the increase in Nigeria, especially in some states in eastern region. There are several people been killed, kidnapped and even burnt to death in Anambra state. This work perceived the effectiveness of security outfits in crime control in Awka, Anambra state.

This work will help the management of private security outfits to find out the societal expectations from their outfits in order to amend and perform effectively. The non performing security outfits will attempt to design policies that will strengthen the weak ones and maintain the performing ones. This work will be a veritable tool for the guards of various security outfits, this will help to find more on state and non-state relate crimes and how to handle them.

The research will also assist the policy makers as regards to security on the proliferations of small arms and to checkmate the private security outfits that are not performing. Finally, this will greatly increase the volume of the literature on the above literature thereby making it easier for subsequent researchers in terms of having access to literature materials.

Research Questions:

The following research questions are formulated to guide the study.

- i. What factors necessitated the establishment of private security companies?

- ii. How effective are these private security companies in their security functions?
- iii. What are their major constraints in carrying out these functions?
- iv. What are the strategies for overcoming these constraints in order to make them very efficient?

LITERATURE REVIEW

Theoretical Review

The **Rational choice theory** (Cornish & Clarke, 1986) and Routine activity theory (Cohen & Felson, 1979), are adopted as the theoretical framework to guide this study. The two theories amply explain the role and functions of a capable, efficient, and effective security force in ensuring that crime is minimized in the society through the application of well-articulated and rationalized crime control strategies.

Rational choice theory explains that criminals are intelligent people who rationally process their choice before taking action in order to maximize their benefits (avoid being caught). Therefore, the target, relevant information about the target, location, and techniques of operation has to be carefully considered before potential criminal decides to embark on any enterprise. Consequently, most private security company's policies are aimed at reducing the vulnerability of crimes by increasing the possible risks to offenders. More than ever before, the presence of private security is felt everywhere in the country. Hence, Sklansky (2008 p.124) observed that "on any given outing, we are more likely to encounter a private security guard than a uniformed police officer". Security guards are strategically mounted at hotspots to proactively prevent potential criminals from executing their planned acts.

Empirical Review

Nwankwo (2011) conducted research on Public Perception of Security of lives and property in Nigeria. After 50 years of Independence. A study of South-East geopolitical Zone. The study used three out of the five states in the zone were randomly selected for the study. A total of 810 participants were drawn through convenience of availability technique from urban and rural areas. The enlistment criteria were 18

years and above, and not less than 5 years of residence in the Zone.

Three instruments were used and in-depth interview for police and vigilante members. Frequency tables and percentages were applied in presentation and analysis. The analysis of variable (ANOVA) was used for test of significance. It was found that fear of crime was very high (80%) among residents. There was also high negative perception of the police services whereas vigilante groups enjoyed high positive rating. Furthermore, the study found that level of fear of crime and perception of safety and security differ by place of residence and income level. It was recommended that the vigilante should be adequately trained, remunerated and motivated to discharge their duties more efficiently.

Philips (2019) conducted research on security management and private security outfits in Nigeria. He observed that security is relative and its management is inevitable as it involves the absence of fear, violence and crime. These complexity in security situations resulted in the inclusion of non-state actors in ensuring effective and efficient security management. The work stated that there are so many private security outfits to compliment the efforts of government little or nothing has been done in encouraging guards in the face of sophistication of security challenges. The study also seeks to examine the effectiveness of security management. The study recommends people's oriented, adequate re-orientation, training, adoption of modern security gadgets and adequate security management to meet with the trends of modern security challenges in the country.

Idowa (2020) carried out research on "Emerging Trends in Private Security Companies (PSCs) and Security Services in Southwest Nigeria. The work examined the emerging trends in Private Security Companies (PSCs) and Security Provision. In Nigeria, available data shows that crime and insecurity have been very high in the last ten years and the country is still experiencing a sharp rise in criminal activities of various dimensions (Alemika & Chukwuma, 2005). Salay (2005) asserts that cases of high-profile criminalities and politically motivated killings, ethno-religious violence, kidnapping for ransom and terrorism have recently worsened the

crime problem in Nigeria. In addition, organized and non-organized crime and other vices, proliferation of small arms and light weapons, armed robberies, cross border crimes, money laundering, murder, rape, cyber- crime, carjacking, and human trafficking have become serious security issues of concern to the government and security agencies.

METHOD

Participants: This study will be carried out to examine the perceived effectiveness of security outfits in crime control in Awka, Anambra State as case study. Selected private security companies in Anambra state form the population of the study. According to Udoyen (2019), a study population is a group of elements or individuals as the case may be, who share similar characteristics. These similar features can include location, gender, age, sex or specific interest. The emphasis on study population is that it constitutes of individuals or elements that are homogeneous in description. A study sample is simply a systematic selected part of a population that infers its result on the population. In essence, it is that part of a whole that represents the whole and its members share characteristics in like similitude (Udoyen, 2019).

In this study, the researcher adopted the convenient sampling method to determine the sample size. According to Nwana (2005), sampling techniques are procedures adopted to systematically select the chosen sample in a specified way under controls. This research work will adopt the convenience sampling technique in selecting the respondents from the total population. In this study, the researcher will adopt the convenient sampling method to determine the sample size. Out of all the entire population of the private security companies in Anambra state, the researcher conveniently selected 200 out of the overall population as the sample size for this study. According to Torty (2021), a sample of convenience is the terminology used to describe a sample in which elements have been selected from the target population on the basis of their accessibility or convenience to the researcher.

Instruments: The research instrument that will be used in this study is the questionnaire. A survey containing series of questions will be

administered to the enrolled participants. The questionnaire was divided into two sections, the first section enquired about the responses of demographic or personal data while the second sections were in line with the study objectives, aimed at providing answers to the research questions. Participants were required to respond by placing a tick at the appropriate column. The questionnaire will be personally administered by the researcher. Two methods of data collection which are primary source and secondary source will be used to collect data. The primary sources were the use of questionnaires, while the secondary sources include textbooks, internet, journals, published and unpublished articles and government publications.

Validity referred here is the degree or extent to which an instrument actually measures what is intended to measure. An instrument is valid to the extent that is tailored to achieve the research objectives. The researcher constructed the questionnaire for the study and will be submitted to the project supervisor who will use his intellectual knowledge to critically, analytically and logically examine the instrument's relevance of the contents and statements and then make instrument to be corrections for the valid for the study. The reliability of the research instrument was determined using the Pearson Correlation Coefficient. A co-efficient value of 0.68 indicated that the research instrument is relatively reliable. According to (Taber, 2017) the range of a reasonable reliability is between 0.67 and 0.87.

Procedure: For the analysis data, the researcher will use descriptive statistical method of analysis. Thus, the researcher will compute the mean and standard deviation of the respondents on each questionnaire item using the mean formular.

$$X = \frac{Efx}{N}$$

$$SD = \frac{Efd^2}{N}$$

Where: X=mean of responses on each respondent item, F= Frequency of each questionnaire item, X = Each of the rating scale point, D= Deviation of each scale point from the mean, N=Total number of respondents on each questionnaire. Calculation of the decision point or cut off mean was arranged as follows: Strongly

Agree (SA)=4 points, Agree (A) =3 points, Disagree (D) =2 points, Strongly Disagree (SD) = 1 point, and the cut off mean = $4 + 3 + 2 + 1 = 10/4 = 2.50$. Hence, the cut off mean is 2.50. This implies that every mean score is exactly or above the 2.50 mean agrees with the decision while any score below 2.50 mean disagrees with the decision. The study was approved by the Project Committee of the Department. Informed consent was obtained from all study participants before they were enrolled in the study. Permission was sought from the relevant authorities to carry out the study. Date to visit the place of study for questionnaire distribution was put in place in advance.

Design/Statistics: In this study, the researcher employed the descriptive design. This is due to the nature of the study whereby the opinion and views of people are sampled. According to Singleton & Straits, (2009), it is quantitative research strategies (e.g., using questionnaires with numerically rated items), qualitative research strategies (e.g., using open-ended questions), or both strategies (i.e., mixed methods). As it is often used to describe and explore human behaviour, surveys are therefore frequently used in social and psychological research. Consequently, descriptive statistics was used to analyze the collected data.

RESULT

The data analysis depicts the simple frequency, mean and standard deviation as well as interpretation of the information gathered. The analysis of this study is based on the number returned.

Question 1: What factors necessitated the establishment of PSCs?

Table 1: Perception of Respondents on factors necessitated the establishment of PSCs

s/n	Items/Description	\bar{x}	SD	Remark
1	Job creation drive/business motive	3.54	.67	Accepted
2	Complimentary efforts to enhance communal security	3.63	.63	Accepted
3	Absence of public security set-up	3.57	.63	Accepted
4	Loss of confidence in public security	3.73	.51	Accepted
5	Over-population with an unmet security needs	3.50	.69	Accepted
6	Community self-help initiative	3.5	0.64	Accepted

Source: Researchers' Fieldwork, 2023

Table 1 showed that the five items had their mean ranging from 3.50–3.73 which indicates that all the variables were considered as the factors necessitated the establishment of PSCs.

Question 2: How effective are these PSCs in their security functions?

Table 2: Respondent on question 2

Options	Frequency	Percentage
Very effective	56	56
Not effective	21	21
Undecided	23	23
Total	100	100

Source: Field Survey, 2023

From the responses obtained as expressed in the table above, 56respondents constituting 56% said very effective. 21 respondents constituting 21% said not effective. While the remain 23 respondents constituting 23% were undecided.

Question 3: What are their major constraints in carrying out these functions?

Table 3: Perception of Respondents on major constraints in carrying out these functions

s/n	Items/Description	\bar{x}	SD	Remark
1	Increased household expenditure	3.54	.67	Accepted
2	Increased industrial/companies' expenditure	3.63	.63	Accepted
3	Weakened/compromised neighbourhood security	3.57	.63	Accepted
4	Duplicating police effort	3.73	.51	Accepted
5	Increased crime occurrence	3.50	.69	Accepted
6	Lack of Synergy between PSCs and Government Agencies	3.5	0.64	Accepted

Source: Researchers' Fieldwork, 2023

Table 3 showed that the five items had their mean ranging from 3.50–3.73 which indicates that all the variables were considered as the major constraints in carrying out these functions.

Question 4: What are the strategies for overcoming these constraints in order to make them more efficient?

Table 4: Perception of Respondents on strategies for overcoming these constraints in order to make them more efficient

s/n	Items/Description	\bar{x}	SD	Remark
1	Increased Synergy between PSCs and Government Agencies	3.54	.67	Accepted
2	Increase in Funding and Welfare	3.63	.63	Accepted
3	More Training, Certification and Education	3.57	.63	Accepted
4	Public Awareness of PSCs' Role in the Society	3.73	.51	Accepted
5	Permission to carry Firearms	3.50	.69	Accepted

Source: Researchers' Fieldwork, 2023

Table 4 showed that the five items had their mean ranging from 3.50–3.73 which indicates that all the variables were considered as the strategies for overcoming these constraints in order to make them more efficient.

DISCUSSION

Anambra State Legal Framework for the Emergence of Private Security Companies

While there may not be a general consensus as to the definition of private security company (PSC), The services provided by private security companies towards enhancing security include “armed and unarmed guarding; patrols; escorts; transport of valuables and commercial goods; intelligence services; trained dogs; electronic monitoring; investigations; fortification of buildings; protection of works and infrastructure; protection against kidnapping; safety and self-defense training and marketing of weapons” (Anyanwu, 2012 p. 47). Anyanwu (2012) went on to say that these services draw a broad range of customers, including government and its agencies, private industries, corporate organizations, and a growing number of businessmen and individuals seeking to ensure security of life and property. It must be emphasized that “the overriding services that private security companies provide is the prevention and control of crime aimed at protecting lives and property” (Anyanwu, 2012 p. 52).

It is very imperative to note that under CAP 367 Laws of the Federation of Nigeria (1990) the Private Guards Company Act, private security companies are prohibited from carrying gun in the execution of their functions. The duties and functions of PSCs in Nigeria in addition to guarding public and private places include: joint police/PSC patrols; escort services particularly airport transit; rapid response; key point security; executive protection; security consulting; security surveys and risk assessments; electronic

surveillance; audio intelligence services; alarm system installation; cash in transit movement; security awareness training; K-9 services (Dog handling); private investigations; protocol services; security driver (Chauffeur) services; crime analysis; static guards/custodial service; cleaning/environmental services; fraud examination; strategic planning; forensic analysis and expert or witness testimony in Court (Ekhomu, 2005).

Section 1 (1) of CAP 367 summarizes the functions of the PSCs as watching, guarding, patrolling, cash-in-transit protection and crime prevention. Thus, Ekhomu (2005. p. 166) asserts that “essentially, PSCs have continued to contribute meaningfully to the economic development of Nigeria through their crime control and crime prevention activities, It is clear that the government expects PSCs to play a prominent role in Nigeria’s socio-economic arrangement”

Private security officers are empowered under Section 12 of the Criminal Procedure Act, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria (1990) to arrest any person who commits any offence in his presence while Section 14 of the same Act requires that such arrest should be handed over to the police within a reasonable time (24 Hours). PSCs lack the legal capacity to investigate and prosecute criminal offenders in Nigeria. However, Dempsey (2008) observed that private detectives and investigators are authorized to investigate criminal cases in the United States. PSCs in Nigeria do investigate criminal cases for their client’s benefit, but they can be integrated into the mainstream criminal investigation through appropriate legislation.

Reasons for the Emergence and Growth of Private Security Companies in Nigeria

Nalla (2011) has argued that the emergence of state-controlled law enforcement, particularly in England, grew out of private police that were established to maintain public order, as well as to enhance private interests. Schmallegger (1998) and Gilbert (2004) have noted that in London during the 1800s, Jonathan Wild was one of the first private police agents to contribute to maintaining social order. According to Gunter and Hertig (2005), Wild was popularly labeled 'thief taker' in London and during this period, property crime was rampant in London. Wild used to retrieve stolen goods and assisted the police to solve many cases for a fee. The Bow Street Runners was the first Police-like establishment and it was funded by prosperous merchants with business interests. Gilbert (2004) noted that Allen Pinkerton was the first private security in the United States of America. According to Gunter and Hertig (2005, p.7), Allen Pinkerton was popularly known as the "the eye that never sleeps" because of the prompt manner in which he handled criminal cases and was also regarded as the father of private security in the United States.

There seem to be different views on the origin and emergence of private security in Nigeria.

The first private security in Nigeria was said to have been established in 1965 by one Alhaji Mumuni. The private security was named the Nigerian Security and Investigation Company (the first uniformed 'manned-guarding' private security in Nigeria) (Ekhomu, 2005). The private security companies in Nigeria have been expanding and participating tremendously in crime control since its inception in 1965. PSCs in Nigeria are involved in the protection of private homes, industries and public facilities such as the National Stadium Surulere, Murtala Mohammed International Airport Lagos, Osubi Airport in Warri, oil installations, shopping malls, churches, schools, bank facilities and major entertainment or sporting facilities among others (Abrahamsen & Williams, 2005; Ekhomu, 2005; Oshanugor, 2012).

Kwaja (2011) observes that the emergence and dominance of security privatization in Nigeria is a consequence of

deficits in governance and security provisioning by the state. Rotberg (2002) has noted that general insecurity resulting from weak and failed states one of the main reasons for the emergence and growth of private security. Destructive decisions by individual leaders have always paved the way to state failures. Reno (1997b) rightly demonstrated how leaders of Angola and Sierra Leone have used private military forces (PMFs) to collect revenue, defend territory, and conduct diplomacy with other states. The use of private security forces by rulers of weak states forms what Reno (1998, p.9) terms "regime innovations for managing" internal threats. Overviews of the survival strategies of many leaders of weak states therefore constitute yet another avenue for explaining why the private security sector has grown so rapidly in Africa since the end of the cold war. Patrick (2006) notes that weak states struggle to maintain a monopoly on the use of force. Shreier and Caparini (2005) identified inadequate resources to equip state organs for their principal role of protecting the security of their citizens as a major driver in the growth of private security sector.

In Nigeria, there is the increase in the number of 'enclosed residential estates' which has been attributed as major push in the proliferation of PSCs. Shearing and Stenning (1983) and Kempa, Stenning and Wood (2004) identified this phenomenon as the growth of mass private property or housing. Enclosed residential estates are estates where, in most cases, there is only one entrance and exit gates which are normally controlled by private security officers (Van Vliet, 1998).

Factors Militating against the Performance of Private Security Companies

There are various factors which militate against the performance of private security companies in crime control in Nigeria. These include among others the following:

Prohibition from Carrying Firearms:

One of the greatest obstacles facing the operations of private security company in Nigeria is the prohibition of the private security sector from carrying firearms. PSCs in Nigeria are prohibited from carrying firearms in their operations. This has resulted in the untimely death of many private security guards in Nigeria

(Ekhomu, 2005). It has also reduced the recognition and entry of PSCs in Nigeria into the international security market. The lack of legal framework for permission to carry firearms has made PSCs to rely dependently on the police in the execution of high-risk contracts requiring firearms protection.

Public Awareness of PSCs' Role in the Society: PSCs are said to fill a gap left open by inadequate public police policing. The services they provide are only procured by individuals who can afford to pay for their services. Thus, it is not a protection which the ordinary man in the street benefits. The implication is that members of the public lack adequate knowledge of the duties they perform or even their role in the security architecture of the society. This lack of public awareness of their role and functions places a smack on their importance in the society. Cozens (2011) argues that based on this backdrop, the effectiveness of private security companies is significantly limited to their area of jurisdiction or sphere of operation (Cozens, 2011). This means that the duties and roles of the private security companies are not clearly known by the general public and even to the police.

Lack of Training, Certification and Education: One other major challenge of private security companies in Nigeria is lack of adequate training of their staff (Abrahamsen & Williams, 2005; Macucci, 1998). There is a general believe that private security guards are poorly educated, school dropouts and indiscipline and lacking knowledge of the industrial security practice. It is important to know that the fact that someone is an ex-military, police or any of the government security outfits does not confer a pre-requisite knowledge to operate an industrial security company. The training, knowledge, operational base/site and practice of public policing are entirely different from that of industrial security.

Lack of Funds and Poor Welfare: It is believed that the issue of funding is very critical for the functionality of private security companies. It is one of the areas that have encouraged unhealthy rivalry and competition amongst private security companies. This is because in an effort to keep afloat in the security market economy, some of the private security companies have reduced their market worth by

accepting contracts requiring the payment of less than ₦30,000 per month as guard's salary thereby depriving others of an expected potential profitable contract. This is a confirmation of Ekhomu (2005) and Abrahamsen and Williams (2005), who observed that in spite of high cost of living, many security guards earn salaries as low as ₦15,000 per month. This is not healthy for the growth of the private security sector. The result is that some of the security guards in such companies end up engaging in criminal activities in order to augment their pay. This has also resulted in the bad image associated with the activities of private security companies, and most trending reason that majority of the public have great disdain and reservation in the participation of PSCs in crime control in the country.

Intra-agency and Inter-agency Squabbles: Aside from struggle for juicy contracts, private security companies also struggle for dominance in the security market economy. This has led to polarization within the private security sector. The situation is that there is no single association in Nigeria under which private security companies can voice their agitations for recognition. Today, the private security company has such associations as: Society of Security Practitioners of Nigeria (SSPN), American Society for Industrial Security (ASIS – Nigerian branch), National Professional Security Association (APSA), Society and Safety Association of Nigeria (SSAN), Association of Industrial Security and Safety Organization of Nigeria (AISSON), Nigeria Institute of Industrial Security (NIIS), International Foundation for Protection Officers (IFPO) and many such others. This is fundamentally unhealthy for a private security sector that is struggling for national and international recognition and relevance in the global security market economy.

Lack of Synergy between PSCs and Government Agencies: PSCs and other government agencies like the Police and the Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps (NSCDC) are expected to have strong bond and inter-networking relationship, but this is not so. In South Africa, United States of America, United Kingdom, Canada, and Australia intelligence information, sharing and gathering of evidence forms the basis for PSCs and Police collaboration in crime control. In addition, PSCs

collaborate with the police in mapping out hotspots for crime in order to ensure effective crime control and prevention (Ruddell, Thomas & Pattern, 2010; Sotlar & Mesko, 2011). In Nigeria, PSCs and the police do not have a synergy of working cordially in crime control. This is because the Police see PSCs as uneducated, unskilled, and unprofessional.

Conclusions

Private security has assumed a very vital role in the security provisioning in the country. The growth of private security companies has been driven by the ever-increasing insecurity, inadequate police presence and the growth of enclosed estates in springing up across the length and breadth of the nation.

Recommendations

Establishment of Security Institute: It is necessary to establish a standard security institute for private security practitioners for the training, re-training, certification and re-certification of security operators and security guards to make the sector more economically viable, competitive, and more relevant in the global security market and national security discourse.

Harmonization of Training and Entry Qualification: There is need for PSCs to re-examine their recruitment and training policy in order to improve on the quality of persons recruited and the training provided to boost their standard and service delivery.

Establishment of Neutral Agency for Effective Monitoring of PSCs: The Nigerian Security and Civil Defence Corps (NSCDC) are mandated by law to regulate the activities of PSCs in Nigeria but they are indicted to struggle with PSCs over job contracts (Gucia & Manning, 2007).

Holistic Legal Framework for PSC Operations: The legislative approval for private security companies to participate in private detection and investigation and perhaps prosecution will boost the criminal justice system.

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QUESTIONNAIRE

PLEASE TICK [✓] YOUR MOST PREFERRED CHOICE AND AVOID TICKING TWICE ON A QUESTION

Question 1: How were the security needs of the people in Niger state provided during the traditional era?

Options	PLEASE TICK
Government	
Vigilante	
Undecided	

Question 2: What factors necessitated the establishment of PSCs?

s/n	Items/Description	SA	A	D	SD
1	Job creation drive/business motive				
2	Complimentary efforts to enhance communal security				
3	Absence of public security set-up				
4	Loss of confidence in public security				
5	Over-population with an unmet security needs				
6	Community self-help initiative				

Question 3: How effective are these PSCs in their security functions?

Options	PLEASE TICK
Very effective	
Not effective	
Undecided	

Question 4: What are their major constraints in carrying out these functions?

s/n	Items/Description	SA	A	D	SD
1	Increased household expenditure				
2	Increased industrial/companies' expenditure				
3	Weakened/compromised neighbourhood security				
4	Duplicating police effort				
5	Increased crime occurrence				
6	Lack of Synergy between PSCs and Government Agencies				

Question 5: What are the strategies for overcoming these constraints in order to make them more efficient?

s/n	Items/Description	S	SA	D	SD
1	Increased Synergy between PSCs and Government Agencies				
2	Increase in Funding and Welfare				
3	More Training, Certification and Education				
4	Public Awareness of PSCs' Role in the Society				
5	Permission to carry Firearms				