

PRIVATE SECURITY OUTFITS AND INTERNAL SECURITY IN NIGERIA: AN X-RAY OF KINGS GUARDS NIGERIA LIMITED, ABUJA

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Abstract

Provision of security is no longer the sole responsibility of the state and its institutions. Private security is essential to ensuring the security and safety of persons and property. The emergence of Private Security Outfits has presented states with a resource with great potential to contribute significantly to enhancing security. Private security outfits in Nigeria have, however, faced certain limitations to their capacities to effectively provide essential services. This work aims to examine the roles played by these outfits in combating crime in Nigeria, determine their limitations as it affects their roles, and offer recommendations in line with the findings the research. It adopted a quantitative/descriptive method of research, employing data sourced from primary and secondary sources. The primary data was derived from questionnaires administered to the staff of Kings Guards Nigeria Limited, Limited Abuja branch. Using the convenience sampling technique, a non-random number of 200 employees was chosen to be the sample population from a total population of 1,775 security personnel. These data was analysed and presented using descriptive statistical tools such as graphs, charts etc. It was observed from these data that respondents are aware of the immense contributions that these outfits could make in combating crime and ensuring security in Nigeria. However, these contributions cannot yet be made because of certain external and internal impediments. The study recommends that there should be improved supervision, improved training, improved remuneration, improved equipment and license to carry arms, enforcement of registration and certification, and strengthening the cooperation with government law enforcement agencies.

Keywords: Security, Private Security Outfits, Public Security Agencies.

Introduction

A major responsibility of modern states is providing security for lives and properties of their citizens. In its ordinary usage, security borders on safety and absence of dangerous conditions (Ajayi, 2015, p). Security is a necessity in every human society and its absence threatens the survival of individuals and their properties. However, no state can claim to supply one hundred

percent security for her people, because no state is devoid of crime and other security challenges (Iyang and Abraham, 2014). Reports received daily of criminal activities by various policing agencies around the globe indicates that crime is a phenomenon that cannot be completely eradicated from any society. Consequently, various means of containing and managing security to achieve the lowest possible crime rate with optimum resource expenditure have been developed by state governments around the world.

Nigeria as a state is not exempted from this trend as there is no doubt that the crime rate and level of insecurity in the country is disturbing. With all the cases of kidnappings, embezzlement, terrorism, cybercrimes, fraud, to mention but a few, it is safe to say that every individual will be justified to be filled with apprehension at every given point in time and space in the country. Nigeria has consistently ranked low in the Global Peace Index (GPI, 2012), demonstrating the continued decline in the state of security of the country (Achumba, Ighomereho & Akpor-Robaro, 2013). Like in many other states, new strategies of policing and curbing this trend have been developed but all seem to have yielded no lasting result. In a manner that suggests that the country lacks the capacity to discharge its security functions especially that of policing, Mr. Sunday Ehindero, an erstwhile Inspector General of Police, told the National Assembly on August 6, 2006 that the mobile police are ill equipped to match the sophistication of the modern day robbers in the country (Jamiu, 2006). This statement reinforces the assertion made by Uhumwuangho & Aluforo (2011) that the problem of insecurity in the country seems to have grown beyond government capacity.

This culminates into a situation where the civilian private security sector has risen to fulfill the unmet security needs of the society (Enechojo, 2013). However, Nigeria is not alone in this trend. Many scholars are of the opinion that the inability of the Criminal Justice System in many countries to curb crime and insecurity has led to the growth and proliferation of the private security sector (Thuranira and Joel, 2013). Contemporary discourse on the state and security has shifted from the traditional assumption that security is an exclusive responsibility of the state. The prevailing trend is the increasing role of Private Security Outfits as dominant actors in the security sector (Kwaja, 2008). As noted in the United Nations Guidelines for the Prevention of Crime, while States play a primary role, public safety and crime prevention are not the sole responsibility of government or public law enforcement Agencies. Indeed, individuals, communities, non-governmental organizations, civil society and the private sector all play a role in enhancing security and community safety (Bosch and Maritz, 2011).

The emergence and activities of Private Security Agencies in Nigeria and in other parts of the world reflects a global trend in which non-core security functions or responsibilities of the state are sub-contracted to the private sector (Isima, 2007, p.1). Overall, the Private Security Sector has become so important that in states as different as US, UK, India and Bulgaria, the number of Private Security Outfits are much greater than the number of employees in the respective state security agencies (Abrahamsen and Williams, 2009). For example, In the United Kingdom, private security personnel now outnumber the public police by a ratio of nearly two to one, and between 1951 and 2001 total employment in the sector increased from 66,950 to 161,013 (Jones and Newburn, 2006; Mancini, 2006). In the United States, the private security market employs between 1.5 and 2 million people, outnumbering the public police by almost three to one.

In Nigeria, the industry has experienced phenomenal growth since its founding in the early 1970s. From three companies in the early 1970s, Nigeria now has thousands of Private Security Outfits. Private security has become a major part of the Nigerian economy, and there are

currently between 1,500 and 2,000 PSCs, employing in excess of 100,000 people (Keku and Akingbade, 2003). The industry is rapidly growing with major industrial organizations, banks, oil companies and some government agencies employing their services. In their ranks are many incompetent firms that have not received operational license (Ekhomu, 2013). The Nigerian Security and Civil Defence Corps (NSCDC) conducts periodic inspections of firms and provide annual renewal of their licenses. The Private Guard Companies Act regulates the operations of private security companies. The Act provides for the licensing of private guard companies by the Minister of Internal affairs, as well as their control and administration. The Act also stipulates the limits of the activities of the private guard companies and penalties for breach of its regulations (Abrahamsen and Williams, 2005).

Civilian private security services present States with a resource, which, if properly regulated, can contribute significantly to reducing crime and enhancing security, particularly, through partnerships and information-sharing with public police. In many nations the human resources and services provided by Private Security Outfits have been harnessed. For example, Strom, et al (2010) hypothesized that the private security industry is a crucial component of security in the United States. Today, private security is responsible not only for protecting many of the nation's institutions and critical infrastructure, but also for protecting intellectual property and sensitive corporate information

According to the *Introductory Handbook on State Regulation concerning Civilian Private Security Services and their Contribution to Crime Prevention and Community Safety* published by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), the growth in size of civilian private security has been matched in many States by an expansion of its role. Indeed, many of the functions traditionally assumed by the public police are now undertaken by civilian private security companies. Such functions include patrolling of public areas, investigation of crimes, and the exercise of powers such as search and arrest and the provision of armed guard services. Beside, these private security outfits now play crucial roles in protecting government facilities such as office complexes and critical infrastructure, including transportation hubs and energy facilities. Ekhomu (2013) rightfully posited that the private security outfits serve as an instrumental ally in the fight against crime in the new strategic policing. He emphasized that they function as important assets in the intelligence architecture of policing in Nigeria. Firstly, private security operatives protect the assets of a majority of the organizations and individuals in Nigeria. Second, private security operatives are everywhere, in offices, in factories, in homes, in remote locations, protecting infrastructure assets, and even in the maritime domain, protecting Nigeria's oil mining operations. Finally, private security operatives, given their training and security background can easily be retooled to fit into the intelligence network of the police agency, thereby enhancing the intelligence capability of a nation.

However, the private security sector in Nigeria is still weak and lacking in many areas. Although these outfits have played significant roles in complementing the activities of the public security agencies in security management, there are many limitations to their capacities to effectively provide essential services for the security needs of their clients. One area that demonstrates the limitations to exploiting their potentials in the security framework of Nigeria is the lack of a practical public-private security sector co-operation arrangement in Nigeria. Moreover, the little cooperation that exist between the private and public security sector only exist in theory (Ekhomu, 2013). Yet another worrisome setback is the prohibition of the use of fire arms by private security outfits. The restriction put on arming operatives of the private security outfits

with firearms presents another platform that limits the functions of the private security outfits. This is because it is unfavorable to both the public security services and these Private Security Outfits since it limits the functions that the private security sector in Nigeria can perform in combating crime. It also constitutes a drain on the already deficient public security sector resources. In most cases, licensed private security agents are reduced to mere 'gatemen' whose functions are limited to searching of individuals entering premises. Thus, one should ask the question, "When a real threat arises, what can these private security operatives do alone?" It should also be considered, however, that the public security engaging in duties that could be conveniently accomplished by Private Security Outfits (if the human resources they offered were properly harnessed and utilized) would constitute a drain on national resources. For example, in Afe Babalola University, Ado-Ekiti, state owned Policemen carry out the bulk of the work that should be done by Private Guards (King's Guards) contracted to secure the premises. Hence, these private guards have been reduced to performing duties that essentially have nothing to do with security, like ensuring that students dress appropriately. This goes to show that the resources offered by these Private Security Outfits are not properly harnessed and utilized, and essential security functions are still largely dependent on state policing agencies.

Therefore, the thrust of this work is to examine the roles currently played by these private security outfits in combating crime in Nigeria and also to investigate on how best to utilize their existence. Furthermore, the discourse will determine the limitations to their roles, and offer recommendations in line with the findings of this research work.

Problem Statement

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 the Nigeria Police Force, Nigeria Security and Civil Defence 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 of structural, political, economic, and socio-cultural factors, as well as, institutional inadequacies, policy, resource, and image constraints. The 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. Private Security Outfits provide another level of law enforcement outside mainstream policing that should not be ignored. For instance, Arase (2013, p.18) discussed the importance of private security outfits when he highlighted their achievements in Cape Town, South Africa. They are responsible for patrols and safety of the city center. Perhaps, they maintain contact with the city police control room by radio and supervise the area's Closed Circuit Television (CCTV).

However, in Nigeria, the services and resources they offer have not been adequately harnessed by the government. For example, we witness Policemen being detailed to protect wealthy people, known as VIPs, a function which could have been contracted to Private Security Outfits by these VIPs. In more ways than one the resource offered by the private security sector of Nigeria has been ignored, as evident in Ekhomu's (2013) statement, when he referred to these private security outfits as "likely" allies in the fight against crime and insecurity. Many ex-police officers and others with an interest in crime prevention and public safety are engaged in the private security sector and many of these people have expertise that could enhance the success of a national crime prevention and public safety program. These Private Security Outfits have the

same aims as the public police, i.e. crime prevention and safety. This paper contends that omitting such a large body of personnel that could contribute so much to the anti- crime program would be a waste of national resources.

Objectives of the Study

The general objective of this work is to identify the ways that Licensed Private Security Outfits in Nigeria could positively contribute to the fight against crime and insecurity. The specific objectives are:

- i. To identify the roles of Private Security Outfits in ensuring security and combating crime.
- ii. To identify the extent to which the human resources and services provided by Private Security Outfits in Nigeria have been harnessed.
- iii. To identify the opportunities available for the Private Security Outfits to work better and closer with the government law enforcement agencies.
- iv. To identify the external and internal factors that inhibits the performance of Private Security Outfits in combating crime.
- v. To suggest ways of overcoming these external limitations and internal inadequacies.

Theoretical Framework

One theoretical tendency that has been used to define the framework of privatization is the *Dispersed Knowledge Theory*. This theory was first put forward by Friedrich Hayek in 1936, when he drew attention to the fact that knowledge is divided among the minds of all humanity. As such, economic systems that build on divided knowledge prosper. Those that attempt to centralize decision-making, on the assumption of centralized knowledge, falter. Hence, private individual businessperson is believed to possess more knowledge than the state regarding his own business. It can rightly be argued that, efficiency would be achieved if business decisions were left with private operators (Hakey, 1949; Lavoie, 1985).

Although this theory is usually applied to knowledge of economic factors that influence prices and production in the economic system, it shall, for the purpose of this paper, apply to technical know-how and knowledge of trade-craft as they authors contend that the private security industry offers a plethora of knowledge that gives them an edge over the government security agencies. In Nigeria we have a centralized national police force that applies the same strategy of policing in every part of the country not minding that crime may differ with location and population composition. The implication of this is that what is efficient in one part of the country may not work in the other. The licensed security outfits, with a lager body of man power than the government security outfits, will apply a number of different strategies to fit their client's needs. These strategies are based on a combination of 'street-smarts' and security operational expertise that they may have gotten from years of service with government security forces or even the military. They also possess a zeal to provide efficient services which may arise from self-serving profit interests. This combination of 'street-smarts' and security operational expertise gained in government service shows a spread of knowledge rather than a concentration of it, which makes the "Dispersed Knowledge Theory" appropriate for this study.

Research Methodology

This study is a quantitative and qualitative study. It adopts the questionnaire survey method, employing data and information sourced from primary and secondary sources. Secondary

sources include existing literatures in forms of books, journals, articles, publications, internet sources, among others, that are related to the subject of study. The primary data was derived from questionnaires administered to the employees of King Guards Nigeria Limited. King Guards Nigeria Limited was selected because of its status as a prominent Private Security Outfit in Nigeria. Using the convenience sampling technique, a non-random number of 200 employees were drawn to be the sample population from a total guard-strength of 1,775 security personnel at Kings Guards Nigeria Limited, Abuja branch. This number includes guards that are deployed daily to various beats, supervisors who visit various beats to oversee these guards, and the management and administration team.

Data Presentation and Analysis

200 questionnaires were administered and 140 questionnaires were returned. This represents a majority of the questionnaires sent.

**TABLE 1.0: Percentage distribution of respondents according to duties in security outfit:
 DUTIES OF RESPONDENTS IN THE OUTFIT**

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	ADMINISTRATIVE	25	17.9	17.9	17.9
	DEPLOYMENT AND INTELLIGENCE	55	39.3	39.3	57.1
	MONITORING AND PATROL	40	28.6	28.6	85.7
	VETTING AND INVESTIGATION	8	5.7	5.7	91.4
	TRAINING AND ASSESSMENT	12	8.6	8.6	100.0
	Total	140	100.0	100.0	

Source: Researcher’s survey results 2016

The above table shows that 55 respondents at 39.29% perform duties related to deployment and intelligence, while 40 respondents 28.57% perform duties of monitoring and patrol. Also 25 respondents at 17.86% perform administrative duties. 8 persons, representing 5.71% of the respondents perform duties related to Vetting and investigation, while 12, at 8.57% perform duties related to training and assessment. This shows that majority of the respondents perform crucial duties that give relevance to their responses to the questionnaires.

TABLE 2.0: Percentage distribution of respondents to the question:

ADVANTAGES OF LSOs OVER GOVT LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	EMERGENCY RESPONSE	25	17.9	17.9	17.9
	FLEXIBLE OPERATIONS	26	18.6	18.6	36.4
	CLIENT SATISFACTION	32	22.9	22.9	59.3
	AFFORDABILITY AND AVAILABILITY	57	40.7	40.7	100.0
	Total	140	100.0	100.0	

Source: Researcher’s survey results 2016

The above table shows that 57 respondents, at 40.71% of the total sample, hold the view that affordability and availability is the major advantage which licensed security outfits have over government law enforcement agency with regards to crime prevention. However, 32 respondents at 22.86% say that client satisfaction is the main advantage of licensed security outfits over government law enforcement agency. While 26 respondents at 18.57% consider flexible field operations as the major advantage, 25 respondents at 17.86% thinks emergency response is the major advantage.

TABLE 3.0: Percentage distributions of respondents to the question:

RESOURCES OFFERED BY LSOs HAVE NOT BEEN HARNESSSED

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	STRONGLY AGREE	48	34.3	34.3	34.3
	AGREE	35	25.0	25.0	59.3
	UNDECIDED	16	11.4	11.4	70.7
	DISAGREE	24	17.1	17.1	87.9
	STRONGLY DISAGREE	17	12.1	12.1	100.0
	Total	140	100.0	100.0	

Source: Researcher’s survey results 2016

The above table shows that 48 respondents, constituting 34.29% of the total sample strongly agree to the question. They are of the opinion that licensed security outfits provide an important resource for combating crime but these resources are not fully harnessed. Also, 35 respondents at 25% agree that licensed security outfits provide an important resource for combating crime but these resources are likewise not harnessed. This suggests that majority of respondents think there is under-utilization of the human and material resources brought forward by licensed security outfits for crime prevention in Nigeria.

**TABLE 4.0: Percentage distributions of respondents to the question:
 LSOs ARE NOT GIVEN THE PROPER SIGNIFICANCE IN THE NIGERIAN
 SECURITY SECTOR**

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	STRONGLY AGREE	57	40.7	40.7	40.7
	AGREE	36	25.7	25.7	66.4
	UNDECIDED	16	11.4	11.4	77.9
	DISAGREE	14	10.0	10.0	87.9
	STRONGLY DISAGREE	17	12.1	12.1	100.0
	Total		140	100.0	100.0

Source: Researcher's survey result 2016

The above table shows that 57 respondents, constituting 40.71% of the sample strongly agree that licensed security outfits are not given the proper significance in the Nigerian security sector. Also, 36 respondents at 25.71% of sample agree with the majority view. While 16 persons at 11.43% are undecided, 14 respondents at 10% and 17 respondents at 12.14% disagree and strongly disagree respectively. This reveals that majority of respondents think that licensed security agencies are not given proper significance in the Nigerian security sector.

**TABLE 5.0: Percentage distributions of respondents to the question:
 SERVICES OFFERED BY LSOs THAT HAVE BEEN ADEQUATELY
 UTILIZED**

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	MANNED GUARDS DUTIES	56	40.0	40.0	40.0
	PATROLLING AND EMERGENCY RESPONSE	36	25.7	25.7	65.7
	ESCORT SERVICES	16	11.4	11.4	77.1
	CROWD SECURITY AND CONTROL	15	10.7	10.7	87.9
	BODY GUARD DUTIES	17	12.1	12.1	100.0
	Total		140	100.0	100.0

Source: Researcher's survey result 2016

The above table shows that 56 respondents, constituting 40% of the sample, think that manned guard services represent the major way that licensed security outfits are being utilized in the country. Also, 36 respondents at 25.71% think that patrolling and emergency response is one of the ways human resources of private security outfits are being adequately utilized. However, 17 respondents at 12.14%, 16 respondents at 11.43%, and 15 respondents at 10.71% consider body-guarding, escort services and crowd security as the ways human resources of private security outfits are being adequately utilized. This shows that a majority of the respondents hold the view that manned guard services, patrolling and emergency responses constitute the prominent ways in which human resources of private security outfits are being utilized in the country.

**TABLE 6.0: Percentage distribution of respondents to the question:
 SERVICES OFFERED BY LSOs THAT HAVE NOT BEEN ADEQUATELY UTILIZED**

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	FIRE PROTECTION	54	38.6	38.6	38.6
	CRISIS MANAGEMENT	38	27.1	27.1	65.7
	EMERGENCY AND CONTINGENCY PLANNING	18	12.9	12.9	78.6
	COUNTER TERRORISM	16	11.4	11.4	90.0
	COMPETITIVE INTELLIGENCE	14	10.0	10.0	100.0
	Total	140	100.0	100.0	

Source: Researcher's survey results 2016

The above table shows that 54 respondents constituting 38.57% of the total sample hold the view fire protection is a major services provided by Licensed Security Outfits in Nigeria that has not been utilized. Also, 38 respondents at 27.14% consider crisis management as a service rendered by Licensed Security Outfits that has not been efficiently harnessed in the country. However, 18 respondents at 12.86%, 16 respondents at 11.43% and 14 respondents at 10% consider emergency and contingency planning, counterterrorism, competitive intelligence, respectively, as the ways in which the human resources and services of licensed security outfits are being underutilized. This reveals that majority of the respondents recognize fire protection, crisis management, emergency and contingency planning, counterterrorism, and competitive intelligence as the services rendered by Licensed Security Outfits but has not been efficiently harnessed in Nigeria.

**TABLE 7.0: Percentage distributions of respondents to the question:
 WAYS TO BETTER ENGAGE LSOs TO SUPPORT THE FIGHT AGAINST CRIME**

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	PERMISSION TO CARRY ARMS	50	35.7	35.7	35.7
	IMPROVED TRAINING	41	29.3	29.3	65.0
	SYNERGY WITH GOVT SECURITY AGENCIES	19	13.6	13.6	78.6
	EFFECTIVE SUPERVISION AND RECOGNITION	18	12.9	12.9	91.4
	INTELLIGENCE SHARING	12	8.6	8.6	100.0
	Total	140	100.0	100.0	

Source: Researcher's survey results 2016

The above table shows that 50 respondents constituting 35.71% of the sample hold the view that permission to carry arms is a very major way to engage licensed security outfits in the fight against crime. Also, 41 respondents at 29.29% thinks that improved training of staff of licensed security outfits will enable them to effectively participate in the fight against crime. However,

19 respondents at 13.57%, 18 respondents at 12.86%, and 12 respondents at 8.57% consider synergy with government security agencies, effective supervision and recognition, and intelligence sharing as ways to better engage licensed security outfits in the fight against crime, respectively. This result shows that respondents think that it is necessary to permit licensed security outfits to possess arms in order to intensify their fight against crime. It is also essential to improve the training given to them, improve their synergy with government security agencies, and provide effective supervision of these licensed security outfits by the body responsible for this (that is, the NSCDC). Perhaps, respondents also advocated for the recognition of these outfits in the security sector and intelligence sharing in the country's security sector.

TABLE 8.0: Percentage distribution of respondents by the question:

IF RESPONDENTS HAVE EVER COLLABORATED WITH ANY GOVT LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	YES	42	30.0	30.0	30.0
	NO	98	70.0	70.0	100.0
	Total	140	100.0	100.0	

Source: Researcher's survey results 2016

The above table shows that 98 respondents at 70% of the sample expressed the view that they have not worked in collaboration with government security agency since their employment in licensed security outfits. However, 42 respondents at 30% of the sample expressed a contrary view. This shows that majority of the respondents have not had the privilege of working in collaboration with government law enforcement agencies. From this, we can infer that there is a poor level of co-operation between Licensed Security Outfits and government law enforcement agencies.

TABLE 9.0: Percentage distributions of respondents to question:

IF THE COLLABORATION WAS MUTUALLY BENEFICIAL

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	YES	37	26.4	88.1	88.1
	NO	5	3.6	11.9	100.0
	Total	42	30.0	100.0	
Missing	System	98	70.0		
Total		140	100.0		

Source: Researcher's survey results 2016

The above table shows that from the 42 respondents that provided 'YES' answer in the preceding question, 37 respondents at 88.1% had experience that was beneficial to both parties while 5 respondents at 11.9% did not have mutually beneficial experience. This reveals that a majority of cases of collaborative operations between licensed security outfits and government security agencies results in mutually beneficial experiences.

TABLE 10.0: Percentage distribution of respondent to question:

COOPERATION WILL BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF BOTH PARTIES

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	STRONGLY AGREE	64	45.7	45.7	45.7
	AGREE	45	32.1	32.1	77.9
	UNDECIDED	5	3.6	3.6	81.4
	DISAGREE	16	11.4	11.4	92.9
	STRONGLY DISAGREE	10	7.1	7.1	100.0
	Total		140	100.0	100.0

Source: Researchers survey result 2016

The above table shows that 64 respondents, constituting 45.71% of the total sample, expressed the view that they strongly agree to the question. They are of the opinion that an efficient framework for co-operation between licensed private security outfits and government law enforcement agencies in Nigeria will greatly enhance the abilities of both parties to provide crime prevention services. Also, 45 respondents at 32.14% agree with the view. However, while 5 respondents at 3.57% are undecided, 16 respondents at 11.43% and 10 respondents at 7.14% disagree and strongly disagree respectively. This shows that majority of respondents believe that operational collaboration with government security agencies is in the best interest of both parties. They are of the opinion that co-operation between licensed security outfits and government law enforcement agencies in Nigeria will greatly enhance the abilities of both parties to provide crime prevention services.

TABLE 11.0: Percentage distribution of respondents to the question:

THERE IS A WORKING FRAMEWORK FOR COOPERATION BETWEEN THEM

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	STRONGLY AGREE	13	9.3	9.3	9.3
	AGREE	15	10.7	10.7	20.0
	UNDECIDED	3	2.1	2.1	22.1
	DISAGREE	27	19.3	19.3	41.4
	STRONGLY DISAGREE	82	58.6	58.6	100.0
	Total		140	100.0	100.0

Source: Researcher's survey results 2016

The above table shows that 82 respondents at 58.57% of the sample strongly disagree with the view that there is a working framework for cooperation between licensed private security outfits and government law enforcement agencies in Nigeria. Also, 27 respondents at 19.29% also disagreed. While 3 respondents at 2.14% are undecided, 15 respondents at 10.71% and 13 respondents at 9.29% agree and strongly agree respectively. This findings shows that majority of respondents do not agree that any framework for cooperation exists between licensed security agencies and government security agencies.

TABLE 12.0: Percentage distributions of respondents to the question:

HOW LSOs CAN WORK CLOSER WITH GOVT LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	INTELLIGENCE SHARING	53	37.9	37.9	37.9
	COLLABORATION FOR PUBLIC SECURITY	47	33.6	33.6	71.4
	TRAINING AND CAPACITY BUILDING	15	10.7	10.7	82.1
	EFFECTIVE MONITORING OF LSO	13	9.3	9.3	91.4
	PUBLIC ORIENTATION	12	8.6	8.6	100.0
	Total	140	100.0	100.0	

Source: Researcher’s survey result 2016.

The above table shows that 53 respondents constituting 37.86% of the sample say that intelligence sharing is the major way that licensed security outfits can work better and closer with government security agencies. Also, 47 respondents at 33.57% think that collaboration for public security is another major way for licensed security outfits to work better and closer with government security agencies. Also, 15 respondents at 10.71% believe that training and capacity building will enable licensed security agencies work better and closer with government security agencies while 13 respondents at 9.29% and 12 respondents at 8.57% chose effective supervision, and public orientation, respectively. This reveals that the relationship between Licensed Security Outfits and government law enforcement agencies is lacking in the following areas: intelligence sharing, collaboration for public security, training and capacity building, effective monitoring of LSO, and public orientation. It is in these areas that respondents have suggested that these two key set of actors in the security sector should strengthen their relationship.

TABLE 13.0: Percentage distribution of respondents to the question:

PERMITTING LSOs TO USE FIREARMS WILL ENHANCE THEIR CRIME FIGHTING ABILITY

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	STRONGLY AGREE	59	42.1	42.1	42.1
	AGREE	45	32.1	32.1	74.3
	UNDECIDED	11	7.9	7.9	82.1
	DISAGREE	13	9.3	9.3	91.4
	STRONGLY DISAGREE	12	8.6	8.6	100.0
	Total	140	100.0	100.0	

Source: Researcher’s survey results 2016

The above table shows that 59 respondents, constituting 42.14% of the total sample, strongly agree with the view that permitting licensed security outfits to use fire arms will enhance their ability to contribute efficiently in combating crime and ensuring security. Also, 45 respondents

at 32.14% agree with the majority position. On the other hand, 11 respondents at 7.86% are undecided on the view while 13 respondents at 9.29% and 12 respondents at 8.57% disagree and strongly disagree respectively with the view. This reveals that majority of the respondents recommend that permitting licensed security outfits to use fire arms will greatly enhance their ability to contribute efficiently in combating crime and ensuring security. This will enable them to assist in combating the rising rate of violent crimes in Nigeria, thereby enhancing security.

TABLE 14.0: Percentage distributions of respondents to the question:

SOME EXTERNAL FACTORS DIMINISH THE PERFORMANCE OF LSOs

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	STRONGLY AGREE	78	55.7	55.7	55.7
	AGREE	40	28.6	28.6	84.3
	UNDECIDED	7	5.0	5.0	89.3
	DISAGREE	8	5.7	5.7	95.0
	STRONGLY DISAGREE	7	5.0	5.0	100.0
	Total	140	100.0	100.0	

Source: Researcher's survey results 2016

The above table shows that 78 respondents, constituting 55.71% of the total sample, strongly agree with the view that there are external factors that diminish the ability of licensed security outfits to contribute efficiently in combating crime and ensuring security. Also, 40 respondents at 28.57% agree with the majority view. On the other hand, 7 respondents at 5% are undecided while 8 respondents at 5.71% and 7 respondents at 5% disagree and strongly disagree with the view respectively. This shows that a majority of respondents hold the view that there are external factors that diminish the ability of licensed security outfits to contribute efficiently in combating crime and ensuring security.

TABLE 15.0: Percentage distributions of respondents to question:

EXTERNAL FACTORS THAT DIMINISH THE PERFORMANCE OF LSOs

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	NON-ARMING	49	35.0	41.5	41.5
	INADEQUATE TRAINING	37	26.4	31.4	72.9
	LACK OF SYNERGY WITH GOVERNMENT SECURITY AGENCIES	17	12.1	14.4	87.3
	LACK OF INTELLIGENCE SHARING	8	5.7	6.8	94.1
	POOR SUPERVISION	7	5.0	5.9	100.0
	Total	118	84.3	100.0	
Missing	System	22	15.7		
Total		140	100.0		

Source: Researcher's survey results 2016

The above table shows that 49 respondents constituting 41.53% of the total sample expressed the view that non-arming of guards from licensed security outfits is the major external factor that undermines the efficiency of the organizations in combating crime and ensuring security. Also, 37 respondents at 31.36% expressed the view that inadequate training is a significant external factor that undermines the efficiency of licensed security outfits in combating crime and ensuring security. However, 17 respondents at 14.41% consider lack of synergy with government security agency as significant in undermining efficiency of licensed security outfits in combating crime and ensuring security. This suggests the majority of respondents consider prohibition of arms and inadequate training for licensed security outfits as major factors affecting the performance potentials of Licensed Security Outfits in combating crime.

TABLE 16.0: Percentage distribution of respondents to the question:

**IF RESPONDENTS THINK THEY HAVE BEEN
ADQUATELY TRAINED**

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	YES	39	27.9	27.9	27.9
	NO	101	72.1	72.1	100.0
	Total	140	100.0	100.0	

Source: Researcher's survey results 2016

The above table shows 101 respondents at 72.1% of the sample expressed the view that guards of licensed security outfits have not been properly trained enough to handle high level security threats and situations that the country has been experiencing while 39 respondents at 27.9% of the sample hold a contrary view. This shows that majority of respondents believe that personnel of licensed security outfits have not been properly trained enough to handle high level security threats and situations such as terrorism, armed robbery, kidnapping and assassinations. This represents a major impediment to their ability to perform their due role in combating crime and ensuring security.

TABLE 17.0: Percentage distributions of respondents to the question:

Which security threats have you been trained to handle?

<i>RESPONSE</i>	<i>FREQUENCY</i>	<i>PERCENTAGE</i>
<i>BOMBING</i>	-	-
<i>ARMED ROBBERY</i>	-	-
<i>RIOTS AND CIVIL UNREST</i>	36	25.71
<i>ASSASSINATION</i>	-	-
<i>THEFT</i>	40	28.6

<i>KIDNAPPING</i>	-	-
<i>VANDALISM</i>	30	21.41
<i>CYBER THREATS</i>	34	24.29
<i>TOTAL</i>	140	100

Source: Researcher's survey result 2016

The above table shows that 36 respondents, at 25.71% of the sample, say that they have been trained to handle riots and civil unrest. 40 respondents, at 28.6% of the sample say that they have been trained to handle theft. 30 respondents, at 21.41%, and 34, at 24.29%, say that they have been trained to handle vandalism, and cyber threats, respectively, while none of the respondents have been trained to handle any of the other security threats listed. These other threats include bombing, armed robbery, assassination, and kidnapping. This reveals that there is more to be done in training licensed security operatives before they are ready to contribute meaningfully to crime prevention in Nigeria.

TABLE 18.0: Percentage distribution of respondents to the question:

IF RESPONDENTS THINK THEY ARE WELL EQUIPPED

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	YES	48	34.3	34.3	34.3
	NO	92	65.7	65.7	100.0
	Total	140	100.0	100.0	

Source: Researcher's survey results 2016

The above table shows that 92 respondents constituting 65.7% of the total sample think that guards of licensed security outfits are not well equipped to handle high level security threats and situations such as the country has been experiencing. On the other hand, 48 respondents at 34.3% think that guards of licensed security outfits are well equipped to handle high level security threats and situations such as the country has been experiencing. This shows that majority of the respondents have identified inadequate equipment as undermining ability of guards to combat crimes and ensure security. The lack of sophisticated security gadgets is another impediment to their performance. This represents another area where licensed security outfits need improvement before they are ready to contribute immensely to crime prevention in Nigeria.

TABLE 19.0: Percentage distribution of respondents to the question:

INTERNAL FACTORS THAT DIMINISH THE PERFORMANCE OF LSOs

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	POOR REMUNERATION	91	65.0	65.0	65.0
	INADEQUATE TRAINING AND EQUIPMENT	24	17.1	17.1	82.1
	LACK OF MODERN COMMUNICATION EQUIPMENTS	12	8.6	8.6	90.7
	MALPRACTICES IN RECRUITMENT, PROMOTION AND DEPLOYMENT	13	9.3	9.3	100.0
	Total	140	100.0	100.0	

Source: Researcher's survey results 2016

The above table shows that 91 respondents, constituting 65% of the total sample, expressed the view that poor remuneration is a major internal factor that undermines the performance of licensed security outfits in combating crime. While 24 respondents at 17.14% consider inadequate training and equipment as undermining factors, 12 respondents at 8.57% and 13 respondents at 9.29% point to lack of communication system and malpractices in recruitment, promotion and deployment. This shows that majority of the respondents attach premium weight to remuneration as a very key factor that influences the performance of security outfits.

TABLE 20.0: Percentage distributions of respondents to the question:

ON CHECKING THE INHIBITING FACTORS

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	IMPROVED SUPERVISION	49	35.0	35.0	35.0
	IMPROVED TRAINING	35	25.0	25.0	60.0
	IMPROVED REMUNERATION	24	17.1	17.1	77.1
	IMPROVED EQUIPMENT AND LICENSE TO CARRY ARMS	22	15.7	15.7	92.9
	ENFORCEMENT OF REGISTRATION AND CERTIFICATION	10	7.1	7.1	100.0
	Total	140	100.0	100.0	

Source: Researcher's survey results 2016

The above table shows that 49 respondents constituting 35% of the sample hold the view that improved supervision will help check most of the inhibiting factors. Also, 35 respondents, at 25% expressed the view that improved training is one of the effective remedies against operational deficiencies by licensed security outfits. While 24 respondents at 17.14% consider improved remuneration and staff welfare as very vital performance enhancement measures, 22 respondents at 15.71% and 10 respondents at 7.14% point to improved equipment and license to

carry arms, and enforcement of registration and certification, respectively. This shows that a majority of respondents are of the view that there are critical measures that can positively impact performance of licensed security outfits. These include improved supervision, improved training and improved remuneration among others.

Findings

This paper sought to identify the ways that Private Security Outfits in Nigeria could positively contribute to the fight against crime and insecurity. Data was primarily derived from questionnaires administered to the staff and employees of Kings Guards Nigeria Limited. It was observed from these data that respondents are aware of the immense contributions that Private Security Outfits could make in combating crime and ensuring security in Nigeria. Private Security Outfits possess certain advantages over government law enforcement agencies. Some of these advantages include:

- i. Flexible Operations:** Private Security Outfits are not constrained by security protocols. Their operations are tailored to fit the specific situation based on security best practices, which may be defined or redefined at will. In other words, they enjoy flexibility in operations.
- ii. Client Satisfaction:** While government resources are spread thin over the country and are often unavailable to some citizens, Private Security Outfits provide whatever resource necessary to fulfill the needs of the client. They are also more unsusceptible to corruption since they are getting paid.
- iii. Availability for Service:** Personnel of Private Security Outfits are almost always available on the scene of an incident. This availability makes Private Security Outfits the most logical first response to emergency situations. The police and other government law enforcement agencies are not always available.

Position of PSOs in the Nigeria's Security Architecture.

Private Security Outfits have not occupied the position that they should in the Nigerian security architecture. The human resources and services that they offer have not been fully harnessed, and they are not given proper significance in the security architecture. While some services offered by these outfits are being utilized, there are many vital services that could be provided by them that are being ignored. Permitting Private Security Outfits to carry arms, providing effective supervision of these private security outfits, recognizing these outfits in the security sector and intelligence sharing in the sector are necessary first steps in remedying this issue.

Synergy between PSOs and Government Law Enforcement Agencies.

Another important step that should be stressed is improving the synergy between government security agencies and Private Security Outfits. Cooperation between the private and public security sector is poor. However, when they work together, the results are mutually beneficial and both sides are able to achieve the shared goal of ensuring security more efficiently. Consequently, while there is currently no working framework for co-operation between these two set of actors in the security sector, establishing one will be in the best interest of both parties. It would allow for a more efficient conduct of crime prevention and security operations. Some areas of consideration for strengthening co-operation include intelligence sharing, collaboration

for public security, training and capacity building, effective monitoring of PSO, and public orientation.

The Way Forward

Private Security Outfits are important actors in the security sector. However, there are impediments to the performance of Private Security Outfits in combating crime and ensuring security in Nigeria. From the available data, the prohibition of these security outfits to carry arms is one of such impediments. While arming private security outfits may not enhance security, it will enable these outfits to deter violent crimes. This however is only one of such inhibiting factors. Others include inadequate training, lack of synergy with government security agencies, lack of intelligence sharing, poor supervision, poor remuneration, inadequate training and equipment, lack of modern communication systems, malpractices in recruitment, promotion and deployment. Consequently, improved supervision, improved training, improved remuneration, improved equipment and license to carry arms, enforcement of registration and certification are some suggested solutions. These could improve their performance and help them carry out their roles in combating crime in Nigeria.

Conclusion

The Private Security Outfits possess certain advantages over government law enforcement agencies. These advantages make them important actors in the security sector. However, this importance has not been properly acknowledged in Nigeria hence, causing a gap in the security architecture of the country. It has also deterred PSOs from performing the role they can in combating crime.

Recommendations

Synergy between government security agencies and Private Security Outfits should be improved. Currently, cooperation between the private and public security sector is poor. However from findings, when they work together, the results are mutually beneficial and both sides are able to achieve the shared goal of ensuring security more efficiently. Consequently, while there is currently no working framework for co-operation between these two set of actors in the security sector, establishing one will be in the best interest of both parties. It would allow for a more efficient conduct of crime prevention and security operations. Some areas of consideration for strengthening co-operation include intelligence sharing, collaboration for public security, training and capacity building, effective monitoring of LSO, and public orientation.

Private Security Outfits should be permitted by law to carry arms in order to be able to deter violent crimes. Management of Private Security Outfits should ensure that sophisticated equipment are provided, and personnel are trained on a wide range of scenarios. This will greatly improve their efficiency. Private Security Outfits should be properly supervised by the body responsible for this (that is, the NSCDC). Registration and certification should only be approved for outfits that have reached a topnotch standard in training and equipment. This would ensure that only outfits that can efficiently carry out their crime prevention roles are licensed. Other important steps that should be taken include improved remuneration to motivate personnel. These could improve their performance and help them carry out their roles in combating crime in Nigeria.

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