



ABSTRACT

Private security guard Companies are becoming key players in the provision of security, especially in the urban centres of the Nigerian society and Kano State in particular. As security demands gradually grow out of increasing household domestication, industrial composition, street exposed markets, the expansion of business networks, financial/commer

THE ROLE OF PRIVATE SECURITY GUARD COMPANIES ON CRIME PREVENTION: A STUDY OF KANO METROPOLIS, NIGERIA

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Introduction

The global expansion in the private security guard industry is directly related to the rising demands for security in the sphere of urbanisation, industrialisation, public safety and the privatisation and commercialisation of public corporations. Some security functions of the police: patrol/surveillance, crime prevention, investigation, intelligence training and the protection of private and state-owned assets are today complemented by the private security guard company. The scenario of the increasing privatisation of public security functions out of the consequences labeled against the drastic weakening of some State's structures in the provision of the required resources for accomplishing the maximum-security needs has placed the private security guard company in a priority position. In Nigeria, complementing government security agencies with the private security guard company has not only contributed to the global development but a feature of hybrid outfit for addressing contemporary security challenges (Alemika, 2015).



cial units, educational and health institutes, security challenges are tied to socio-economic and political drives across the human and the growth of the society. This implies that the activities of the private security guard require more supervision and monitoring from the Nigerian Security and Civil Defence Corps (NSCDC). On the contrary, Okumagba argued that the NSCDC is facing a problem of “dearth of manpower” because the United Nations stipulated a ratio of 1:40, which is one security agent attached to 40 citizens. This shortage of workforce may pose a threat to the supervision and monitoring of the private security guard company in Nigeria. Kano State contains up to 67 registered private security bodies up to 10,000 staff regulated by the NSCDC. Lack of adequate personnel for supervision and monitoring may affect the level of the conformity of the private security guard company, which in turn can be a barrier to crime prevention in the society. The paper explores the role of the private security company in view of the management, regulations and challenges in Kano State, Nigeria.

Keywords: Private Security; Role; Crime Prevention Kano; Nigeria

The significance of private security services in crime prevention range from the general to the specific, as the private securities can be considered as a form of situational crime prevention, in targeted places and potential victims such as warehouses, manufacturing sites, office complexes, housing estates and the like. Private security Companies in Nigeria are organisations that undertake the private investigation of facts or the character of a person or one which performs services of watching, guarding or patrolling for the purpose of providing protection against crimes, but it does not include the police force, the prison service or the military. The public is confident of the skill, quality and effectiveness of the security service in the dealings of the changing environments (Gouver, 2006a & 2016b). The quest for an effective regulatory system for private security services became an essential element in enhancing the contribution of this sector to crime prevention and community safety. The urge for the standards of operations in the private security guard Company influences the Nigerian Security and Civil Defence Corps (NSCDC) Act, 2003.



Abdullahi (2021) argued that Nigeria is currently flagged by different forms of insecurity that need to be tackled in order to promote and protect societal and human development. Security at whatever level means safety and safety begins with accountability. The bedrock of accountability is putting all transactions in writing. Security personnel in all categories (public and private) are expected to record their activities in the Station Diary, and from the report submission can be made to a higher authority. That means, the private security guard company requires governmental regulation. This paper elaborates on the role and activities of the private security guard company in crime prevention.

Private security guard Companies are becoming key players in the provision of security, especially in the urban centres of the Nigerian society and Kano State in particular. As security demands gradually grow out of increasing household domestication, industrial composition, street exposed markets, the expansion of business networks, financial/commercial units, educational and health institutes, security challenges are tied to socio-economic and political drives across the human and the growth of the society. This implies that the activities of the private security guard require more supervision and monitoring from the NSCDC. On the contrary, Okumagba (2019) argued that the NSCDC is facing a problem of “dearth of manpower” because the United Nations stipulated a ratio of 1:40, which is one security agent attached to 40 citizens. This shortage of workforce may pose a threat to the supervision and monitoring of the private security guard company in Nigeria. Kano State contains up to 67 registered private security bodies up to 10,000 staff regulated by the NSCDC (Kano State Command, 2018). Lack of adequate personnel for supervision and monitoring may affect the level of the conformity of the private security guard company, which in turn can be a barrier to crime prevention in the society.

The general aim of this paper is to study the regulatory role of private security guard company and its implication on crime prevention in Kano metropolis. The specific objectives are;

1. To identify the scope and role of the private security guard companies in crime prevention in Kano Metropolis.
2. To identify the regulatory functions of the Nigerian Security and Civil Defense Corps on Private Security Guards Company.
3. To find out the challenges facing the Nigerian Security and Civil Defense Corps in its regulatory mandates of the private security guard companies.



Literature Review

The literature reviewed for the study include: conceptual framework, the structure of private security organizations, trends and employee characteristics in private security, the regulation and training of private security sectors, types of private security, the advantages and disadvantages of the private security industry, an empirical evaluation of the private security guard company in Nigeria.

Security

The word “Security” emanated from the Greek word “se-cura”, meaning to be in a state of no fear. The term "security", on one hand, suggests a safe, just and inclusive climate (Wood & Shearing, 2020); on the other hand, it raises the specter of repressive state control that involves the persecution of minorities and the removal of due processes and mechanisms for the protection of people and property (Hallsworth & Lea, 2015). Fundamentally, security is an '•umbrella" term under which there are multiple dimensions (Valverde, 2015;). It can be deployed to describe a subjective feeling of safety or as an objective state of being protected from the possibility of danger, as well as the means of pursuing either of these streams (Zedner, 2020). The safety aspect of security involves protection from physical threats and safeguards for emotional, psychological and financial well-being. This, in turn, suggests that security is much broader in scope and, therefore, involves a wide range of governing processes to make it a reality (Valverde, 2015).

Private Security

According to scholars private security is an industry that operates along corporate lines and provides security services that are mostly independent of the state and seeks to protect their clients against man-made and natural hazards. Further, described it as those organisations other than the police, who are occupied primarily with preventing crime and harm to specific individuals, organisations or facilities. Scholars sees the private security Company as a legally registered business entity that supplies security on a contractual basis regardless of the situation. Similarly, according to Inyang (2015), in Nigeria private security consists of the activities of night-watchmen. These include individuals who are employed directly without the influence of the state or any security company to supply guard services at various homes, business premises, religious places, schools, hospitals



and the like for a fee. Experts do not agree about what constitutes a private security and various definitions have been used in prior research. Definitional differences tend to include the focus of job tasks, the influence of profit and the client and the inclusion of products, such as the manufacturing, distribution and installation of equipment and technology. Several of the most commonly cited definitions are discussed below.

Private security is defined as "all types of private organisations and individuals providing all types of security-related services, including investigation, guard, patrol, lie detection, alarm and armoured transportation" (Kakalik & Wildhorn, 1971b, p. 3). One common function across most of these services, according to that study, is "crime prevention and detection" (p. 18). Hallcrest argued that a broader definition of private security that includes physical information and employment-related security is a more accurate representation of its roles and responsibilities, as opposed to the "private police" label applied by Kakalik and Wildhorn (1971b). stated that private security provides protection against not only crime but also four additional threats: waste, accident, error and unethical practice. The broad definition commonly used today, the term "private security" can represent a wide range of organisations, including corporate security, security guard Company, armoured car businesses, investigative services and many others. Personnel hired by these Company can be armed or unarmed and can be employed as either in-house or contract. Private security is essential to ensuring the security and safety of persons and property, as well as intellectual property and sensitive corporate information. Private security officers are responsible for protecting many of the nation's institutions and critical infrastructure systems, including industry and manufacturing, utilities, transportation and health and educational facilities. Company are also heavily invested in private security, hiring security firms to perform functions, such as store security, private investigations, pre-employment screening and information technology (IT) security. These services are used in a wide range of markets, from the commercial to the residential. Some Companies hire their own security personnel, whereas others contract with security firms for these services or use a mix of the services both proprietary and contract staff.

Public Perceptions on the Role of the Security Guard Company in Nigeria

Private security organisations in Nigeria have become more visible in crime prevention because of the rise in the crime rate due to mass urbanisation and



population expansion. Additionally, in Nigeria, the Police cannot always prevent crime as an important part of proactive crime prevention because of inadequate manpower, advanced technological means and programmatic means for fear reduction. Therefore, the private security Company who do possess all these qualities are in a solid position to assist the Nigerian Police. Thus, the vacuum created by the inadequacy of state actors both in manpower and technology provide security are certainly to be filled by the private security Company (Ekhomu, 2020). The private security Company in Nigeria also complement the activities of the public Police by providing private security mainly to the private business sector and members of the public. As such, industry has continued to play an important role in crime and loss prevention In a study conducted by Omotosho and Aderinto (2014), it was found out that majority of the respondents in gated neighbourhoods perceived their neighbourhoods to be safe with the employment of the private guard. They confirmed that they always had a sense of fear reduction anywhere they come in contact with private guards.

Kasali (2015) postulated that one of the challenges of private security guards in Nigeria is lack of adequate training. Most private security companies are always in the habit of recruiting people as guards with very little or no training. Many of the private security guards undergo only physical fitness training while they do not know several other aspects of security training, including intelligence collection and analysis, martial arts, crowd control, riot control, data mining and automated data analysis in crime mitigation, to mention a few. This problem is not peculiar to unregistered private security firms, but also many registered and big security outfits show little interest to the periodical training of their guards while all they care for is to maximise profits. This problem has been responsible for the incompetence and inefficiency in the activities of many private guards in Nigeria. The problem of poor wages and working conditions also appears to be one of the leading factors militating against efficiency in private security activities in the country. Despite the high cost of living, many private security guards earn salaries as low as N6, 000 (less than US\$40) per month (Abrahamsen & Williams, 2015). It is unfortunate that government has never considered in its regulation of private security activities the importance of prioritising the welfare of guards commissioned by various private security Company in the country. Though one cannot but agree with the government if it argues that it cannot prevail on all private security firms to improve the welfare of their guards because it is not all of



them that are registered, but the truth of the matter is that both unregistered and registered Company are culprits of the pauperisation of guards. Most unregistered private firms decide to "pay guards according to the value of individual contracts so that in effect guards at the same level and with the same experience earn different wages depending on where the company deploys them" (Abrahamsen & Williams, 2015). As such, poor working conditions confronting a large number of private security guards in the country are making many of them have low job satisfaction, which has led to low job performance and lack of commitment to the job among them (Kasali, 2015).

Theoretical Framework

Situational Crime Prevention Theory: the main proposition of environmental criminology is that the nature of criminal opportunities influences the amount, nature and location of crime. Importantly, as notes, "all theories of crime are also theories of crime prevention." Because theories identify the sources of crime, they tell us what conditions must be altered to eliminate such conduct. In this regard, environmental scholars argue that their "opportunity theory" suggests a straightforward way to reduce crime: focus on taking away the opportunity needed to commit an offence. is one of the most influential proponents of this idea, which he captured with the term of "situational crime prevention." In his perspective argues that criminologists have focused too much attention on the origins of "criminal dispositions." This limited in rest. It is problematic because it ignores the role of opportunity in both causing and preventing crime. In his view, more traditional theories even if they are correct in identifying why criminal dispositions or motivations arise to provide a few clues as to how to prevent crime effectively. Clarke argues that once acquired by offenders, these dispositions are hard to change through rehabilitation. Further, trying to eliminate the "root causes" of these dispositions societal conditions, such as economic inequality, community disorganisation or ineffective parenting are difficult By contrast, Clarke contends that opportunities, which occur at the very point at which crime, would take place, are more open to being manipulated. In other words, the focus is not crime-generating conditions that occurred in the past (e.g., earlier in an offender's life) but on the present situation in which the crime transpires. This is why the perspective is called "situational crime prevention."



The priority is given to situations also led these scholars to explore whether crime was concentrated in specific locations and had demonstrated that crime was higher in some neighbourhoods than in others. However, the environmental criminologist is concerned with even more specific locations. Thus, within even high-crime areas, some places are crime-free whereas others suffer repeated victimisations. Sherman and his colleagues termed these places "hot spots" for crime, a now-classic concept that has received much attention (Eck & Guerette, 2012; Madensen & Eck, 2013; Weisburd, Groff, & Yang, 2012).

The interest in places has prompted scholars to explore ways in which locations troubled with crime can be made less vulnerable to offenders. Methods have included making the immediate environment less attractive to offenders (e.g., closing off streets so as to limit escape routes), making the place physically more defensible (e.g., adding locks or alarms) and enlisting people to provide surveillance. In this last category, the guardianship is provided by "place managers" whose job it is to "discourage crime" (Cullen et al., 2002; Felson, 1995; Madensen and Eck, 2013).

In relation to the above theory, the private security guard company could be explained in terms of its function, focus and strategy. This means the private security guard Company should focus on strategies that increase the risk for offenders to be detected. The theory differs from other tradition theories that relate the origins, causes and management of security, but the theory creates a modern angle for exploring criminal investigation and surveillance in the sphere of security. This means the private security guard Company should be rated within the framework of the modern environment in ensuring crime delectation. The private security guard company under theory are not to control crime within the frame of the police in the use of arms, but the regulation of situational prevention strategies in making the choice of crime less attractive, such as placing bars on a store window, placing personal identification numbers to unlock doors and installing cameras or the private Company banks, parietals and households to ensure possible and visible atmosphere to be predictable space for crime-free space that could motivate the social, economic and political transitions in the environment.

This means the NSCDC should serve as what called the place managers whose job is to discourage crime within the private security guard company. The fact that these Companies prevent and control crime does not charge the profit aim of the



organisation. In so doing, the NSCDC must keep an eye on the operations, administration, funding, registration, inspection and back up inside staff within a secret frame to serve as surveillance in disclosing any criminal attempts by the organisation or the individual staff.

The theory could not be used in explaining structural failures or institutional deficiencies in the sphere of the security demands of the environment. The theory also could not be used in relating class differences to the need of security, especially in the private security guard company where only those with economic or political privileges enjoy its access. The theory has no link to the failure of the staff welfare and wages in relation to the security officer duties attached to the organisation.

Methodology

The paper deployed numerous techniques to study the role of private security guard company on crime prevention. This chapter presented the followings: the population of the study, sample size, sampling technique, method of data collection and the research instruments instrument.

Population of the Study

In this research, the study population includes the NSCDC, private security guard Company and the clients of the private security guard company. The NSCDC Command 2018 the staff strength of NSCDC Kano State Command (both senior and junior staff), is 1,200; the PSG Department contains a total of twenty eight staff, out of which, eight desk officers are assigned across the metropolis. The private security guard Company in each of the eight Local Government Areas is monitored by the NSCDC desk officer. Twenty other staff are based in the NSCDC Command for the supervision of the administrations of the PSGC. There are a total of 67 private security guards Company registered under the regulations of NSCDC in Kano. Nineteen Company have head offices in Kano; forty seven Company have branches of operations in Kano state. The third segment is the clients of the private security guard Company in the State, which constitute the households, individuals and organizations. The current projected metro area population of Kano in 2021 is 4,103,000, a 2.6 percent increase from 2020 3,999,000, and a 2.38 percent (3,906,000) in 2019, which is a 2.25 percent increase from 2018.



Sample Size and Sampling Techniques

Referring to the nature of the study population, the research sampled one thousand respondents to form the population of the study as follows: forty percent or four hundred (400) respondents were drawn from 10,000 guards working with the 67 registered private security guards in the State. Ten percent of the total sample size, that is one hundred (100) respondents, were drawn from the six departments of the NSCDC (Intelligence and Investigation, Disaster and Crises Management, Administration, Technical, Finance, Operations and Private Guard Company). Fifty percent of the total sample size, or 500 respondents (clients of the private security guard company), were drawn from organisations, institutions and households patronising the private security guards Company in the Kano Metropolis. At the end of the survey only nine hundred and seventy (970) responses were generated. The paper adopted stratified and purposive sampling technique in selecting its respondents which were grouped into three categories.

Method of Data Collection

The study adopted survey and In-depth interview in collecting the data. A questionnaire was designed with both closed and open-ended questions.

Table 1: In-depth interview from the Stakeholders, Organisations and Households

Stake holder Institution	Number of Personnel	Officer's Portfolio
NSCDC	05	1. Assistant Commandant, PGC 1. Deputy Spt. PGC 1. Local Govt Supervisor PGC 1. Reporting Officer PGC 1 Operations Officer PGC
Private Security Guard Company	05	1. Director 1. Assistant Director 1. Manager 1. Operation Manager 1. Accountant
	10	3. Private Organisations 3. Public Organisations 3. Individuals 1. Non-Governmental Organisation

(Statistical Package for the Social Sciences) was used to simplify the sequential process in quantifying the data. Percentages, frequencies, pie chart, bar chart and



cross-tabulation presentations were applied on the nine hundred and fifty (950) retrieved questionnaires and interpreted in opinion polls.

Socio-Economic and the Demographic Characteristics of the Respondents

This section deals with the socio-economic and demographic characteristic of the respondents in the study area which includes sex, age, marital status, number of children, educational qualification and monthly income.

Table 2: Socio-Economic and demographic characteristics of the respondents

Variables	Frequency	Percentage
Sex	675	71.1
Male	270	28.4
Female	5	0.5
No response	950	100
Total		
Age		
20 years below	30	3.2
21 - 30 years	274	28.8
31 - 40 years	594	62.5
41 - 50 years	3	0.3
51 - 60 years above	46	4.8
No response	3	0.3
Total	950	100
Marital Status		
Single	203	21.4
Married	556	58.5
Divorced	56	5.9
Widow/Widower	109	11.5
No response	26	2.7
Total	950	100



Educational Qualification		
Primary	297	31.3
Secondary	355	37.4
Tertiary	201	21.2
Qur'anic/Islamic only	45	4.7
Others	52	5.5
Total	950	100
Years in Service		
1-5years	401	42.2
6-10years	291	30.6
11-15 years	134	14.1
16-20years	78	8.3
21years and above	46	4.8
Total	950	100
Rank	172	
Senior Staff	551	18.1
Junior Staff	141	58
Technical Staff	86	14.8
Clerical Staff	970	9.1
Total		100
Monthly Income	8.2	
₦10,000 and below	20.6	
₦10,001 – ₦20,000	55.4	
₦20,001 – ₦30,000	15.3	
₦30,001 and above	0.5	
No response	100	
Total		

Source: Field Survey, 2018.



The Table above shows the distribution of the respondents' socio-demographic characteristics. It reveals that 71.1% were males and 28.4% females. This shows that males constitute the highest in the study sampled. The age distribution reveals that, 62.5% are between 31-40 years, 28.8.0% 21-20 years, 4.8% 51-60 years above and 3.2% and 0.3% 20 years below and 41-50 years respectively. The data revealed that majority are at the age range of 31-40 years. Their marital status reveals that 58.5% are married, 21.4% single, 11.5% widowed and 5.9% divorced. The study further shows that those that are married are the highest number, indicating that majority are adults who have family experience and an expected sense of maturity. Those who are involved into the activities of private security guard company either as clients, staff or regulatory agency are adults with family responsibilities.

The education data reveals that 37.4% attend secondary school, 31.3% primary school, 21.2% tertiary institutions, 4.7% Qur'anic/Islamic only and 5.5% have other educational qualification. The study shows that those who attended secondary school are the highest number of in the sample. On years in service, the result shows that 42.2% have between 1-5years, 30.6% in the range of 6-10years, 14.1% 11-15years; 8.3% 16-20years, while 4.8% range from 21years and above are in service. This shows that those who are in service between 1-5years constitute the highest percentage in the sample. This is not a surprise because in many organizations junior staffs tend to be more than the senior. Data on rank shows that more than half (58%) are junior staff, and 18.1% are senior staff in their various places of work, 14.8% are technical staff 9.1% clerical staff. This shows that most of the respondents that participate in the survey are junior staff. Their monthly income data reveal that 55.4% receive between the range of ₦20,001 - ₦ 30,000 monthly, 20.6% ₦10,001 - ₦20,000; 15.3% ₦31,000 and below and 8.2% ₦30,001 and above. The study shows that those who receives ₦20,001 - ₦ 30,000 monthly, are the highest.

Table 3: Role of the private security guard companies

Role of the Private Security Guard Company (PSGC)	NSCDC Personnel n (%)	PSGC Personnel n (%)	Clients of PSGC n (%)	Total
Provision of Security	100(22.2)	75(20.4)	30(23.1)	205(21.6)
Assisting in achieving organizational goals	60(13.4)	64(16.0)	20(15.4)	144(15.1)
Complementing the role of the public security efforts	50(11.1)	44(8.0)	15(11.5)	109(11.5)
Supporting the public security	40(8.9)	65(16.4)	15(11.5)	120(12.6)
All of the above	200(44.4)	122(39.2)	50(38.5)	372(39.2)
Total	450(100)	370(100)	130(100)	950(100)

Source: Field Survey, 2018



Table 2 enlists the role of the private security guard company where 39.2% of all the categories of respondents claim that all of the above mentioned are roles of private security guard company, followed by the provision of security at 21.6%. This means that Private Security Guard Company provide security functions, complementing public organizations and some roles of public security even though, percent (21.6) urged that they only functions within the stipulated Act. A respondent of an in-depth Interview (an officer from the Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps), reveals that:

The private security guards operate as guards, escorts, surveillance operators, and equivalents because they are there to only complement some of the role of police within limited jurisdictions. The quest is to support and promote security for crime prevention-

Furthermore, a senior staff in security guard company (Pama Global Security Services) in an in-depth interview, reveal that:

The private security guard company provides a more direct security services in which they are responsible to their clients. These clients could be individuals or institutions. The interest of our client is for us to guarantee them our preventive measures for security assurance in their domain. We are contracted to enable confidence of our clients-

The private security guards are expected to deliver in observing, preventing, acting and reporting all sorts of security breach in the domain of operations. The respondents and the private guards in the security industry perceives the role of the private security guard company as complementing some of the roles of public organizations and that of the police. Private Security Guard Company as financially motivated industry while subsidiary respondents to contracting security and not public service support oriented.

A security guard from a private security guard company in an in-depth interview reveals that:

The owner of the company have concern for the clients who are paying the company and do not care much about other populist who are not in contract with the security firm. Any



services provided by our firm must be based on profit motive that is the aim of our security organization.

The above responses indicate that the private security firms in Kano State are private security service providers on contractual terms to interested individuals and corporate organizations. This implied that they are not directly operating within the public leverage, but to provide security to only those who paid for it. The societies are not collectively engage in the services; hence this will limit the prevention quest and make other part of the society vulnerable.

Table 4: Staffing Qualities in Private Security Guard Company

Characteristic of Staffing in PSGC	PSGC Personnel	Percentage
Security Experienced staff	270	72.9
Staff with security educational qualifications	35	9.5
Staff with physical fitness	45	12.2
All of the above	20	5.4
Total	370	100

Source: Field Survey, 2018

As reflected in the above Table, more than half 79.2% of the Private Security Guard Company staff are experienced; 12.2% are staff with physical fitness; 9.5% with security educational qualifications; while a very few (5.4%) did not respond. This implies that majority of the characteristics of staffing in private security guard company are on security experienced. The characteristics of staff in Private Security Guard Company are not just about security educational qualifications or physical fitness, but also security experience that remain the central figure, although other characteristics are considers, but are of less significant.

An In-depth interview respondent with a private security guard in Dala Orthopedic Hospital reveals that:

I only attend Primary school, because I don't have someone to sponsor my education and I needed the means to take care of my needs I then join one private security company, later it collapse because the owner don't pay well. So the majority of us quite the job



and I particularly join bus conductorship from Kano to Maiduguri. When I heard that Kings Guard was established, I then rush and go. In the interview they asked me, whether I have ever worked with any security company, of course yes. They further asked me some few question. Within few days I was call to start work. I cannot say is because of my educational qualification but experience-

A staff of Sahad Store a client of Private Security Guard Company, during interview reveals that:

It is also important to employ operatives who are fit in the body and mind; you know operatives are the only products the security company has to offer and business place like this need security with muscle and strong voice. A lot of our security personnel do not possess high educational qualification and that is limiting the extent to which we and our customers utilized them.

A respondent (client of private security guard company) in an in-depth interview reveals that:

The private security watching over my stores don't use any weapon, even in the banks I don't see them with weapons. Securing of lives and property of their clients, private security guards can also perform other functions including aptitude assortment and scrutiny, patrolling, observing. (IDI, client private security guard company, 2018).

Table 5: Service coverage of private security guards company

Clients of Private Security Guards Company	PSGC Personnel	Percentage
Ministries, Directorates and Agencies	60	16.2
Household	35	9.5
Market/Business Center/Banks	240	64.8
Other Public places	35	9.5
Total	370	100

Source: Field Survey, 2018



Table 4 indicates respondents' view on the clients of PSGC. The responses indicate that 64.8%, representing Market/Business Center/Banks, are the common clients of the private security guard company; 16.2% indicate Ministries, Directorates and Agencies as the clients of private security guard company. The respondents also attest that households and other public places (9.5%) each respectively as their clients. This implied that majority of the PSGC clients are Ministries, Directorates and Agencies and also indicates that crime prevention functions of the PSGC take place in the commercial and institutions, very little of the operations involve the domestic area.

A respondent from among the private reveals that:

Majority patronage of the services provided by the private security guard Company are financial/cooperate private ventures, NGOs and some sensitive government agencies. Sometime rich personalities among the residential communities do patronize the services. The communities are not interested in our services only the very few ones who are rich or occupying political status. In my assertion, security is every bodies business. Banks and other agencies and cooperation's like the mobile Company do patronize our services.

An in-depth interview with a staff of NSCDC reveals that:

The patrons of the private security guard Company are Banks, profit oriented private sectors like the MTN, national and international agencies, philanthropists and politicians. The patronage of the service of the private security guard company is too expensive for an average class to be paying every month. Some security Company pay their staff up to ten thousand naira monthly, which means the client is paying the company more than that. These services are easier subscribed by organizations.

The above responses indicate that Private Security Guard Company are patronized more by organizations and financial institutions. Only a very insignificant portion of the settlement households (11.8%) patronize the services of the Private Security Guard Company. Majority of the populace are urban dwellers with families. The priority protection here should be family members. Hence, the expensive nature



of the service and the dominant of cheaper traditional security in Nigeria are among the factors discouraging the use of private security guards. The protocol of subscription, affordability and customary believes are among some factors discouraging the patronage of private security guard company. Misperception, illiteracy and lack of understanding the value of security among the majority populist in Kano redeemed the issue of true in contracting the private security guard Company. The wide spread security challenge; rape, kidnapping, phone-robbery and terrorism are alarming in the residential areas of the Urban Kano, while patronize of the private security guards are located in commercial and business areas.

Table 6 Kind of security provided by Privat Security Guard Companies

Kind of Security Service PSGC Provide to their Clients	PSGC Personnel			Clients of PSGC			
	Yes	No	No Responses	Yes	No	No Responses	Total
Provides those services exclusively for an employers who is not a private security employers	195 (52.7)	175 (47.3)	0 (0.0)	70 (53.8)	0 (0.0)	60 (46.2)	520 (100)
Monitors security equipment	230 (61.1)	140 (39.9)	0 (0.0)	81 (62.3)	49 (37.7)	0 (0.0)	520 (100)
Supervises and inspects security guards while they are guarding or patrolling	199 (53.8)	160 (43.2)	11 (3.0)	60 (46.2)	0 (0.0)	70 (53.8)	520 (100)
A Company a guard dog while the dog is guarding or patrolling	187 (50.5)	183 (49.5)	0 (0.0)	65 (50.0)	65 (50.0)	0 (0.0)	520 (100)
Controls, supervises, regulates, restricts or directs the movements of persons, whether in vehicles	225 (60.8)	145 (39.2)	0 (0.0)	90 (69.2)	0 (0.0)	40 (30.8)	520 (100)

Source: Field Survey, 2018

Table 5 reveals responses on the kind of security service Private Security Guard Company provide to their clients. 69.2% of the clients of PSGC and 60% of the PSGC indicate the nature of the services provided by the private security guard company mostly includes controls, supervises, regulates, restricts or directs the movements of persons, and vehicles. Second to these responses is the monitoring of the



security equipment. This implies that the Private Security Guard Company performs the services of guarding physical premises to ensure the safety of movements of people, properties and vehicles.

A respondent (staff of private security guard company AKTH) in an in-depth interview reveals that:

The security personnel that you see all around, they are posted to various location of the hospital. Those at the gate normally control and direct the movement of people, if you come with car or motor-cycle, they will give you a tag. This tag serves as a means of preventing car or motor-cycle from theft. Some at variety of the hospital department normally supervise and direct people who cannot locate a particular place in the hospital and they also restricts unauthorized persons from entering sensitive areas in the hospital

Furthermore, a client organization in an interview reveals that:

... They normally direct and open access door to the customers. They also take care of violate customers inside the bank. They also assist in directing customers to areas where their services can be accessed. They tell us perking, government and entrance protocols.

A private security guard company respondent equally supported the above in an in-depth interview:

Sometimes they send us to buy food for the staff of the organizations we are serving. We do not have a specific job, we are asked to either look after movements of people or not to allow kids to go out of home. In some homes, we do car cleaning for the client.

A staff of private security guard company in an in-depth interview also reveals that:

Usually we provide our clients with electronic safety, special events security, risk management, digital display system, vehicle tracking, CCTV Surveillance, VIP security, escorts, and guard dogs.



We respond quickly to our clients that is why we have many clients.

The responses above indicate that private security guards perform security services like control, supervising, regulating, restricting or directing the movements of persons, whether in vehicles. They provide those services exclusively for employers who are not private security employers by supervising and inspecting security guards while guarding or patrolling and monitor security equipment.

Discussion of Findings

The Scope and Role of the Private Security Guard Company

The paper observes that the Private Security Guard Company performs several security roles, even though each category responded reflected on the knowledge role it witnessing, either as a client, NSCDC or the Private Security Guard Company. Forty one point nine percent (41.9%) of the responses complied that the scope and role of the private security guard company is cantered on provision of security, complementing some of the functions of public security, supporting the functions of public security and crime prevention and assisting in achieving organizational goals. The private security guards are expected to deliver in observing/watching, guarding, patrolling, preventing, acting and reporting all sorts of security bridges in the domain of operations. Apart from securing of lives and property of their clients, private security guard company also execute other functions including astuteness collection and analysis, patrolling, crowd control, electronic surveillance among others. Responses also indicate the abuse of the security role of the private security guards; some clients treat them like housemaids, who watch over their children, cleaning and driving.

The study reveals that the scope of PSG is the provision of security services to ministries, directorates, agencies, public place, households, market/business centers and related others. 60% of the respondents revealed that the PSG are commonly found in market/business centers and Banks. Majority responses (69.2%) indicated that controls, supervises, regulates, restricts or directs the movements of persons and vehicles are the dominant security services provided by the PSGC. They mostly carry out their role of security outfit with Para-police, police and vigilante groups.



Responses from the study indicate that routine and strategic security effects are poor in the PSGCs because of limited education among staff of the private security guard Company. It was observed that 80.0% of the responses indicate that the guards are recruited based on security experience and 10.0% on physical fitness only 6.0% is based on educational qualification. Quality assurance in security service delivery is measured by the intellectual and physical capacity of the personnel in charge. So, while crime might be reduced in one locality, it is held, the overall crime rate does not drop. With the scope of operations in the private security guard company, the criminals displaced to areas where private security guard company does not operate still exist, which means crime rate may not drop. Responses from the study indicated that the private security guard Companies is patronized more by organizations and financial institutions. It implies that only a very small of the settlement households (11.8%) patronize the services of the private security guard company. Majority of the populace in the Kano metropolis are urban dwellers with families.

Widespread security challenges as rape, kidnapping, phone-robbery and terrorism are alarming and show the need for upgrading criminology. The finding goes in line with the view of opining that the commercial sector is the primary market for private security and virtually all the businesses of any size in Nigeria employ private security in one form or another; as do international organisations, NGOs and embassies; the level of urban expansion; business entities and increase domestication is attracting safety policies for profound security consciousness. On the other hand, it contradicted the views of Ekhomu (2013) that private security guard company must be improved to the capacity of public safety and crime prevention. If the private security guard company will limit its activities to the minority subscribers as the study implied, the quest for crime prevention will be doomed.

The study found out that the activities of the PSGCs are limited to those who contracted them, but not neighbourhoods nor the entire populace, because responses indicate that 21.1% of the private security guard Company are contracted by ministries and agencies, 56.6% by markets and banks. Private security guard Company in Nigeria can only deter and prevent crime against their individual clients, not the society in which they operate. The societies are not collectively engaging the services, hence that will limit the prevention quest and make other part of the society vulnerable. These findings are in accords with view Keku &



Akingbade (2003) that in Nigeria the private security guard company operate more on the commercial sector and business environment. Even though the findings are inline with the assertion of the Environmental design theory by Landman (2008), the capacity of physical environment to create attraction for criminal influences. These kind of environments like banks and malls need security attention because they influence criminality. .

The private security guard company directly contributes to the nation's employment status and sources for revenue generation. The study finds out that the scope of the private security guard company has opened a vacuum for significant employment that cuts across youth and adults. There are seventy six (67) registered private security guard Companies in Kano State and each has its own employees, who are either youth or experienced adults.

The PSGC provide contractual security services related to watching, guarding or patrolling for the purpose of crime prevention. The clients are financial institutions, commercial centers, supermarkets, ministries, directorates, agencies, public places, market/business centers and residence areas. The study concluded that control, supervising, regulating, restricting or directing the movements of persons and vehicles are the dominant security services provided by the PSGC.

In regulating the activities of the PSGC, the NSCDC, through one of its six departments called PSG Department, perform three cardinal regulatory roles: licensing, training and supervision/monitoring the activities of the PSGC towards crime prevention. The private security guards are used by some clients to perform both security and maid's related activities: guarding, gardeners, patrol, surveillances, crowd control, driving, deliveries and other domestic helps. There is low performance in the activities of the PSGC towards preventing crimes in the study area. The reasons include misusing the staff of private security, limited professionalism in the private security industry, poor supervisory logistics and inadequate training personnel and facilities.

Recommendation

- i. The NSCDC Act has to be reviewed to reduce the cost of registering and renewing the license of the Private Security Guard Company for easy access and credibility of the industry.
- ii. The NSCDC Act should mandate an electronic surveillance system in the activities of private security guard company to enhance crime prevention.



- iii. The regulatory role of the NSCDC should devise database security operations for incorporating staff monitoring model through coding of the PSGC.
- iv. Training of the PSGC should be divided into two, namely standard and emergence training. The standard training should be the regular training base on period, while the emergence training should focus on rising issues bedevilling humanity and how to prevent it.
- v. The private security Company should be mandated by the Act to provide the guards with preventive bullet proof vests to reduce the risk of combat hazards, since they are not allowed to carry weapons.
- vi. The Act of the PSGC should prohibit the use of private guards for house maid functions.
- vii. Recruitment of the private security guards should give preferences to educational qualifications.
- viii. Training colleges should be established for PSGC staff, and the NSCDC should be mandated to take charge of such training institutes, thereby assisting the private security guards in imbibing the proactive policing style of professionalism and intelligence gathering.
- ix. There is the need for the amendment of the existing Private Guard Company Act to check those areas that appear obsolete. This is needed with regards to welfare, working condition, training, sanctions and appropriate facilities for effective security services required for crime prevention.
- x. The Act should be reviewed to include the client's rights of contract and prohibitions, especially on abuse of client, misuse or misconducts of staff of PSGC by clients.

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