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Commercial Organizations in Calabar, Cross River State, Nigeria

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Abstract

A peaceful and secure environment is observed as one of the requirements for the attainment of organizational goals and objective. This is also one of the fundamental responsibilities of governments across all levels. However due to the increased security challenges in the society and the overstretched nature of the security agencies especially the Nigeria Police, commercial organizations have resorted to the use of Private Security arrangements to combat and prevent crime in their domain. This study examines the relationship between private security and security of commercial organizations in Calabar, Cross River State, Nigeria. The study specifically seeks to examine the impact these private security have on the security of lives and infrastructures in commercial organizations in Calabar. The study adopted the quantitative method of data collection. The population of the study are staff of some selected commercial organizations in Calabar, Cross River state, Nigeria. The instrument of data collection is the questionnaire. Data collected from the field was analyzed using simple percentage and Pearson Product Moment Correlation analysis. Findings revealed that there was a significant relationship between private security and security of lives and infrastructures in commercial organizations in Calabar, Cross River State, Nigeria. The study thereby recommend amongst others that The Nigerian government in consultation with relevant stakeholders in the private security industry should urgently review the legal framework for PSCs particularly the PGC Act of 1986 and align its provisions with global standards and practices in the private security industry to make them more effective in carrying out their duties.

Keywords: 1.Commercial Organizations, 2.Infrastructures, 3.Private Security, 4.Safety, 5.Security.

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). 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& 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 and private organizations 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. 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&Akpo-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. It is now a common trend in the country where each components unit that made up the entire country have decided to create different security apparatus. Lagos – Neighborhood watch, Kaduna – Vigilance services, Sokoto – Yan banga, Zamfara – Yaukansau, Kano – Hisbah Corps, Borno – Civilian joint task force, Yobe – local hunters empowered to carry out security duties, Rivers – Neighborhood safety corps, Ebonyi – Neighborhood Watch Group, Osun – “OLODE”, Benue – Livestock Guards, Katsina – “Yan-sakai, Edo – Neighborhood watch, Cross River – Green Sherif, Enugu – Forest Guards, Taraba – Taraba Marshals, Anambra – Anambra Vigilante services, Ondo – Vigilante Group of Nigeria. Uhumwuango&Aluforo (2011) asserts that the security challenges faced by the nation seem 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). As a result, while the state remains dominant in the security sector in the present age, it is not the only significant actor (Odinkalu, 2004). No government has the wherewithal to provide one hundred percent security for her people, hence the need for the corporate private security providers (corporate providers) to complement efforts of state actors in crime prevention (Ekhomu, 2004). Mayah (2003) opines that this expansion in security need gave rise to Corporate Private Security Organizations (CPSOs), first in the developed world and later in the developing world. This study is aimed at examining the impact of private security in the security of commercial organizations in Calabar, Cross River state, Nigeria.

Problem Statement

Calabar, a microcosm of the Nigeria state is currently faced with serious security challenges that constitute immediate, short-term and long-term threats to security and development of the municipality, the state and Nigeria as a whole. Resolving these challenges is the constitutional and statutory responsibility of the Nigeria Police Force, Nigeria Security and Civil Defense Corps (NSCDC), and other public security agencies. However, with the presence of these statutory security agencies, Calabar is still faced with the problem of providing policing services to all the citizens and corporate organizations, who provide services to the citizenry of the area. 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 Calabar, Nigeria.

It is well recognized all over the world that peace and security are the primary conditions for any business organization to progress and run smoothly in any society (Besley, Persson, & Sturm, 2010). So in a crime prone society such as Calabar, where the resources of the government and security agencies are over stretched, corporate organizations begin to source for private security organizations to provide additional security for their organizations. This study, therefore, is set out to examine the relationship between private security companies and the safety of commercial organizations in Calabar, Cross River State, Nigeria.

Research questions

- i. To what extent has private security been able to secure lives in commercial organizations in Calabar?
- ii. To what extent has private security been able to secure business infrastructures in commercial organizations in Calabar?

Objectives of the Study

The objective of the study is to examine the relationship between private security and security of commercial organization in Calabar, Cross River State, Nigeria. The study aim to;

- i. Examine the relationship between private security and the security of lives in commercial organizations in Calabar, Cross River State, Nigeria.
- ii. Examine the relationship between private security and the security of business infrastructures in commercial organizations in Calabar, Cross River State, Nigeria.

Statement of the Hypotheses

- i. There is no significant relationship between private security and the security of lives in commercial organizations in Calabar, Cross River State, Nigeria.
- ii. There is no significant relationship between private security and the security of business infrastructures in commercial organizations in Calabar, Cross River State, Nigeria.

Literature Review and Theoretical Framework

Literature Review

Private security companies and security of commercial organizations

Private security services have been around since the beginning of civilization when human settlements began marking territories and introduced concepts of public and private properties. Goddard (2001) opined, "A private security company as a registered civilian company that specializes in contracting commercial services to domestic and foreign entities with the intent to protect personnel and humanitarian and industrial assets within the rule of applicable domestic law". Abrahamson and William (2011) refer to private security companies as the "companies whose aim is offering protection for protection of life and assets". According to Singer (2005), the general trend of globalization towards privatization and outsourcing of government functions has resulted in the privatization of security in order to further complement government effort in the protection of life and property of the citizens. 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, Marcus, Bonnie, Kelle, Crystal, Nicole, & Susan (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. Studies have been carried out to determine the impact of private security organization on security and crime control (Afolabi, Olurunke&Adi, 2016; Eke, 2018; Omotoso and Aderinto, 2012)

AfolabiOlurunke and Adi (2016) work aims to examine the roles played by these outfits in combating crime in Nigeria. 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, Calabar 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 analyzed 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.

Eke (2018) examined the relationship between private security companies (PSCs) and the police during crime prevention in Lagos Metropolis, Nigeria. The study elicited data from 1500 randomly selected respondents to a self-administered survey. Data were further collected through purposive in-depth interviews. Descriptive statistics was used for data analysis. The results showed that operational collaboration and networking between PSCs and the police during crime-prevention strategies in Lagos Metropolis were imperative for achieving a crime-free society. The study shows that PSCs and the police are in a collaborative relationship that has had a positive impact on the reduction in crime; however, synergy between PSCs and the police is weak. The study further found that areas in which PSCs and the police collaborate include: escort duties, static guards, investigation, crowd control and patrol duties.

Omotoso and Aderinto (2012) assessed the performance of the CPSOs in crime prevention in Lagos State. Data were obtained using a combination of a questionnaire and Indepth Interview (IDI) methods. Copies of the questionnaire were administered to 1,200 respondents in gated neighborhoods in four Local Government Areas (LGAs) of Lagos State namely, Island, Shomolu, Ikeja and Amuwo/Odofin LGAs. Thirty IDIs were conducted with members of staff and management of private companies, corporate guards, and proprietors of CPSOs. Findings revealed that many residents (46.5%) perceived the performance of corporate guards to be fairly effective, 18.7% perceived them to be ineffective and 34% of the respondents were indifferent. Overall, CPSOs were perceived to be relevant in crime prevention in Lagos State.

Idowu (2018) study focused on the proliferation of Private Security Companies (PSCs) in Nigeria. The study is a survey research, primary and secondary data were collected through, Key Informant Interviews (KII) and questionnaires. The study employed qualitative and quantitative techniques to analyze the data collected. Findings from the study showed that 92% of the respondents affirmed that security of life and properties was not effectively provided by the Government, hence the need for private participation into security provision in the Nigeria. Also 96.7% of the respondents agreed that the presence of PSCs in Nigeria has reduced crime rate.

Theoretical Framework

The study adopted the Disperse Knowledge theory by Friedrich Hayek (1945). The theory was used by Hayek (1945) to explain the framework of privatization. Hayek (1945) brought to attention 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, 1945; Lavoie, 1985).

This theory is mostly used to explain knowledge of economic factors that influence prices and production in the economic system. For this paper, Alternative (private) security organization 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 larger 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.

Methodology

Research design

Quantitative design was adopted for data collection. Quantitative design deals with numbers and anything that is measurable in a systematic way of investigation of phenomena and their relationships. This method allows the researcher to use data gathered from the field to analyze the relationship between private security organization and security of commercial organizations in Calabar. The population are staff and owners of organizations that employ security organizations in Calabar. The organizations that were selected are five banks and their branches in Calabar. Three hundred (300) sample sizedrawn through purposive and random sampling technique. The purposive sampling technique was used in selecting two branches each from five commercial Banks in Calabar, Cross River State, Nigeria. The banks and their branches are highlighted in the table below.

Table 1

S/N	Bank	Branches
1	First Bank	Calabar Main, Main Avenue,
2.	Zenith bank	Mary Slessor, Clement Ebri Branch
3	Guaranty Bank	Murtala Highway branch, Marian Branch
4	Access Bank	Mary Slessor, Murtala Highway branch
5	Fidelity Bank	Etta Agbor, Murtala Highway branch

Source: Field study, 2020

Data collected from the field were collated, coded and analyzed using simple percentage and Pearson Product Moment Correlation Analysis at 0.05 confidence level.

Findings

Presentation of Results

The spread of respondents in respect to gender shows that majority 60.7 per cent (N = 182) are male while only 39.3 per cent (N = 118) are female, this is very true about the population since

more males are engaged in were willing to participate in the study. The spread of respondents in terms of age shows that majority 33.3 per cent (N = 100) are between the ages of 36-45 years, 32.3 per cent (N = 97) are between the ages of 26 – 35 years, 15.0 per cent (N = 19) are 56 years and above, while only 13.0 per cent (N = 39) are 25 years and below, all the age groups are represented since the study did not adopt any exclusion criteria. The compartmentalization of respondents in terms of highest educational level revealed that majority of the respondents 45.3 per cent (N = 136) have either B.Sc/HND/BA/B.Ed or its equivalent, 28.7 per cent (N = 86) have completed secondary school education, 16.7 per cent of the respondents (N = 50) have either MA/M.Sc/MBA/M.Ed or its equivalent while only 9.3 per cent (N = 28) have only first school leaving certificate.

Table 2
Personal/demographic information of respondents

VARIABLE		N	Percentage (%)
Gender	Male	182	60.7
	Female	118	39.3
	Total	300	100
Age of respondent	25 years and below	39	13.0
	26-35 years	97	32.3
	36-45 years	100	33.3
	46-55 years	45	15.0
	56 years and above	9	6.3
	Total	300	100
Highest Educational level	FSLC	28	9.3
	WASC/SSCE	86	28.7
	B.Sc/HND/BA/B.Ed	136	45.3
	MA/M.Sc/MBA/M.Ed & above	50	16.7
	Total	300	100

Statement of Hypotheses

Hypothesis one

There is no significant relationship between private security and the security of lives in commercial organizations in Calabar, Cross River State, Nigeria. To test the hypothesis Pearson product moment correlation analysis was used to analyse the data at 0.05 level of significance and the result is presented in Table 3.

Table 3
Pearson product moment correlation of private security and the security of lives in commercial organizations

Variables	N	Mean	SD	r-value	Sig.
private security	300	14.86	2.38	0.760**	.000
security of lives	300	16.73	2.34		

*Significant at $P < .05$; critical r-value = 0.138; df = 298.

Pearson product moment correlation analysis was conducted to investigate the relationship private security and the security of lives in commercial organizations. As presented in Table 3 the calculated r-value of 0.760 was greater than the critical r-value of 0.138 with 298 degree of freedom, by this result the null hypothesis which states that, There is no significant relationship between private security and the security of lives in commercial organizations in Calabar, Cross River State, Nigeria was rejected while the alternate hypothesis is retained. This implies that, there was positive significant relationship between private security and the security of lives in commercial organizations in Calabar, Cross River State, Nigeria.

Hypothesis Two

There is no significant relationship between private security and the security of business infrastructures in commercial organizations in Calabar, Cross River State, Nigeria. To test the hypothesis Pearson product moment correlation analysis was used to analyse the data at 0.05 level of significance and the result is presented in Table 4.

Table 4
Pearson product moment correlation of private security and the security of business infrastructures in commercial organizations

Variables	N	Mean	SD	r-value	Sig.
private security	300	15.12	2.45	0.581**	.000
security of business infrastructures	300	16.73	2.34		

*significant at $P < .05$; critical r-value = 0.138; df = 298.

Pearson product moment correlation analysis was conducted to investigate the relationship between private security and the security of business infrastructures in commercial organizations. As presented in Table 4 the calculated R-value of 0.581 was greater than the critical R-value of 0.138 with 298 degree of freedom, by this result the null hypothesis which states that, there is no significant relationship between private security and the security of business infrastructures in commercial organizations in Calabar, Cross River State, Nigeria was rejected while the alternate hypothesis is retained. This implies that, there was positive significant relationship between private security and the security of business infrastructures in commercial organizations in Calabar, Cross River State, Nigeria.

Discussion of Findings

The foregoing data analyses revealed of significant facts about the sacrosanct nature of the private security towards ensuring safety of commercial organizations, both lives and property.

Although, sense of actions, policies and regulations have been taken by the government statutory agent saddled with the protection of lives and property in Calabar, there is an obvious lacuna and the withdrawal of the populace from trusting the police. This space has been filled by the private security within Calabar metropolis. It is wise to say that the involvement of the private security outfit have brought enormous safety to commercial organizations within the capital, has their services in comparison with the police, seem different and refreshing. It is obvious from the findings that the capital of Cross River is volatile, as cases of criminal activities have been reported over time in the metropolis. Many of these cases have been reported in several foray to have caused the commercial organizations huge millions in property and periodic loss of lives. This was supported by singer,

(2005) that following global trend, private security was approved of in order to complement government effort in the protection of life and property.

As a complement of the police, facts abound from the findings that shows failed attempt by criminal tendencies to infiltrate commercial organizations which was truncated by the existing synergy between the police force and the private security. This was also the view of Eke (2018) in a study carried out in Lagos metropolis. Findings also revealed that people are apprehensive of the police force in uniform brandishing gun at every opportunity which sometimes aggravate tension and led to eventual loss of lives and property.

Conclusion and Recommendation

The aim of this study is to examine the relationship between private security and security of corporate organization in Calabar, Cross River State, Nigeria. Findings from the analysis of data for the study revealed that respondents feel safe with the employment of the private security in their organization, and that they perceived the general performance of private security to be effective on average. The findings also revealed that with private security, business infrastructures are safe. The study thereby concludes that there is a significant relationship between private security and security of corporate organization in Calabar, Cross River State, Nigeria.

The study thereby recommends that;

- The Nigerian government in consultation with relevant stakeholders in the private security industry should urgently review the legal framework for PSCs particularly the PGC Act of 1986 and align its provisions with global standards and practices in the private security industry to make them more effective in carrying out their duties.
- The government should provide a uniform standard of mandatory training for the entry-level staff of private security companies and standardized specialized trainings for the employees in line with the various components of private security before deployment to their place of primary assignment. The Act should specify the minimum length (at least two months) and content (e.g. lessons on clients' style of living, poise and quick thinking, and a personal protection) of training to be given by all PSCs.
- 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.

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