Security Management and Private Security Outfits in Nigeria

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Abstract

Security is relative and its management is inevitable as it involves the absence of fear, violence and crime. These complexity in security situations resulted in the inclusion of non-state actors in ensuring effective and efficient security management. In the face of this, insecurity is at its peak to the extent, Nigeria is compared with Columbia and Mexico which have the highest rate of crime worldwide. Scholars most often attributed the heightened crime rate to poor or ineffective security management. Equally important is the fact that, there are so many private security outfits to compliment the efforts of government, little or nothing has been done in encouraging private guards in the face of sophistication of security challenges. This study seeks to examine the effectiveness of security management. It further enumerates the contributions of private security outfits in Nigeria. The study recommends people's oriented, adequate reorientation, training, adoption of modern security gadgets and adequate security management to meet with the trends of modern security challenges in the country.

Key words: Security, management, private, outfits. Compliments, consciousness, teamwork, and operations.

Introduction

The body that finances, supervises, recruits and oversees the upkeep of a particular organization, in this sense, the body that oversees security issues is referred to as security management (Ekhomu 2009). Security management is a procedure of asserting information, classifications, threat assessment, risk assessment and risk analysis to identify threats, categories assets and rate system vulnerability in that, they can implement effective control towards goal attainment. Alemika (2011) narrated security as a state of being secured, a situation whereby peace is maintained. The absence of fear, risk, danger and crime. Security management he maintained, is a management field that focuses on the safety of assets (resources) in an organization i.e. both physical safety and digital security. It is closely related to risk management which is aimed at creating through various methods, procedures, guidelines and standards, a permanent secure solution to such conditions which will help prevent or reduce identified risk. Tar (2018) enumerated the objectives of security in Nigeria to include:- the protection of Nigeria's sovereignty, citizens, values, culture, interest and territory against external threats, protection of Nigerians where they may reside, promotion of defence as well as strategic advice and information to government. Promotion of security consciousness among Nigerians, and response to requests for aids to civil authority. Others include, participation in disaster management and humanitarian relief operations and multi-lateral operations. Contributions to international peace and security. Assistance to government agencies and levels of government in achieving national goals and ensuring security. The complexity of achieving these goals are very high, hence the inclusion of non- state actors in security business in Nigeria. Eban and Eban (2014) opined, the state must also ensure unity and cohesion amongst its security-provisioning entities- military and para-military agencies, civil sector, political establishments etc., to ensure efficient and effective management of security, however, other sectors of security play equally important role in supporting the teamwork in security operations in Nigeria.

Security Management Agencies/Organizations: The management of security agencies in Nigeria has the backing of the constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria (1999) as amended, provided for the purpose of promoting the good governance and welfare of all persons in Nigeria on the principles of freedom, equality and justice, and for the purpose of consolidating the unity of the people of Nigeria. It serve as the basis for all security organizations in the country which is solely the responsibility of the government. The national Assembly play host in the maintenance of public order and public security as contained in section 11 (1) of the constitution of Nigeria.

The National Assembly may make laws for the Federation or any part thereof with respect to the maintenance and security of public safety and public order and providing, maintaining and securing of such supplies and services as may be designated by the National Assembly as essential supplies. The constitution further explained the issues of security management in sub section 11 (2) to include the provision for maintenance and security of such security supplies and services as may be designated by the National Assembly thereby designating issues of security management to the National Assembly.

Security management in terms of the Armed Forces of Nigeria is empowered in section 217 (2) which states: The Federal Government is the sole financer of the Armed Forces, it states "The Federation shall subject to an Act of the National Assembly made in that behalf, equip and maintain the armed forces as may be considered adequate and effective for the purpose of:-

- ✓ Defending Nigeria from external aggression
- ✓ Maintaining its territorial integrity and security of its boarders from violations on land, sea, and air.
- ✓ Suppressing insurrection and acting in aid of civil authority to restore order when called upon to do so by the president, but subject to such conditions, as may be prescribed by an Act of the National Assembly; and
- ✓ Performing such other functions as may be prescribed by an act of the National Assembly.

Alemika and Chukwuma (2006) explained that the appointment, promotion and disciplinary control of members of the Armed Forces of the Federation lies on the head of government. Dambazua (2009) narrated, the political establishment such as the Federal executive council takes overall decision on issues of National Security and infrastructure Management while National Defence Security Council directs and approves major decisions/strategies of state concern.

Other security management organizations include the police council whose membership include the President, who serve as the chairman, the State Governors, the Inspector General of Police (IGP), the Deputy Inspector General of Police (DIG), the Attorney-General or the Solicitor General of the Federation and the Permanent Secretary in the Cabinet Office, charged with the responsibility of approving major decisions concerning the police and also serve as the secretary to the Police Council (Police Force Order).

The Functions of the Police Council include

 \checkmark To act as an advisory body to the president on matters affecting the organization and administration of the force.

- ✓ To make recommendation to the Federal Government on matters under its supervision appertaining to the Nigeria police.
- \checkmark To the standing orders of the Nigeria police force on matters affecting
 - Welfare
 - Organization and administration, which if approved by the president are sent to the Inspector General (IG) to become effective in the Force. The police Manuel, enumerated the police service commission as another management agency of the lead Internal Security Organ. It is made up of a chairman and four other members appointed by the president for a five year tenure. The commission has the following functions:-
- \checkmark To appoint persons to hold or act in offices in the force.
- \checkmark To make appointments or promotions and transfers
- ✓ To confirm appointments
- \checkmark To dismiss members of the force found wanting.
- ✓ To exercise disciplinary control over persons holding offices in the Force. As a regimented organization, the decisions of the commission is upheld to the latter as it serves as the highest management organ of the Nigeria Police.

National Security Agency

Is a National-Level Intelligence Agency of the Nigeria department of defense, under the authority of the director of National Intelligence. The (NSA) has the oversight functions of global monitoring, collection and processing of information and data for foreign intelligence and counter intelligence purposes, specializing in a discipline known as signals intelligence (SIGINT).

Ahire (2007) explained the functions or the NSA to include, the protection of Nigeria Communication Net-Work and Information System. It relies on a variety of measures to accomplish its mission, the majority of which are clandestine. The NSA in the view of Dambazua analysis security issues, assesses expected trends and prioritizing activities. It further play an advisory role and makes recommendations to the president. It co-ordinates and integrates work between different ministries and security organizations.

The National Defence and Security Council

The National Defence and Security Council (NSC) is usually an executive branch of governmental body responsible for coordinating policy on national security issues and advising chief executives on matters of national security. The (NSC) is often headed by a national security adviser and staffed with senior level officials from the military, diplomatic corps, intelligence, law enforcement and other governmental bodies. The functions and responsibilities of the (NSC) differs, occasionally a nation will be used by a similarly named body such as the National Security Committee or Council for National Security. These bodies are often as a result of National Crisis. Dambazua explained that, such Security Council do not always have statutory approval and are usually intended to have transitory or provisional powers. In Nigeria, the national Security Council is composed of the vice president, the secretary of state, the secretary of the treasury, the secretary of Defense and the National Security Adviser, the Council is chaired by the president.

Internal security is complex, the complexity in security management resulted in overlapping of management functions Brown (2009) stated that, the ministry of interior was established with a view to maintain internal security, formulates, implements and supervises all other paramilitary services such as the internal non-military intelligence agencies, Anti-corruption Agencies, the Independent Corrupt Practices and other Related Offences Commission, others

include Anti-drug Agencies and Border Security Agencies etc. the Ministry of Interior is further charged with the responsibility of:-

Recruitment of officers and men of the Prison Service, Immigration Service, Fire Service and the Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps. Managing their welfare including retirement benefits of retirees of para-military services under its supervision. Granting of Nigerian citizenship, consular and immigration services, reformation and reintegration of inmates. Others include, granting of business permits and expatriate quotes, security of lives and properties and management of National Emergencies. Zems (2013) The NDSC forms the basis of all security management in Nigeria as it approves all security management issues.

Security Threats in Nigeria

 \checkmark In Nigeria urbanization had been associated with several social problems. These problems include poverty and crime. Crime exists in every known society, and so all societies have their criminals. Brown (2009) Observed most prevalent security threats in Nigeria to include, human insecurity otherwise referred to as offences against persons such as human trafficking, hunger, illiteracy etc. resource conflicts which include inter communal clashes, farmers/herdsmen clashes, prevalent in North Central and North Western Nigeria. Armed robbery is presently experienced all over the country while kidnapping, rape, Terrorism and insurgency are rampant in the North Eastern Nigeria. Armed Militancy in the Niger Delta and cyber-crime (419) yahoo scam – Oluwale in Lagos and Benin etc. other crime most common in the country include, stealing (theft) burglary and house breaking. Fundamentally, Tar (2018) described good security as a combination of defensive principles designed to deter, delay, detect, prevent, respond and ultimately deny access to intrusion into such critical spaces. Iwarimie-Jaja (2008) narrated the role of security forces on the height of protection of lives, properties and facilities through the use of security forces, security systems and security procedures. He stated that, security personnel oversea proprietary or contract uniformed security operation, identify security system requirements, assess internal and external threats to assets and develop policies, plan procedures and physical safeguards to counter these crises and threats. The various methods adopted to achieve security goals may include the use of barriers, alarms, locks, access control system, protective lightening, close circuit televisions and other state of art security technology spread across the three main security management approaches in Nigeria.

Security Management Approaches

- ✓ State Central Approach: This approach is otherwise referred to as security from above (SFA) this is when the state security agencies assume dominant in situations as in Boko Haram insurgency in the North East and the Niger Delta Militancy often exclusive role in the management of National Defence and Security Agencies. Zems (2013) opined, it is no longer possible for state agencies to exclusively manage such national security issues due to sophistication and capacity building for criminals who perpetrate such heinous activities.
- ✓ Society Central Approach: Tar (2018) reiterated this approach to mean "security from Below" (SFB) it adopts the principle of community participation where citizens and private entities join efforts together to achieve security goals as in the vehement farmers/herdsmen clashes in the North Central states.
- ✓ Hybrid Approach: This is security through "joint efforts" in this approach, all and sundry participate in the management of security, contributing to the fact that security is

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every body's business. The uniformed security agencies provide professional guide and shield in security operations. Other security management approaches include:-

- Amnesty programs for ex-combatants and Boko Haram members of the North East: The state offered amnesty and associated incentives for ex-militants and Boko Haram members as a mechanism for disarmament, demobilization, rehabilitation, restitution and reintegration into society.
- **Dialogue and persuasion**: In security operations, this approach is referred to as immediate action in a crime scene, which often times faced with confrontation, this strategy provides vital time for strategy but most often, allows security threats to get out of hand by providing them with incentives and resources to continue fighting the state. Security operations attributes this management lapses to respect of human rights which also adopt clandestine engagement of militancy and insurgency in managing national security.
- **National cyber security strategy**: This strategy is adopted in financial, print and tracking security which serve as a guide to the development of national infrastructure and safety mechanism in cyber security network.
- ✓ Confrontation and scorched earth Approach: The Nigerian state has often employed war of attrition in its dealing with Boko Haram insurgents, Niger Delta Militants and High way Robbers. Tar (2018) narrated, the approach has proved to be costly and pays, not regarding the so called "collateral damage" (civil cost of war).
- ✓ Developmental incentives: This is a management security approach whereby developmental strides were taken to address insecurity, for instance, the Nigerian state has used development as a bait for national security e.g. the Niger Delta Development Commission (NDDC). The North East Development Commission (NEDC) and the ongoing presidential initiative for the North East (PINE) etc. as a way of curbing security challenges in Nigeria.
- \checkmark **De-radicalization Strategy:** This is a strategy adopted by government in dealing with violent extremists, the Nigerian state has adopted such strategies as - operation corridor" operation crocodile smile, operation python dance, etc. these operational strategies allows armed extremists and those in detention to denounce terrorism, militancy and access incentives for demobilization, disarmament and rehabilitation and reintegration into society. Presently, the security forces are doing their best to cajole and persuade terrorists and insurgents to give up arm combat against the state. The complexity of security operations and management have resulted in Dambazua's view that, security should not be left in the hands of the state actors alone, he reinterated that, no one person nor one security organization can achieve security objectives single handedly. Phillips (2018) observed "the inclusion of non-state actors in security business as complementing the state actors." The term "watchman" was commonly used to describe guards in Europe, later carried over to Northern America where it was interchanged to Night watchman until both terms were replaced with the modern security based titles. In Nigeria, these terms were referred to as ma-guards, or vigilante or enuisomabibi in the Delta Edo Degema language. In complementing the efforts of the state actors, private security guards are adopted and regarded as fulfilling the private policing functions who prevent, observe and report, situations and events to the state actors.

Private Security Outfits in Nigeria

The US Bureau of labour viewed private security outfits (PSO) as private security companies primarily engaged in providing private guards and patrol services. In Nigeria, the private security Act defined private security outreach as a private guard company which provides a

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wide range of guardship responsible for private and corporate entities. Esuong (2013) opined, private security outfits as "business corporations, which provide unarmed security services and expertise to private and public clients which objective is profit oriented. In his view, the service rendered is essential and existential. Private security outfits provide advanced special operation services on demand. Most scholars confuse private defence contractors with private security outfits. A private defence contractor or a private military company is a private company providing armed combat security services. Their staff are often referred to as security contractors. Private military companies refer to their business generally as private military industry or the circuit. The services and expertise offered are typically similar to those of governmental security; military or police forces. Most often, on a smaller scale. Private military companies (PMC) often provide services to train or supplement official armed forces in services of government. They can also be employed by private companies to provide bodyguards to key staff or protection of company premises, especially in hostile territories. However, contractors who use offensive force in a war zone, could be considered unlawful combatants, in reference to a concept outlined in the Geneva Convention and explicitly specified by the 2006 American Military Commission Act. Examples of private Defence Companies (contractors) include

- The Academi: American private military company
- <u>Aegis defence services:</u> British private military company
- SCG: International Risk Company
- <u>ICT:</u> International Image Source North Bridge
- <u>GK:</u> Sierra Image Source and
- <u>KBR</u>: Image Source The services of private military contractors are used around the world. They operate in over 50 countries including Nigeria. Their duties include:
- Hired to guard National resources such as oil refineries in Irag and Nigeria
- Hired to guard companies/ministries that contract their services such as during elections
- They secure officials and government affiliates
- Secure airports/airplanes and serve as alternative forms of power application through irregular means, without violating international laws, causing too many international repercussions. Iyare opined, Niger Delta been washed with British/American private military companies (PMCs) engaged in security services for their clients in the rich oil and gas region. Such military companies in Nigeria include: Control Risk Company, Erinys International, Armor Groups through Spurious partnership with Local Companies. He explained further that, the operation of foreign security and paramilitary forces holds a looming disaster for the raging crisis in the region and described the PMCs practice as it negates the grain of the country's laws. In Nigeria the perspective of private security outfits is quite different from that of the British and American private military contractors and outfits that had spread worldwide.

Statutory Framework of Private Security Companies in Nigeria

The Private Guard Companies Act of 1986 cap 367 LFN gives statutory authority to private security outfits while section 1 of the Act stipulates that:-

- \checkmark A proprietor of a private security company (PSC) must be licensed
- ✓ PSO companies must first be incorporated under the Private Companies and Allied Matters Act 1990 (CAMA 1990)
- ✓ Must apply and have approval for a private guard license, from the Ministry of Internal Affairs.

- PSOs companies in Nigeria must be wholly owned by Nigerians in accordance with the Nigerian Enterprises Promotion Act.
- ✓ Section 2 of the said law cap 367 outlined the procedure for applying for a license which include
 - The approval of the minister of internal affairs for any potential employment of the guard company. (Section 9 of the Private Security Act 1986).
 - Section 16 and 18 requires that the uniform and training syllabus of the PSO must be approved by the minister.
 - Section 14 (2) of the Act mandates quality control through inspections thereby subjecting all PSOs to submit all records required to be kept under this Act available to the licensing Authority for inspection on demand.

Exceptions in Proprietorship of Private Security Outfits in Nigeria

The Private Guard Companies Act 1986 stipulated that, a PSO License will not be granted to persons who have been imprisoned for an offence involving fraud, theft or branch of trust.

- ✓ Anyone who has been dismissed on disciplinary grounds from the police force, the Armed Forces, Prison Service, Custom Service whether in Nigeria or elsewhere.
- \checkmark The minister can also decline an application on the grounds that it is contrary to the public interest or the interest of national security.
- ✓ The Act prohibits the use of firearms or ammunitions by members of the private security outfits.
- ✓ It prohibits the use of the expression "private detectives"

Private Guard Companies in Nigeria

The essence of private security outfits in the Nigerian context is to compliment the efforts of the fundamental law enforcers in the country. Law enforcement is so complex that the police and other law officers do not know whom they are fighting. The arm robbers, kidnappers, Boko Haram, Herdsmen, militants and their likes – none of these criminals carry logo or any means of identification. None of them can be easily identified nor traced but through professional skills, criminality is curtailed in society: making security every body's business with the private security services complimenting the efforts of the law enforcers. Some private guard security companies in Nigeria include:

- ✓ Danger Guard security company
- ✓ Pavilion technology company
- ✓ Kel Technology
- ✓ Protection and Service Ltd
- ✓ Anti Risk Nigeria Ltd
- ✓ Ben Aibee Security Services
- ✓ Kings Guards Security
- ✓ Okaytech Security Services
- ✓ Garda World Nigeria Ltd
- ✓ Dizemgoff Nig. offers a wide range ICT solution to its ever growing customers based on radio, communication, cyber security and projects implementations.
- ✓ Ethnos Nigeria
- ✓ Cyber Space Nigeria
- ✓ Swiss Credit Nigeria
- ✓ Spring Blast Investment
- ✓ Old Mutual Services Nig.
- ✓ Obove Theft Company
- ✓ Eagle Sweep Nig. Ltd.

- ✓ Matnet Consult
- ✓ Excellent Consulting
- ✓ Boombug Network
- ✓ Unique Ventures Management Ltd
- ✓ Too Cash and Post Cash Nig. Ltd. Etc.

Private Financial Security Companies in Nigeria

Financial security services in Nigeria was acquired by integrated alarm services group in financial security services providers, financial resources and dealer services for professional and alarm dealers for finance accounts acquisitions, fund residential installations who consolidate debt and cash flow, open new offices, marketing and sales programmes, buy out partners or other stakeholders and working capital positions as well as line of credits and terms of loans. Such companies also offer billing administrative services, and financial security services. It was founded in 1990 and is based in Dallas, Texas. It has spread to several Nations including Nigeria.

Functions of Private Security Guard Companies

The functions of private security guard companies as summed up by Dambazua (2011) and Esuong (2013) include:

- ✓ Personal protection
- ✓ Special investigations
- \checkmark Escort service
- ✓ Maritime security service
- ✓ Arrest of culprits
- \checkmark Giving of information to state actors
- \checkmark Prevention of crime through oral strategies
- ✓ The prevention of unauthorized activities or entryment guarded or restricted areas or places, traffic regulations, access control, fire and prevention and detection of theft. Tar (2018) summed the services rendered by private security outfits as "The protection of personnel and/or assets in a given place or area of assignment.

Challenges of Security Management

Private security companies provide security services to both government and private organizations such as Banks, Universities, Oil firms, private schools, churches and other cooperate bodies nationwide which calls for so many security outfits to meet with security challenges. Proliferation of too many security companies resulting in stiff competition has brought about unhealthy practices to stay in business. These acts prevent the real objective of security business which is service, humanity and integrity.

Poor funding: The issue of poor wages affects the state and non-state security actors. The state actors often complain of poor salary structure, non-payment of wages/allowances while the non-state actors as private organization suffer the worst in issues of funding.

Too many management agencies: The police for instance is managed by the Security Council, The Ministry of Police Affairs, the Police Service Commission and the Administrative Functions of the Inspector General of Police (IG) most often the budgetary allocations not released to the services due to cumbersome management procedures.

Under employment: most officers in the state and non-state security services got enlisted into the services as a last resort. A situation where graduates get recruited as constables or Inspectors instead of assistant superintendent of police (ASP) make them feel that society has not been fair to them by not providing them with a better job of their choice, coupled with the fact that

security job in Nigeria is not a job that society respect. Using graduates for such jobs poses a challenge in security services.

Other Challenges Include

- ✓ Poor training and bias deployment
- \checkmark Most of the personnel are not happy doing the job
- ✓ Poor management
- ✓ Lack or inadequate training
- ✓ Obsolete infrastructure / equipment
- \checkmark The media perception on security issues and the public view in security operations etc.
- Policy inconsistencies Nigeria's defence and security infrastructure is rich and robust on face value. In practice however, there appears to be lack of proper implementation strategy.
- Politicization of security politicization of security issues as a result of primordial sentiments, ethnic politics and nepotism play important role in security management in Nigeria.
- ✓ Jurisdictional divergences The various National laws provide exclusive power rather than complementing power to the various security agencies.
- ✓ Institutional rivalries and secrecy various security institutions views their mandates as superior to others resulting in rivalries even between established agencies.
- Environmental/ecological challenges The ecology of Nigeria is complex and most areas as 1the Sambisa Forest, the Rivovian Niger Delta and most Urban Areas etc. provide safe haven for services threats and criminality.

Remedial Measures

- ✓ Legal and policy reforms: There is need to harmonize, reinforce and streamline the various legal instruments for security to make them compatible and less conflictual. To get rid of contradictory elements and provide clear guidance for synergy and cooperation, the legal security instruments should be reviewed.
- ✓ Investment in information and communication technology. Nigeria should invest in ICT to make sure that security agencies and citizens are adequately connected and resourced.

On private security companies, the profile of PSO should be measured against ability to support national and human security while light combat duties be allowed to complement the role of core security agencies especially in dealing with civilians. It is expedient that private security duties in intelligence gathering which are excellent sources of actionable intelligence support be encouraged. Complementing support to regular Armed Personnel especially guard duties of Banks, Airports and Industrial companies etc. be encouraged while Auxiliary support relations to armed personnel in the line of duty such as in guarding of critical infrastructure be maintained and regulatory relations be strictly adhered to. Private security outfits should be geared towards people oriented, given adequate re-orientation, training, adopt modern security gadgets and adequate security management to meet with the trends of modern security challenges in Nigeria.

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