

# Emerging Trends in Private Security Companies (PSCs) and Security Services in Southwest Nigeria

Idowu Olusegun Oladele

Institute of Peace, Security and Governance, Ekiti State University, Ekiti State, Ado-Ekiti, Nigeria

[idowuoladele4@gmail.com](mailto:idowuoladele4@gmail.com)

**Abstract** — The study examined the emerging trends in Private Security Companies (PSCs) and security provision in southwest Nigeria. It investigated the establishment and justification for the emerging trends in PSCs services, government regulations on PSCs security provision and assessed the relationship between PSCs and public security force. It also explored the need for public private partnership (PPP) in security provision in Southwest Nigeria. The study is a descriptive survey research, with the use of both primary and secondary sources for data collection. Findings from the study showed that about 82% of the total respondents agreed that security of life and properties is the responsibility of the government. However, about 73% respondents opined that government has failed in carrying out its responsibility effectively. On the other hand, the need for security and the inability of the state and its public security forces to effectively arrest the situation were seen as one of the major reasons for the emergence of PSCs in Nigeria. These were viewed by the respondents as institutional/systemic failure. In addition, about 54% of the total respondents opined that unemployment is also a major cause of security threats and crime in Southwest Nigeria. Meanwhile, 58% of the respondents affirmed that NSCDC as the agency of government saddled with the responsibility of regulating PSCs in Nigeria. The study concludes there are prospects for PSCs in Nigeria as their services complement government effort in safeguarding life and properties of its citizens. Therefore, there is need to put the operations and services of PSCs in proper perspectives through effective regulations and control in order to ensure efficient security provision.

**Keywords** — Private Security, Emerging Trends, Security Threats

## 1.1 BACKGROUND TO THE STUDY

The traditional concept of security with the state as the main referent has been up for extensive debate. Security of life and property is viewed as a fundamental human right guaranteed under the Constitution in Nigeria (Section 14(2b) 1999, Constitution) and other nations of the world. One of the major responsibilities of the state is provision of internal security and defense from

external threats (Uzuegbu-Wilson, 2016). Security is a necessity in every human society. The implication being that, the absence of effective security threatens the peace, survival of individuals and their property, and undermines development (Inyang and Abraham, 2014). Security from crime, fear and victimization at the state, local and personal levels, is an important basis for economic and social development as noted in the United Nations Guidelines for the Prevention of Crime (UNODC, 2014). It follows that no organization, business, society or government can thrive in an atmosphere of wanton unpredictability and insecurity. An effectively secured society is viewed as the basis for sustainable peace and development (Nigeria Watch International, 2014).

This is why governments globally invest huge human and material resources to ensure that life and property of their citizens are protected and secured, as security and safety of private and public life are sine qua non for human existence, survival and development (Ekhomu, 2004; Okereke, 2014). Moreover, it has been argued that, no government has the wherewithal to supply one hundred percent security for her people, and no matter how endowed and organized a country is, it can hardly be devoid of security challenges (Dasuki, 2013).

However contemporary discourse on the state and security provision has shifted from the traditional assumption that security is a public good and that is an exclusive duty of the state, to one that is currently witnessing private incursion into security business. Mbadlanyana (2011) argued, the conception and practice of security has changed over time largely because of the manner in which the state has performed its task of providing security to the general public and the growing private concern. He argued that the collective feeling of insecurity generated by the contemporary risks associated with social transition has been seen as one of the reasons for the transition from a state-tailored security to one that is provided by private entities.

In Nigeria, for example, successive administrations have tried to protect life and property of her citizens but for growing poverty, wide income disparities, high level unemployment, massive rural-urban migration, and breakdown of societal values, insurgency, terrorism and

community unrest that account for insecurity and uncertainty in the country (Uzuegbu-Wilson, 2016). The rising threats in the country equally incapacitate and limit government machinery, manpower and skills relative to societal demand for effective security but for the incursion of Private Security Services (Idowu, 2018). Over the years, the Nigeria Police Force, saddled with the responsibility of policing the country by virtue of section 4 of the Police Act (Cap. P19, Law of the Federation of Nigeria 2004) is inter alia responsible for the prevention and detection of crime, apprehension of criminals, preservation of law and order, protection of life and property, and law enforcement in Nigeria, has been grappling with fundamental challenges which tend to impede its performance.

The Nigeria public security forces also have history of engaging in unprofessional, corrupt, and criminal conduct, using excessive force in carrying out their duties especially the Nigeria Police force (Tamuno, 1970). The former Inspector General of Police, Mr. Ibrahim Idris, equally affirmed that “to attain the UN ratio requirement of one police officer to 400 citizens of a country, the Nigeria Police Force needs to recruit 155,000 to police the Nigerian population of approximately 182 million” (Idris, 2017 in Vanguard, Lagos May 11, 2017).

He added that inadequate funding, shortfall in manpower, lack of training and retraining of personnel had been some of the challenges confronting the force (Vanguard, Lagos, May 11, 2017). As such, the Nigeria Police Force has thus become a symbol of corruption and abuse over the years. The police force has grown into an inadequate, inefficient and corrupt institution that is largely unaccountable to the citizens it intended to serve and protect. Nigerians now viewed the police force more as predators than protectors of welfare, life and property of the citizens (Alemika and Chukwuma, 2007). The above assertion was seen as one of the justifications for Private Security Companies involvement in security business to compliment government efforts in security provision, safety and crime control in Nigeria.

Since the 1990s countries across the globe have seen an ever increasing number of private security companies (PSCs) operating within and across their borders. The emergence of PSCs is a global phenomenon with far-reaching economic, political, and social implications. The private security industry is a relatively growing and developing field of study that is seeing major contributions by academics, civil society, and governmental bodies (Siebert, Hill, Montoute, Bishop, and Epps, 2013). Singer (2005) argued that, the general trend of globalization towards privatization and

outsourcing of government functions has resulted in the privatization of security by government in order to further complement government effort in the protection of life and property of the citizens.

However, as is the case in all countries, the citizens of Nigeria are highly concerned about their security and this concern has been expressed through the emergence, growth and involvement of Private Security Companies (PSCs) in security provision. Abrahamsen and William (2005:1) observed that, private security is now the second largest money spinner in Nigeria, surpassed only by oil and gas. To them, private security industry has grown rapidly in recent years, as Private security personnel are visible around the country, guarding private businesses, homes and neighborhoods. Private security companies have thus become a major part of the Nigerian economy (Abrahamsen and William, 2005). The exponential trend of instability, insecurity and unpredictability in Nigeria, gives rise to geometrical demand for the services of Private Security Companies and security professionals. Both private/public and commercial organizations such as government establishments, banks, housing estates, embassies even churches and mosques are increasingly strengthening their security departments and protecting their property with private security services (Uzuegbu-Wilson, 2016). Consequently, in an attempt to carry out the arduous task of securing the citizens, there are variations and emerging trends in PSCs services in southwest Nigeria even in the face of regulations. These specialized security services give security firms a way to set themselves apart from competitors in the private security sector in Nigeria. This study examined government regulations on PSCs services, its security provision and emerging trends in Private security services in relation to international best practices.

## **1.2 STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM**

The emergence of private security companies has become a global phenomenon and it operates across borders with varying levels of services, regulations, governance and professionalism (Lanlonde, 2010: Owusu, Oteng-Ababio, Wrigley-Asante, and Agyapong, 2016). Small (2006) rightly points out, a growing and widely accepted trend internationally is the increasing ‘Commodification’ and privatization of all public goods including security. This growing trend has generated debates among scholars. The advent and expansion of private security companies in Nigeria over the years, may have contributed to private and public safety in Nigeria. It may have helped to fill some of the security gaps left by inadequate personnel of the public security sector which has lost public and private confidence in

safeguarding the citizens. The role of private security companies in security provision and sustainable development is increasingly gaining recognition and acceptance in Nigeria due to public security force failure (Suchi, 2017).

The criminal acts of the public security force, (extortion, embezzlement, and other corrupt practices) coupled with their failure to perform their basic functions, severely undermine rule of law, security of life and property in Nigeria. Nigerians are further denied equal protection underneath the law because of a widespread observed practice whereby senior law enforcement officials sell police protection for his or her personal enrichment to wealthy elite in Nigeria (Alemika and Chukwuma, 2007). The increased economic activities in Nigeria, increased crime rate, technological advancement in security gadgets, increased private businesses and engagement by government agencies intend to add more role and responsibilities to the Private Security Companies. There are various dimensions to the services of PSCs also known as industrial security and, in a way, introduce emerging trends in their services. The potential for growth in the private security business and the positive impact on the Nation's economy is obvious. In view of the above and recent trends in crime, general acceptance and engagement of Private Security Companies services and security provision in Southwest Nigeria. The reality and importance of PSCs as a force for security of life and property has not been adequately interrogated intellectually since this is a growing phenomenon. The study seeks to fill the knowledge gap on emerging trends in PSCs activities in Southwest Nigeria. Therefore, there is the need for adequate regulations. The study aimed to investigate how the private security industry is regulated and evaluate the effectiveness of existing regulatory policy. It then tends to ask the following question: What are the emerging security threats and challenges in Nigeria? what are the emerging trends in Private Security services and security provision in southwestern, Nigeria, what are the government regulations on PSCs and security services in Nigeria?

### ***Objectives of the Study***

The specific objectives of the study are to:

- identify emerging security threats and challenges in Nigeria;
- examine the emerging trends in Private Security services and security provision in Southwestern Nigeria;
- investigate government regulations on PSCs and security services in Nigeria;

### ***Research Design***

This study is a descriptive survey research, with the use of both primary and secondary sources for data collection. Key Informant Interviews (KII's), and questionnaires provided the primary data while the secondary data on the other hand was drawn from content analysis of academic literature, publications on Private Security Companies (PSCs) locally and globally, news media, and experiences from members of the industry, the public security bodies and official records from government agencies, such as the Nigeria Security and Civil Defense Corps, and Nigeria Police Force.

### **1.3 THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK**

The theoretical foundation of this study was derived from Dennis P. Rosenbaum Partnership theory of Crime Prevention (Rosenbaum, 2003). He argued that in the search for more effective and efficient methods of crime prevention and control, criminal justice scholars in Western Europe, North America, and Australia have noted the tendency for greater government investment in partnerships and coalitions for effective governance (Rosenbaum, Lurigio, and Davis, 1998).

The Theory noted that government (the criminal justice system) cannot, by itself, solve the complex problems of crime and disorder in our society. Rosenbaum postulated that resource from outside the system as well as new ways of thinking about diverse problems from inside is desperately needed. To achieve this, the theory advocates for the creation of 'partnerships' and delegation of authority to a group of organizations (i.e. Private Security Companies) that can bring distinctive but complementary skills, efforts and resources to the table and can produce coordinated and targeted responses to public safety and security problems (Rosenbaum, 2003).

Essentially, partnership is a cooperative relationship between two or more organizations to achieve some common goals. When it involves multiple partners, typically representing diverse interest groups, a partnership can also be referred to as a coalition, which, Butterfoss, Goodman, and Wandersman (1993) describe as inter-organizational, cooperative, and synergistic working alliances.

Recent interest in partnership building has grown worldwide and researchers have attributed this renewed interest to the elevated importance of privatization / private effectiveness in government processes and a corresponding dissatisfaction with the effectiveness of

traditional service bureaucracies (Crawford, 1997). In the law enforcement field, there is also a desire for change caused by the problems of:

1. Perceived racial inequalities and injustices in the delivery of police services, which regularly produces a cry for better police-community partnerships;
2. The judged ineffectiveness of traditional reactive police methods, which opens the door for problem-oriented policing and prevention models; and
3. The absence of a coordinated, "criminal justice system" to handle public safety issues, which has frustrated those seeking effective justice and deterrence.

In essence, the new discourse on public safety among Western nations gives special attention to prevention, community, partnerships, and problem solving as the defining features of an idealized (policing) government that is more effective, efficient, and just than traditional response schemes (Rosenbaum, 2003).

The reality of insecurity and unabated crime rate by the public security force and various security challenges in Nigeria makes room for the adoption of Partnership theory of Crime Prevention to the study. The theory aimed to complement government effort to safeguard its citizen's life and property.

The main trust in the use of the theory implies that the state allows whatever that will complement her effort in securing the life and property of her citizens within the ambit of rules and regulations in the state. This includes partnership, delegation or privatization of some government function to private security companies and other alternative security provider such as Vigilante group, Peace Corps, Community Watch, and recently the agitation for community policing and creation of state police in Nigeria.

#### **1.4 THE CONCEPT OF CRIME**

Crime is a universal phenomenon that is threatening the security of various countries in varying degrees. It is a major source of social concern in both developed and developing countries as Nations of the world are faced with unacceptable levels of delinquency and crime (Badiora and Fadoyin, 2014). The causes of criminal activities additionally vary from one nation to another within the international community. Crime is like other concepts in social sciences, which have no generally accepted definition. Crime has been defined in numerous ways, according to Oxford Dictionary of

Sociology (2009), "a crime is held to be an offence, which goes beyond the personal and into the public sphere, breaking prohibitive rules or laws, to which legitimate punishments or sanctions are attached, and which requires the intervention of a public authority... for crime to be known as such, it must come to the notice of, and be processed through, an administrative system or enforcement agency. It must be reported and recorded by the police (or other investigator); it may then become part of criminal statistics; may or may not be investigated; and may or may not result in a court case". Dambazau (1994) outlined crime as an associate degree act or omission against public interest and which is prescribed by law enacted by the legislature within the overall interests of the society, and to which prescribed punishment is attached in the event of violation and it involves four major principles which are public wrong, moral wrong, law and punishment for the criminal. Crime is also seen as a violation of the rules agreed to be respected by all members of the society, and upon which the rest members of the society mete sanction upon those guilty of the violation. It is for the same reason that the legal system views crime as a public and moral wrong.

The prevalence of crime around the world in recent times is a cause for serious concern for all and sundry. It undermines the social fabric by eroding the sense of safety, protection and security. Crime impacts on society in a variety of ways according to the nature and extent of crime committed. It constitutes a problem when its incidence is as rampant within the society as to constitute a threat to the protection of persons and property, as well as social order and solidarity (Onoge, 1998). It constitutes threat to the economic, political and social security of a nation and a major factor associated with underdevelopment. It equally discourages local and foreign investments, reduces the quality of life, and destroys human and social capital, damages relationship between citizens and the states, thus undermining democracy, rule of law and the ability of the country to promote development and progress.

#### **1.5 CONCEPTUALIZING FEAR OF CRIME**

Through the years, scholars have struggled with the best way to conceptualize and define fear of crime, debating whether fear of crime should be conceptualized as an emotion or as a measure of risk. Historically, concern or fear of crime has long been outlined as "risk". However, researchers have found this definition to be quite different from the emotional response to potential victimization, and after numerous studies (Rader, May, and Goodrum, 2007; Rountree and Land, 1996; Wyant, 2008). Researchers have observed that fear of



crime should be defined as the emotional response to potential victimization whereas “perceived risk” should be defined as the likelihood of victimization risk. These concepts are related within the fear of crime literature for decades. For example, the likelihood of risk one believes one has of becoming a victim (i.e., perceived risk) may influence how afraid of crime someone might be.

Additionally, some researchers equally suggested that behavior may also be related to fear of crime. In other words, one’s fear of crime may lead to someone taking a range of precautionary measures (i.e., constrained behaviors), such as avoiding going places alone or at night (i.e., avoidance behaviors) or taking a self-defense class, owning a weapon, or installing extra locks or bars on windows or getting a security guard (i.e., protective behaviors; Liska, Sanchirico, and Reed, 1988; Rader and Haynes, 2014; Wilcox, May, and Roberts, 2006). Thus, researchers have noted that emotion (fear of crime), likelihood of risk (perceived risk), and precautionary behaviors (constrained behaviors) may work together but that generally speaking, perceived risk and constrained behaviors predict fear of crime (Rader, 2004; Rader et al., 2007).

Consequently, a couple of studies have questioned this position. Liska et al., (1988) argued that constrained behaviors may be both a cause and a consequence of fear of crime. For example, fear of crime may cause someone to install a security system or private security guards. However, owning a security system and pushing the on or off button or seeing the security guard on duty may make the system owners more afraid of crime because they are now thinking about crime more often. Liska et al., (1988) did indeed find that constrained behaviors and fear of crime were reciprocal, with a feedback loop occurring between these two concepts. This reciprocal relationship has not been adequately explored in detail, because most data collected for fear of crime studies are cross sectional and do not allow researchers to truly test this relationship.

Rader (2004) argued that fear of crime should not be the sole focus of studies but instead should be one of a three-pronged approach to studying the larger concept of the threat of victimization (which includes perceived risk, fear of crime, and constrained behaviors). In other words, individuals manage the threat of victimization not only with emotion (fear of crime) but also with cognition (perceived risk) and behavior (constrained behaviors). So, the focus on fear of crime as the most important element may not be the best way to define the threat of victimization. Rader, et al. (2007) tested this

theoretical model and found that while fear of crime was important in determining the threat of victimization, analyzing perceived risk and constrained behaviors as outcomes yielded much information about the larger threat of victimization concept.

## Consequences of Fear of Crime

### Psychological Consequences

Fear of crime has two types of consequences: Psychological consequences and Social consequences. Psychologically, research has found that fear of crime may influence people’s mental health outcomes (Cossman, Porter, and Rader, 2016; Kruger, Reischl, and Gee, 2007; Stafford, Chandola, and Marmot, 2007; Whitley and Prince, 2005). As discussed earlier, fear of crime is an emotion at its core, and so, it makes sense that this emotion may also go hand and hand with another emotion, namely, anxiety. Research has found a significant relationship between anxiety and fear of crime (Whitley and Prince, 2005). Furthermore, scholars have found a relationship between depression and fear of crime, with those who are depressed reporting higher fear of crime (Kruger, et al., 2007). A study conducted by Stafford, et al., (2007) found that residents with more fear of crime were nearly two times more likely to have mental health issues.

Another part of the mental health–fear of crime relationship is in the direction of causality. Therefore, fear of crime may cause individuals to become anxious or depressed, while at the same time anxious or depressed people may also have higher concern or fear of crime levels. Meanwhile, studies have not examine how fear of crime may be a cause and a consequence of factors such as mental health (primarily because this research tends to be cross sectional rather than longitudinal), it seems plausible that a feedback loop between fear of crime and mental health may exist. While the psychological consequences of concern or fear of crime provides an interesting avenue of research in the fear of crime literature, these consequences have been vastly understudied, using longitudinal data (Cossman, et al., 2016).

### Constrained Behaviors

The common features in the consequences of the fear of crime literature have been on constrained behaviors. As stated earlier, constrained behaviors are the precautionary measures individuals take to manage potential victimization/fear of crime (Lane et al., 2014). Constrained behaviors are typically broken up into two categories: protective behaviors and avoidance behaviors. Protective constrained behaviors have also been divided into two categories: those that involve

weapons (i.e., owning a gun, knife, or some other type of weapon) and those that do not involve weapons but still serve as a protective precaution (i.e., owning a watch dog, taking a self-defense class, installing extra locks, installing a security system). Avoidance constrained behaviors include actions such as avoiding going out late at night, going out alone, or visiting certain places because of fear of crime (May, et al., 2010; Rader and Haynes, 2014).

Studies on constrained behaviors often put both types of protective behaviors, along with avoidance behaviors, in one scale as an independent variable that would predict fear of crime (Ferraro and LaGrange, 1987). Early studies of fear of crime did not include constrained behaviors as a factor that might predict fear of crime at all (Hale, 1996). As stated earlier, research by Liska et al. (1988) changed this trend a little by arguing that constrained behaviors might be both a cause and a consequence of fear of crime. Since these studies, several studies have focused exclusively on types of constrained behaviors, including studies of weapons (Kleck, Kovandzic, Saber and Hauser, 2011 ; May et al., 2006), self-defense courses and security systems or have more comprehensively examined the causes of constrained behaviors (May et al., 2010 ; Rader, Cossman, and Allison, 2009 ; Rader and Haynes, 2014).

Specifically, research has found that several demographic characteristics predict the use of constrained behaviors. For example, research has found that being a woman (May et al., 2010), older (Beaulieu et al., 2007; McKee and Milner, 2000), or white (De Welde, 2003) increases the chance of using constrained behaviors. Additionally, sometimes it has been found that each of these groups may take more behaviors. For example, when examining gender differences, May and colleagues (2010) found that women were more likely to take avoidance behaviors than their male counterparts. Beaulieu and colleagues (2007) found that elderly male victims were eight times more likely to take behaviors than non-elderly male victims. Further, while most studies have not examined racial differences in use of constrained behaviors, research by De Welde (2003) has found that white women were more likely to voluntarily take a self-defense course than other groups of women. These studies, then, suggest that it is important to study not only constrained behaviors as a consequence of fear of crime but also what groups or types of individuals actually take on such behaviors.

### **1.7 CRIME AND CLASSIFICATION OF CRIME IN NIGERIA**

Crime rate in Nigeria has assumed a new and worrisome pattern. The high crime situation and the ineffectiveness of the crime control apparatuses in Nigeria. The country can be deemed to have a crime and delinquency problem. Nigeria is among the developing countries of the globe, and is experiencing a prevalence of rising crime waves, criminal intentions and varying degree of delinquencies. The country has been on the global crime surveillance and watch since 1980s (Dambazau, 2007). The nature of crimes in Nigeria includes car theft, burglary, fraud, armed robbery, murder, rape, bribery and corruption, food and drug adulteration, gambling, smuggling, human trafficking, kidnapping, drug trafficking, money laundering, internet scam, advanced fee fraud (419) and other illegal activities. There are reports of crimes committed largely by the youths at nearly each corner of the country. Criminality has become an integral part of the nation's daily life (Suchi, 2017).

The classification of crime differs from one country to a different. In the US, the Federal Bureau of Investigation tabulates the annual crime data as Uniform Crime Reports (UCR). They classify violations of laws that derive from common law as part 1 (index) crimes in UCR knowledge, further categorized as violent as property crimes. Part 1 violent crimes include murder and criminal homicide (voluntary manslaughter), forcible rape, aggravated assault, and robbery; while part 1 property crimes embody burglary, arson, larceny/theft, and motor vehicle theft. All different crimes count as part II crimes in details (Wiki/Cr., 2009).

Brown, Esbensen and Geis (1996) provide a typology for crime in three classes: violent, economic, and victimless. The fear of death or serious injury often causes one to view violent crimes as the most serious of the three classes. Violent crimes of a "serious" nature include murder, assault, rape, and robbery. According to Brown et al. (1996), crime profile or what constitutes a 'serious' violent crime is a function of traditional and ideological and not necessarily the result of close attention to the implications of different behaviors. Economic crimes are committed by those "unable or unwilling to obtain these tokens of self-value-money and goods-in a legitimate manner" (Brown, et al., 1996).

In the Federal Republic of Nigeria, the Police are the arm saddled with the responsibility of safeguarding the life and property of the citizen and punishment for offenders. The Police classification of crime also depends on what the law prescribed. In Nigeria Police

Abstract of Statistics (NPACS), offences are classified into four main categories:

Offences against persons are those against human beings such as: manslaughter, murder, infanticide, attempted murder, assault, rape, child stealing, grievous hurt and wounding or physical abuse, etc.

Offences against property are those offences against human belongings. They include: theft/stealing, armed robbery, burglary, house and store breakings, forgery, and obtaining property by false pretence etc.

Offences against lawful authority, this is any offence committed against any establishment of law such as failure to pay tax, forgery of currency notes, gambling, breach of peace, bribery and corruption, etc.

Offences against local Acts include those laws that we cannot enforce outside Nigeria – e.g. Liquor Act, Firearms Act and traffic offences. In Nigeria, you cannot go selling arms/ammunitions without a license but in the Republic of Bénin, they are freely sold (Crime Statistics: Reported Offences – 2016).

### **1.8 PRIVATE SECURITY COMPANIES, SECURITY SERVICES AND PROVISION IN NIGERIA**

#### ***Shopping, Leisure and Retail Facilities***

In Nigeria, there are large shopping malls, which include multiple retail outlets such as Shoprite, restaurants, bars, banks, etc. These are often areas of private space, but freely open to the public (Afolabi, et. al., 2016). Securing life and property of this private space with the limited public security official poses a challenge. Consequently, for these reason, combined with the preferences of many mall owners, private security companies have assumed the primary responsibility for providing crime prevention and community safety functions. For example, banks and shopping complexes in the Nigeria, security is divided between private security guards and the police at a ratio of around 5 to 1 personnel.

The experience in the Nigeria illustrates a partnership between the police and private security guards, with the latter numerically superior. However, in some States, private security guards undertake a much more dominant role in the security of such space. For example, two other studies of shopping complexes illustrate private security companies providing the primary security functions, including arresting shoplifters, and generally working well with the police (Alison, 2007).

#### ***Entertainment and Recreation Centre***

Events and entertainment venues regularly host large numbers of people, including sporting matches (football, athletics, cricket, basketball, wrestling etc.), concerts, nightclubs, ceremonies and religious events, to mention but a few. These events vary significantly in their risk profile, but one striking theme across them all is the growing contribution of private security services in the provision of community safety and crime prevention functions.

#### ***Residential and Gated Community Security***

In many States across the globe and specifically in Nigeria, the high demand for a uniformed presence on the streets in residential areas which cannot be met by the public police, combined with the growth of private gated communities has fuelled a boom in the provision of residential security. Gated communities, where residential areas are divided off from their surroundings by border fences and are protected by private security guards who undertake access control and patrol functions, have grown consistently in North and Latin America and in many African States.

In Nigeria gated residential areas and communities are manned by private security arrangement such as private security companies, vigilante and local guards (OPC). There are selected few in such communities that are privileged to have public security officials; those are privileged individuals, politicians and political office holders.

#### ***Protecting National Infrastructure***

In some States, public security entities (police, specialist protection services, military) have typically been used to protect national critical infrastructure, including transportation and communication hubs, inland water ways, oil installations, power plants, data-storage sites, energy-generating facilities, government offices, sea/airports and health-care facilities from natural disasters, technical failures, crime, vandals and sabotage. The fear of crime, natural disasters, extremist threats, general security and protection of both physical and human resources increased the cost to public resources of providing such protection poses increasing challenges for State budgets around the globe. Total security staffing, monitoring of alarms and CCTV is expensive and not always a good use of highly trained police resources. As a result, some States, including Nigeria, Jamaica, Japan, Sweden, Switzerland, the United Arab Emirates and others, now contract private security companies to safeguard some aspects of national critical infrastructure such as air and sea ports, energy

installations and government agencies (UNODC, E/CN.15/2011/14).

In Nigeria, critical private and government infrastructures such as telecommunication mast, oil installations, electrical installations, government agencies and health facilities are being contracted and secured by private security companies.

#### ***Government Agencies, Airport and Maritime Security***

The presence of security officers protecting government agencies, airports and maritime ports is one of the most common manifestations of the growth of private security services (Hainmüller and Lemnitzer, 2003). In most States, private security companies work in partnership with State policing bodies to provide these functions. In Hong Kong and China, the international airport is jointly secured by the Hong Kong Police Force and a private security company. With over 3,000 staff, the private security company provides a wide range of services across both the public and the general aviation site, including routine patrols, access control, issuance of restricted passes and accreditation, boarding- gate security controls, screening of passengers, crew, cargo and mail, passenger profiling, security of the environment and permit controls (Aviation Security Company Limited, 2018).

In many countries around the globe, specifically in Nigeria maritime ports commonly have private security firms staffing CCTV systems, controlling site access, patrolling port facilities, securing port infrastructure, participating in port security assessments, contributing to emergency plans and crisis and emergency response, and sitting on port security committees along with the public police and port authorities. Video surveillance or closed circuits television (CCTV) has become widely used in many parts of the world especially at local and International airports, train stations and maritime ports manned by private security companies (Alexandrie, 2017).

### **1.9 RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

This paper presents the result and discussion of the study carried out on the “Emerging Trends in Private Security Companies (PSCs) and Security Provision in South West Nigeria”. The data collection instruments for the study were questionnaire and Key Informant Interview. The questionnaire schedule was made up of both open-ended and close-ended questions and was administered on PSCs (Users, clients and beneficiaries), guards and the general public.

The Key Informant Interview (KII) guide was structured to elicit information about the regulating agencies of PSCs and activities of PSCs. The following categories;

- Six PSCs owners/Managers within the three sampled states.
- The Regulating Agencies (NSCDC) State Headquarters in Ado-Ekiti, Ibadan, and Zonal Headquarters Zone
- PSCs Users (Beneficiaries and Clients)
- Guards and the general public

800 copies of questionnaire were administered in the three sampled states in Southwest of Nigeria (Ekiti, Oyo and Lagos). However, 786 questionnaires were retrieved which gives about 98% returns for analysis. The data were processed and analyzed using the Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS) 23 version.

- This chapter is presented with the following sub-headings:
- Analyses of respondents’ socio-demographic information
- Analyses of responses regarding security threats and challenges in Nigeria
- Analyses of responses on government regulations on PSCs and security services in Nigeria
- Analyses of responses on emerging Trends in PSCs services and security provision in south west Nigeria.
- The results are presented below.
- Analysis of Respondents’ Socio-Demographic Information

This entails the description of respondents’ socio-demographic characteristics such as geographical location (state), sex, age and educational attainment. Table 4.1 shows the distribution of respondents according to States. In Oyo State 261 respondents representing about 33% of the total sample were selected while 14% and 53% respondents were drawn from Ekiti and Lagos States respectively.

***Table 1: Distribution of the Respondents according to State***

S/N	State	Frequency	Percent
1.	Oyo	261	33.2
2.	Ekiti	108	13.7
3.	Lagos	417	53.1
	Total	786	100.0

***Source: Field Survey, 2019***

The Respondents were proportional drawn based on the population size of each of the three sampled States in the South west Nigeria according to National Bureau of Statistics (NBS, 2018). While figure 1 shows that about 28% of the total samples of respondents were female while 72% of the total respondents were male.



This implies that majority of respondents (567) were male. This can be deduced from the fact that male gender is more into the security services in term of its demand and supply.

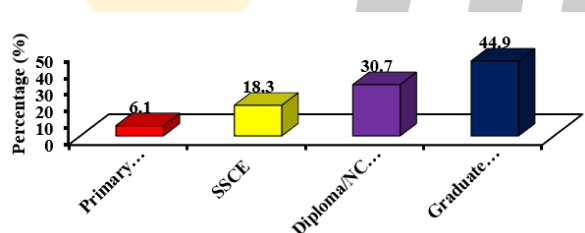
The age distribution of respondents as presented in table 4.2 shows that about 14% of the total respondents were aged 18 – 20 years, while about 32% of the respondents were between aged 21-30 years, 40% of the respondents being the majority, were of age range 31-40 years. This implies that the respondents were adults and emotionally stable. The study adhered to ethical standard (informed consent) as all respondents were voluntarily engaged in the study with full knowledge of relevant risks and benefits.

**Table 2: Distribution of Respondents by Age**

S/N	Age	Frequency	Percent
1.	18-20 years	108	13.7
2.	21-30 years	255	32.4
3.	31-40 years	308	39.2
4.	41 and above	115	14.6
	Total	786	100

**Source: Field Survey, 2019**

While the remaining about 15% of respondents, being the minority were of age range 41 years and above.



**Figure. 1 depicts the educational distribution of respondents. It reveals that majority of the respondents about (45%) were first degree University graduates and above. (Source: Field Survey, 2019)**

It could be observed that about 6 % of the total respondents' qualifications were primary school certificate holders, about 18% of the respondents were holders of Secondary School Certificate Examination (SSCE), while about 31% had Diploma/NCE/HND. This implies that the entire respondents can read and write and also understand the subject matter of the study. Analyses of Responses on the Justification for Establishment of Private Security Companies (PSCs) In Nigeria.

Table 4.3 showed that the respondents gave a wide range of opinions when asked of "whom responsibility is Security of life and property". 646 of the respondents about 82 % see security responsibility as the sole duty

of government while about 7% opined that Private Security Companies are responsible for the security of life and property in Nigeria.

**Table 3: Responsibility of Security in Nigeria.**

S/N	Responses	Frequency	Percent
1.	Government	646	82.2
2.	Private Security Companies	58	7.4
3.	Everybody	82	10.4
	Total	786	100.0

**Source: Field Survey, 2019**

Table 4.3 showed that the respondents gave a wide range of opinions when asked of "whom responsibility is Security of life and property". 646 of the respondents about 82 % see security responsibility as the sole duty of government while about 7% opined that Private Security Companies are responsible for the security of life and property in Nigeria. However, 10% respondents posited that it is the joint responsibility of every citizen. The entire Key Informant interview agreed to the fact that it is a common knowledge that the security of life and property is the primary responsibility of any responsible and responsive government. There were opinions that security of life and property is not effectively provided by the government. The above result also corroborates the submission of the former Inspector General of Police Mr. Ibrahim Idris who equally affirmed that:

"to attain the UN ratio requirement of one police officer to 400 citizens of a country, the Nigeria Police Force needs to recruit 155,000 to police Nigerian population of approximately 182 million" He added further that inadequate funding; shortfall in manpower, lack of training and retraining of personnel had been some of the challenges confronting the force in order to provide effective security (Idris, 2017 in Vanguard, Lagos May 11, 2017).

**Table 4: Justification for Emergence of PSCs in Southwest, Nigeria :-** The result on the justification for the emergence of private security services in Southwest Nigeria is shown in table 4.5.

S/N	Responses	Frequency	Percent
1.	Need for Security and Safety	197	25.1
2.	Poor Security Network	104	13.4
3.	High Unemployment	72	9.2
4.	Institutional (Systemic) Failure	201	25.3
5.	Globalization	117	14.9
6.	Urbanization	95	12.1
	Total	786	100

Source: Field Survey, 2019

In descending order from the table 4, the most common factors for the justification of the emergence of private security services in Southwestern region of Nigeria is Institutional (Systemic) Failure with 201 respondents representing about 25%, need for security and safety with 197 respondents representing about 25%, Globalization 117 respondents about 15%, Poor security network with 104 respondents about 14%, Urbanization 95 respondents about 12% and the list High Unemployment rate with 95 respondents representing about 9%. Other most prominent factors classified as Institutional/Systemic Failures are corruption in the system, poor funding of security sector, inadequate security, and inefficient public policies amongst others. The reports from the Key Informant Interviewed showed different opinions. However, majority submitted that the need for security is the reasons for the emergence of PSCs in Southwest Nigeria.

The Key Informant Interviewed, a PSCs owner in Lagos opined that “PSCs are established for security purpose and that they are to complement government effort in the security of life and property of her citizen who can afford their services”. However, PSCs also provides employment opportunities to our unemployed youth in the country. (PSCs Executive officer in Yaba, Lagos)

**Table 5: Presence of Private Security Companies has Reduced Crime Rate in Southwest, Nigeria?**

S/N	Responses	Frequency	Percent
1.	Don't know	94	12.0
2.	No	121	15.4
3.	Yes	571	72.6
	Total	786	100.0

Source: Field Survey, 2019

Table 5 showed that, while responding to the questionnaires by the respondents the presence of Private Security Companies has reduced crime rate in South west Nigeria, 571 respondents representing about 73% agreed that the presence PSCs has indeed reduced crime rate, while 121 respondents representing about 15% disagreed. Also 12% of the total respondents said they don't know if the presence of PSCs has reduced crime rate or not. Dambazau, (2007) supported the above results when he argued that “the presence of security man/guards is effective to the extent that it is capable of retarding and prevent criminal activities”.

**Table 6: The Clients/Customers of PSCs in Southwest Nigeria?**

S/N	Responses	Frequency	Percent
1.	Public Institutions and Agencies	391	49.7
2.	Private Enterprise, and Corporations,	395	50.3
	Total	786	

Source: Field Survey, 2019

Table 6 showed outcome regarding the clients/customers of PSCs in Southwest Nigeria, there seem to be no much different on PSCs' client between public institutions/agencies and private enterprises. However, the respondents gave the following answers; 391 respondents representing about 50%, opined that Public Institutions and Agencies were the clients of PSCs while 386 respondents representing about 50% posit that Private enterprise, corporations, NGOs and Embassies are the clients of PSCs. The results showed that government institutions, agencies and private individuals, business owners, industries and multinational corporations are the customers/clients of PSCs in South west, Nigeria.

### *Analyses of Security Threats and Challenges in Nigeria*

**Table 7: Security Threats in Southwest State in Nigeria**

S/N	Responses	Frequency	Percent
1.	Kidnapping	160	20.3
2.	Armed robbery	163	20.8
3.	Ritual killing	146	18.6
4.	Rape and Sexual Harassment	68	8.6
5.	Terrorism and Vandalism	164	20.9
6.	Burglary& thefts	85	10.8
	Total	786	100

Source: Field Survey, 2019

Table 7 revealed that the 786 respondents who responded to the question outlined the various security threats in Southwestern state in Nigeria to include; Kidnapping with about 20% of the respondents, Armed robbery about 21%, Ritual killing about 19%, Rape and Harassment about 9%, terrorism and Vandalism about 21% of the respondents while Burglary and Thefts with about 11% of the total respondents. A University Don Interviewed gave reasons for the various security threats in Southwest, Nigeria. He posited that “Southwest states are border entity between Nigeria and neighboring country from Oyo to Ogun and Lagos where our borders

are porous”. According to him, it is a pointer to some of the security threats in south west, Nigeria.

**Table 8 Causes of the Security Threats**

S/N	Responses	Frequency	Percent
1.	Unemployment	423	53.8
2.	Increased population	114	14.5
3.	Inequality	115	14.6
4.	Wide Income Gap	67	8.5
5.	Increased Social Vices	58	7.4
6.	Other	9	1.1
	Total	786	100.0

**Source: Field Survey, 2019**

The result in Table 8 showed that the respondents gave the following causes of various security threat listed above as their responses; citing unemployment as one of the major causes of security threats in southwest, Nigeria with about 54% respondents while increased population with about 15% respondents, inequality about 15% respondents, wide income gap about 9% respondents, increased social vices 58 respondents about 8% and others 9 respondents about 1%. The responses from all the respondents showed that unemployment is the major security threats; a situation where able body youths and adults are not engaged is a call for concern in Nigeria. This outcome also corroborates findings from table 4.7 which shows that unemployment with 35% of the total respondents is the major reasons for the establishment of PSCs in Southwest Nigeria. Uzuegbu-Wilson, 2016, also corroborates the result as he listed the causes of security threats as follows: growing poverty, wide income disparities, high level unemployment, massive rural-urban migration, and breakdown of societal values, insurgency, terrorism and community unrest.

**Table 9 Challenges to Effective Security Provision in Southwest, Nigeria**

SN	Responses	Frequency	Percent
1.	Poor Infrastructure	136	17.3
2.	Inadequate Funding of Security	263	33.5
3.	Poor Security Network	81	10.2
4.	Inadequate Security Equipment	214	27.3
5.	Low Response to Distress Call	92	11.7
	Total	786	100

**Source: Field Survey, 2019**

Table 9 showed that the respondents identified the following as major challenge to effective security provision in Southwest Nigeria with majority of the respondents agreed that Inadequate Funding of Security

Sector is one of the major challenges to effective security provision in southwest Nigeria with about 34%; closely followed by Inadequate Security Equipment (provision of ammunition, vehicle etc.) with about 27% respondents. Others are Poor Infrastructure with about 17%; Poor Security Network with about 10% respondents; and Low Response to Distress call with about 12% respondents. A key informant interviewed observed and submitted in corroboration to Inadequate Funding of Security Sector as a major challenge to effective security provision pointed out that inadequate police officers in Nigeria can be likened to the Malthusian theory in his words

“A review of Malthusian theory says Police officials are growing at Arithmetical progression while new developed areas are growing geometrically, which resulted in large or too many ungoverned space in the country with less Police/public security officers presence”. (Security Expert and PSCs Owners in Ibadan)

Analyses of Government Regulations on PSCs and Security Services in Nigeria

**Table 10 Government Agency Regulating PSCs in Nigeria**

S/N	Responses	Frequency	Percent
1.	Nigeria Police Force	231	29.4
2.	Corporate Affairs Commission	74	9.4
3.	Nigeria Security and Civil Defense Corps (NSCDC)	454	57.8
4.	Other	27	3.4
	Total	786	100.0

**Source: Field Survey, 2019**

Table 4.15 revealed that 786 respondents who responded to the question regarding government agencies that should be responsible for the regulation of PSCs in Nigeria. Majority of the respondents with about 58% agreed that Nigeria Security and Civil Defense Corps (NSCDC); while about 30% of the respondents believed it should be the responsibility of the Nigeria Police Force, Corporate Affairs Commission with 10% respondents and others about 4%. The entire Key Informant Interviewed equally agreed that NSCDC is the only agency of government saddled with the responsibility of registration, licensing, monitoring and supervising the activities of PSCs in Nigeria.

**Table 11 Analysis of Emerging Trends in Private Security Provisions in Southwest, Nigeria**

SN	Responses	Frequency	Percent
1	Armed Escorts and Cash in Transit Services	221	28.1
2	Use of High Technological Gadget and Appliances	80	10.2
3	Guards bearing arms and V.I.P Protections	190	24.2
4	Event Management and Traffic Control	39	5
5	Manned Guarding, Corporate Surveillance and Bodyguards Services	210	26.7
6	Community Watch and Gated Community	46	5.8
	Total	786	100

Source: Field Survey, 2019

Table 4.24 revealed that the emerging trends observed in the services of PSCs in Southwest Nigeria as enumerated by the respondents include; use of High technological gadget and appliances, 80 respondents representing about 10%, Armed Escorts and Cash in transit services about 28%, Guards bearing arms and V.I.P protections with about 24% respondents, Manned Guarding Corporate Surveillance and Bodyguards services with about 27% respondents, Event Management and traffic control with 5% respondents and Community Watch and Gated Community with about 6% respondents.

**Table 4.25: Have you observed the following PSCs security provisions: securing telecommunications installation, Oil installations, Public and private schools/university, Public/private institutions, Electrical installations, Community watch, Housing estates, Political figures and VIP, Social gathering, ceremonies and parties**

S/N	Responses	Frequency	Percent
1.	Don't Know	88	11.2
2.	No	36	4.6
3.	Yes	662	84.2
	Total	786	100.0

Source: Field Survey, 2019

Table 4.25 showed that majority of the respondents representing about 84% have observed the above PSCs security services, while about 5% respondents said no, other respondent about 11% did not know. The entire Key informants interviewed were of the opinion that there are variations in the services rendered by PSCs as there is competition among private service providers.

## SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

The study examines Emerging Trends in Private Security Companies (PSCs) and Security Provision in South Western Nigeria. PSCs and security provision is a global phenomenon as Nations of the world have embraced private contracted security services for crime prevention and safety. The demand for private security services both from public and private clients is driven by heightened security concerns stemming from a large number of highly publicized tragedies, such as kidnapping, armed robbery, school shooting, bombing and terrorist attacks amongst others. The perceived risks of crime, accelerating economic activities and increased revenue growth for state and safety for end users, give rise to the growing acceptability of PSCs and security services around the globe. In Nigeria, the increased crime rate, burglary, theft, armed robbery, kidnapping, rape and sexual harassment, vandalism, terrorism and other security challenges which the Police and other public security agencies have failed to combat effectively, necessitated private incursion into security business. The need for security and safety by private investors, business owners, public agencies and corporate entities who feels unsatisfied or unsecured with the operation and services of public security forces engaged PSCs for assets management, crime prevention and safety. As such, the deteriorating security situation in Southwest, ever-increasing economic activities and the need for effective security services had push PSCs beyond the limit to cater for the needs of their clients. The resultant effect is the various emerging trends in security provision observed, beyond the usual private manned guarding services. The Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps (NSCDC) are saddled with the responsibility of regulating and supervising the activities of PSCs through its Private Guards Company department in Nigeria. The registration, supervision and licensing of PSCs (operatives and providers) is the cornerstone of regulation by the agency, hence the regulating agencies must ensure an effective documentation, formalized standard, and operating procedures relating to the ways security services are provided. However, there is need for a review of the current PGC regulation in order to accommodate emerging trends in PSCs security provisions and services in Nigeria. The relationship between PSCs and public security force is also important in order to achieve the collective goal of efficient security provision in the state. The areas where the relationship is needed are in information gathering and sharing (Intelligence), security surveillance and technological innovation, handing over of suspects, training and workshops on emerging trends on security issues in the state.



Conclusively, Private Security Sector/ Industry in Nigeria is an important sector, which contributes to crime control, safety, protection of life and property of both private and public clients. The PSCs are an emerging sector with vast prospects and potentials. It is a sector that generates income to the government, creates wealth to PSCs owners, employment opportunity to the citizens and complement government efforts in provision of security in Nigeria. The industry is growing at a rapid pace and the use of PSCs in the 21st century will be further enhanced by technological innovations. The security threats around are the reasons for the proliferation of PSCs in Nigeria. The emerging trends in Private Security Company and security provision involve types of services (e.g. manned guarding, alarm monitoring, private investigation, traffic control management, system integration and management, armored transport, cash in transit services, security consulting, pre-employment screening etc.) within a wide market range such as (e.g. commercial, industrial, institutional, residential etc.) in Nigeria. PSCs are now conducting investigations in form of running background checks, pre recruitment screening, due diligence, value assets management and fraud examination with forensic auditors. These specialized security services give security firms a way to set themselves apart from competitors in the private security sector in Nigeria.

### 5.3 RECOMMENDATIONS

- Findings from the study showed that government cannot provide effective security of life and property for her citizens alone (monopoly of security provision), not even in the western world with the avalanche of security challenges. The need for protection and security of life and property amidst various security challenges and the clear inability of the state and its public security forces to effectively arrest the situation is likely to give PSCs more roles, functions and potentials in Nigeria. To this end, the study therefore recommends that;
- The private security industry is growing at a rapid pace and the use of PSCs in the 21st century will be further enhanced by technological innovations. Emerging trends in PSCs services encompasses a wide range of services, and government regulation should be all encompassing to ensure accountability, efficiency and professionalism. This is necessary as the PGC department regulations of NSCDC need to be reviewed in order to cover other aspects aside manned guarding such as equipment services (use of technological security gadget), corporate security personnel managers, consultancy and training.
- The regulating agency and PSCs must conduct training and re-training of guards often if they must keep up with trending security challenges and criminal activities in Southwest Nigeria. This can be achieved by formulating a comprehensive regulating system for private security industry, develop effective mechanism for oversight and encourage culture of professionalism.
- There should be a better partnership and collaboration in areas of information sharing between Private Security Companies, Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps (NSCDC), the Nigeria Police Force and other public security agencies. There must be inter-agency cooperation with a view to putting an end to insecurity and criminality in Southwest, Nigeria.
- The regulation/supervision Agency needs to improve on its supervisory roles in order to improve the quality of security provided by PSCs to their clients and not limit the regulations to licensing and registration of PSCs. The licensing must be comprehensive and clearly defining the types of services PSCs may be allowed to provide and providing for revocation of licenses when the need arises.

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