

# The Relationship between Private Security Service Providers and National Security Organs in Crime Prevention in Lurambi Sub-County, Kenya

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## ABSTRACT

In the last three decades, there have been debates on how private security has taken over the State's role in providing policing and security services to the public. Previously, the State has enjoyed the preserve and the privilege of being a monopolist in providing the services mentioned above. However, due to the dynamic changing nature of the crime, numerous calls have been made to establish public-private partnerships between the State and private security in policing and security-related services. This study sought to investigate the relationship between private security service providers and national security organs in crime prevention in Lurambi Sub-county, Kenya. The study was underpinned in the Routine Activity and Situational Crime Prevention Theories of criminology. The study adopted descriptive and correlational research designs. The primary target population constituted 358 respondents, both male and female, drawn from six registered and regulated private security service providers in Lurambi Sub-County, 5 senior police officers in charge of security, police administration, and 4 police stations across Lurambi Sub-County, and 133 clients of private security services. Purposive sampling was used to identify the 6 registered and licensed private security firms which provided the study population. Proportionate sampling with a statistical framework of 30% was used to identify 108 private security service providers who formed the sample size to ensure that the private security officers from the 6 firms were represented in the same proportion that they existed within the population. Questionnaires were used to collect data from three groups of respondents, including 108 private security officers, 6 managers each in charge of each private security firm that participated in the study, and 40 clients sampled from the 6 private security firms that participated in the study. Interview guides were used to collect data from 5 senior police officers in charge of security, police administration, and 4 police stations spread across Lurambi Sub-County. Study findings revealed a statistically significant but weak relationship between private security service providers and national security organs in crime prevention ( $r=.469$ ;  $P<0.05$ ). This implied that even though increased collaboration between private security service providers and the national security organs can significantly enhance crime prevention, there is currently limited interaction in that regard. As a consequence of the findings, the study recommended that private security service companies enhance collaboration and networking with State law enforcement agencies to enhance crime prevention.

**Key Terms:** Private Security, National Security, Crime Prevention Resources

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## 1.1 Background of the Study

George and Kimber (2014) opine that it is difficult to define the concept of private security based on the existence of different variations in defining the term "security" itself, from which the idea of private security originates from. Nevertheless, several scholars have attempted to develop definitions for private security, even though most of them have provided definitions that suit their own perspectives and interests. Nsibambi (2014) defined "private security" as security and any related services being provided by any other entities apart from the government directed towards preventing crime.

More than 1 million PSSPs provide their services directly through companies in the US alone. This is a large number compared to 883000 State law enforcement agents employed by various law enforcement agencies in various departments of law enforcement agencies in the United States of America (Eichler, 2015).

The evolution of technology has rendered individuals and government corporations vulnerable to cyber-attacks and many other forms of modern crimes. Previously criminal attacks were more physical and rather a manifestation of kinetic energy through physical aspects such as explosives and the use of force. However, due to the current changes in the postmodern world, criminal attacks can be launched from any place of the world using technology. Therefore, many governments rely on companies to secure their information. This proves that there exists a relationship between the state and Private Security Service Providers (Grant, 2018).

The need for security watch services made it mandatory for all males above 18 years to be enlisted in active night watch duties to ensure maximum security for the forts. Later on, this new trend in security took a commercialization trend with the formation of Pinkerton Company in Chicago by Allan Pinkerton, which later became the most prominent Private Security firm in the world. Berg and Howell (2017) opine that South Africa provides the best trajectories for studying private security since they have the best experiences in implementing private security as a practice. They argue that the private security industry in South Africa grew rapidly between the 1970s and early 1980s due to anti-apartheid revolts since most policing efforts were directed towards quelling the revolts. There was increased crime and anarchy; thus, private security service providers had to be allowed to bridge this gap. Currently, many private security service providers are operating in the country. According to Kasali (2011), the consumption of services provided by Private security service providers is not considered a strange phenomenon in Nigeria. In the pre-Colonial Nigerian culture, the traditionally rich ancient times often required private guards' services to protect their households against physical attacks.

Kenya, as a developing country, enjoys a rich history of private security with the first private security companies, including KK Security (Currently known as Guard a world), Securicor Kenya (Currently operating as G4S), and factory guards (Currently operating as Security Group) being in existence in the country since the early 1960s before the country gained independence (Abrahamsen & Williams, 2011). The above perspective proves that private security is not new or rather did not start with the economic recess in the early 1990s. Private security companies were in existence even before the country gained independence from the British in 1963. However, Ngari (2015) notes that the exact number of private security service providers operating within the country cannot be established because there was little to no industry regulation since most private security companies were registered as private limited companies and still operate as such.

Gareis (2012) notes that the United Nations Guidelines for the Prevention of Crime of 2010 outlines that government institutions, all segments of civil society, and the corporate sector should work together to prevent crime. As indicated in the note by the Secretariat on Civilian private security services, these services have a role in crime prevention and community safety.

From the above analogy, it can be deduced that these recommendations provide the avenue and the basis for the UN member States to ensure there exist partnerships and collaborations between the private security sector and the State in crime prevention. This is due to the fact that the two entities provide similar services for the common good and the benefit of the civilian. This cooperation may enable them to pool resources together and strengthen the joint efforts of preventing crime among the stakeholders.

## **1.2 Statement of the Problem**

According to Conte (2017), the concept of “collective security” and “collective self-defense” have been mentioned numerously in the United Nations documents on security and international order. The state law enforcement has the overall responsibility of providing security and preventing crime within the society based on the analogy that they are the primary custodians of criminal law and at the same time collect taxes from the citizens to meet the costs of the same purpose. The problem is despite the consistent presence and existence of state-provided law enforcement agencies, including the national police service, the County enforcement units and other quasi-police units, there has been an enormous increase in the presence and use of private security service providers in preventing crime and managing public safety in Lurambi Sub-County, Kenya. A keen review of most commercial,

residential, and public spaces depicts private security service providers as the key players in crime prevention despite the presence of state law enforcement agencies who ought to provide such services as part of the social welfare services to which they are paid to provide. They also argue that previous studies have focused on specific security programs, including community policing and the Nyumba Kumi Initiative, leaving out the crime prevention aspect of them. This necessitates a more in-depth investigation into the relationship between private security service providers and national security organs in crime prevention in Lurambi Sub-county, Kenya.

### **1.3 Research Objective**

To investigate the relationship between private security service providers and national security organs in crime prevention in Lurambi Sub-county, Kenya.

### **1.4 Research Questions**

What is the relationship between private security service providers and national security organs in crime prevention?

### **1.5 Justification of the Study**

For years, private security service providers have been stakeholders in providing security and public safety services despite the presence of state law enforcement agencies. However, despite the presence of private security service providers, less is known about their activities, resources, levels of training, and whether there exist any collaboration programs between them and other security stakeholders, and more importantly, their effect on crime prevention.

There is a complimentary relationship between the existence of private security service providers and crime prevention in Africa as a continent and the rest of the world. However, most scholars tend to concentrate their studies on other stakeholders in crime prevention at the expense of private security (Karuri & Muna, 2019). Private security service providers are significant stakeholders in crime prevention because they supplement the state-provided law enforcement by providing specialized security services for their clients whose security needs cannot be met by the state. Their presence in private and public spaces institutes reduced the fear of crime and adversely reduced the risk of criminal victimization. Without such studies, it will be extremely difficult to understand their contribution to crime prevention.

The findings of this study are regarded as necessary based on the fact that it will help provide additional knowledge in criminology, criminal justice, and security studies. According to Button (2019), there has been an enormous increase in academic research, study courses, and peer-reviewed publications about state-provided law enforcement, which paints them as the only entities involved in crime prevention and ensuring public safety. A keen review of existing literature on crime prevention may result in one developing this conclusion. However, in reality, many other agents contribute towards crime prevention, including private security service providers. This proves that the study will contribute to existing knowledge.

Policymakers in the security sector can use this study to formulate policies that will improve the contribution and role of private security service providers in crime prevention because it has an empirical basis. The findings may also be utilized in making amendments and formulating more policies to support the efficiency of the Private Security Regulatory Act (2016), specifically in the sub-sections involving resources held by private security service providers, training, and cooperation. These will also go a long way in supporting the vision 2030, the big four agenda, and the millennium development goals indirectly because it supports the national and global realization of a crime-free society.

## 1.6 Literature Review

This section analyses this subject's existing literature by examining current studies sustaining or opposing this research.

### 1.6.1 The Relationship between Private Security Service Providers and the State Law Enforcement Agencies in crime prevention

Gill (2015) notes that there is an increase in the presence of private security officers deployed to guard key installations and perform quasi-police across the globe. This has aroused scholars' interest in criminology and criminal justice to study the relationship and the collaborations between law enforcement and private security service providers in crime prevention involved in crime prevention.

The relationship Between Private Security Service Providers and State law enforcement Agencies has existed for a significant period. Even though the two entities' relationship has been strenuous, it was not out of free will but a necessity. The course of their relationship has been affected by conflicts and blame games, especially during joint operations and their conflicting roles in crime Prevention. The other notable area of disagreement has been their differences in terms of training and the supremacy battles surrounding the two (Kaweesi, 2011).

According to Manzo (2010), there exist several differences between State law enforcement agencies and Private Security Service Providers. The purpose and the goals of the existence of the two legal entities are somehow different. State law enforcement agencies' main goal is to provide security to the public as a social welfare program and maintain the State's sovereignty by preventing anarchy. While on the other hand, Private Security Service Providers are driven by the zeal of making profits while providing various security and related services to meet the clients' specific security needs.

Manzo (2010) further notes that the two legal entities differ in terms of the applicable legal and regulatory framework. From the Kenyan perspective, the police are governed under the National Police Service Act 2010, while the Private Security Regulatory Act of 2016 regulates the Private Security Industry. These legal bottlenecks have limited the cooperation between the two entities.

However, despite the conflict and the challenges, Private Security Service Providers have been contributing significantly to Crime Prevention by supplementing the State in providing services to private businesses, foreign missions, and private individuals, thus facilitating an easy flow of activities and preventing anarchy (Molomo & Maundeni, 2014).

More than 1 million PSSPs provide their services directly through companies in the US alone. This is a large number compared to 883000 State law enforcement agents employed by various law enforcement agencies in various departments of law enforcement agencies in the United States of America (Eichler, 2015).

The evolution of technology has rendered individuals and government corporations vulnerable to cyber-attacks and many other forms of modern crimes. Previously criminal attacks were more physical and rather a manifestation of kinetic energy through physical aspects such as explosives and the use of force. However, due to the current changes in the postmodern world, criminal attacks can be launched from any place of the world using technology. Therefore, many governments rely on companies to secure their information. This proves that there exists a relationship between the state and Private Security Service Providers (Grant, 2018).

Grant (2018) further opines that governments should establish public-private partnerships, which should be based on collaboration and cooperation in critical areas, including security and infrastructure. If a malicious attack happens, the liability can be transferred to the government. However, cooperation between the two entities is necessary. Public-Private Partnerships can be utilized as an opportunity by the government to use expertise in the private sector to strengthen the public sector. This can be limited to cybersecurity and other notable areas in dire need of expertise.

According to Anicent (2014), establishing liaison structures between the State law enforcement agencies and the Private Security Service Providers would Increase the efficiency of their cooperation in Crime Prevention. Anicent (2014) further noted that attaining a consensus between the two subjects would significantly reduce the existing issues of mistrust, stereotyping, and even fragmentation that has existed for the longest period.

From the above perspective, it can be noted that very few states or governments can protect their citizens and the public entirely from the risk of crime and insecurity. Therefore, the state must establish long-term goals and partnerships with citizens and private entities to complement them in providing security and preventing crime. This cooperation can be enhanced by developing a legal framework that governs the scope, nature, and programs that might enhance cooperation between the state and private entities.

According to Berg and Howell (2017), the state must establish a partnership with private security entities to share intelligence information and prevent serious security incidents. This is based on the fact that it would allow the state to have access to sophisticated security equipment and trained personnel held by the private entity within the jurisdiction for the common good of protecting the public. This practice is necessitated by the dynamic nature of crime as a social phenomenon that keeps evolving over time and across regions. A good example of this is global terrorism and the proliferation of small arms and weapons, which threatens global peace and stability across regions and continents.

### **1.6.2 The United Nations recommendation on the relationships between private security service providers and the State**

Gareis (2012) notes that the United Nations Guidelines for the Prevention of Crime of 2010 outlines that government institutions, all segments of civil society, and the corporate sector should work together to prevent crime. As indicated in the note by the Secretariat on Civilian private security services, these services have a role in crime prevention and community safety.

From the above analogy, it can be deduced that these recommendations provide the avenue and the basis for the UN member States to ensure there exist partnerships and collaborations between the private security sector and the State in crime prevention. This is due to the fact that the two entities provide similar services for the common good and the benefit of the civilian. This cooperation may enable them to pool resources together and strengthen the joint efforts of preventing crime among the stakeholders.

According to Conte (2017), the concept of “collective security” and “collective self-defense” have been mentioned numerously in the United Nations documents on security and international order. They form part and parcel of Chapter 7 of the United Nations charter. Even though the concept seeks to regulate affairs among States on matters of international armed conflict, it provides another avenue for collaboration among countries themselves and between the States and private security industries worldwide to formulate the legal framework for regulating private security service providers worldwide. This will go a long way in preventing crime and insecurity across the globe and within jurisdictions, especially in the current wake of global terrorism.

### **1.6.3 The Private Security Regulatory Act's recommendations on the relationship between the Private Security Service Providers and the State**

According to Manzo (2010), there exist several differences between State law enforcement agencies and Private Security Service Providers. The purpose and the goals of the existence of the two legal entities are somehow different. The State law enforcement agencies' main goal is to provide security to the public as a social welfare program and maintain the State's sovereignty by preventing anarchy. While on the other hand, Private Security Service Providers are driven with the zeal to make profits while providing a variety of security and related services to meet the clients' specific security needs.

Manzo (2010) further notes that the two legal entities differ in terms of the applicable legal and regulatory framework. From the Kenyan perspective, the police are governed under the National Police Service Act 2010, while the Private Security Regulatory Act of 2016 regulates the Private Security Industry. These legal bottlenecks have resulted in limited cooperation between the two entities.

According to the Private Security Regulatory Act (2016), part 6 of the Act regulates the cooperation between the Private Security Industry and the State. It states that a Private Security Service provider must cooperate with the law enforcement and, in this case, the National Police service in the maintenance of law and order or any other manner when called upon by either the Inspector General of Police or the Cabinet Secretary in Charge of Interior and Coordination of the national government. This proves that any failure of a private security service provider to act or respond when called upon by the officials mentioned above may constitute an omission and result in legal action. This regulation proves that the State views private security service providers as a formidable force in crime prevention. The State recognizes their role and the extent of their contribution and is keen to establish a partnership.

Private Security Regulatory Act (2016), part 6, further grants powers to the Cabinet Secretary and the Private Security regulatory authority to come up with regulations relating to cooperation, scope, mechanism and places them at the top of the command chain in case cooperation between the two entities is established. When analyzed critically, this part paints the State as an antagonist in the collaboration rather than an equal partner. The State aligns itself as antagonistic in the equation by calling shots on determining the nature and the extent of the relationship.

According to Krahnmann (2017), good cooperation should be centered on mutual respect; equality must be voluntary and free from coercion and intimidation. However, this is not the case here because the Private Security Regulatory Act of 2016 has already placed the Cabinet Secretary for Interior and Coordination of National Government as a superior partner in case of any collaborations between the two entities.

Gill (2015), in his research on senior police officers' perspectives on private security, concludes by noting that private security service providers' level of participation in relation to crime prevention is more deeper than the State's. Therefore the State has a responsibility to establish solid relationships and partnerships with the private security industry and ensure that the partnership survives the taste of time. From this perspective, it can be deduced that the role of private security in crime prevention cannot be ignored. If the State seriously seeks to establish partnerships with the private sector, private security must be brought on board as an equal partner.

The concept of "deputation," as opined by Button (2019), is not new within the criminal justice system. It is simply a formal contract where the State contracts specific individuals or companies to perform quasi-police duties with limited authority within a specified period and geographical jurisdiction.

This concept manifests itself in Part 7 of the Private Security Regulatory Act (2016), where the State outlines the powers ceded to private security, which were originally a preserve and the state's functions. Among them includes the powers to arrest suspects, search suspected individuals and premises, and record and temporarily withhold identification documents. However, it sets out a disclaimer that this part does not grant a private security service provider powers to fully assume the role of a police officer or a member of the disciplined forces. From the above statement, it can be deduced that the outsourcing of critical and crucial services by the State from the private sector is one of the emerging trends of governance and service provision within a post-modern society.

#### **1.6.4 The influence of the relationship between Private Security Service Providers and the State in crime prevention**

Abrahamsen and Williams (2010) argue that the existence of private security is a manifestation of democracy within a country. Most third-world countries struggle to move from authoritarian States to democratic countries. With absolute authoritarianism, the police are viewed as agents of a dictatorial regime to be used against the

opposition whenever the need arises. This diverts their attention away from their primary role of preventing crime and maintaining social order. From the author's perspective, the act of cooperation between the State and private security may be interpreted as a characteristic and a sign of democracy. A government of the people, by the people, for the people. Lack of cooperation between the State and the private security sector may be interpreted as a sign of dictatorship.

According to Brodeur (2010), recently, there have been debates on how private security has taken over the State's role in providing policing and security services to the public. Previously, the State has enjoyed the preserve and the privilege of being a monopolist in providing the services mentioned above. However, due to the dynamic changing nature of the crime, numerous calls have been made to establish public-private partnerships between the State and private security in policing and security-related services. This has been the case in South Africa, where the State struggled to contain high crime levels after the wake of post-apartheid democracy in 1993. However, through the intervention of private security, the situation was contained. The statement above points out the need to establish improved working relations between the two entities to merge their crime prevention efforts.

Gill (2015) notes that there is an increase in the presence of private security officers deployed to guard key installations in western countries. This has caught scholars' attention in criminology and criminal justice to study the relationship between the two entities involved in crime prevention. The early 1980s and 1990s were a period of economic success for many countries. It was characterized by the evolution of global trade, which brought about the need for peace and security. The proliferation of private security service providers across the globe is considered the consequence of this development.

From the above perspective, it can be deduced that the collaboration between private security and the state law enforcement agencies and private security has been necessitated by the global development agenda, which has brought about new security challenges. The challenges include terrorism, the proliferation of small and light weapons, the cold war, and the political instability witnessed in third-world countries in Africa and the Middle East.

According to Paek et al. (2021), the state law enforcement agencies and private security service providers must cooperate based on the analogy that their duties overlap. However, their cooperation is limited by a number of factors, including police legitimacy where, the majority of the players in the security sector believe that the police have the more legitimate power to enforce the law than other legal entities, including private security thus, tend to cooperate with the police more as compared to other quasi-police entities. This undermines the cooperation between the two entities.

Paek et al. (2021) further note that the lack of inclusion of private security in procedural justice undermines their legitimacy in carrying out investigations and arrests, thus limiting their active participation in the criminal justice system in adversarial law jurisdictions.

### **1.6.5 Theoretical Framework**

Criminologists study how, why, when, where, and under what conditions crime, criminality, and victimization occur (Barlow & Kauzlarich, 2010). The concept and role of private security in criminology are majorly established under Becker's famous Routine Activity Theory in 1976.

#### **1.6.5.1 Routine Activity theory (RAT)**

According to Felson and Boba (2010), Cohen and Felson were the first scholars to discuss the Routine Activity Theory in 1979, which explained the special circumstances required for a crime to happen. Later this theory was revised to suggest that for a criminal act to occur, three aspects must converge within the same space and time. The three aspects include a motivated offender, a suitable target or victim, and a potential guardian's absence. A

motivated offender, in this case, may be anyone who may have any reason whatsoever to commit a crime. A suitable target might be any object worth stealing or a physical object that faces the risk of vandalism, or a person who faces the risk of victimization by the motivated offender. In this case, a potential Guardian might be any person whose presence may stop the crime incident from happening, including family members, police officers, neighbors, or Private Security Service Providers.

Schneider (2014) opined that potential guardians might also include Private Security Service Providers who may have the overall responsibility of controlling behavior within a specific location, such as a business establishment with authority from the client. Barlow and Kauzlarich (2010) argue that the availability of crime opportunities plays a significant role in crime causation. For example, one cannot rob a bank without a chance to do so, which in this case is the existence of a bank. A crime opportunity presents itself through the availability of suitable victims and targets. These crime opportunities are concentrated over time and space. They depend on everyday movements and activities.

According to Leclerc (2014), private security firms usually employ a number of ways to implement the routine activity theory. They include increasing the effort of committing a crime through target hardening by installing electric fences and alarms at a fee. Leclerc (2014) further states that private security service providers implement the theory by increasing the risk of getting caught by installing CCTV Cameras for clients and conducting both on-site and remote surveillance on the client's property and other security needs. The same is also achieved by implementing another defense line, such as baggage screening and natural surveillance using guards.

According to Leclerc (2014), removing excuses is another form of crime prevention advanced by this theory. Private security service providers attain this by attaching their labels to their client's property, e.g., manned by BM Security, under CCTV surveillance, and many others. This is done to announce their presence and psychologically prepare any potential offender that they might have to be vetted and approved before accessing the private property, the client, or the target they are seeking to gain from. Leclerc (2014) argues that private security service providers prevent crime by concealing the possible target by conducting covert operations in cases involving high valued targets such as cash in transit. They also apply target removal and property identification by creating an inventory of the property and clients who have contracted them to provide their services. This guides them in the decision-making process to recruit and allocate strength in their various posts and branches (Leclerc, 2014).

As opined by Schneider (2014), the portrayal of private security service providers as potential guardians who have the overall responsibility of controlling behaviour within a specific location such as a business establishment with authority from the client and the State proves the existence of a relationship between this theory and the research topic. Even though the theory was adopted in this research, it is not perfect and has several shortcomings. Franklin et al (2012) point out the deficiencies of the theory, including the assumption that all offenders are rational human beings who can make rational decisions before engaging in criminal activities. Thus, it is not suitable to explain situations and criminal incidents involving offenders suffering from mental disorders who also pose a direct security risk to the public and themselves.

Based on the shortcomings of the theory mentioned above, the researcher supplemented it with a second theory, in this case, situational crime prevention theory of criminology, which he termed as sufficient to resolve the shortcomings of the first theory.

#### **1.6.5.2 Situational crime prevention theory**

Clarke (2017) opines that situational crime prevention is a significant theory in criminology, criminal justice, and security studies widely applicable in crime prevention. It advocates for the introduction of environmental and managerial changes that seek to reduce crime opportunities and the rewards obtained out of commission of the crime. Freilich and Newman (2017) argue that it focuses on proactive measures and methods towards crime through executing a preventive approach to eliminate crime opportunities. Unlike other theories in criminology,



situational crime prevention focuses on existing circumstances within the environment that make it possible for a crime to occur and then, using in-depth analysis, develops the mechanisms to mitigate these circumstances. The mechanisms are aimed at reducing the opportunities and the rewards of crime. Freilich and Newman (2017) further note that situational crime prevention is among the few theories that can be applied beyond the current criminal justice system to support corporate and personal security efforts. According to Newburn (2012), situational crime prevention is widely applicable in law enforcement practice, administration, and management. Situational crime prevention is used in problem-solving policing, one of the major strategies applicable to policing worldwide. It focuses on a specific crime problem and the development of proactive mechanisms to resolve this crime problem.

According to Huisman and Van (2013), situational crime prevention emerged 45 years ago through merging ideas from other notable theories, including rational choice and opportunity structure theories.

Smith and Clarke (2012) further allude that the risk of detection and getting arrested can be increased through extending guardianship on a property or a particular location which can be achieved physically through the use of private security service providers and electronically through the use of CCTV cameras which can be manned remotely by private security service providers. Others include natural surveillance, reducing anonymity cases within the physical environment, employing facility managers, and introducing electronic and remote surveillance. Clarke (2017) states that reducing the rewards of committing crime can be attained through concealing goods that may likely attract criminals, entirely removing them from plain view to reduce provocation, identifying properties through marking them and installing license plates on them. These activities can be undertaken by individuals or through contracting private security service providers who offer services, including engraving identity marks on properties, including tamperproof watermarks to protect brands against theft and concealment. Private security also does this by identifying and recovering stolen property.

Clarke (2017) further mentions reducing provocations as another strategy applicable in situational crime prevention. It includes individuals avoiding disputes, reducing provocation, neutralizing and repulsing negative peer pressure, and reducing imitation through brand protection efforts by private security companies dealing in brand protection and anti-counterfeit efforts.

Clarke (2017) concludes by noting the removal of excuses as the fifth strategy; however, it can be achieved through strictly adhering to laws, rules, and regulations and adhering strictly to security and safety rules and procedures. The regulations, security policies, and safety guidelines can be publicized through posters and any other publications. This will help create awareness concerning illicit and unwanted goods, resulting in easy enforcement of security rules and procedures by private security service providers in charge of the facilities.

### **1.7 Research Methodology**

This study employed descriptive and correlational study research design. According to Creswell and Creswell (2017), the descriptive research design is commonly applied in studies that intend to describe and interpret the current status of individuals, settings, conditions, events, or a phenomenon as it exists within the society. The researcher has no intentions to manipulate the variables in order to influence the outcome. Creswell and Creswell (2017) further allude that descriptive studies are easier and simpler to conduct. They explain social phenomena as they naturally exist yet quite significantly provide a foundation upon which correlational and experimental studies emerge.

The study was carried out in Lurambi Sub-County of Kakamega County, Kenya. Lurambi Sub County hosts Kakamega town, which is the headquarters of Kakamega County. It is the second-largest county in Kenya (Wegulo, 2014). It is the regional headquarters of the larger Western Province. It lies 50 Kilometers North of Kisumu City at an altitude of 250-2000 meters. It has six wards, including Butsotso east, Butsotso south, Butsotso central, Shieywe, Mahiakalo, Shirere (Wegulo, 2014). It is an administrative, commercial, residential, industrial, and cosmopolitan set-up, making it prone to social problems such as crime (Wakhu, 2012).

. The target population consisted of private security officers, managers, and clients drawn from regulated and registered private security firms operating in Lurambi Sub-County Kenya and senior police officers of the national police service each in charge of police stations spread across Lurambi Sub-County.

The accessible population included 18 private security firms operating in Lurambi Sub-County. Purposive sampling was used to identify 6 private security service providers who participated in the study on the premise that they were the only private security firms that were fully registered, licensed, and permitted to operate and thus more willing to participate in the study hence providing the study population. According to Creswell and Creswell (2017), purposive sampling is a form of sampling where individuals are selected to participate in research based on a specific purpose. In this case, the 6 private security service providers were the only firms fully registered and licensed to offer private security services.

The target population involved 358 private security officers drawn from the 6 firms. Proportionate sampling with a statistical framework of 30% was used to identify 108 private security service providers who formed the sample size to ensure that the private security officers from the 6 firms were represented in the same proportion that they existed within the population. According to Creswell and Creswell (2017), proportionate sampling is a sampling method in which the researcher divides a finite population into sub-populations and then applies random sampling techniques to each subpopulation. Creswell (2014) explains that a sample of 20 - 30% of the accessible population is adequate for purposes of generalization of findings from the sample onto the entire population from which the sample was obtained. Simple random sampling was applied to identify respondents from each of the six firms.

Being descriptive research, the study involved assessing attitudes, opinions, and responses of Private Security Service Providers towards crime prevention. The researcher obtained permission from the University's School of Post Graduate Studies, the National Council for Science Technology and Innovation (NACOSTI), the County Director of Education, and the Ministry of education to comply with the regulatory framework governing research. The descriptive data was collected using questionnaires and interview schedules. The questionnaires for private security officers, the branch managers, and the clients for private security officers comprised both open and closed questions, which were preferred to take care of the illiterate respondents and who questionnaires posed a challenge. Interview schedules were used on the 5 senior police officers in charge of 4 police stations across Lurambi Sub-County. The questionnaires were filled and returned to the researcher. The researcher gained more control over the administered interview; hence bias recording was eliminated by obtaining clarifications when questions were not clearly were answered. According to Bryman (2016), more than one research tool can be used in descriptive research.

Data obtained from the field was edited and cleaned to ensure accuracy, completeness, and comprehensibility and coded for ease of analysis. Study data were analyzed using both descriptive and inferential statistics with the aid of the Statistical Package for the Social Sciences (SPSS) version 28 for windows. Descriptive statistics was computed to summarise and explain data and was presented in the form of frequencies, percentages, and mean. Inferential statistics included the Pearson product-moment Correlation Coefficient to measure relationships between variables and regression analysis to determine influences between and among variables. Qualitative data derived from open-ended questions was thematically presented in narrative forms and tables.

## 1.8 Study Findings

The objective sought to determine the relationship between private security service providers and national security organs in crime prevention in Lurambi Sub-County. Study data relating to the collaboration between private security service providers and national Security organs was subjected to descriptive and inferential statistics and findings presented in the following section.

### 1.8.1: Descriptive analysis for the relationship between private security service providers and national security organs in crime prevention

Table 1 shows the descriptive analysis for the responses to items on collaboration between private security service providers and national security organs in crime prevention.

**Table 1: Descriptive analysis of the responses by Private Security Guards on their Interaction with National Police service in crime prevention**

<b>Collaboration levels</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>
Do you ever collaborate with the police in the course of your duties?	<b>79 (88.76%)</b>	<b>10 (11.23%)</b>
Records documenting interactions with State law enforcement agencies	<b>48 (53.93%)</b>	<b>41 (46.06%)</b>
Sharing of resources with State law enforcement agencies	<b>59(66.29%)</b>	<b>30 (33.70%)</b>
Information sharing with State law enforcement agencies	<b>52 (58.74%)</b>	<b>37 (41.57%)</b>
Adequacy of training to facilitate collaboration with State law enforcement agencies	<b>40 (44.94%)</b>	<b>49 (55.05%)</b>
<b>TOTAL 89</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	

**Source:** Research Data (2019)

Study findings in table 1 show that 88.76% of the private security officers believe that there was a collaboration with State law enforcement agencies in crime prevention, while 11.23% indicated that there was no collaboration between private security service providers and State law enforcement agencies. Collaboration between actors in crime prevention will significantly increase crime prevention efforts. From the above analogy, it can be noted that there exists some level of cooperation between private security service providers and the state security agencies, including the police, on crime prevention.

This finding conforms to the study by Button (2012), who states that there must exist cooperation between private security and state law enforcement agencies in crime prevention.

Button (2012) further notes that cooperations are key in fostering the output and the performance of private security service providers in crime prevention. Among the critical areas of cooperation should include training, sharing of equipment, capacity building, sharing of security intelligence and information, and complimenting each other in the field during security operations.

The study finding in table 1 also revealed that 53.93% of the respondents believed that their firms kept records of interaction with State law enforcement agencies. In comparison, 46.06% indicated that their organizations do not keep records of interaction with State law enforcement agencies. Records of collaboration between private security service providers and the national police service are essential since they can be used as indicators to determine the existence of collaboration programs and how they collaborate to improve crime prevention.

The finding above conforms to the study by Dennis Lee (2014), who states that it is essential for private security service providers to collaborate with state law enforcement and share security information, including security records and information relating to crime and security. This will enable them to work proactively to prevent crime.

The study further deduced that 66.29% of respondents believed they were sharing resources with State law enforcement agencies. In comparison, 33.70% indicated that there was no sharing of resources with State law enforcement agencies. 58.74% stated that private security firms shared information with State law enforcement agencies. In comparison, 41.57% were of the view that private security service firms do not share information with State law enforcement agencies. Sharing security information and resources between private security service providers and law enforcement agencies is an indicator of successful collaboration programs between private security service providers and law enforcement in crime prevention.

This finding conforms to the study by White (2012), who states that private it is prudent in plural policing zones for law enforcement agencies to share resources with private security service providers based on the analogy that they offer like services and have the common goal of preventing crime within the society. As much as private security is paid to provide such services, they both work for the community's common good.

It was further revealed based on the study findings that 55.05% of the study respondents did not believe that there was adequate training for private security service providers to effectively collaborate with State law enforcement agencies. This proves that insufficient training on collaboration between private security and the national police service is a significant factor that has resulted in poor collaboration between the two entities. At the same time, 44.94% were of the view that there was adequate training to facilitate effective collaboration with State law enforcement agencies.

The findings above conform to the study by Percy (2013), who states that most private security service providers are not often trained in the field they are required to work. This is one of the reasons why they are unable to collaborate and work together with law enforcement. This adversely limits their capacity in crime prevention.

When asked to State how the collaboration between private security service providers and State law enforcement agencies can be enhanced, 67.55% of the respondents were of the view that there is a need for increased training on emergency response, fire-fighting, handling emergencies, and use of firearms to effectively complements the efforts of each other in crime prevention. This proves a need to initiate training programs, especially those centered on collaboration between the two entities.

This finding conforms to the study by Button (2012), who states that there must exist cooperation between private security and state law enforcement agencies in all aspects of security management and crime prevention. From the above analogy, it can be noted that training is one of the primary factors that may result in an increase in cooperation between the two entities. This can be attained through encouraging joint training while at the same time redesigning the training curriculum to harmonize the training module for both entities.

**Table 2: Overall Frequency of interaction among private security guards**

Interaction	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Never	9	10.11
Daily	55	61.79
Weekly	20	22.47
Monthly	5	5.61
<b>Total</b>	<b>89</b>	<b>100.0</b>

**Source:** Research data (2019)

Study findings in table 2 indicate that most respondents (61.79%) interacted with State law enforcement agencies daily, while 22.47% interacted with State law enforcement agencies on a weekly basis. Few private security service providers (5.61%) interacted with State law enforcement agencies every month, while 10.11% never interacted with State law enforcement agencies at all in the course of their duties. The findings prove that even though collaboration programs exist between private security service providers in crime prevention, the levels of collaboration are weak and thus undermine crime prevention. Therefore, it is prudent for the government to establish statutory collaboration programs to enhance.

This finding conforms to the study by Nalla and Gurinskaya (2020), who state that the level of interaction between the police and the private security service should be regularly based on the fact that they work towards a common

goal of preventing crime. Crime prevention is a collective responsibility between the state and the private sector and therefore requires collective effort fostered by frequent interactions.

**Table 3: Responses by managers of private security firms on the relationship between their firms and national security organs in crime prevention**

Training levels	Yes	No
1 Collaboration with State law enforcement agencies	<b>6 (100%)</b>	<b>0(0%)</b>
2 Records documenting interactions with State law enforcement agencies	<b>5 (83.33%)</b>	<b>1(16.66 %)</b>
3 Sharing of resources with State law enforcement agencies	<b>4 (66.66%)</b>	<b>2(33.33%)</b>
4 Information sharing with State law enforcement agencies	<b>3 (50%)</b>	<b>3 (50%)</b>
5 Adequacy of training to facilitate collaboration with State law enforcement agencies	<b>2 (33.33%)</b>	<b>4 (66.66%)</b>
Total 6		<b>100.0%</b>

**Source:** Research Data (2019)

Study findings in table 3 show that 100% of the study respondents believed there was a collaboration with State law enforcement agencies in crime prevention. It was also revealed that 83.33% of the respondents were of the view that their firms kept records of interaction with State law enforcement agencies. This proves that collaboration programs exist between private security service providers and State law enforcement agencies in relation to crime prevention.

Simultaneously, 16.66% indicated that their organizations do not keep records of interaction with State law enforcement agencies. This indicates that even though collaboration programs exist between private security service providers, it is not all-inclusive.

The study further found out that 66.66% of respondents were of the view that there was sharing of resources with State law enforcement agencies. This proves the presence of collaboration between private security service providers in crime prevention. At the same time, 33.33% indicated that there was no sharing of resources with State law enforcement agencies, again proves that even though there exist collaboration programs between private security service providers and Law enforcement in an effort to prevent crime, the levels of collaboration are still weak based on the fact that they are not all-inclusive and only targets a number of firms.

The study further found that 50% of the private security firms shared information with State law enforcement agencies. In comparison, 50% were of the view that private security service firms do not share information with State law enforcement agencies. This proves that there is a significant but weak collaboration between private security service providers and law enforcement in relation to crime prevention in Lurambi Sub-County Kenya. It was further revealed based on the study findings that 66.66% of the study respondents did not believe that there was adequate training for private security service providers to effectively collaborate with State law enforcement agencies. In comparison, 33.33% were of the view that there was sufficient training to facilitate effective collaboration with State law enforcement agencies. This proves that the existing training programs offered by most private security service providers in Lurambi Sub-County Kenya do not favor collaboration between the two entities.

When asked to state in which way the collaboration between private security service providers and State law enforcement agencies can be enhanced, 75% of the respondents were of the view that there is a need for joint training sessions with the police on all aspects involving crime prevention including weapon handling skills, criminal law, musketry, handling emergencies and use of firearms to effectively complements the efforts of each other in crime prevention. This proves that an enhancement in joint training between private security service providers and the national police service would significantly increase their efficiency in crime prevention.

These findings conform to the study by Paek et al. (2021), who states that the concept of collaboration between private security and the state law enforcement agencies should be made mandatory through the establishment of a legal, regulatory framework that does not limit but instead compels the two entities to cooperate and collaborate to enhance crime prevention and promote community safety. This would result in reduced fear of crime and criminal victimization.

### **1.8.2: Quantitative findings for interviews with senior police officers on the relationship between private security and the national police service**

Based on the interviews conducted between the researcher and the officers in charge of the four police stations in Lurambi Sub-County, 4(80%) believed collaboration exists between private security service providers and the National police service in crime prevention.

At the same time, 3 (60%) agreed that they shared resources with private security service providers in the course of their duties in crime prevention. This proves that there exists a good relationship between private security service providers and the national police service, which influences crime prevention.

Based on the interviews conducted, 3 (60%) of the senior police officers interviewed believed that there is no sharing of information between private security service providers and the national police service in the course of their duties in crime prevention.

Simultaneously, 4 (80%) respondents believed that the training programs were inadequate to facilitate collaboration between private security and the national police service in crime prevention. This proves that there exists a weak relationship between the two entities.

” We enjoy a mutual relationship with most PPSPs due to the nature of our work. However, our interactions are limited by standing orders, among many other factors. We do not expect the police to share very sensitive security information with the PSSPs. Too much information may compromise police operations. Otherwise, the PSSPs have a duty to report all criminal incidents they encounter to the police. The police may conduct investigations and share the reports with them,” Stated the Officer Commanding Ejinja corner police post (Field, 2019).

Respondents were asked if they had any collaboration programs with private security service providers. Responses that came out alluded to continuous collaboration and networking between national police service and private security service providers in providing guarding services to government buildings, commercial banks, money in transit, and other functions. When asked how often they interacted with private security service providers, it emerged that the interactions are frequent and depend on the function and request for security arrangements.

Most respondents from the national police service believed that there were no statistics on interaction with private security service providers with regard to the nature of deployment, sector of deployment, and frequency of deployment. When asked why there were no such records, the most cited reason alluded to a lack of clarity as to why such a record would be desirable to keep. Most officers from the national police service believed that working relations between private security service providers and State law enforcement was cordial and mutually beneficial to the officers and their organizations. The most significant advantage that police have compared to the private security service providers was the issuance of firearms as a measure to deter potential criminals. Most police

officers indicated that they mostly interacted with junior private security service providers during guarding duties and that the interactions were more frequent than not.

Police officers confirmed that they share vehicles, intelligence alarm systems, fire-fighting engines, and other resources with private security service providers. Most respondents were of the view that private security service providers need to be armed, and their terms and conditions of employment improved to enhance their ability to prevent crime effectively. Respondents indicated that most private security service providers submit reports on crime incidents and share intelligence with the National Police Service to bolster crime prevention efforts. Such reports and intelligence are shared on a need basis. Police officers believed that most private security service providers' training levels were not adequate to effectively support crime prevention and that continuous and relevant training was necessary to update private security service providers with the emerging trends in crime such as terrorism. Police officers suggested that deliberate steps should be taken to significantly invest in relevant training to empower private security service providers in crime prevention.

The findings conform to the study by Percy (2013), who states that it is unfortunate that the level of cooperation between private security and the state law enforcement agencies is still low even though they offer the same services. This can be attributed to the lack of a strong regulatory framework governing private security work in most jurisdictions in developing countries.

### **1.8.3: Qualitative findings for interviews with senior police officers on the relationship between private security and the national police service**

The officer in Charge of Shirere police post stated that collaboration programs exist between his organization and the private security service providers operating in his jurisdiction. “In most cases we are in constant communication with them, exchanging ideas, intelligence information, and any other vital communication in relation to crime and security. We also share security resources including motor vehicles in a bid to prevent crime and ensure security “. Stated the officer in charge of Shirere police post.

The officer commanding Lurambi police post shared her sentiments on collaboration between private security service providers and law enforcement and how it may influence crime prevention. “There exists collaborations between the National police service and the private security firms based on the fact that we offer similar services and complement each other in crime prevention. The collaboration mostly focuses on sharing intelligence and involving them in their operations, including cash on transit, among many others. However, private security service providers are not adequately trained in the concept of collaboration. This should be put into much consideration”. Stated the officer commanding Lurambi police post.

The officer commanding Ejinja police post stated collaboration is one of the emerging trends in governance and administration. He stated that even though there exists collaboration programs between the police and the private security, the level of collaboration is still very low and limited by factors such as lack of proper training, lack of policies, and above all, the unwillingness of private security companies to collaborate with the police. However, he stated that if these three suggestions are implemented to the latter, it will positively impact crime prevention.

The officer in charge of the Kakamega central police station stated that there exist no collaboration programs between private security and the national police service. What people refer to as collaborations are simply security duties. It is the duty of the police to collaborate with private security service providers based on the fact that the police have a moral duty to maintain law and order as part of the social welfare services extended by the government to the taxpayers.

“There exists a lot of collaboration between private security service providers and the police to improve crime prevention. It is our responsibility to ensure that the program is a success. I will soon call for security stakeholders meeting between the national police service, private security, and community policing to foresee how we can

collaborate to enhance crime prevention in my jurisdiction. Your study has offered an excellent idea to me. Said the Lurambi Sub-County police commander.

The findings conform to the study by Percy (2013), who states that it is unfortunate that the level of cooperation between private security and the state law enforcement agencies is still wanting. Percy (2013) further says that their interaction is limited by a number of factors, including lack of adequate training, poor remuneration, lack of legal framework governing collaboration, unhealthy competition, and a high level of incompetence within government and private security companies.

#### 1.8.4 Correlation Results for the relationship between private security service providers and National Security organs in Crime Prevention

Correlation Analysis between the relationship between private security service providers and national security organs in crime prevention was computed, and findings presented in table 4.

**Table 4: Correlations for the relationship between Private Security Service Providers and National Security Organs in Crime Prevention**

		PSSP	National Security Organs
PSSP	Pearson Correlation	1	
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.000	
	N	136	
National Security Organs	Pearson Correlation	.469**	1
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.000	
	N	136	136

\*\* . Correlation is significant at the 0.05 level (2-tailed).

**Source:** Research Data (2019)

A correlation coefficient statistic that describes the degree of linear association between private security service providers and national security organs in crime prevention was computed. Study findings revealed a statistically significant but weak relationship between private security service providers and national security organs in crime prevention ( $r=.469$ ;  $P<0.05$ ). This implies that even though increased collaboration between private security service providers and the national security organs can significantly enhance crime prevention, there is currently limited interaction in that regard. The study results conform to previous studies, which found similar results where interaction between private security service providers and national security agencies enhanced crime prevention.

The findings conform to the study by Uzuegbu (2020), who stated despite the fact that there exist collaboration programs between private security service providers and the law enforcement agencies, the relationship between these two entities is weak and thus hampering the implementation of the existing collaboration programs. This affects crime prevention negatively. In order to improve the concept of crime prevention, there should exist long-term relationships and cooperation between private security and law enforcement in crime prevention.

The study also conforms to the findings by Park and Kim (2011), who stated that there exists mutual cooperation and relationships between private security and law enforcement in the United States of America, which has been beneficial in the course of preventing many forms of crime, especially violent crime. The absence of such a mutual approach towards enhancing crime prevention would result in an increase in levels of crime. While law enforcement is more reactive towards crime incidents, private security service providers have been termed



proactive based on their consistent presence in almost every place across urban centers and public spaces. Thus they fit the most important discourse of crime prevention which, in this case, is the concept of a proactive approach towards crime.

The study also conforms to the findings by Crawford (2013), which states that the United Nations Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, a task force formed in April 2009, composed of experts on crime and criminal justice, has acknowledged the role of Private Security Service Providers in crime prevention. The commission acknowledged that even though crime prevention is the State's responsibility, private security service providers have played a significant role in enhancing public safety. The State has a duty to reciprocate through partnerships with the Private Security Service Providers to enhance service delivery. Among the mechanisms of the possible partnership suggested are partial funding and the sharing of equipment.

### 1.8.5 Regression Analysis for interaction between private security service providers and national security organs as a predictor for crime prevention

Regression analysis for interaction between private security service providers and national security organs as a predictor for crime prevention was done, and findings are presented in table 5.

**Table 5: Model Summary for Interaction between private security service providers and national security organs as a predictor for Crime Prevention**

Model	R	R Square	Adjusted Square	R Std. Error of the Estimate	Durbin-Watson
1	.342 <sup>a</sup>	.201	.225	.81742	1.720

a. Predictors: (Constant), Interaction between private security service providers and national security organs

b. Dependent Variable: Crime Prevention

Source: Research Data (2019)

From table 5, the value of R squared was 0.201, which implies that the interaction between private security service providers and national security organs explains 20.1 % of the variance in crime prevention. The remaining 79.9% unexplained variance was largely due to other factors that affect crime prevention, which were not included in the model. Such factors were, however, explained by the stochastic error term.

### 1.8.6 ANOVA results for Interaction between private security service providers and national security organs in Crime Prevention

The ANOVA output for the linear study model is presented in table 6. Table 7:

**Table 6 ANOVA results for Interaction between private security service providers and national security organs in Crime Prevention**

Model		Sum of Squares	Df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
1	Regression	48.089	1	48.089	67.972	.000 <sup>a</sup>
	Residual	198.447	297	.668		
	Total	246.536	298			

a. Predictors: (Constant), Interaction between private security service providers and national security organs

b. Dependent Variable: Crime Prevention.

Source: Research Data (2019)

ANOVA for the linear model presented in Table 6 is for the interaction between private security service providers and national security organs in crime prevention. The finding has an F value of 67.792, which is significant at a 99% confidence level with a P-value = 0.000, meaning that the overall model is significant in the prediction of crime prevention on the basis of the Interaction between private security service providers and national security organs in Lurambi Sub-County.

### 5.3 Conclusion

Based on the empirical evidence, the following conclusion is made;

Findings established a statistically significant and positive relationship between private security service providers' collaboration with State law enforcement agencies and crime prevention in Lurambi Sub-County. With respect to this finding, a conclusion is made collaboration between private security service providers and State law enforcement agencies significantly influences crime prevention in Lurambi Sub-County.

### 5.4 Recommendations

In light of the findings and conclusions made, the following recommendations are made;  
Private security service companies should enhance collaboration and networking with State law enforcement agencies and among themselves to enhance crime prevention. This can be achieved by establishing a National Private Security Management Information System where all private security may update their information, including operating licenses, the profile of their employees, and even share timely information on crime incidents.

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