



District security committees and the oversight of private security companies in Uganda: A case of Wakiso and Kampala districts

by


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keywords: *District Security Committee, private security, private Security, regulations*

Introduction

This study investigated the role of District Security Committees in the oversight of private security companies in Uganda to contribute to ways through which private-public security provision can be enhanced for sustainable security and development. Using Wakiso and Kampala as case studies, the study relied on a qualitative approach based on key informant in-depth interviews involving members of District Security Committees, private security company supervisors, supervisors at police headquarters in charge of private security organization and private security services contractors and members to analyze the mechanisms and challenges District Security

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Committees face in the oversight of private security companies.

Study objectives


1. To examine the legal provisions for the oversight of private Security organisations by District Security Committees,
2. to evaluate the mechanisms put in place by District Security Committees for the oversight of private security organisations,
3. to identify the challenges faced by District Security Committees in the oversight of private security organisations.

Methodology

This study adopted a descriptive research design and relied on the qualitative approach. The study used purposive and simple random sampling technique to select respondents who were drawn from members of district security committees, private security company supervisors, supervisors at police headquarters in charge of private security organisation, and private security services contractors and members to analyse the mechanisms and challenges. The study also relied on the in-depth interview technique to collect data.

Key findings

The study found out that although there is an adequate legal and regulatory framework that empowers District Security Committees to monitor the activities of private security companies recruitment, training, and



deployments; many members of the district security committees were not fully aware of the current regulations hence undermining effective oversight of private security companies.

Key recommendations

There should be a targeted induction of all District Security Committees members to the 2013 private security Organizations Regulations to equip them with knowledge for effective oversight. There is a need to establish district-based databases of private security companies for easy monitoring of the discipline of private security guards. There is a need for annual conferences between the private security service users, government security agencies, and the private security companies to share experiences on how to improve the operations of private security companies for sustainable security and development and also ensure the independence of District Security Committees in the oversight of private security companies. Political interference and patronage should be minimized through an open system of monitoring that involves all stakeholders in the district.

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