Preservation of internal security in Namibia: Challenges for the Namibian Police Force

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ABSTRACT

This study argues that preservation of internal security of Namibia should not be the primary responsibility of only the Namibian Police Force (NamPol). The issue of security has been the subject of interest throughout human existence and still reserves its principal occupation in the public domain. However, the challenges of insecurities and increased threats to human existence domestically and globally have triggered incessantly renewed security inquiry by scholars, security practitioners, politicians and public administrators. The study employed a qualitative approach; interviews were used to purposively collect data from 20 participants which comprised of the heads of directorates, the regional commanders in the Namibian Police Force, Legal Assistance Centre, NamRights, Namibian Defence Force, Namibian Correctional Service and Windhoek Municipal Police. The data was analysed using thematic analysis, which led to the development of the Framework for Performing Internal Security [FPIS] model. The findings indicate that due to the nature of factors linked to insecurities, such as technology, porous borders, political factors, environmental factors, inequality, poverty, unemployment and lack of provision for essential services, the Namibian police alone cannot preserve internal security effectively. As such, the study recommends that constitutional amendments to incorporate other stakeholders in the preservation Namibia’s internal security.

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Introduction

Security has been the subject of interest throughout human existence and still reserves its principal occupation in the public domain. However, the challenges of insecurities and increased threats to human existence domestically and globally have triggered incessantly renewed security inquiry by scholars, security practitioners, politicians and public administrators. The second amendment to the 1990 Namibian Constitution provides under Article 118 the establishment of the Namibian Police with prescribed powers, duties, and procedures to preserve Namibia’s internal security and maintain law and order. However, despite the preceding precise specification of the police’s duties and responsibilities, other institutions such as; the Namibian Defence Force[NDF], Namibian Correctional Services [NCS], Namibian Intelligence Services [NIS], Namibian Custom Services and Municipal Police have continuously been involved in the duty of preservation of internal security of Namibia (Aring, Reichardt, Katjizeu, Luyanda & Hulk, 2021). As a result, they frequently take responsibility for internal security affairs, which somewhat contradicts the Namibian Constitution.

Due to the culture and practice of involvement of other forces and organisations in the strife for internal security in Namibia, without clarification of responsibilities, efficient coordination and a clear command structure, the following question have been raised about the safety of the prolonged use of other stakeholders to preserve internal security. For instance, in a Namibian newspaper article entitled “How far will the government go on using the Namibian military to blackmail civilians before realising it has gone too far?” It was claimed that over the past three years, “the military presence in towns and villages has grown apace in Namibia due to the
insecurities. In this regard, the Namibian Defence Force assumed a principal proactive role in internal safety and security” (The Namibian, 2020, p.11).

In the same token, the Namibian Correctional Service as a stakeholder has consistently been involved in internal security in Namibia, its establishment is enshrined in Article 121 of the Namibian Constitution of 1990 (as amended). Moreover, the Namibia Correctional Service Act (Act N0 12 of 2012), provides under section 3 its functions: Firstly, to ensure that every inmate is secured in safe and humane custody within a correctional facility until lawfully discharged or removed from the correctional institution. Secondly, to render health care to offenders, as far as practicable, to apply such rehabilitation programmes and other meaningful and constructive activities to the sentenced offenders. The initial assertion aims to contribute to their rehabilitation and successful reintegration into the community of offenders. Besides, it aims to sharpen the offenders to be law-abiding citizens once released from Correctional center. Thirdly, it performs a supervisory function for offenders who are on conditional release. Finally, the correctional officers’ role is to manage the correctional services and community centres effectively.

It is clearly seen that both the 1990 Namibian Constitution (as amended) and the 2012 Correctional Service Act (N0 9 of 2012), does not include preserving internal security as the function of the correctional officers (Act N0 9 of 2012). However, such a reality is contrary to current happenings on the ground, where correctional officers have been used for internal operations to preserve internal security (Nangolo, 2020). In the case of Municipal police, its establishment is provided under Section 43C of the Police Act, Act, 19 of 1990, to regulate traffic and municipal enforcement bylaws in the city. Given that the constitution is the supreme law of the land, the narrative presented here entails that the police are the direct sole security entity responsible for preserving Namibia’s internal security. To this end, any other security stakeholder’s involvement in internal security without appropriate coordination calls for scrutiny and provides enough room for the public domain to flex its opinions (Taumang, Bello & Olutola, 2022). Therefore, the purpose of the paper was to develop a new framework by analysing whether preserving internal security should be the primary responsibility of only the Namibian Police Force or whether the involvement of other stakeholders is not needed. To achieve this, the following questions were asked: (i) to what extent can the Namibia Police Force execute its constitutional obligation of preserving internal security? (ii). What are the likely causes of internal insecurities in Namibia? (iii). Can the factors associated with insecurities be addressed by the Namibia Police Force? (iv) Should the constitution be amended to incorporate other stakeholders in preserving internal security and (v) which stakeholders, if any, should be involved in preserving Namibia’s internal security? The article first presents the literature related to the study, followed by the research methods adopted. In the third place, findings and results are discussed. Lastly, the study’s conclusion is presented with key points, recommendations, and future research directions

**Literature Review**

The literature review is an integral part of any research, as it helps identify the scope of work already done in the specific area of interest. Literature review is the foundation for the researcher to build upon to achieve the research objectives. There appears to be little prior for the current study primarily focusing on the police constitutional obligation of preserving internal security in Namibia. In the present article, the authors reviewed related literature, precisely those aligned with the study’s objectives, together with the theoretical and conceptual background of the study reviewed, while empirical literature completes the literature section.

**Theoretical and Conceptual Background**

**Social Contract Theory by Thomas Hobbes**

The study used the social contract theory developed by Thomas Hobbes in 1946. The theory argued that the State ought to have the authority to preserve the security of citizens (Lakitsch, 2018). Further, it provides the basis for why people enter into conflicts that destabilise peace. “So that in the nature of man, we find three principal causes of quarrel. First, Competition; Secondly, Diffidence; Thirdly, Glory. The first, maketh men invade for Gain; the second, for Safety; and the third, for Reputation. This theoretical underpinning justifies the reason for insecurities. To reiterate, the State consists of an agreement between the people and government in which government provides all the necessary facilities like health, security and education (Feeney & Collins, 2015, p.114). Equally, informing the police’s constitutional obligations in preserving internal security for some countries. To this end, the public members can only expect the police to whom they have agreed with the government to safeguard internal security.

**Stakeholder theory**

Edward Freeman popularised the stakeholder’s theory in the 1980s, to analyse those groups to whom a firm should be responsible. Freeman and Reed (1983); Freeman, Wicks, & Parmar, (2004); Freeman, Harrison, Wicks, Parmar and de Colle (2010) referred to a stakeholder as a member of a group or several individuals whose support determines the existence of any entity and is affected by the performance the firm offer, positively or negatively. As Freeman et al. postulate, the stakeholders’ operation of the firm is paramount for successfully achieving the goal of the particular organisation. Freeman and Reed (1983) notion is even more relevant in the security field, especially in the context of maintaining peace and security in the country. Involving other stakeholders bring along effective strategies since insecurity is viewed broadly by looking at different dimensions (Hodgkins, Rundle-Thiele, Knox & Kim, 2019). Meanwhile, the views brought by those with stakes in internal security, for instance, the central intelligence, military correctional officers, immigration officers, municipal police and private security entities, are vital to circumvent security challenges.
Empirical Review

Security definition is no longer parochially observed within the national security realm, but it incorporates human security aspects that are more human-centric. In this way, all components contributing to the person’s insecurity within the country may be associated with human security (Saeed, Mihan, Mousavi, Reniers, Bateni, Alikhani, & Mousavi, 2020). This may include political tensions, unequal access to health or depilated health system. For instance, when people have no trust in the country’s health system, there is an increase in fear of contracting the virus and other diseases. Therefore, the stigma attached to such experiences and the virus and infection contribute to the death toll of people domestically by suicides, heart attacks, and many others (Saeed et al., 2020).

The prevalence of armed robber attacks, transnational crimes, kidnappings, political tensions, smuggling of arms, and corrupt activities are credible threats affecting internal security (Drent et al., 2015, p.7). Moreover, addressing the atrocities associated with insecurities compels an extensive use of force to contain the threats (Peterside, 2014), hence, one reason for military involvement in internal security (Peterside, 2014). Furthermore, crimes are not favourable for development because, through crimes, corruption is committed, depriving many countries of the development aspect and eradicating poverty. Perhaps the most ever destructive of human peace are crimes. It could be wise to say that as humankind developed and has been involved over the century, the nature of crimes has been changing as well. It seems the attachment of crimes to human existence is so innate that it looks as if, for as long as the human species exist, crimes has been part of society in one way or another (Peterside, 2014).

Urbanisation account for insecurity experienced in several countries because cities and towns provide a new opportunity for career development, life enhancement, and desirable social life (Carlson et al., 2012, p.1911). Notably, insecurities increase when a substantive number of people permanently become concentrated in urban areas (Barbary, 2019; Rakowski, 2021). The move from the rural area to Guayaquil town in Namibian contributes to the observed deepened inequality in accessing land, including property, gender inequity, and service prioritisation, since people from rural have the skill and experience shortage needed in the town to acquire decent jobs (Moser, 2021). Kihato (2009) wrote the most convincing support of the above illustration when stating that African cities are a conundrum since they are also the place of violent crimes and where human rights abuses reside. This attributes to insecurities in towns and cities globally. Kihato (2009)’s argument to prioritise urbanisation as the primary cause of insecurities has been widely supported by recent scholars. For instance, urbanisation leads to various forms of insecurity in many countries due to increased demands on the necessity that if people do not get them, they venture into unethical practices (Hoffmann & Verweijen, 2019; Chonka & Bakonyi, 2021; Bjarnesen, 2021).

According to Krylovas, Dadeliénië, Kosarea and Dadelo (2019), internal insecurities have become challenging to handle because of persistent threats and violence caused by youth activist groups, rebels, insurgency, armed groups, and social media activists ‘groups, terrorism and the desire for equal access to essential services around the globe. A similarly worrisome trend is also prevailing in African countries. Data on insecurity in Africa shows a relatively stable long-term trend that armed intra-state conflict is causing death on the African continent (Aremu, 2018). Soest and De Juan’s (2018) study that dealt with new security threats in Africa provides factors that are merged to violence, including: highly unequal economic growth in many African countries and incomplete democratisation (Soest & De Juan 2018, p.2). The authors’ further note that in some African countries, economic issues are coupled with weak state capacity and bad governance (Soest & De Juan 2018, p.2). In addition, various demographic factors are not limited to unprecedented population growth and urbanisation. Taken together, these factors remain crucial to our wider understanding of how grievances of the citizen account for violence shaping the nature of security threats in Africa.

In the example of the United States of America, there was a notable concern that the police were blamed for the application of unreasonable force and exacerbated insecurities experienced in the country (Reny & Newman, 2021). The above may imply that insecurities necessitated by the excessive use of force may further contribute to other insecurities. The studies by Akinlabi (2017); Nkumah, Ofosuhene & Gyasi (2020); Akinlabi (2020) are other examples of how police, for instance, may contribute to insecurity within the country. Security forces’ excessive application of force in recent times has been noted with concern on the increase of the security forces’ use of excessive force. When looking at the factors that contribute to domestic insecurities, security forces’ excessive use of force cannot go unnoticed. The incidents involve the deadly use of force which has bearing effects on the preservation of internal security as such conduct sparked wide world and national protests (Aborisade & Obiye, 2017; Amnesty International, 2020; Oluyemi, 2020; Ortiz, Burke, Berrada & Cortés, 2022). The scope of the authors’ arguments centers on the fact that psychological trauma faced by victims of security forces brutality may manifest itself in several ways, including but not limited to stress, anxiety, fear, paranoia, distrust, insomnia, anorexia, and depression. Evaluating the above factors and their role in causing insecurity makes it more apparent when the public members consider the security forces, either police or military involvement in internal security operations, to be brutal; they tend to feel insecure. Consequently, this may have detrimental effects on their social life and hence could contribute to the loss of belonging and death in some instances (Hawkins, 2021; Eichstaedt, Sherman, Giorgi, Roberts, Reynolds, Ungar, & Guntuku, 2021). Moreover, it is envisaged that the findings of this study will contribute in the new body of knowledge (Qwabe, Maluleke & Olutola, 2022).

Research Methods

The study employed a qualitative methodology, which was explorative in nature, to analyse if the preservation of internal security should be left only to the Namibian Police Force or not. Qualitative research is conducted when a problem needs to be “explored”;
and that exploration is needed in circumstances in which variables cannot be easily measured or in which “silenced voices” need to be heard (Du-Plooy-Cilliers, Davis, & Bezuidenhout (2014); Creswell & Poth, 2018). The ontology of the Interpretivism paradigm best suited the study. Since the current reality is that the constitution entrusts Namibian Police to preserve internal security. More importantly, such a reality requires assessing the extent to which the Namibian Police can achieve the constitutional obligation and what can be known about the mandate in terms of contemporary reality (Mukherji & Albon, 2018).

**Research Population and Sampling**

For the present study, 20 participants were purposefully sampled and participated in the study. Firstly, the population was drawn from senior police officers in the Namibian Police Force heading directorates, regions, and first division and reporting directly to the Inspector General (IGP) of Namibian Police. Secondly, for Municipal police, their physical engagement experiences in enforcing municipal bylaws, crime prevention, joint operations, and preserving internal security within particularly municipal areas merited their involvement in this study. Thirdly, Namibian Defence Force and Namibian Correctional Services have unceasingly joined NamPol on matters related to preserving internal security. For this reason, those in leadership positions and operation members with actual experiences on the ground were deemed to be more appropriate to provide an in-depth analysis of NamPol functions for preserving internal security. Fourthly, NamRights is a Namibian Human Rights Non-Governmental Organisation. Their work areas include closely working hand in hand with the police by providing training in an area related to public engagement and monitoring the compliance of NamPol in human rights issues. At the same time, NamRights, represent the general view of the public interest, given its vast knowledge of the plights of the general public in the police’s role of preserving internal security. Lastly, the Legal Assistance Centre provides vast knowledge of public law, legal information, advice, and research. In this way, the organisation has been working closely with the police to provide policy advice on myriad issues. In contrast, their understanding of police laws was seen as good standing for this study that enquired about perspectives on preserving the internal security of Namibia.

**Data Collection**

The data was collected in two ways using secondary and primary data collection. Secondary data was done through peer-reviewed journal publications and books as seen in the literature. The primary data was conducted through a recorded face-to-face or semi-structured interview. The researchers firmly believed from the onset that studying the police function, in principle, the preservation of internal security, could not be achieved without probing questions. It is on this notion that the use of interviews was more appropriate for the current study. Semi-structured interviews are a convenient way to collect data since they have been a probing data collection method; it presents an ideal approach to uncovering what participants know about the subject being studied. As Du Plooy-Cilliers et al. (2014) suggest, semi-structured interviews allow the researcher and participants to build on small ideas to expand further and comprehend the study’s phenomena. The above merge with the more recent work by Holt and Hughes (2021, p.215), who argues that semi-structured interviews have widespread popularity, unlike questionnaires, where participants’ interaction with the researcher is limited, and unclear questions may remain unanswered or answered wrongly, affecting the study’s findings.

**Data Analysis**

The thematic analysis was adopted to examine the recognised obligation of the Namibian Police Force in the preservation of internal security. Thematic analysis is described by Kiger and Varpio (2020) as an interpretive process whereby the researcher systematically searches through data to identify patterns and describe the phenomenon under investigation. With thematic analysis, a researcher strives to uncover what is being said by the participants, enabling them to extract the construct of major significant themes (Caulfield, 2019). The collected data was transcribed, and constructed themes to emerge from the participants were used to separate different viewpoints (Clarke & Braun, 2016).
Findings and Discussion

The following table shows key themes emanating from the data analysis.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Theme</th>
<th>Frequencies</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>To what extent is the Namibian Police (NamPol) able to execute its constitutional obligation of preserving internal security</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Minimal extent</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Larger extent</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Put differently, to what extent is the Namibian Police unable to execute its constitutional obligation of preserving internal security?</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>To a larger margin</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>What are the likely causes of internal insecurities in Namibia?</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Geo-political factors</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Porous border</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Police internal factors</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Economic factors</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unemployment,</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Climate factors</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Patriotism factor</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inequality</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poverty</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Urbanisation</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Drug abuse</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Foreign interference factors</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Corruption</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Technological factors</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Criminal factors</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Can the factors associated with insecurities be removed or adequately resolved by the Namibia Police?</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cannot adequately be addressed</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Can be addressed</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Should the responsibility of preserving internal security be entrusted to NamPol only as per the constitutional provision, or should the responsibility be distributed to other stakeholders</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yes, stakeholders involved</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No stakeholder involvement</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

To what extent is the Namibian Police (NamPol) able to execute its constitutional obligation of preserving internal security?

Finding on the first research question

Participants P1, P2, P3, P4, P5, P6, P7, P8, P9, P10, P11, P12, P13, P14, P15, P16, P17, P18 and P19 are of the opinion that NamPol can execute its constitutional obligation to the minimal extent.

NamPol cannot effectively execute its constitutional mandate to preserve its internal security due to the lack of resources and unemployment that fuel crime in the country (P1).

(P13) ‘‘When it comes to the preservation of internal security, along with the recommendable effort by NamPol on visible policing conducted through foot, boot and vehicle patrols, however, [there is increasing concern about the vastness of a country...therefore, NamPol alone cannot preserve internal security. Primarily...given [the imbalance of the police-citizen ratio]. The country is so vast that the police cannot be everywhere, affecting their ability to preserve internal security effectively’’.

Findings on the second research question

Put differently, to what extent is the Namibian Police unable to execute its constitutional obligation of preserving internal security?

All those who took part in the study P1, P2, P3, P4, P5, P6, P7, P8, P9, P10, P11, P12, P13, P14, P15, P16, P17, P18 and P19 indicates that NamPol has been unable to execute its constitutional obligation of preserving internal security to a larger margin.

Participant 1 note ‘‘Several police officers are retiring and resigning from the NamPol; coupled with a lack of recruiting new police officers; police cannot preserve internal security effectively. Therefore, the preceding has been shown to be related to adverse effects of the current NamPol strengths affecting the police presence within the Namibian society, consequently impacting the execution of preserving internal security’’.

‘‘NamPol cannot preserve internal security alone because it needs the assistance of all other force multipliers. Police alone cannot provide services adequately due to the limited resources at their disposal’’ [P2].
P3 “Despite the availability of the necessary legal frameworks for NamPol to execute ... [its] constitutional obligation, [effectively addressing insecurity within the country is increasingly recognised as a public security concern].

P4, added to the P2 perspectives, “NamPol cannot effectively execute its constitutional mandate to preserve its internal security due to the lack of resources, unemployment, and crime”.

In addition to the above illustration, what stood out from the P4 explanation is the justification of the involvement of other stakeholders by looking at the diverse expertise needed by NamPol to preserve internal security effectively. The participant notes, “for instance, when there is ... [exacerbated insecurities] the ... the defense force may be in a better position than the police since they are concerned with the issue of the insecurities”.

P15 noted “the nature of insecurity that has evolved over the years serves as a major setback...for the police in performing the constitutional obligation of preserving internal insecurity effectively”.

In addition to the already stated reasons, P18 has suggested the reason why police may find it a challenging task to preserve internal security alone:

Perhaps when the constitution was written, the nature of the recent threats to [internal security] were not there because of time; this could have been why NamPol were solely entrusted with preserving internal security. However, due to the nature of 21st-century security caused by many factors, the police alone have struggled to preserve internal security...[attracting] the involvement of other stakeholders in preserving internal insecurity such as the military, correctional service, immigration officials and many others.

P19, the police are able to preserve internal security to a larger extent alone.

Findings on the third research question.

What are the likely causes of internal insecurities in Namibia?

The study found from the research participants that geo-political factors, porous border, police internal factors, economic factors, unemployment, climate factors, patriotism factor, poverty, inequality, urbanisation, drug abuse, foreign interference factors, corruption, technological factors and criminal factors are contributing to internal insecurities in Namibia.

P16 “the political sphere...influencing public members in complaining about the poor service delivery provided by the government institutions. In the end, this has meant that the political atmosphere in Namibia has completely changed compared to a few years after independence”.

P3 Illegal immigrants [promoted by porous borders] are attracted to the country. In terms of illegal immigrants, when you have cheap labour in the country, this attracts people from other countries ...into Namibia, in the process, take up jobs that were supposed to employ local citizens. In the end, this increases unemployment within the country, leading to increased crime and causing internal insecurity.

P2 opines that, “to some extent, what promotes insecurity in Namibia is the wrong deployment of police officers. For instance, several members are deployed at the police cafeteria, finance departments, police guesthouse and general administration duties. These people need to be redeployed so that our visibility becomes more prevalent”.

P11 provided a detailed explanation:

In my opinion, number one is the mismanagement of natural resources. I think as a country, Namibia has enough resources to be able to sustain itself; however, mismanagement results in corruption, because, obviously, if you have people in the position that are supposed to take care of these resources and ensure that all citizens are well taken care of and assisted against poverty [but fail to do so] the population becomes unhappy. [Especially given that] ...the [elite] are more interested in benefiting themselves and not using the resources to benefit the masses.

P16 further elaborated the above sentiment:

Poverty is a major contributing factor to the insecurity we [sic] experienced in Namibia. It is clear that Namibia is one of the most unequal societies in the world, which means those with more resources remain with resources while the poor remain poor. [Therefore], in order to survive [the turbulent] society, they engage themselves in unethical means to survive. 

“In Namibia, land grabbing cause insecurities since the public member lose trust in the government to provide serviced land. [Due to unavailability] of serviced land, individuals resort to land grabbing, causing tension between the security agencies and the general public” (P17).
We have seen in Namibia, for instance, the flood that affected the northern part of the country for many years, and as a result, this part of the country suffers from food insecurity mainly linked to lack of food...[availability, access, utilisation and stability]. The devastating effect of this is not limited to food but to the loss of human lives. Mainly this occurs during the transportation of residents during floods in search of essential services (P12).

On the question of insecurity cause, P18 noted that, "climatic conditions, for instance, drought; when there is a drought, there is a likelihood that the country will experience hunger, prompting public demonstration and causing insecurity internally".

P4 adequately explains the link between insecurity and patriotism that, “individuals who are not interested and do not have...[interest] for their country [at heart], influence others to commit crimes”.

P18 Structured economics through poverty makes public members pressurise the government to provide essential services to the country and its people. When the citizens are unsatisfied, they resort to violence and extremism, causing insecurity in the country. This has manifested in Namibia through social media such as WhatsApp, Twitter and Facebook. [In this regard] the threat has also been directed to the President and government officials. To date, [this is plausible] to have fuelled insecurity in the country.

P7 “give sufficient consideration to equality by stating that inequality contributes to Namibia’s insecurity. For instance, educational opportunities are provided to the elite family while those from impoverished families have fewer of these opportunities. This trend results, to a [great degree], government officials acting unfair and unreasonable, hence promoting unemployment among youth”.

P8 “the issue of urbanisation is associated with negative outcomes. When people are flocking more to urban areas because of unemployment, the demands for essential services increase which, if not met, leads to conduct that promotes insecurities within the country”.

(P4) “the use of drugs influences other people to engage themselves in conducts they could avoid when they are sober. Therefore, drug abuse has somewhat accounted for increased insecurity in Namibia”.

One participant (P17), highlighted the conduct of foreign nations instigates insecurity by using local political and non-political organisations to interfere with the electoral process”.

(P20) corruption in Namibia, where billions and millions of the State fund[s] are unaccounted for, has contributed to insecurity by exacerbating the high unemployment and poverty due to money mismanagement.”

(P14) “technology also has contributed to insecurity since the criminals use technology to advance their...criminal agenda [without being noticed]. In addition, the opportunity presented by technology promotes embezzlement of funds, which allows international connections in the crime syndicate, posing substantive threats to personal and economic insecurity within the country”.

(P10) infer valuable contention on high crime activities:

In every society, problems exist, especially economic and social problems that affect society, particularly the youth. If you [sic] find that society is not happy, it is already a cause of concern. For example, if we have issues such as unemployment, if you [sic] have the issue of people unable to...[provide essential needs] for themselves...may commit crimes. [Evident] like arm robbery, crime is persistent in Namibia due to the need for individual survival in the strained economy.

Findings on research question four

Can the factors associated with insecurities be removed or adequately resolved by the Namibia Police?

In confirming whether the NamPol can adequately address factors that cause insecurity, there is now broad consensus by most participants that the police cannot alone P1, P2, P3, P4, P5, P6, P7, P8, P9, P10, P11, P12, P13, P14, P15, P16, P17, P18 and P20.

(P1) “NamPol alone cannot adequately address insecurity, but stakeholder involvement is essential to address [insecurity]. Therefore, correctional service and military members can be used to assist the police in addressing insecurity”.

(P3) retaliate; further, “NamPol cannot adequately remove the factors that cause insecurity. Therefore, it needs a concerted effort from other stakeholders”.

(P20) add that “the police cannot adequately address the causes of insecurity since they reside outside their core functions; however, they can contribute to a minimum extent in terms of providing information regarding how internal insecurity could be at least addressed”.

(P19) indicate that “NamPol can addressed adequately factors causing inswurity”.

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Findings on the fifth research question.

Should the responsibility of preserving internal security be entrusted to NamPol only as per the constitutional provision, or should the responsibility be distributed to other stakeholders?

P1, P2, P3, P4, P5, P6, P7, P8, P9, P10, P11, P12, P13, P14, P15, P16, P17, P18 and P20, apart from P19, believe that the constitutional provision should be amended to include the involvement of other stakeholders.

P1 infer that ‘the constitutional provision should be amended to include other stakeholders’ involvement. Such a move will mean other stakeholders involvement in preserving internal security will not be questioned since the supreme law will provide such’.

‘The constitutional responsibility of the NamPol to preserve internal security should remain as such. However, other stakeholders should also come on board to address factors causing insecurity. For example, the responsible ministries, [private entities] should take charge of poverty alleviation to create jobs [and employments]’’ (P3).

P19, police should carry on with mandate of preserving internal security alone.

Discussions of the results

The above outcomes acknowledged the presence of the police to contribute to the free, peaceful society and, at the same time, acknowledged the limitations in fully executing its constitution mandate. In determining the extent, the Namibian Police is unable to execute its constitutional obligation of preserving internal security. Similar to expectations, this study found to a more significant extent, that NamPol cannot effectively preserve internal security for various reasons.

Firstly, several police officers are retiring and resigning from NamPol; coupled with a lack of recruiting new police officers, police cannot preserve internal security effectively. Therefore, the preceding has been shown to be related to adverse effects of the current NamPol strengths affecting the police presence within the Namibian society, consequently impacting the execution. This result was also reported by Haynes (2020, p.1); Vose, Miller and Koskinen (2020), who found the failure of police organisations to maintain internal security effectively is due to understaffing needed to meet demands for services. The above result may be explained by the fact that when police officers cannot be everywhere at the same time in the country due to human resources, the need to involve other stakeholders becomes even more urgent.

Secondly, the study found that preserving security is closely related to the various roles needed to address Namibia’s insecurities. These roles cannot be adequately performed by the police alone (Olutola, 2012). On this merit, diverse expertise, skills and knowledge are paramount to curtailing the causes and impact of insecurity. The prior recognition may partly be explained by the fact that basic police training does not provide exhaustive knowledge and skills for police officers to handle all aspects of human lives, including providing essential services to the population.

Thirdly, internal challenges were one of the surprising results that emerged from the study as contributing to internal insecurity in Namibia. It was also found that, in the first place, one of the contributing factors to insecurity in Namibia is shared resources with other neighboring countries. These shared resources like land and shared rivers with natural resources attract conflicts between the States. On the other hand, the wildlife movement has proven to be impossible for both countries. With such a trend, insecurity associated with border conflicts is expected to continue if an amicable solution through bilateral engagement is not strengthened. These results reflect those of the Commission of the African Union (2018), which also found that border conflicts account for insecurity experienced in several African countries. The porous border has been established in the present study to contribute to insecurity. The possible explanation of this outcome may be understood when recognising that uncontrolled borders attract illegal crossing in Namibia. When the movement of people is not entirely controlled or effectively, they pose a substantive threat to the country. These results corroborate the outcome of a great deal of the previous work in studies by Akinyemi (2019); Mamokhere and Chauke (2020); Bélanger and Schimmelfennig (2021); Hans, Hong, Ashipala, Bikinesi, Hamunime, Kamangu, & Dziuban, (2021); Danane (2022); Bello and Olutola (2022) in which it was noted that countries with porous borders are vulnerable to illicit trafficking, organised crimes and illegal crossing, presenting a considerable threat to internal security.

Another important finding related to the mismanagement of resources prompts some citizens to engage in unethical practices to keep up with Namibia’s high cost of living. The result adds to a growing body of evidence by Kalili (2019); Namabanda (2019); Chilunjika, and Gumede (2021), suggesting that resource mismanagement benefits the elites more than the masses, accounts for the dissatisfaction of the majority of the population. This result reveals the importance of utilising natural resources in the country to benefit the masses. In particular, in Namibia, where poverty and inequality are prevalent. With respect to other causes of insecurity, the most prominent finding to emerge from the analysis is unemployment, poverty and lack of essential service (Wade, Ndeyapo, & Akiser, 2012; Soest & De Juan, 2018; Kalili, 2019).

This study found climatic conditions, drug abuse, corruption and urbanisation to cause insecurity in Namibia. It is noted that when there is a drought, for instance, there is a likelihood that the country will experience hunger, prompting public demonstration and causing insecurity internally. The study further recognised that the seasoned floods as natural disasters affect food availability, access, utilisation and stability. This also accords with the literature observation, shown in the study by Mabuku (2022), confirming that the northern part of Namibia experiences flooding each year; such a trend has negatively impacted food availability. In relation to the
literature consulted for the present study, little evidence has been found associating drug abuse with insecurity. On the other hand, corruption is prevalent in Namibia and costs billions and millions of taxpayer money. Apart from contributing to insecurity by exacerbating the high unemployment and poverty, the citizens have registered their frustration with the lack of prosecution of those involved in corruption. This confirmation of the result may be partly explained by the last Presidential elections of 2019, where the presidential action accounted for 56.3% of the votes cast in comparison to 87% share of the vote in 2014. In addition, the ruling party lost its two-thirds majority in the parliament. This frustration has been seen even during the by-elections where the opposition parties claim seats in the ruling party’s stronghold areas.

The result, in this case, supports more recent literature that attests to the fact that corruption, if not correctly handled, exacerbates insecurities internally (Albert, Baez & Rutland, 202); Lindstaedt, 2021; Sperlich, Logan-Greene & Finucane, 2021). In contrast, technology has been used by criminals to advance their criminal agenda. As a result of technology, cybercrimes, embezzlement of funds and other technology-related crimes are now crimes of concern in Namibia. Equally, crime poses a substantive threat to the security of the country. This reality may be due to global connections in the crime syndicate, posing substantive threats to personal and economic insecurity within the country. Taken together with other factors, technology cannot be taken lightly in critically analysing internal security issues. The latter confirms the widely acknowledged results that technology is accompanied by a new form of crimes that are challenging to manage, as noted by (Ajayi, 2016; Tengpongsthorn, 2017; Paul & Aithal, 2018; Iroanya, 2018; Monaghan, 2020; Minnaar, 2020; Agbeko, 2021; Li, 2021).

As previously confirmed, it is established in the study that NamPol cannot adequately preserve internal security due to reasons that contribute to insecurities that cannot be addressed by the police alone. A possible explanation for this might be that it is practically impossible for the police to eradicate poverty which often leads to a high unemployment rate since this does not fall within the police mandate. Generally, other government institutions are responsible for poverty eradication. Another possible explanation is that the significant insecurity causes are not motivated by police conduct but by other dimensions influenced by internal and external societal interactions.

Therefore, aligning our thinking to the prior understanding may be more far-sighted to rescue the police from being held accountable for exacerbated insecurities in Namibia. The outcome in this regard seems to be consistent with other research, which found that the increase in organised crime and inequality necessitated by unemployment, illegal immigration, and perceived threats from terrorism or lawlessness in the wake of natural disasters challenges the police’s effectiveness, hence the involvement of other security clusters internal security (Schack, 2016; Johansen, 2017; Kalkman, 2019).

Conclusions

The study findings attest that NamPol, as an organisation, can only preserve internal security to a limited or marginal extent. The strong association of insecurities factors and the extent to which the NamPol is limited in executing its constitutional mandate of preserving internal security is exciting but not surprising. In terms of limitations, firstly, the study suffered from drawbacks associated with a study approach. Since the study used a qualitative approach, this limited the higher possibility of the researcher conducting a large scope study since it usually involves reasonable participants and, consequently, presents a challenge in generalising the study’s results to other settings. The second limitation was associated with study sampling technique. The study employed a judgmental/purposive sampling method used to select participants that were used in the study. Although there are benefits associated with this method, there are also natural and unavoidable limitations. For instance, personal bias in choosing the sample is unavoidable. The researcher could not include those presumed not capable of providing broader perspectives on internal preservation as a police mandate. This limitation made it impossible for the probability of every case in the study to be represented. Therefore, the study first recommends that the potential internal security stakeholders should include the education ministry, customs, immigration, veterinary services, poverty eradication ministry, gender, youth ministry, and environment ministry. Lastly, it is recommended that the constitutional mandate of the Namibian Police Force, as enshrined under Article 118 of the 1990 Namibian Constitution, should be amended to incorporate other stakeholders while the police still maintain supremacy in preserving internal security. Therefore, the preceding may be a potential future research analysis from other scholars. Notwithstanding the limitations aforementioned or identified in this study, the authors of this paper attest to the contributions of the study to the body of knowledge not only in terms of the findings and recommendations but more importantly, that no study of this nature has ever been done specifically in Namibia or probably elsewhere.

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