



Examining the State of Security for Security Providers – A Case Study of National Government Administrative Officers in Vihiga County, Kenya

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Abstract: There have been efforts by the National government in creating a conducive working environment for National Government Administrative Officers (N.G.A.O) working within the country with emphasis to those working within their home sub-counties. The National government is fast tracking the process by ensuring that their security is guaranteed and protected. This is after a rise in the number of cases of attacks, assault and even death of National Government Administrative Officers within the country and specifically within Vihiga County, who are assaulted while on duty or even when not on official duty. According to the Directorate of Occupational Safety and Health (DOSHS 2025), a total of 9702 cases has been notified. The main objective of the study is to assess the state of security for National Government Administrative Officers working and residing within Vihiga County. The study also aims at examining key security challenges affecting the officers. The target setting is the National Government Administrative Officers working within the Sub-County in their home areas who continue working and serving the citizens residing within their working home environment. This study will mostly target Chiefs and Assistant Chiefs who work in their home locations and sub-locations and are not transferable. The study also aims at exploring how the National Government tends or addresses security challenges and issues affecting National Government Administrative Officers within the targeted areas. The study will lastly try and address the key areas government is strengthening in mitigating and improving security awareness among the National Government Administrative Officers in Kenya. The study will adopt a descriptive study design with a sample size of 215 respondents. The main respondents will be Chiefs, Assistant Chiefs, National Police Service officers, Village elders, Community Policing members, nyumba kumi and the local residents. Primary data will be collected using questionnaires and interview schedules while secondary data will be collected from past records and literature. A mixed-methods approach will be utilized which will involve structured questionnaires for quantitative data and Key Informant Interviews for qualitative data. Quantitative data will be analyzed using descriptive and inferential statistics, while qualitative data will undergo thematic analysis and presented in a narrative form to compliment the quantitative results. The study aims to establish the correlation between the security challenges within the Sub-County affecting N.G.A.O Officers, their causes, role played by security officers themselves, organized gangs or groups, boda-boda riders, business men and women, criminal gangs among

other players within Vihiga County. The study aims to further show the satisfaction rate of work among the officers and the role they play in determining their state of security. The study will also try to give recommendations on the best approaches in ensuring that the officers perform their duties fully and diligently.

Keywords: National Government Administrative Officer, security, organized groups, security officers, drug and substance abuse, security provider.

1. Introduction

National Government Administrative officers have and continue to play a critical role in the management of securities matters in the country and the East African region. Even though their roles remain important to the citizens of the country, few scholarly studies have focused on their role in the country. The study, aims at understanding the state of security of this department of security providers that is hardly focused on by the various policy makers. Despite the promulgation of the new constitution and the rolling out of county governments, citizens still work closely with National Government Administrative Officers across the country. Citizens still hold trust from the services provided by these officers from the grassroots, especially on matters security within their areas of jurisdiction.

Kenya still grapples with subpar worker performance especially in the private sector. In Kenya national security matters are mostly handled by the Ministry of Interior and National Administration hence the need to ensure that the officers handling security matters are taken care of through maintaining proper and clear working conditions including their security. Success in both the public and private sector depends on the proper planning especially on security matters. This is based on the International Labor Organization's global classification system for service-oriented organizations focused on the Private Sector (Kaloki, M and Ng'eno, W.2022).

2. Key Security Challenges Affecting N.G.A.O.

A number of challenges affecting National Government Administrative Officers have raised serious concerns after the

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bodies concerned with workers welfare fail to notice the existing indicators of raising employee work challenges. This is attributed to the notion that security providers never face the risks of being attacked.

3. Land Matters

National Government Administrative Officers are at the center stage of land matters from the lowest administrative unit. According to (Emuria, L.A and Kiruthu F 2022), National Government Administrative Officers enhanced the resolution of disputes about land inheritance with the officers facing different challenges in their pursuit to solve the land related conflicts. This has exposed them to frequent physical and cyber-attacks especially from parties that feel aggrieved or their matters were not handled to their satisfaction. This has left the officers exposed to attacks especially where the matter is not brought to conclusion.

4. The Fight Against Illicit Brews, Drugs and Contraband Goods

According to the N.A.C.A.D.A. report; The National Survey on the Status of Drugs and Substance Use in Kenya (N.A.C.A.D.A. 2022), Western Kenya had the highest prevalence of current use of at least one drug at 26.4% with alcohol leading at 23.8%. With this clear statistics and Vihiga County being on the transport corridor of contraband goods from Uganda, the proliferation of second-generation alcohol and contraband goods from the neighboring country poses a threat to security providers in the region. This is because the peddlers, transporters, users and suppliers are people from within the community, with some immediate neighbors to the National Government Administrative Officers. This poses security risk to the officer especially if he is seemed to be interfering with the illegal business. Some communities become sympathizers of these illegal traders and any attempt to destabilize or paralyze the trade is sometimes met with resistance, hence the statistics from NACADA that 18–35-year-old population is the highest affected with drug and substance use in Western Kenya hence the national sample statistics in the following table.

Table 1

Substance	Prevalence	Population Affected
Alcohol	11.8	3,199,119
Tobacco	8.5	2,305,929
Cannabis	1.9	518,807

Source: NACADA 2022

5. How the Government Addresses Security Challenges Affecting NGAO

With the establishment of the Counties by the Kenyan

Constitution in 2010, there are protocols that are followed in the National Government administration structure. The hierarchy runs all the way from the smallest administrative unit, the sub-location all the way to the region. Any security challenge or lapse, or injury affecting an officer has to follow the described channel, with a complaint lodged at the Directorate of Occupational Safety and Health Services (DOSHS) a directorate at the Ministry of Health Labour and Social Protection. After an assessment and the paperwork, the Work Injury Benefits Acts (WIBA) directorate processes the payment. However, some cases maybe a bit late with some cases of assault, arson and others leading to loss of life for the officers.

6. Conclusion

The National Government Administrative Officers working in Vihiga County and other security providers enhanced the resolution that security providers in the County need also to be provided with mechanisms that will ensure that they feel safe when providing security services to the wananchi. This will ensure that wananchi get services provided by the N.G.A.O with utmost satisfaction.

7. Recommendations

The government may speed up the finalization of policies that will enable the deployment of National Government Administrative Police Unit (NGAPU) to support the administrators at the local level. This will go a long way in ensuring that the officers at the lowest administrative unit-the Sub-Location are implementing government policies without fear thus ensuring that the community benefits from the enhanced security.

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