VIOLENT CRIME AND SECURITY CHALLENGES: ‘POLICE-PUBLIC BLAME GAME’ IN GHANA

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ABSTRACT

Violent crime such as robbery, assault, murder, sexual and domestic violence, undermine the economic and social rights of the people and distorts society’s attempts to achieve a decent and dignified life for all. To reverse the situation, in Ghana, the police have been charged with the primary responsibility of maintaining domestic security. The emerging development in the country, however, has been the blame game between the police and the public in respect of the perceived failure in security governance for the citizenry. This study examined this blame game using Sawla-Tuna-Kalba District of Savannah Region as a case study. To be able to achieve the intended objective, 102 respondents were selected through both probability and non-probability sampling techniques in a convergent sequential mixed method design. Expert administered questionnaire and interviews were employed as the main methods of data collection. The study found that non-prosecution of criminals, bribery and corruption, police-criminal relationship, inadequate logistics and police personnel and stakeholders’ interference in security management,
cumulatively were responsible for the low level of security administration in the study area. The study concluded that both the police and the public are responsible for the defective security architecture in the study community. Since crime impacts multiple facets of society in ways that the police and government may not be aware of until those interests are taken into consideration during project development and implementation, the study recommends a multi-sector collaboration involving the government, the police and the public to improve security governance in the area.

Keywords: Crime, Violence, Security, Police, Citizenry, Peace Architecture.

INTRODUCTION

Violent crime, an unacceptable act punishable by law (Criminal Offenses Code, Act 1960 (Act 60), has been of key public interest as it weakens the security governance architecture of communities (Cawthra, 2003). Nations continue to battle with the issue of crime, violence and victimization leading to communities experiencing little public protection and security (United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC, 2010). UNODC (2010) noted that gang wars, domestic violence and sexual assault in public spaces, have been features of less protected communities. Baker, Ellis, and Roberts (2016) wrote that the denials of the ontological needs of couples with other societal cares in the progressively teeming towns and cities in Asia for instance, were to be blamed for the surge in crime levels. Such overtones heighten both the uncertainties of daily living and the sometimes adventurous or anti-social coping strategies that individuals employ to live.

The Institute for Economics and Peace (IEP) (2015) projected that the annual global public expenditures for the suppression of crime and violent victimization alone in 2014, rose to US$1.989 trillion. According to SaferSpaces (2023), the global annual death toll due to violence is over 1.6 million. It reported that the overall impact of violence to the world economy in 2015 for instance, was projected at $13.6 trillion – a figure corresponding to 13.3% of global GDP. This according to Marfo, Badu-Yeboah and Gyader (2021), shows how crime negatively impacts nations thereby necessitating a new approach to its control. The evolving nature of crime requires comprehensive and innovative interventions targeting its prevention, control and the protection of the public (May, 2016). Strategic security governance targeting crime prevention and control may thus, require social incorporation, collaboration and education as espoused by International Centre for the Prevention of Crime (ICPC, 2016).

Violent crime suggests another kind of criminal behaviour. By implication, some crimes are devoid of violence or are non-violent in nature. WHO (2002:4) conceptualized violence as the ‘intentional use of physical force or power, threat or action against oneself, another person, or against a group or community, that either results in or has a high likelihood of resulting in injury, death, psychological harm, mal-development or deprivation’. Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) (2018), construed violent crime to compose of four offenses namely; murder and non-negligent manslaughter, forcible rape, robbery and aggravated assault. These crimes as defined involve force or threat of force. The Criminal Code of Ghana, Act 1960 (Act 29) has no such kind of classification. Nonetheless, murder, manslaughter, rape and robbery are construed as heinous crimes and classified as first degree felony, which invites severe sanctions such as death,
imprisonment for life or any lesser punishment (Section 296 of the Criminal Offenses Code Act 1960 (Act 30). Aggravated assault as indicated by UCR program may be compared to what the Criminal Code of Ghana refers to as causing harm. Harm is defined by the same Code (Act 29, Section 1) as any bodily hurt, disease, or disorder whether permanent or temporary.

Every crime negatively impacts the life of people. However, the foregoing explanations suggest that crimes labeled as violent have much more repercussion on the society. In this regard, all criminal acts that cause harm to a person as outlined in the Criminal Offenses Code, Act 1960 (Act 29) of Ghana, fall within the purview of this current study. Generally, Ghana’s crime rates are significantly low as opposed to most developed economies and construed as one of the peaceful countries in Africa (Wegener 2011). The country, nonetheless, battles with crime (Dziwornu, 2021) especially in urban communities (Frimpong et al. 2018). According to Sasu (2023), Ghana’s crime index has been fluctuating since 2014. The report indicated that the crime rate dropped from 46.81 in 2022 to 44.50 in 2023. This figure is still unacceptable and needs effective security management in the country.

Table 1

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Crime Index</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2023</td>
<td>44.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2022</td>
<td>46.81</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2021</td>
<td>48.52</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2020</td>
<td>48.97</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2019</td>
<td>51.95</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2018</td>
<td>45.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>46.99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>49.01</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>49.42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>46.38</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


The topic under examination is informed by the steady growth of violent crime in Sawla–Tuna–Kalba (STK) District, the study locality, in a short period between 2019 and 2022 in particular. The study community in recent times has become a flash point for violent crime in the Savannah region (Aziz, 2021). Crime statistics from Sawla-Tuna-Kalba District Police Command (2022) showed that the district recorded only two murder cases each in 2019 and 2020 respectively. However, the figure rose up to 7 cases in 2021 and dropped to 3 in 2022. The data indicated that all levels of crime shot up especially in 2021 and declined in 2022. This could suggest that more swift and robust security measures or interventions might have been carried out by critical stakeholders in 2022 translating into the downward trend of all reported cases in 2022.

Table 2

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Nature of crime</th>
<th>Year of Commission</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Murder</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rape</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assault</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stealing</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Domestic violence/defilement</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kidnapping</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Going by the WHO (2002) explanation of violence, it could be premised that violent crime is prevalent in Sawla-Tuna-Kalba District as depicted by the police crime statistics. These revelations point to an imminent threat to the overall security in the area. The question is, ‘why in spite of the Police and other critical stake holders such as the Chiefs, Neighborhood Watch Committees, Assembly Members, Unit Committees and other law enforcement bodies marshalling all efforts to ensure law and order, violent crime continues to afflict the people of Sawla-Tuna-Kalba District, especially coming into the year 2021 and 2022? Admittedly, some scholars have researched into the issue of violent crime and policing arrangements in the country (Owusu et al. 2016; Bagson et al., 2016; Marfo, 2016; Marfo et al., 2021; Marfo, Gyader and Opoku, 2021). Yet, the fact that the problem still persists and intensifies in the study area, requires that there is the need for further research into the problem to add more knowledge to policy decisions. As noted by May (2016), crime is a very complex phenomenon with a changing pattern of criminal modus of operations, which demand a more comprehensive and concerted research. Violent crime undermines communities and individual peace and security as espoused by Cawthra (2003). This requires that we constantly conduct empirical studies to appraise the factors which militate against the provision of an assured security of the inhabitants. This is the niche of the current study.

THE POLICE AND CRIME CONTROL

Parker (1957) stressed that the prevention of criminal acts by actual or potential physical intervention has been the primary task of the Police in criminal justice intended to instill the fear of apprehension, conviction and punishment in would-be criminals. This, according to him, restricts criminal actions thereby resulting in crime repression. This conception is in line with the policing concept in Ghana, both traditionally and in contemporary times. Appiahene-Gyamfi (2003) espoused that African societies had utilized their own social control mechanisms which were enforced by council of elders, chiefs, and village heads before the advent of Western penal system. These dynamics, however, have changed in contemporary times, as crime is primarily controlled by various state agencies, notably the police (Marfo, Badu-Yeboah and Gyader, 2021). Section 200 of the 1992 Republican Constitution of Ghana places the internal security of Ghana primarily within the domain of the Police Service.

Article 200(1) of the 1992 Constitution makes the Ghana Police Service a monopolistic institution in the country responsible for internal security. The 1992 Constitution of Ghana, the Police Service Act, 1970 (Act 350), the Police Service Regulations 2012 (C.I. 76), the Criminal and other Offenses Act, Act 29/60 and the Police Service instructions (S. I) variously define the roles of the Police to include the protection of life and property, the prevention and detection of crime, apprehension and prosecution of offenders, preservation of peace and good order, and the due enforcement of all laws and regulations with which it is directly charged.

The statutory role of the police is an indication that the social stability of the country is contingent primarily on the police. Given its essential role, all efforts should be galvanized to ensure that the Ghana Police Service achieves its mandated objectives. As suggested by May (2016), crime keeps on changing and this requires an update on innovative thinking and approach. This requires concerted efforts to build a comprehensive security architecture that
requires the application of both formal and institutionalised mechanisms as proposed by Owusu et al. (2016). According to UNODC (2010), tactical security governance averts crime and victimization, and most significantly, stimulates citizens’ sense of safety. According to ICPC (2016), any prevention strategy seeks to eliminate or, at least, reduce violence. A study conducted by Craig, Swatt, Shellie and Sean (2014), revealed that, police-public collaboration resulted in high level of citizens’ satisfaction with police services and reduction in the fear of crime as witnessed in Houston, Newark, Flint, Michigan, and Baltimore. This underscores the philosophy of police-community oriented policing. The public contribution in the administration of the criminal justice system is of critical importance. Crime control thus, demands collaborative efforts. Apparently, across the globe, effective security governance has been constrained by a number of factors. Extant literature have cited bribery and corruption, crime craft, inadequate logistics and interference among others as issues which militate against crime control among nations (Faull, 2011; Manaliyo, 2016; Adegoke 2016; Amagnya 2017; Marfo et al., 2021). This means, for a nation and its communities to realize the economic and social security and development of the people, there is the need for close collaboration between and among the police, the citizenry and the government. While the police have to undertake appropriate overhauling measures to re-claim their lost glory due to negative views held about them, the citizens and the government should provide them with all the resources for effective functioning.

This explains why the study was grounded in the collaborative theory of policing. The theory holds that dialogues, co-production and transfers of knowledge between the police and the citizenry (bodies/institutions) improve policing arrangements and security governance (Mangai et al., 2023). Various empirical studies conducted across the globe have found that police–academic partnerships tremendously improved policing practices in recent years (Foster and Bailey, 2010; Fyfe and Wilson, 2012; Steinheider et al., 2012, Williams, Norman and Rowe, 2019). As argued by Fyfe and Wilson, (2012), partnership between the police and the citizenry through mutual exchange of inputs promotes the practice of policing. It is envisaged that the police in the study locality and the citizens would have a common security governance plan towards the safety of the citizens.

The Study Area
Sawla-Tuna-Kalba District is one of the seven Districts in the Savannah Region of Ghana with Sawla as the District capital. Sawla-Tuna-Kalba District Assembly is located in the western part of the Savannah Region (Sawla-Tuna-Kalba District general statistics services PDF), and has its coordinates as 9° 17’ N2° 25’W with a total area of 4,601Km2 (1,776 sqmi). The District shares boundaries with four other administrative Districts namely; Wa West and Wa East Districts (to the North), Bole District (to the South) and West Gonja District (to the East). It also shares boundaries with La Cote d’Ivoire and Burkina Faso respectively to the West. The total population for the study locality stood at 112,664 comprising 53,004 males and 59,660 females (Ghana Statistical Service, 2021). The figure shows that the female population is about 53% compared to 47% for males. If women are generally construed as vulnerable, then all efforts have to be made to guarantee their safety. The presence of high crime incidence could jeopardize their overall development and the populace in general.
**Research Design**

The convergent sequential mixed method design as espoused by Creswell and Creswell (2018) was used in this study. It enabled the researcher to collect both qualitative and quantitative information at the same time. With this design, the researcher was able to tabulate along a continuum in a numerical form and also to describe categories of information of interest such as gender among others. The convergent sequential mixed method design was considered appropriate as it afforded the researcher the opportunity to probe into the respondents’ views on violent crime, its ramifications and the maintenance of security in the study locality.

**Population of the Study**

The target population for the study was made up of officials of the police, the Sawla-Tuna-Kalba District Assembly, market associations, mobile money operators, drivers association, store operators association and traditional authorities. Sawla, Tuna and Kalba communities were the prime focus as they are among the four communities classified as urban areas with their population ranging from 5,000 (Ghana Statistical Services, 2021). Majority of the targeted respondents, however, came from Sawla township because it is the District capital and has also been the epicenter of most of the violent crimes in the study locality (Aziz, 2021)

**Sample and Sampling Procedure**

In this study, probability sampling techniques - purposive sampling, proportional sampling, and systematic sampling procedures were used to select the respondents. Besides, purposive sampling was used to select the key informants. In all, 102 respondents made up of 71 males and 31 females from different backgrounds were selected for the study. All the sectional heads of the Police District Command namely; the head of the police Criminal Investigations Department (CID), Domestic Violence and Victim Support Unit (DOVVSU), the District Police Command, and the Documents and Photo Unit of the District Police Command were purposively selected. In addition, all the 26 available and accessible Assembly members of the Sawla-Tuna-Kalba District Assembly were equally surveyed. According to Marfo (2019), availability in sampling process refers to the physical presence of the respondent whilst accessibility connotes the willingness of a respondent to be interviewed. Besides, the chairpersons of the Ghana Private Road Transport Union (GPRTU) from the three communities (Sawla, Tuna and Kalba respectively) were selected purposely together with the executives of the market associations (market women and second hand clothing associations), mobile money operators and store operators association from the selected communities. Three traditional heads were also selected purposely. These categories of respondents were purposely selected because they have strategic valuable information relevant to the study. The nature of the study required respondents of diverse backgrounds, interests and knowledge. The youngest respondent was 29 years with the oldest being 73 years.

To be able to sample from the remaining 50 police personnel within the District, The Yamane (1967) sample size determination was adopted given as follows:

\[ n = \frac{N}{1 + N(\alpha)^2} \]

Where \( n \) = required sample size,
N= total population,

l= constant number,

\(a=\) degree of freedom at 0.05

\[ n = \frac{50}{1 + 50(0.05)^2} \]

\[ n = \frac{50}{1.125} \]

N= 44

To be able to arrive at the 44 police respondents, the police population was stratified into males and females and a proportional sample was then applied. The 44 police respondents were selected using Miller and Brewer (2003) sample size determination comprised 27 males and 17 females as follows:

Males = \(\frac{31}{50} \times 44 = 27\)

Females = \(\frac{19}{50} \times 44 = 17\)

The combined total sample distribution is shown on Table 3 below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Identity</th>
<th>Males</th>
<th>Females</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Police</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>44</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Traditional Authorities</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Store Operators Association</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Market Association</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Drivers Association</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assembly members</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mobile Money Operators</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Key informants</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mahajias</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>71</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>102</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Field Survey (2022)

**Data Collection Methods**

For the purpose of this study, with the exception of all the key informants who were interviewed with the aid of interview guides, questionnaires were used as primary data collection tool to solicit information from the rest of the respondents. As noted by Robson (2002), questionnaires are best with standardised questions that could be confidently interpreted the same way by all respondents. The researcher adopted the interviewer-administered questionnaires approach. In the view of Saunders, Lewis, and Thornhill (2009), this approach enables a researcher to be sure that the respondent from whom data is gathered is the one who has really been chosen for the study as contrasting with the distribution and collecting of questionnaires. To ensure accuracy and validity of data, the questionnaires were proof-read and pre-tested in Damango which shares similar characteristics with the study communities. The field work took
place between October, 2022 and January 2023. Literature relevant to the study including; journal articles, newsletters, official websites and official reports were also reviewed to generate secondary information to augment the primary data. This enabled the researcher to have a full depiction of the problem which inspired the work. Both quantitative and qualitative data were gathered within the same period.

Data Presentation and Analysis

Ader (2008) wrote that data analysis involves editing, cleaning, transforming and modeling of data with the goal of highlighting useful information, suggestions, drawing conclusions and supporting decision making. Quantitative data were statistically analyzed with SPSS software version 16.0. Frequency distributions and percentages were used to present the information. Qualitative information on the other hand was analysed thematically. The audio recorded information was first transcribed, edited and categorized according to the set objectives. The two sources of information were then carefully weaved together in the discussion of the findings.

Ethical Consideration

De Vos (2002) highlights that the subject of inquiry in social sciences is human beings, which gives rise to ethical issues that are not presented in the controlled laboratory environments of the natural sciences. It is in this vein that Babbie and Mouton (2004) wrote that the right to the collection of data by a scientist should not be exercised at the expense of the rights of other members of society. Against these cautions, the researcher explained the rationale of the study to the respondents and emphasized on their rights regarding voluntary participation, anonymity and confidentiality.

RESULTS

Factors that Militate against the Police in Combating Crime in Sawla-Tuna-Kalba District

Security is a collaborative enterprise; nonetheless, the 1992 Constitution of Ghana places the maintenance of internal security under the domain of the Police Service (Marfo, 2016). The police therefore have an urgent task to guarantee the social and economic safety of the people and the country as a whole. Given its crucial role, it is expected that all efforts and resources would be mobilised to realise the set mandate of the police. Given this background, the study interrogated the factors militating against the efforts of the police in combating crime in the study locality. Six broad issues were raised by the respondents namely; bribery and corruption, failure to prosecute offenders, police-criminal friendship, stakeholder interference, inadequate police personnel and inadequate logistics.

Table 4

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Status</th>
<th>Factor</th>
<th>Frequency</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Public respondents</td>
<td>Non-prosecution</td>
<td>34/54</td>
<td>63%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Bribery &amp; corruption</td>
<td>46/54</td>
<td>85%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Police-criminal relationship</td>
<td>29/54</td>
<td>54%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Police respondents</td>
<td>Inadequate logistics</td>
<td>39/48</td>
<td>81%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Inadequate personnel</td>
<td>42/48</td>
<td>88%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Stakeholders interference</td>
<td>30/48</td>
<td>63%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Field Survey, 2022
DISCUSSIONS

Some 85% respondents of the public were of the view that bribery and corruption on the part of the police challenged any effective security governance in the area as they undermine communities’ sense of trust, confidence and cooperation. Further 63% indicated that failure of the police to prosecute offenders in the law court militates against any efforts to combat crime in the study locality. This assertion was not strange as a check found that the Sawla-Tuna-Kalba District had no single court of judicature. Another 54% asserted that the league between the police and criminals defeats any meaningful arrangement to combat crime.

The information gathered suggests that the attitude of some police officers such as bribery and crime trade, undermines their own efforts to maintain effective security governance. These allegations as raised by the public against the police may be seen as chronic problems bedeviling the police organisation. A number of scholarly works from different countries (United Kingdom, South Africa, Nigeria, Ghana, United States of America etc.) have identified low community-police teamwork due to certain negative police practices such as breach of trust, bribery, crime trade, lack of respect and brutality (The Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) 2008; Faull 2011; Schanzer et al. 2016; Wekesa and Muturi 2016, Manaliyo 2016; Adegoke 2016; Amagnya 2017; Marfo, Badu-Yeboah and Gyader 2021) as negative factors militating against police-community collaboration. These findings imply that the negative attitude of the police is not peculiar to Ghana. They also suggest that the police as an organization needs to undergo some form of transformation to salvage its sinking image so as to regain public sympathy and support in Ghana.

Faull (2011)’s study in South Africa found that the purported corruption and incompetence of the criminal justice system, especially the South Africa Police Service, defeated any expressive crime control strategies in the country. Marfo et al. (2021) found that the practice where the police set criminals free or engage with them for material and other benefits (crime trade) has affected the public commitment in complementing the role of the police in combating crime in the Wa community in Ghana. Atuguba (2007) also found that a good number of Ghanaians are displeased with the Ghana Police Service and labeled it as among the most corrupt institutions in the country. Kane (2005) found that community members’ decisions to participate in crime prevention activities are strongly influenced by their perception of the local police and other government institutions. The study concluded that the poor relationships with the police and lack of trust weaken community participation in crime control.

From the perspective of the police, inadequate police personnel, stakeholders’ interference and inadequate logistics were identified as the critical challenging factors restraining them from any effective crime control. Virtually all the police respondents (88%) bemoaned the strength of the police. Further 63% indicated that stakeholders’ interference has been a major problem to crime control. Another 81% were concerned with the logistics situation in the district. In an interview a key informant indicated:

"We operate in a district without a court where people can seek justice. We rely on Bole District Court, Tamale and Wa for any justice administration. The public blame us for not prosecuting offenders whilst due to distance and cost to the various courts, they are often..."
discouraged from seeking justice from the court but prefer settling criminal cases at home or refuse to cooperate with the police by supplying the needed evidence’.

Corroborating the above, another key informant stated:

‘The District Police Command has no standard cells where we can lock suspects. We have no female and juvenile cells where such persons can be separated from their counterparts. As we speak the whole district has only three police stations taking care of over two hundred communities’.

The emerging theme is that the fundamental human rights and freedoms enshrined in Article 12(1) of the constitution of the Republic of Ghana (1992) in respect of the individual’s right to justice and dignity are to some extent violated. The views of the police suggest that they work under distress conditions without the necessary logistics. These findings buttress a contemporary work by Marfo et al. (2023). Their study revealed that key challenges confronting the police in the northern region of Ghana have been inadequate serviceable vehicles, lack of cells for juveniles at the Police Stations, inadequate government budgetary support, lack of remand home for juveniles and state-owned temporary shelter for victims of abuse. Their study concluded that the police stations were virtually neither child-friendly nor gender sensitive. In the view of Decker and Marteache (2017), lack of juvenile cells is a major challenge across developing countries.

The police are often constrained to function as expected due to interference. As found in Dinye’s (2013) study in Kenya, interference in the police comes from various people including; administrators, directors, the clergy, traditional authorities and politicians being the worse among all. Writing about road safety in the Wa community in Ghana, Emelia (2021) found that political leaders often use their powers to free people who fail to comply with the law from the required punishment as required by the law. The study revealed that such interferences sometimes come with threats of transfer among others. This according to Emelia (2021), weakens effective road safety regulations enforcement, and for that matter, compliance. The current study agrees with Bishop and Barber (2018) work where they found that the attempts to regulate the motorcycle business in Uganda have largely been unsuccessful due to political interference. The findings suggest that effective violent crime control requires the efforts of the police, the public and the government. Anything devoid of this will make crime control a mere empty talk. As the collaborative theory advocates, policing practice requires a high level of cooperation between the police and other critical stakeholders in the country. The perceived defective security governance in the study area resulting in increase in crime levels as found in the current study could be attributed to the blame game between the police and the citizenry. The police, the state and the citizens each have important roles to play to ensure the safety of the populace. As argued by Marfo et al. (2023), in as much as the police require transformation in its approach to security engineering, it equally behoves the state and the populace to provide them with the needed logistics and assistance to function as expected.

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

The study sought to unravel the challenges militating against meaningful security governance in the Sawla-Tuna-Kalba District of Ghana amidst crime hikes in the said district. The study found that lack of court and regular prosecution of offenders, police-criminal fraternity, inadequate
logistics and personnel coupled with bribery and corruption have undermined the security architecture of the district. As the Collaborative Theory of Policing espouses, the police, the government and the public mutually have essential roles to play to promote the desired security for the study locality. On the basis of the findings, the study recommends a multi-sector collaborative security network involving the government, the police and the public. This is because crime impacts multiple facets of society in ways that the police and government may not be aware of until those interests are taken into consideration during project planning and execution.

It was found that the police do not have the resources needed to function effectively. The service needs to be retooled by the government so that it can carry out its constitutional duties. The government as an urgency should provide the district with a court of judicature to settle and adjudicate cases among potential offenders and litigants. Juvenile and female cells as remand homes for juveniles should also be provided as a matter of urgency to ensure juvenile justice but not at the expense of the human rights and dignity of the people. Police officials found in league with any criminal elements should be prosecuted so as to re-build the lost public confidence and trust in the institution.

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